



WORLD REHABILITATION FUND

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



*Transforming Disability  
Into Possibility*



Today, WORLD REHABILITATION FUND (WRF) continues its work to transform disability into possibility to ensure that all people, regardless of disability, have the right to participate fully in their communities, to attain education and viable employment.

According to World Health Organization, there are over one billion people with disabilities in the world. This represents about 15% of the world's population. Approximately 60% of them are women. Children with severe to moderate disabilities are estimated to be 93 million worldwide. People with disabilities are less likely to be employed or educated.

This report provides summary of WRF's work and impact in the past year in Lebanon, Cambodia, Haiti, Philippines and Pakistan. It is our hope that together we can continue and expand these life-changing, innovative and transformative programs improving the lives of persons with disabilities around the world.



## *Hussein's Story*

Walking back from school, a group of children were terrified by the blasts of bombs which started to land in their neighborhood just outside of Homs, Syria in November 2012. They sought refuge in their grandfather's house. Unfortunately, their shelter was not safe; the next mortar hit the house claiming the lives of 10 children including three sisters of Hussein and seven of their cousins.

Hussein, now a 10-year old boy, was at Grade 1 at the time of the incident. "Right before the explosion, my cousin was asking me for a cup of water; then I remember how people were transporting me to hospital, and then I vanished . . ." recalls Hussein.

At the hospital, Hussein was considered dead and transferred to the hospital morgue, as was the case with the other victims. The family was informed about the loss of four children, Hussein and his three sisters.

The next day, when the cold chamber was opened to prepare the bodies for burial, one staff member found Hussein still alive but unconscious, shaking from the cold. They then rushed him back to the hospital for reanimation. Hussein recovered well and spent two weeks in the hospital following an amputation surgery to his two thighs.

One year later, the family was displaced and settled in Tripoli, north Lebanon. In April 2014, Hussein was identified by the World Rehabilitation Fund's team and was referred for prosthetic fitting to a partner organization. Hussein then completed his training on using his two 'Above the Knee' prostheses.

"I feel very happy walking again with my new legs. I plan to go back to school and practice sports. In the future, I dream to become a teacher," says Hussein.

Hussein's mother adds: "His morale has improved significantly since he was fitted with the artificial limbs. He is very enthusiastic to invite all the family and hold a party soon."

## LEBANON

Over the years, WRF Lebanon has transformed the lives of thousands of persons with disabilities, implementing a wide range of rehabilitation programs to meet expanding needs, including the needs of landmine survivors and victims of war. As the crisis in Syria unfolds, WRF Lebanon focuses on the urgent needs of refugees from Syria and their peers in Lebanese host communities.

Over 3 million refugees from Syria fled to neighboring countries, approximately half of them to Lebanon. WRF Lebanon has contributed to the international efforts to address critical needs through its **Emergency Assistance Program for Persons with Disabilities among Refugees from Syria and in Lebanese Host Communities** with support from the United Nations.

Throughout Lebanon, the program provided 153 prosthetic and 225 orthotic devices and rehabilitation services to persons with disabilities, particularly those with new war injuries. WRF and its partners provided 185 hearing aids, and 290 prescription eyeglasses to children with visual and hearing impairments among refugees from Syria and within the Lebanese host communities.

In addition, WRF Lebanon held 18 coordination meetings to advocate for rights and needs of persons with disabilities among refugees through the **Disability and Older Age Working Group**, formed in 2013 among local and international humanitarian agencies.



### IMPACT:

- ✓ In 2014, WRF Lebanon has provided 738 persons with disabilities with 853 rehabilitation devices through establishing partnerships with 14 regional Prosthetics/ Orthotics, Optometry and Audiometry service delivery facilities
- ✓ 62% of all the beneficiaries were children below 18 years of age. 41% of the beneficiaries are women and girls
- ✓ All project beneficiaries and their families received

information, training and technical guidance on how to deal with their disabilities and access available rehabilitation services

# CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, WRF through **Artisans' Association of Cambodia (AAC)** is enabling the nation's most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, women, single parents, migrants, and vulnerable youth to achieve socio-economic independence.

The Association provides training and technical assistance and other services to over 40 of its member social enterprise groups. Through strengthening its member organizations, increasing quality of their products and sales, and advocating on their behalf, AAC enables higher wages and better working conditions for the bulk of their employees—the artisans from vulnerable populations.

AAC is a fair trade association and is a member of World Fair Trade Organization Asia, HomeNet South East Asia, and Cambodia National Silk Board. To learn more, visit [www.aac.org.kh](http://www.aac.org.kh).

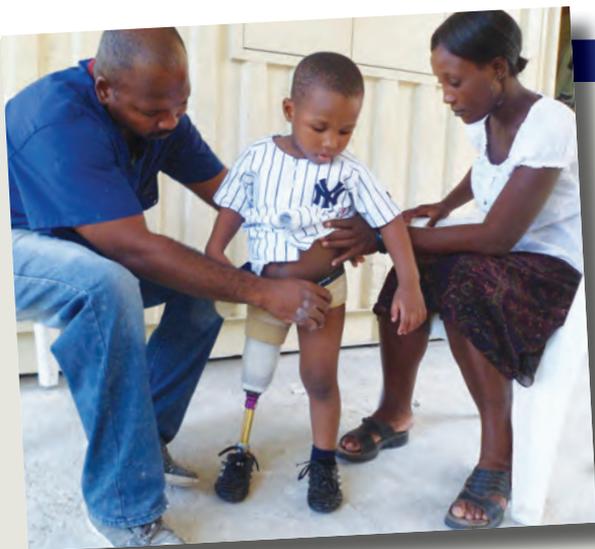
## IMPACT:

- ✓ AAC membership grew from original 4 groups to over 40 organizations
- ✓ AAC member organizations employ approximately 2,700 artisans from vulnerable populations, including persons with disabilities; 73% of all beneficiaries are women
- ✓ Last year, the total sales of AAC members were over \$2,855,000
- ✓ Products of AAC members groups are sold in USA, UK, Netherlands, France, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, South Korea, Finland, and Cambodia



# HAITI

WRF is partnering with ProsthetiKa Inc. on **Prosthetics and Orthotics Project** at Hospital Adventiste D’Haiti, in Carrefour area of Port-au-Prince. The project produces and fits free of charge artificial limbs and braces for persons with disabilities, provides materials and supplies, and state-of-the-art training to four Haitian technicians so that services in the future can be provided by Haitians themselves.



## IMPACT:

- ✓ Since its inception through June 2014 the program has provided over 1,100 devices for over 1,000 Haitians with disabilities. Nearly half of those served are children under 5 years of age
- ✓ Well over 100 earthquake victims have been provided assistive devices through the project
- ✓ In November 2013 WRF cosponsored a special training by ProsthetiKa for project staff. The visit also

16 Haitian rehabilitation technician trainees including brought 500 pounds of needed materials and supplies

WRF collaborates with New Jersey-Haiti Partners of the Americas and with Dr. Josie Stein, scientist and musician, to support an innovative music education program at Ecole St. Vincent School for children with physical disabilities in Port-Au-Prince. “**Music for Haiti**” collects and provides musical instruments and music supplies to the students of the school.

## IMPACT:

- ✓ So far, over 25 instruments have been donated and shipped to the school
- ✓ Funding raised to support the salaries of music teachers and a purchase of a new full size keyboard
- ✓ Ecole St. Vincent serves 450 children with the variety of physical disabilities



# PHILIPPINES

In response to the recent Typhoon Haiyan, WRF has re-initiated program activities in the Philippines. Partnering with the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine, WRF provided **Rehabilitation Medicine Supplies and Equipment** to three hospitals in need of assistance in the Tacloban region, most affected by the storm. These are the Remedios T. Romualdez Medical Center, the major teaching hospital in the area, Divine Word Hospital, a large private facility, and Eastern Visayas Regional Medical Center, a public hospital.

WRF collaborated with AFYA, a US-based organization, to procure the essential equipment and materials to re-stock the rehabilitation units of the hospitals. The shipment arrived and the critical rehabilitation materials and equipment were distributed to the three facilities.

WRF's involvement in the Philippines goes back some 50 years when WRF inaugurated the first rehabilitation medicine training program in the country at Santo Tomas University. WRF also assisted the Philippines in developing a pioneering project in **Community Based Rehabilitation** which has served as an international model for such programming.



## IMPACT:

- ✓ Rehabilitation materials and equipment delivered to three hospitals in Tacloban
- ✓ New rehabilitation units in the three hospitals are to reopen in October, 2014
- ✓ Well over 1,000 people are expected to be served in the units annually

● WRF New York

● Haiti

# PAKISTAN

WRF continues its partnership with the **Pakistan Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled** (PSRD) and the American Friends of PSRD. This year, WRF supported a purchase of a bus to provide free transportation for children with disabilities attending PSRD's high school, and the outreach project in the Burki area of Lahore which provides disability services, as well as counseling in reproductive health, nutrition and hygiene to children and mothers.



## IMPACT:

- ✓ Approximately 2,500 persons with disabilities from Lahore and the surrounding area are served at PSRD annually
- ✓ In 2014, 70 children with cerebral palsy and other severe disabilities were provided services through the Burki Community Based Rehabilitation project
- ✓ 46 mothers were provided free medical treatment, and maternal and child care counseling

## SHORT TERM PROJECTS

This year, WRF in collaboration with ProsthetiKa have undertaken two Prosthetics/Orthotics projects:

- ✓ A training and a three day workshop on various issues in prosthetics, held in La Paz and Cochabamba, Bolivia
- ✓ Support of a visit to assess the needs of the Prosthetics and Orthotics professionals in Cuba by delegates of the U.S. Chapter of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics

● Lebanon

● Pakistan

● Cambodia

● Philippines

# *Transforming Into Disability Possibility*

Since its inception in 1955, The World Rehabilitation Fund, an international non-governmental organization giving help and hope to people around the world, has helped to serve more than 4 million persons with disabilities in over 150 countries. In the wake of extreme poverty, conflict and natural disasters, WRF has trained more than 2,000 rehabilitation professionals and established critically-needed rehabilitation services in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East and Latin America.

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(1902-1989)

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To learn more about any of the WRF programs, contact us at:



**WORLD REHABILITATION FUND, INC.**

16 East 40th Street, Suite 704 / New York, NY 10016-0113

Phone: 212-532-6000 / Fax: 212-532-6012

Email: [info@worldrehabfund.org](mailto:info@worldrehabfund.org) / Web: [www.worldrehabfund.org](http://www.worldrehabfund.org)