

# A YEAR OF CHANGING LIVES



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# A Word from Our Country Director

As we embark on a new year, let's pause for a moment to reflect on the many challenges and achievements that shaped our journey in 2023, a testament to the resilience and unwavering commitment of each member of the Plan International Lebanon family.

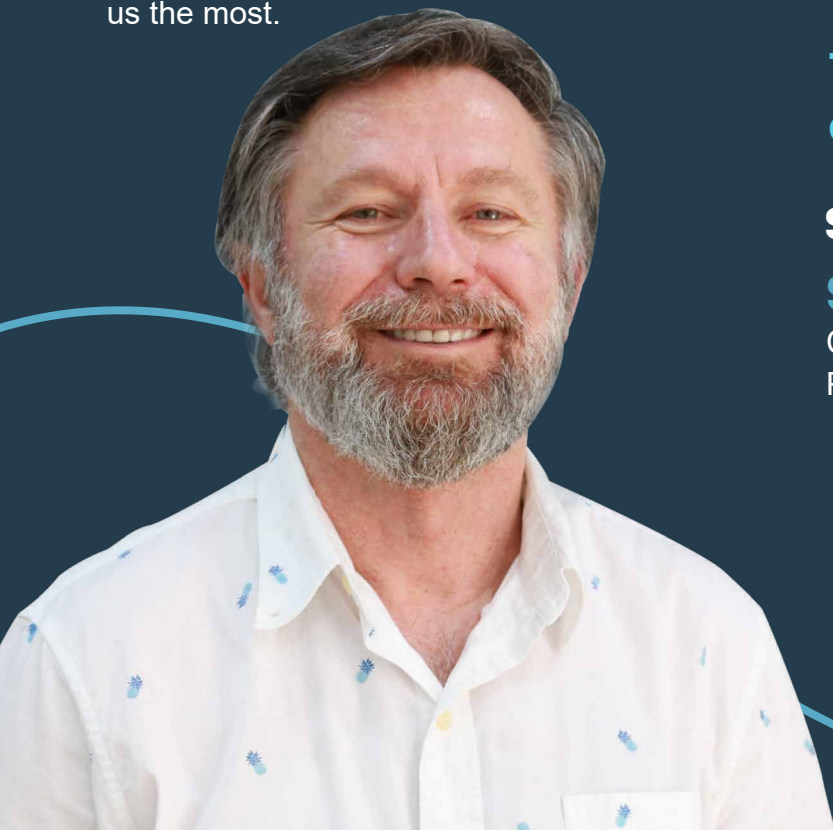
The ongoing crisis in Lebanon has profoundly unveiled our capabilities, necessitating adaptability and promptness in our emergency response efforts. The relentless economic downturn, coupled with a political deadlock and the absence of an active government and elected president, created a challenging environment. The Syria-Turkey earthquake that echoed across our borders left a lasting psychological impact on both the population and our team.

Further complicating the situation, the Gaza conflict impact was felt across the region, causing a ripple effect over the lives of countless children and young people in Gaza and surrounding countries including Lebanon. The conflict on our southern borders introduced an additional layer of complexity, prompting a swift emergency response from our team to address the needs of internally displaced people.

As we navigated these challenges, the urgency of our mission became even more pronounced, placing immense strain on the communities we serve and intensifying the need for our programs. Despite the adversities, our commitment to providing quality programming for our targeted communities, for every child and girl, remained unshakeable. I extend my deepest gratitude to our program participants, partners, and donors, whose unwavering commitment played a pivotal role in the success of our programs, impacting the lives of thousands of children and young people in Lebanon.

A special acknowledgment goes to the Plan International Lebanon team, who, amid living the crisis and experiencing its effects on their own lives and those around them, continue to work tirelessly. Your dedication to the mission in the humanitarian sector has not gone unnoticed.

As we look ahead to 2024, let us carry forward the lessons learned, the resilience gained, and the impact achieved. Together, we shall continue to make a difference in the lives of those who need us the most.



**Thank you for your unwavering  
commitment and hard work.**

**Sincerely,**

**Safo Visha**

Country Director

Plan International Lebanon







# 2023 in Numbers

## Total Number of Beneficiaries

**29,095**

### Gender Disaggregation

 <b>Girls</b>	<b>5745</b>
 <b>Boys</b>	<b>4812</b>
 <b>Women</b>	<b>4176</b>
 <b>Men</b>	<b>1457</b>

### Nationalities Disaggregation

<b>Syrian</b>	<b>11511</b>
<b>Lebanese</b>	<b>4777</b>
<b>Palestinians</b>	<b>476</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>16</b>

**Number of  
People With  
Disabilities 146**

### Per programme

<b>Child Protection.....</b>	<b>2076</b>
<b>Education.....</b>	<b>8833</b>
<b>Youth Economic Empowerment.....</b>	<b>674</b>
<b>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights &amp; Gender-Based Violence.....</b>	<b>5197</b>

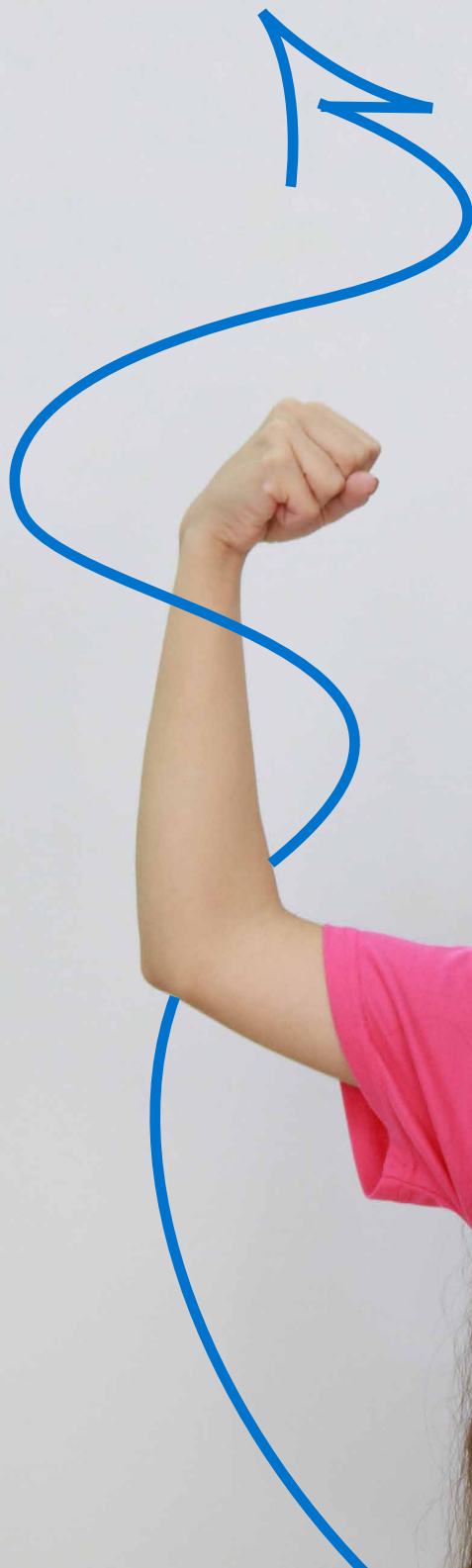
**13 Active Partners**

**68 Capacity Building Training on**

- Gender Equality and Inclusion
- Safeguarding Children and Young People
- Gender-based Violence
- GBV Safe Identification and Referral
- Adolescents Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Feedback and complaint mechanism
- Positive Parenting
- Child Protection Safe Identification and Referral (CPSIR)
- Intergender Dialogue Curriculum
- Life Skills
- Disability and Inclusion
- The Basics of Communication and Storytelling
- Disability Inclusion
- Case Management
- Protection mainstreaming



# Our Proudest Achievements



# Child Protection



## Working Children in North Lebanon are off the streets, gaining back their fundamental rights

Addressing child labor has been at the forefront of Plan International Lebanon's mission since 2018. This year, one of our projects in Bab El Tebaneh and Tripoli, North Lebanon, has directly impacted 500 children aged 12 to 17 years old engaged in the worst forms of child labor or working on the streets, in addition to supporting 300 parents through the project activities including case management, awareness raising, positive parenting, training, and internships.

Additionally, 50 employers and 100 front-liners received training on the Interagency MENA Toolkit for Preventing and Responding to Child Labor in Humanitarian Action, thus equipping the community with essential skills to keep children safe and protected.

Our efforts at the national level, through local and national roundtable discussions and targeted advocacy campaigns, have achieved notable success, contributing to the activation of the national plan to end child labor and elevating the issue of child labor to be a priority within the Ministry of Labor's agenda. The strategy also involved presenting recommendations to address child labor to donors, ministries, local and international organizations, shedding light on its importance and contributions to combating this phenomenon.

Today, our presence at the national committee for child labor with line ministries and our leading role in the child labor task force with humanitarian organizations reflects our commitment. Yet, as the crisis deepens, we acknowledge the challenges ahead and reaffirm our commitment to addressing this pressing issue and to finding sustainable preventive and protective measures for the well-being of vulnerable children.

# Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights & Gender –based Violence



**12 informal and formal youth groups and 2 Community- based Organizations are now leading the talk on SRHR, Gender equality and GBV within their communities**

Under the She-leads and Civil society strengthening projects that run in the South, Baalback and West Bekaa areas **12** informal and formal youth groups and **2** CSO's capacities have been strengthened on key issues which included, gender equality, basics of GBV, sexual and reproductive health rights, advocacy and campaigning and movement building.

After the comprehensive capacity building package, these groups and CBOs received continuous mentorship and coaching, which enabled them to lead and implement innovative initiatives and campaigns of their interest and need within their communities.

From organizing a Menstrual hygiene football game to all girls in Qaaraon, to championing the SRHR topics for children and youth in schools and universities in Saida and Shouf, to breaking the silence on Sexually transmitted diseases in Baalback , to taking the lead and raise awareness on the impact of child marriage, the importance of young women taking informed decisions related to their bodies and life's in all communities. Youth and CBOs have led the talk and change on once taboo and forbidden topics by challenging societal norms pushing forward positive change in their community.



# Education

**Students access quality, inclusive education despite the collapse of the education sector**



**Lebanon is facing a distressing decline in its education sector**, hindering progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) - Quality Education. In response to the ongoing crisis, Plan International Lebanon has been actively contributing to enhancing the situation, particularly in schools in the Bekaa, especially those in the public sector, to provide quality inclusive education for the host and refugee community. Working on both day and evening shifts, our projects have reached over thousands of students, providing crucial academic support in integral subjects. Simultaneously, we have prioritized the professional development of teachers, offering training and capacity-building services on effective learning methodologies and classroom management techniques.

Beyond academics, our work extends to self-development, life skills, and promoting gender equality among students and their parents. We've introduced diverse classes in art, theatre, recycling, and reading, ensuring a well-rounded and inclusive educational experience. Furthermore, we've supported youth clubs, providing training on critical topics such as period poverty and protection.

This comprehensive approach, involving students, parents, teachers, and the community, aims to create an environment that not only enhances the quality of education but also fosters inclusivity and resilience in the face of challenging circumstances.



# Youth Economic Empowerment



## Young women in the Bekaa overcome societal barriers, break gender stereotypes, and become economically independent

In the face of societal barriers and rooted gender stereotypes, young women in the Bekaa region have triumphed over adversity, emerging as powerful agents of change and economic independence through their participation in our livelihood project.

In the wake of Lebanon's ongoing economic collapse, particularly impacting regions like the Bekaa, the livelihood project, executed in collaboration with a consortium of four partners, has played a crucial role in alleviating the crisis's repercussions. Targeting the most vulnerable families, the project strives to fortify sustainable social protection, fostering self-reliance and reducing dependency on external assistance.

Empowered by gender and technical training, these young women chose paths of either entrepreneurship or business, exploring diverse specializations in pioneering fields within the region. Many embarked on entrepreneurial ventures and started their own businesses, while some took unconventional paths like solar systems installation. Others chose employment, initiating their journey towards building meaningful careers.

Their stories stand as a testament to the transformative impact of empowering women in the face of gender barriers and economic challenges, marking a path towards a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

# Youth Lead

## Young women from Lebanon are taking charge and leading positive change

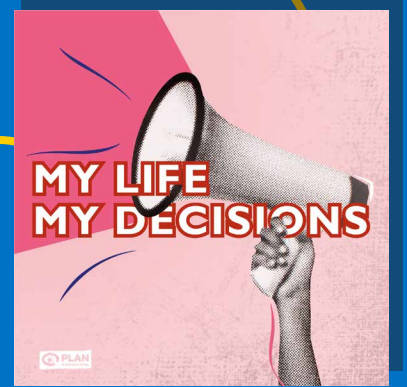
The power of youth is indispensable, and Plan International Lebanon recognizes the pivotal role young women play in shaping their and the country's future.

We are committed to empowering the youth, providing them with platforms to amplify their voices and lead the change they aspire to see in their lives, particularly on issues that affect them the most. Throughout 2023, we've facilitated opportunities for young women from across Lebanon to express their needs, take the lead locally, regionally, and internationally, and launch initiatives that resonate with their aspirations. From leading impactful campaigns to participating in workshops and engaging with influential figures, our work aims to foster a generation of empowered and vocal young leaders who contribute to positive transformation within their communities and beyond.

## My Life, My Decisions!

Twenty-five young women from Lebanon, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, and Iraq joined forces under the She Leads project, taking the lead in the planning and implementation of a regional campaign "My Life, My Decisions" to advocate for awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Arab region.

The campaign had various elements, including a social media campaign, a regional podcast, and targeted awareness sessions and activities conducted in their respective countries.



## Education cannot wait because...

It's a fundamental right

It's a priority

There's no other choice

Education cannot wait because it's intricately linked to Lebanon's most valuable asset—its human capital. Tia, our advocate under the Youth for Education in Emergencies sent a clear message in a 3 videos campaign, that we can no longer delay finding a sustainable solution to the education crisis.

Lebanon cannot afford to lose its human capital, its children and its youth, who are the key to alleviating the crisis

## Two young advocates raise their voices at international conferences, bringing attention to the challenges faced by youth and girls in Lebanon and advocating for change

**Dana**, a remarkable young advocate, stands as an expert in her own life, advocating for the rights of girls and young women in Lebanon at Women Deliver 2023. Amidst Lebanon's complex crisis, she boldly demanded gender equality, prioritized education, and access to essential sexual and reproductive health and rights services. Dana's mission at the conference was clear: to ensure that girls and young women's voice from Lebanon are heard, and that they have the right to participate in shaping decisions that profoundly affect their lives.



**Clara**, a passionate 23-year-old law graduate and advocate for Youth for Education in Emergencies from Lebanon, delivers a powerful message at the SDGs Summit in New York. She emphasizes that our future relies on education and calls for increased support and funding to uplift Lebanon's youth during these challenging times. Clara asserts that the youth are the key to the nation's future and achieving SDG 4 crucial to alleviating Lebanon's crisis.



## Girls Takeover

Five resilient young women courageously defied all circumstances, departing from their southern villages to take over leadership roles for a day. On the International Day of the Girl, Hala, Nadia, Rawaa, Farah, and Cyrine raised their voices, demanding equality for girls and demonstrating that when given the space, girls and young women not only step up but own and transform the world.



# Emergency Response to the Internally Displaced People



Since the onset of the spill over of the Gaza war into Lebanon southern borders in October 2023, Plan International Lebanon team immediately positioned itself to respond to the immediate needs of the children and their families who were internally displaced and affected by the escalations on the borders. 7513 Food kits, personal and household kits were distributed to families displaced to the South and Mount Lebanon. Furthermore, as part of its emergency preparedness strategy, Plan International developed the capacities of its local partners on Psychological First Aid (PFA) and advanced security and first aid, while providing essential items which would enable them to respond faster in case of larger scale of escalations.

In hard-to-reach municipalities that are along the blue line, essential live saving kits which included baby kits, food kits, first aid kits, blankets and mattresses were provided to municipality members, which enabled them to respond timely to their community members directly affected by the conflict.

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As the conflict continuous, Plan International will scale up its response to further support the children in the south and mount Lebanon who were displaced through targeted child protection in emergencies activities.

## Emergency Response to the Internally Displaced People

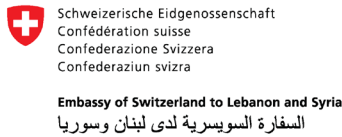
Total:

**12315**

**Lebanese..... 10468**  
**Syrian..... 1231**  
**Palestinian..... 616**

# Thank you for your continuous support

## Our Donors



## In Partnership with





Plan International Lebanon  
[www.plan-international.org/Lebanon](http://www.plan-international.org/Lebanon)