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World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF)

*Transforming Disability into Possibility*

**2022 Project Profiles Summary**

**Samaia’s story**

Since its inception in 1955, the World Rehabilitation Fund has helped to serve more than ~~4~~ million persons with disabilities in over 150 countries.

A child with a bag

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Samia Hamade, a 7-year-old Lebanese girl born in Al-Mansoura, West Bekaa, with severe congenital deformities in her lower limbs and right arm. When Samia was younger, she could not walk, instead, she had to crawl on her knees. October 27, 2022, front-line and expert members of the WRF team met with Samia and her family for a professional assessment. Samia received her prosthetic devices: two below-knee modular prostheses, expertly fitted by our local partner civil society organization, “The Vision Association for Development, Rehabilitation & Care.” Samia is happier now that she can now stand, walk, and attends school like any other child.

**WRF’s mission** is to enable individuals around the world with functional limitations and participation restrictions to achieve community and social integration through physical and socio-economic rehabilitation and advocacy; and to prevent disability and reduce disadvantage.

As Howard A. Rusk, MD, the founder of WRF, expressed, “to believe in rehabilitation is to believe in humanity.” WRF maintains this humanitarian spirit today and bases its mission on the belief that all people, regardless of disability, have the right to participate fully in their communities, and to attain education and viable employment.

Today, WRF continues its work to deliver support to persons with disabilities.

**This report provides summary of WRF’s work and impact in the past year in Lebanon, Guatemala City and in Lviv Ukraine**

WRF is a 501(c)3 charitable organization registered in the State of New York.

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A child sitting on a bed with braces

Description automatically generated**LEBANON**:

WRF continues the effective and efficient implementation of its project titled ***'Filling Assistance Gaps in Basic Rehabilitation Services for Refugees from Syria with Disabilities and Their Peers in Host Communities in Lebanon.***' This project, within the framework of a Cooperative Agreement with the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, is a gift from the United States Government. Remarkably, this achievement persists despite the serious challenges facing Lebanon, including the devaluation of the national currency, and escalating socio-economic and political crises.

A child sitting in a wheelchair

Description automatically generatedThe Project enables WRF to provide essential lifesaving and livelihood-nurturing assistance services to persons with disabilities, with an emphasis on attending to the needs of the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach, including:

* Professionally fitted prosthetic and/or orthotic devices, and mobility aids.
* Physical, occupational, psycho-motor, and other therapies, along with rehabilitation accessories and supplies for persons with amputations, deformities, and other mobility impairments.
* Visual aids (fitted eyeglasses, white canes, magnifiers, etc.) for persons with visual impairments.
* Professionally fitted hearing aids, parental guidance, and initiation of speech therapy sessions for persons with hearing impairments.
* Basic home/car accessibility modifications.
* Integrated social, psychological, and referral advice and support.

Additionally, the Project:

* A child standing on a walker

  Description automatically generatedEngages local partners and collaborators in capacity building, coaching, and mentoring.
* Supports architectural modifications to community service entities to reduce physical barriers and enhance safe accessibility and inclusion.
* Advocates on behalf of persons with disabilities for rehabilitation, livelihood, and inclusion.

Assistance services are provided across Lebanon in partnership with local entities, including organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, local professional service providers, and local community-based rehabilitation services programs.

Moreover, WRF has been proactive in Lebanon since the early 1980s in advocacy, coordination, and supporting the building of needed national capabilities and related policies and processes.

During this fiscal year, the Project served 6,103 individuals with disabilities (51.2% being below the age of 18), including refugees from Syria (51%), members of Lebanese host communities (46.4%), and people of other nationalities (2.5%). Beneficiaries received a variety of services, with many benefiting from more than one type. Provided person-focused services included:

* Vision correction aids (2,812), eyeglasses, and hearing aids (414).
* Rehabilitation aids and self/home-care supplies (1,741).
* Physical, occupational, psycho-motor, respiratory therapy (645).
* Special rehabilitation devices such as electric wheelchairs, Cerebral Palsy chairs, etc. (156).
* Prosthetic devices (120) and orthotic devices (288).
* Home and car modifications to enhance safe accessibility and inclusion (38).

Since September 1st, 2017, WRF-Lebanon has directly served over 24,169 beneficiaries with disabilities. The provided person-focused assistance services have been valuable in decreasing burden, upgrading functional capabilities, enhancing livelihoods, strengthening protection and safety, nurturing wellbeing, and enhancing inclusion.

**WRF Background/Involvement**

A person on a walker

Description automatically generated **GUATEMALA CITY:**

A person and person wearing blue scrubs and face masks

Description automatically generatedIn October and November 2022, under partnership ProsthetiKa/World Rehabilitation Fund project design of combining direct clinical treatment to amputees, while teaching local prosthetists and therapists the techniques providing the most sustainable assistance. Assembled, a combined group of 12 expert prosthetists and therapists in Guatemala City, at the facilities of Centro Bionico, to learn the techniques of gait training and post operative limb management to help fit 22 amputees who lost limbs primarily due to trauma, providing free evaluation services for casting, and measured with custom-made prostheses that were fabricated on site.

A person lying on a blue medical bed

Description automatically generated**LVIV UKRAINE:**

**A person in a wheelchair with a person on his lap

Description automatically generated**Following the 2015 Russian invasion of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine, WRF has been involved in a series of short-term assistance projects aimed at the strengthening of Ukrainian capability in meeting the needs of amputees, and, in particular, amputees injured in the fighting with Russia. Through WRF’s June 2023 partner organization, ProsthetiKa, a (prosthetics/orthotics NGO located in Sta Rosa, California), along with a Ukrainian organization Protez Hub, the Ukraine Ministry of Social Policy, and some involvement of the Ossur Company of Iceland (providing Ukrainian facilities with useful components). WRF has supported a series of training the trainers efforts, some involving the training of prosthetic services personnel over a wider geographic range in Lviv, Ukraine, involving distance learning through courses provided by ProsthetiKa to rehabilitation professionals in Ukraine, also providing supplies and equipment. 3 patients were selected to be provided prosthetic and physical therapy training, each having a different difficult injury. Thus, the training focused on the needs of patients 1)- a soldier who suffered from hip disarticulation; 2) a soldier who had a bilateral above the knee amputation; and 3) a soldier who had a short above the knee amputation. Trainees included. 15 physical therapists and 10 prosthetists. While only three patients were served during this mission, the purpose of the training was to increase the skills of the practitioners, who were in a position to serve similar procedures for the benefit of hundreds of Ukrainian amputees.

**HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY**

In the fiscal year 06-30-2022, 87% of our expenditure was allocated to program activities.

* Programs: 87%
* General & Administrative: 12%
* Fundraising: 1%

**WRF BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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***To believe in rehabilitation is to believe in humanity***.

**Howard A. Rusk, MD,**

**Founder, World Rehabilitation Fund**

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the staff of the World Rehabilitation Fund, thank you for supporting the work of the World Rehabilitation Fund.

Your collaboration allows us to reach vulnerable communities around the world and help transform disability into possibility.

**Thank you for your support.**

To find out more about WRF and how you can help, please visit: [www.worldrehabfund.org](http://www.worldrehabfund.org) or call 212.532.6000

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