



2020 Project Profiles Summary

Dear Friends,

With your continued generosity, the World Rehabilitation Fund continues to be instrumental in its mission, improving the physical and psycho-social well-being and livelihood of persons with disabilities.

In 2020 (despite the Covid-19 pandemic challenges), WRF's supported programs reached more than 5,000 persons with disability needs.

WRF's Guiding Principles:

1. Screening, and fitting persons with prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids, prosthetic & orthotic devices, and speech & physical therapy services.
2. Assisting with mobility devices, assessing, and providing home and self-care accessories, basic home alterations, re-training/strengthening teaching technicians to provide better services.
3. Providing training, technical assistance and essential supplies to build local capacity for rehabilitation services.
4. Implementing sectoral and community-based awareness, advocacy interventions for the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, the value of protection, prevention, inclusion, rehabilitation assistance; with emphasis on: (a) human rights-based approaches; (b) two-way communication and accountability; and (c) gender and disability mainstreaming.

WRF is active in Haiti, Lebanon, and Pakistan and is co-sponsoring a project, with ProsthetiKa, in Guyana. WRF also is planning future initiatives with ProsthetiKa in Armenia, and Queretaro, Mexico.

WRF's Key 2020: Project activities fill the existing gaps in assistance and address the basic needs of persons with disabilities included:

Sidra's Story

Sidra is a 12-year-old girl from Syria. In the recent fighting there she lost her left leg. She was fitted with a prosthesis in Syria. However, her family, including her parents and four siblings, worried about their safety, sought refuge in Lebanon. As is common, especially for growing children, Sidra's device no longer fitted her. This prevented her from being able to go to school. Her father tried to get a replacement device but was unable to obtain one and expressed concern about her sadness and hopelessness. This case came to the attention of WRF and, through its current project funded by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) was able to get a device that fit Sidra perfectly. She is now able to go to school again. Her smile has returned, and she has regained her self-confidence. She said to our staff at a follow-up visit, "I am very happy. I feel alive again."



LEBANON: Addressing the critical needs of thousands of disabled Syrian refugees with disabilities and within the Lebanese host communities.



In 2020, WRF provided direct assistance services devices and training to more than 3,300 persons with disabilities with rehabilitation services, prosthetic and orthotic, hearing aids, and/or prescription eyeglasses.

Most of those being served are refugees from the devastating Civil War that has taken place in neighboring Syria. Massive disability has also resulted from the Beirut explosion of August 4, which injured more than 6,500 and displaced more than 300,000 individuals. The explosion devastated the Lebanese capital, at a time when the country was suffering from a global pandemic and caring for the hundreds of thousands of refugees from Syria.

People with previously existing disabilities and impairments need to adapt to a new set of challenges as they have lost their homes, their loved ones, or even their assistive devices. The extent of the explosion and its consequences means that the number of persons with disabilities have multiplied greatly. Therefore, persons in Lebanon with impairments and disabilities need our assistance more than ever.



Community-Based Awareness and Advocacy session -participant grade 9-12



Capacity Building Training on Disability - Group Picture 2020

WRF implemented sectoral and community-based awareness and advocacy interventions about the needs and rights of persons with disabilities, and the value of protection, prevention, inclusion, and rehabilitation assistance.

HAITI: Supporting innovative music education programs that recognize the dignity and potential of all young people with disabilities.

WRF has been involved in helping the music program which originated at Ecole St. Vincent, a school in Port-au-Prince, Haiti for children with disabilities. The “**Music for Haiti**” program’s purpose is to collect and provide musical instruments to the music students and to support the salaries of music teachers. Ecole St. Vincent serves over 200 children with physical disabilities. The program is a collaboration between WRF and Dr. Josie Stein, a prominent scientist and amateur musician who resides in England.



PAKISTAN: Partnering with innovative organizations to strengthen the capacity of rehabilitation services in developing countries.

WRF continued its partnership with the Pakistan Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PSRD) and the American Friends of PSRD. PSRD is an Orthopedic Hospital with a High School for differently abled children and a College of Rehabilitative Sciences that serves approximately 2,500 persons with disabilities in Lahore and surrounding area.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, PSRD’s experienced a major loss of revenue, as a result, PSRD was forced to reduce salaries to all the employees by 50%. This reduction continued for three months. Because of the generosity of the Friends of PSRD in America who carried out a Facebook campaign, and other donors, enough funds were raised to alleviate the suffering of the employees. Consequently, in April and May 2020, PSRD was able to pay 75% of salaries to some of the employees and by August 2020, all employees were able to be restored to full salaries.

GUYANA: Training and Supporting Rehabilitation professionals throughout the World.

WRF collaborates with ProsthetiKa to develop short-term training workshops for prosthetic and orthotic (P&O) technicians, most recently in Guyana. We have donated materials and supplies and provided state-of-the-art training from US and international rehabilitation experts. The Center produces and fits artificial limbs, as well as braces for persons with disabilities. Each month, they fit 35 patients with orthotic and prosthetic devices.

WRF and ProsthetiKa are in the planning stages for initiatives to take place in Armenia and Queretaro, Mexico.



WORLD REHABILITATION FUND

You make a difference; you can help us transform their disability into new possibilities

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