



EUROPEAN UNION



The EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis

الصندوق الاستئماني الأوروبي 'مدد'

## Project Factsheet

Improved quality of and access to healthcare services, including protection mechanisms, for Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Lebanese host communities

### OBJECTIVES

- Improved well-being and resilience of Syrian refugees and Lebanese host community women, girls, men and boys (WGMB) affected by conflict;
- Strengthened capacity of social development centres (SDCs) to provide quality and safe primary health care services;
- Women, girls, men and boys in conflict-affected communities have improved access to quality and safe essential health services, including Reproductive Health (RH) and Psychosocial (PSS) services.

### BUDGET

EUR 3.5 million

### START DATE

01/01/2018

### DURATION

36 months

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- Women, girls, men and boys in targeted households have increased awareness and access to available primary healthcare services, including Reproductive Health and Psychosocial services and support;
- Community-based organisations, local NGOs and Syrian community volunteers with improved capacity to support women, girls, men and boys to access health and psychosocial support in local communities;
- Social development centres supported in the process of integration into the primary health care network to provide quality and safe primary health care services.

### BENEFICIARIES

**130,000**

Vulnerable  
Lebanese  
and Syrian  
refugees

IMPLEMENTING  
PARTNER

**MEDAIR**

## PROJECT LOCATIONS



### LEBANON

Brital

Talia

Marj

Joubb Jannine

## OUR IMPACT



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In Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, Medair aims to strengthen the well-being and resilience of Syrian refugees and local Lebanese communities affected by the Syrian crisis. To raise awareness about healthy family relationships and well-being, Medair uses storytelling to generate engaging discussions with Syrian refugees and vulnerable Lebanese families.

*"We want them to feel listened to, empowered, and supported. To raise awareness on health topics through discussion, we need real-life scenarios that talk their lingo and reflect their context,"* explains Dr Ghada, Medair's Health Advisor in Lebanon. *"We chose stories, as they touch the heart and the mind, and can lead to change."*

Medair decided to illustrate these stories and use them as tools for social change. With the support of the European Union 'Madad' Fund, the team hired a creative consultant to construct a series of illustrations for the stories that tackle the health and social challenges of Syrian refugee families and vulnerable members of the host community.

Under the title "Healthy Family, Peaceful House," Medair created 16 stories from the heart of reality. The stories cover different topics under the themes of reproductive health, newborn and children's health, mental health, and the shared responsibilities of women and men in a happy, peaceful home.

To reach the highest number of people with Medair's 'catalyst of change', Medair invests in local volunteers to be part of this activity. Working with 32 Syrian community health volunteers and nine Lebanese NGOs, Medair is able to reach around 6,000 Syrian families in informal settlements and 660 Lebanese families in their shelters.

Each family supported through this intervention chooses topics that they'd like to discuss, and works together with the community volunteers to develop a commitment plan. Community volunteers visit the family twice a month over a period of six months. The entire family is present for each visit – parents, grandparents, and children – and the mother or father chooses the story they'd like to listen to and discuss. Each story covers a different topic, so families are given the opportunities to choose what they would like to talk about and improve.

*"We are away from our homeland, trying to cope with the difficulties of living here. However, time waits for no one, we continue to raise a family and live our life,"* says Fatima, one of the Syrian refugees the Medair health team visits. *"These stories help me and my husband know how to deal with our kids, and for me, to know how to take care of myself during pregnancy."*