# Making a positive impact for children

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# **MENA Annual Report 2020**





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# **MENA context key data**



**Syrian crisis: 13.4 million people,** including 5.6 million children and youth, require humanitarian assistance due to the conflict.



Over 900,000 Syrian refugees live in Lebanon, 73.5% of them are considered to live below the poverty line.



An estimated **75,000 children are working in different sectors**, out of which 88% are boys in Jordan.



Egypt hosts around **131,235 Syrian refugees** along with refugees from many other countries.



**6.7 million people, including 2.5 million children, are displaced within Syria**, the biggest internally dis-placed population in the world.



More than **56 % of Palestinian families in Gaza live under the poverty line**. Child labour significantly increased those last years.



In Afghanistan, **60 % of the 3.7 million out of school children are girls**.



An estimated **19 million children below 14 are working as child laborer** in Pakistan.



Left by their migrant parents, over **12,000 non-registered** children in **Tajikistan** cannot claim their rights.



With over **3 million Iraqis currently displaced**, the humanitarian crisis in Iraq remains one of the largest in the world.

Sources: Tdh, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP



# **MENA** overview

Middle East and North Africa is sadly described as an **emblematic region when it comes to humanitarian emergency**.

MENA is getting bogged down one of the **hardest modern humanitarian crisis** it has ever experienced so far & emphasized by **various crisis** occurring at the very same time. **Armed conflicts** and **economic crises** are daily pushing local inhabitants to **displacement.** Internally displaced people (**IDPs**) account for nearly 3% of the region's population, the equivalent of Amman, Beirut, Damascus, Dubai and Tunis cities population combined. **Refugees camps** happen to grow and with it, the huge number of **children deprived of nothing but childhood.** 

Not only **women and girls** in MENA suffer from this unstable context, but they also are among the **most vulnerable populations** in the world, as the region ranks lowest on the Global Gender Index (GGI) scoring minimally on health, education, economic, and political participation indicators. **Gender based violence** is by far the most **common rights violation** experienced by women and girls within the region.

The year 2020 was marked by the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which has brought severe social pain, economic losses, and a significant poverty increase. Compared to other age groups, children seemed less affected in terms of direct health consequences, but they were impacted by the economic and social repercussions. The pandemic has **exacerbated existing vulnerabilities** and created new ones. Children are also exposed to a **higher risk of violence, neglect and abuse**.

In such a context, children are the most vulnerable and at-risk population. Children and young people in MENA account for nearly half of the region's population. Many are exposed to political instability, violence and forced migration. Child marriage, as well as child labour, are both a consequence of poverty. As the unemployment rate of young people in the region is the highest worldwide, they face difficulties to access employment.

Terre des hommes works with local partners, community leaders and national authorities to give children protection, education and access to justice.





# **Results in 2020**

Terre des hommes (Tdh) is committed to bringing meaningful and lasting change to the lives of children, especially those exposed to risk. It aims to improve their well-being by providing essential services or by assisting and training others to do so. Tdh strives for the effective application of children's rights as defined by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights instruments.

To make a real difference, Tdh concentrates its efforts on the health and protection of children in MENA. Tdh works towards improving access to good quality health services in underserved areas, including water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as specialized care. The protection work focuses on children and young people affected by migration, and those in contact or in conflict with the law. The three programs – health, migration and access to justice – work in an integrated way, for example by combining health with protection activities. They are adjusted to development and humanitarian contexts using a nexus approach. It uses systems-strengthening strategies to promote social cohesion – the peaceful coexistence of different groups or host communities with displaced populations – and is adapted to population needs in prolonged crises.

#### Children we have reached

In 2020, Tdh was present in Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Tajikistan. Activities were carried out to support more than 742,900 beneficiaries in the MENA region through 50 projects, constantly adapting itself to the population's needs and the volatile context. With 433 910 beneficiaries in 2019, the total number of beneficiaries has increased by more than 300 000, most of which was due to an increase in beneficiaries of health & access to justice programs.

- **157 523** Direct beneficiaries of Children in humanitarian crisis support
- **107 012** Children and youth in migration were reached by Tdh programs
- 87 860 Children, young people and their relatives benefited from Health program
- 73 283 Women and adolescents have improved they knowledge on health
- 18 288 Children and youth were reached by Access to Justice specialized services
- **70 000** People in Iraq gained access to drinking water



The MENA region has seen some of the most complex and long-lasting conflicts, which have led to large numbers of people fleeing (see box on p.8). In other parts of the region, ten years after the Arab Spring, many countries are still marked by instability. After initial hopes for improvement, many are experiencing serious political and economic turmoil.

Tdh has been working in **Lebanon** for more than three decades. The country is now on the brink of collapse, both economically and politically. The government was made to resign and the explosion in the harbour of Beirut in August 2020 devastated an already very fragile situation, exposing pre-existing challenges and state neglect and leading to days of protests.

Following the blast and due to its long-standing presence in **Lebanon**, Tdh was ready to react, assisting 1,240 affected people with emergency cash assistance and immediately deploying psychological first aid and child protection measures (see p.11).

In **Afghanistan**, the peace talks with the Taliban started in Doha in September 2020. The security situation seriously deteriorated and targeted killings of civilians including women and children increased. Tdh faced several access issues due to security concerns. In Afghanistan, IDPs and returnees do not have access to healthcare services. Tdh has managed to support directly 18,292 women and 5,911 babies as part of the maternal and baby activities, through vaccination, pre and post-natal care as well as case management. Moreover, 73,300 women and adolescents participated in health education sessions, organized by Tdh midwives (see p.18).

In most of the countries Tdh works in, the trend towards increased numbers of displaced persons within countries or across border continues (see text box below). In **Iraq**, the situation remains unstable, including due to regional tensions. The government and donors announced a plan to move towards early recovery and development approaches and started to close IDP camps in Iraq without any clear plan for resettlement. Many displaced people found themselves in unsuitable living conditions and ended up homeless. The situation is particularly hard on children and their families who are also facing a deep economic crisis with low personal incomes due to high inflation and low oil prices, which have reduced public revenue.



As the **Syrian crisis** entered its tenth year in 2020, children and their families have continued to face displacement within and outside Syria, a situation aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions, which had the harshest impact on these communities, especially in **Egypt**, **Jordan** and **Lebanon**. Also, around 900 Palestinians have been left homeless as their homes have been destroyed. **Gaza** continues to be isolated from the rest of the world, with a significant impoverishment of the vulnerable population.

### **A** Surge in displacements and refugees

By the end of 2019, according to UNHCR, 79.5 million individuals had been displaced worldwide.<sup>1</sup> In line with the trend seen over the last years, an ever-increasing number of people left their homes. Tdh is present in four out of five of the biggest refugee crises.<sup>2</sup> The Sahel region saw the number of displaced persons soar to two million in late 2020. In some countries, the needs have been continuously increasing as multiple crises have converged: armed conflict, extreme poverty, food insecurity, climate change and now the COVID-19 pandemic. Tdh works with everyone affected by mobility independent of their status and creates a protective environment for the children and their families.

**Displacement creates additional vulnerabilities**, such as : Child labour, Child marriage, Violence against children, Child trafficking, Unaccompanied and separated children, Children in contact with the law, Children at risk of violent extremism. To address these risks, **Migration program** in MENA reached 107,012 beneficiaries by providing : Prevention of risks linked to migration and reduction of root causes, Protection along their migration path, Integration in destination or transit countries, Reintegration upon return to their countries of origin or placement in a third countries... Moreover, in 2020, the **Access to Justice** (A2J) **program** was expanded further in the region. It reached a total of 17,400 beneficiaries through the provision of specialized services such as, case management, legal aid and family coaching (see p.15).

In MENA region, Tdh focuses in particular on **gender justice**. In 2020, eight projects were launched in the region working to (i) ensure that justice apparatus is age-appropriate and gender-responsive (ii) uphold the rights of the girls and young women who are survivors of gender-based violence (iii) foster the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda and (iv) support youth feminist organizations and social movements. MENA delegations with the most beneficiaries are : **Iraq, Afghanistan** and **Egypt**. And Tdh has maintained its work in volatile contexts such as **Afghanistan** or **Iraq**.

In addition, the organization has worked with partners to implement projects or to train people in a total of 20 countries globally. Tdh works in collaboration with **local and international partners**, towards mutual **sharing expertise**. Partnerships with local population (authorities, civil society, NGOs, etc.) are particularly appreciated and sought after, as Tdh advocates a **long-term** & **inclusive** development **approach**. By joining efforts with local organizations, **sustainable changes** ought to be achieved, since significant reforms comes from targeted people themselves. Terre des hommes is also a member of the Terre des Hommes International Federation (**TDHIF**), which includes sister organizations in Switzerland and other countries. TDHIF advocates for child rights on an international and European level and before the United Nations.

UNHCR, www.unhcr.org/fr/news/briefing/2021/1/600ab051a/bien-triste-jalon-violence-sahel-deplace-2-millions-personnes-sein- pays.html, Europe 1, www.europe1.fr/politique/marlene-schiappa-se-dit-choquee-par-ceux-qui-renvoient-dos-a-dos-laicistes-et-islamistes-4011030



<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/what-is-a-refugee

<sup>2</sup> UN, www.un.org/press/en/2021/db210223.doc.htm;



### **COVID-19 response**

#### Adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic

The year 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. While children do not appear to be as significantly affected in terms of their health, the economic and social repercussions of COVID-19 have been dramatic for them and the communities in which they live. The pandemic and the resulting mitigation measures led to additional hurdles in accessing essential services, exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities and creating new ones.

#### Strategy

Terre des hommes (Tdh) has been actively involved in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and has two strategic objectives:

1) to reduce and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis by combining protection, health and emergency activities and systems strengthening, and

2) to ensure the safety and security of beneficiaries and Tdh staff.

#### Context

Despite the significant impact of COVID-19 on its countries of activity and at headquarters, Tdh continued its support to the children most at risk and the communities in which they live. Its expertise and the responsiveness, flexibility and resilience of its teams enabled Tdh to achieve significant results: **all of Tdh's activities were adapted** in terms of content and implementation methods. In addition, thanks to its projects, Tdh contributed to preventing further threats by promoting hygiene measures or enabling social distancing, such as in **Iraq** where Tdh provided life-sustaining assistance for households and children facing steep vulnerability due to the health crisis's collateral impact in post-conflict. For instance, through Tdh' **Access to Justice** program in MENA :

- 342 children deprived of liberty got released with the support of Tdh in coordination with the authorities in. Support after release was provided to them and their families.
- 1382 children deprived of liberty who were not released received services support and hygiene products.



"I was suffocated inside the prison, more than ever. I could not even talk to the others. My world inside was already dull, but when the Covid-19 arrived it turned total darkness. I was left completely alone. I still cannot believe that they managed to get me out of there"

13-year-old boy from Gaza Strip

#### Results

All Tdh delegations have been subject to the measures taken by national and local authorities in response to the COVID-19 crisis, which has impacted their operations. Tdh was forced to:

1) limit team travel within, from and to the project countries ;

- 2) limit in-person meetings; and
- 3) increase remote working.

Despite the restrictions, Tdh's COVID-19 work included **prevention** and **protection activities** as well as **mitigation** and **control measures**: local teams delivered awareness and education campaigns, distributed hygiene items to the population, installed hand-washing stations, delivered protective equipment for staff at primary health centres, and provided digital tools for patient triage – a tablet application that identifies suspect and severe cases for isolation and referral – and clinical data collection. Psychosocial support and case management were also provided to protect the children.



#### Outlook for 2021

Tdh's projects have now fully integrated activities on preventing COVID-19 transmission, adopting new ways of working by using remote communications and with stronger participation from local partners and communities.

Tdh will continue to support children and their communities as needed, facilitating access to basic health, WASH and child protection services. The availability of effective vaccines against COVID-19 is currently an important tool to fight this pandemic. Tdh will make its capacity and presence available in remote settings, as well as to donors and consortia aiming to implement vaccination campaigns in its countries of activity.





# Our programs in the region

#### **CHILDREN IN HUMANITARIAN CRISIS**

**Humanitarian Aid** – We work in protracted crisis contexts like Palestine and Afghanistan, but also in the neighboring countries of Syria. In Iraq, we support the re-establishment of the education system in the post-war context. Cash-based assistance is increasingly becoming a core element of Tdh interventions in the zone, as it leaves the choice of what is most important to buy up to the families. We supported children in humanitarian crises after the explosion that happened in Beirut on August 4th, 2020. Through the "Immediate provision of child children and families by Beirut's explosions", Tdh targeted children directly affected by the blast and their caregivers, as well as a variety of stakeholders involved in the provision of this emergency response.





#### In Lebanon: Immediately after the blast, Tdh and its local partner joined forces and provided specialized services to high-risks cases of children who lost their parents due to the blast.

In 2020, in the framework of this project, Mental-health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) session (including Psychological First Aid and family counselling) were provided to **268** children and **132** caregivers experiencing high distress and anxiety. MHPSS interventions



focused on prompt support and accompaniment to mitigate the effects and acute consequences of the recent traumatic event, but also consider the uncertainty of the already complex and stressful socio-economic, political, and pandemic situation that the population is living. **Each beneficiary attended 12 sessions**.

**146** children at risk were supported through emergency **Child Protection** case management services. The case management approach helps children by providing them access to multisectoral services, through a tailored support and accompaniment, to enhance their well-being and selfesteem in adverse situations, as well as promoting their resilient capacities.

In order to support children with recreational activities and promote intergenerational activities that will provide further connections, bonds and support, mitigating the impact of the disaster on children, **202** children benefitted from community-based child friendly activities.

Considering the necessity to mainstream CP concerns among the stakeholders, **455 beneficiaries** (members of local organizations and humanitarian partners) received sensitization on behaviors to adopt with children under these circumstances, vital tips and best practices.



First Aid trainings conducted in cooperation with Red Cross were provided to 52 caregivers and youth in order for them to support better their families and community members.

**69 households** received emergency cash-assistance (ECA) in order to meet their basic needs with safety and dignity. The ECA assisted the vulnerable families with **child protection concerns** who were exposed to protection and psychological shocks due to Beirut's Blast.

To ensure most affected have access to essential needs as well as to promote safety and protection from COVID 19 during the disaster response, **182 households** received hygiene kits & personal protection equipment.



Occupied Palestine : With regards to Tdh's Food Security intervention, vulnerablefood-insecure- households have increased access to food and income generating opportunities and the risk of their children to be engaged in child labour, street begging activities, or being out of school is being reduced.

Beneficiaries benefited from the provision of food vouchers, and the provision of cash assistance to establish income-generating activity as well dedicated training on how to manage a small income generating project. Under the Food Security Intervention, Tdh partnered with the World Food Program in order to use its e-voucher system.

The use of such a system enabled Tdh to provide food assistance with a high level of effectiveness, quality, and respect for the beneficiaries' choices and dignity.





#### **CHILD PROTECTION**

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**Children and Youth in Migration** – We make sure that children and young people affected by migration have access to appropriate and good quality protection services in their countries of origin, transit and destination. Tdh tackles the issues of **child labour, child marriage**, and **violence against children**, with a focus on **child participation** and **youth empowerment**. Key actors are trained to provide a child-friendly and protective environment which ensures children's rights. Sports and art activities are a tool to **psychologically and socially empower refugee**, **IDPs**, **migrant children and young people**.





Egypt map

Focus on the project "Facilitation of mental health, psychosocial wellbeing and protection for refugees / migrants in Egypt". This project assists refugees, asylum seekers and Egyptians living in impoverished urban areas in Greater Cairo to manage problems affecting their protection, mental health and psychosocial well-being.

**Special success :** Active gangs of youth **terrorized refugee communities** through robbery, physical and **sexual assault, harassment** and **exploitation**. In a society in which African

refugee youth are not integrated and have few economic, educational or future opportunities, gangs are a place to belong, feel protected and powerful and gain an income.

During the peak of the pandemic when there were curfews and restricted movement, gang violence decreased. However, as the society reopened to activities the violence reappeared. There were regular episodes of gang violence leading to serious injury and deaths.

Through the **Youth Initiative for Peace**, the project responded to incidents to offer support to victims and families. **The team engaged 8 "retired" male-gang members as youth volunteers and "cool" positive role models**.

The team tried to access perpetrators to facilitate them to manage conflicts to avoid further violence. One episode of violence, however, continually leads to another due to strong attitudes about the need for revenge by each group who is attacked. To reduce the tensions, the Youth Team was actively engaged with Community Leaders in all locations in Greater Cairo to organize conflict mediation sessions with individuals and gangs.



Case study : Fatma is a 20 years old woman refugee, with children 4 and 3 years old. She ran away from her husband after repeated domestic violence. She went to live with a community member who recognized that she was depressed and neglecting her children and referred her to PSTIC team. She had paranoid delusions toward others and heard voices commanding her to hurt herself and her children. The PSW with the help of the community took her for an emergency assessment and she was admitted to a psychiatric hospital. Arrangements were made for her children to be cared for by the community. The next day of her admission, she was found to be mildly feverish and was isolated for risk of Covid-19. The Health Team got her medical labs that found no Covid-19 but the psychiatric hospital refused to keep her. After further medical examinations it was found that she had TB. Her children were also tested, and one was positive for TB. The PSW organized for



someone to care for her and to separately continue to care for her children. Once her medical and psychiatric conditions stabilized, the PSW assisted her with housing and **she was reunited with her children**.



Access to justice A2J– We work in conflict prevention and resolution via restorative approaches based on child-friendly justice by promoting alternatives to trials, non-custodial measures, custodial care and effective prevention and reintegration processes for children at risk and in conflict with the law. To achieve this, we collaborate with formal and traditional/customary justice actors, organizations and networks, as well as with children and their families. We combine the following axes of work : service delivery, capacity-building, advocacy and policy, research, and quality and accountability. Within the A2J Program we operationalized different specialized themes : Prevention of Violent Extremism/Social Cohesion and Gender Justice. We work with the criminal and personal status jurisdictions and well as with community-based justice mechanisms.



#### Occupied Palestine : Tdh's implemented the program 'Gender Justice to End Violence against Women and Girls" funded by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

It focuses on promoting an enhanced access to justice response to survivors of VAWG, that is safe and empowering as well as to foster visibility and evidence-based policy and advocacy on **gender justice** towards building knowledge and change of attitudes, behaviors and social norms. In this program, **Tdh works with the formal justice system as well as with community-based justice mechanisms**.



In 2020, specialized policy on A2J & VAWG was caried out. Two ground-breaking policy reports developed in country with key justice stakeholders and female community leaders and justice users: (1) Evidence based need assessment on Sharia Courts, judicial administration of Violence Against Women's & Girls' cases in Palestine and (2) Status Report on Community-based Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms and Practices pertaining Violence Against Women and Girls.





"There is no real justice for us, women. We gave all our rights just to try to reduce the violence we are suffering. A change is needed, we need to be able to have justice that is adapted to our needs, a justice that respects and believes us to start with. A long way is ahead of us".

Raghda, 23 years old, Palestine.

#### Jordan: Access to Justice for children and youth in Jordan



**Context :** In Jordan, there remains to be an enduring gap between the goal of juvenile justice reforms and their application in practice. Although the Juvenile Law n.32 (2014) and the reform of the criminal procedure (2017) conform to international standards on children's rights, children and youth in conflict with the law in Jordan do not benefit from adequate protective efforts. The issue is here identified as a two-sided phenomenon: a disproportionate reliance on detention, compounded, in detention, by a lack of rehabilitation services.



#### What was achieved

**Policy Change**: Endorsement of the Model of Action on Alternatives to Detention Measures for Children in Conflict with the Law by the MoSD and the MoJ, who committed to disseminate and promote their use amongst the public servants. The Rehabilitation Guideline was also validated and endorsed by MoSD. The endorsements of these documents enabled Tdh and the MoSD to use the guideline and MoA for training of Behavioural Monitors, CSOs members and other professionals in implementing reintegration of children in conflict with the law, ultimately contributing in setting harmonized pathways of action.

Activation of Non-Custodial Measures : Piloting the rehabilitation program & community voluntary services program; available data collected indicate that a total of 620 children granted with non-custodial measures in 2020 (as of end of December 2020) and 59 children having received a verdict for detention (as of end of November 2020). Out of which, a total of 35 children were referred by the judges to JOHUD (Tdh's implementing partner) as an alternative to detention measure. In addition to the accreditation of JOHUD as provider of non-custodial measure before the MoSD.

**Behaviour Change**: cluster attention and engagement of a variety of stakeholders, maximising multi-disciplinary dialogue, building capacities of duty bearers, networking for allies, changing the paradigm of access to justice for children from punitive and detention-oriented to restorative and oriented towards the best interest of the child.

"Juvenile judges refer to the model of action and know how to apply alternatives to detention; The number of children referred to alternatives to detention is increased; Juvenile judges ask the judge inspector about CSOs applying non-custodial measures; Their attitudes towards alternatives to detention have changed, especially after watching the video of children involved in non-custodial measures at JOHUD center" Judge Suhair Al–Tubasi, Judicial Council



#### "I am thankful that I was not detained, the non-custodial measures and the activities provided through the project are very important".

Emad (Pseudonym name) participants of the rehabilitation program.

"Before, Emad used to stay out of home for late hours, but after taking the programs he stays at home and his relationship with his father, brothers and sisters is a lot better". Emad's mother.



#### In 2020, the A2J Program in MENA developed the following specialized publications:

- 'Give Me a Chance But a Real One. How to Improve the Reintegration of Children in Conflict with the Law An analysis of the concept, key standards and practices in the MENA region"<sup>3</sup>.
- "Access to Justice for Children and Youth in Counterterrorism Context An analytical and practical guide to foster the development and implementation of specialized, child rights-based and accountable justice systems." <sup>4</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.tdh.ch/en/media-library/documents/a2j-mena-reintegration-children-conflict-law-give-chance-real-one

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> https://www.tdh.ch/en/media-library/documents/access-justice-children-and-youth-counter-terrorism-contexts

#### HEALTH

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**Mother and Child Health** – Our mobile midwives in **Afghanistan** reach out to women in urban and periurban areas. These house visits provide access to healthcare for people who have no access to basic services such as **sanitation**, **water and transportation**. Preventive messages on the cruciality of vaccination or hospital and medicalized delivery are also spread. In **Morocco**, we make sure children with vulnerable backgrounds who have heart problems or other complex diseases get access to **specialized care**.



# Afghanistan Mother & Child Health project : Improved mother and child health care for conflict affected populations in Kabul, Afghanistan

The Tdh/MCH project has been successful in achieving its goal of improved health for displaced mothers and children, benefitting more than **9,030 direct and 37,405 indirect beneficiaries.** The project has managed to achieve the results in the target areas by reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates while contributing to overall health improvement of affected and displaced mothers and children in IDP camps.



The target beneficiaries of the project were identified through door-to-door visits, and referrals from the FHAG members, or public health facilities. Midwives screened all **pregnant women** to identify **potential risk**, diseases, psychological problems or any symptom of physical violence and provided antenatal and postnatal care services to ensure the safe health of both mothers and infants.

- During the reporting period **8,875 new-borns** and **10,693 women** were referred for **vaccinations**.
- The midwives were able to convince 91.1% of the mothers to take the advantages available childbirth services in the public hospitals instead of giving birth at home and 3.9% of the mothers were assisted during delivery by Tdh midwives at home.
- Total 9,030 women received antenatal and post-natal care.
- Total **2,746 children** were exclusively breastfed during the **first 6 months** of their life.
- The FHAGs conducted **1,811 awareness raising sessions** in their neighborhood.
- o Referral mapping is updated and shared with FHAGs members on regular basis
- **37,405 women** and **adolescent girls** participated in health education sessions provided by midwives.
- o The project provided additional classes for FHAG members to improve their knowledge and confidence.





Specific results : During the reporting period, **112** cases of **violence against women and children** were registered in the project. After monitoring, social service provider opened individual file for each case which included all the information and case details. When each case file was carefully assessed and assured that everything is fine then social service provider closed them.

"Last month I went to the hospital but I was ignored as I was not familiar with the environment and I am poor .So Tdh remains the only hope for us and the midwives provide better health services to us". A beneficiary woman

"Last year, I went to the hospital to give birth there, but at the hospital while I was in labour, the staff did no pay attention, and my baby died. Recently I gave birth for second time, and with the help of Tdh midwife I delivered healthy baby". A beneficiary mother

**Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene** – Tdh's comprehensive response to the COVID-19 emergency targeted vulnerable households in needed to support the containment and control of COVID-19 and reduce their vulnerability to the steep collateral protection, socio-economic, and health outcomes impact that accompany the outbreak. We implemented an integrated **WASH**, protection, and basic needs response to support the mitigation and control of the COVID-19 pandemic among already vulnerable returnee and IDP households. Tdh provided life-sustaining assistance for households and children facing steep vulnerability due to the health crisis's collateral impact in post-conflict Iraq.

# Iraq WASH project : Addressing the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WaSH) and Protection concerns of hard-to-reach, conflict affected populations in Anbar, Kirkuk and Salah al Din Governorates

Tdh teams assessed the condition of physical infrastructure and the quality of the **water** to understand the needs better. They then consulted with **local authorities and community leaders** to get a better understanding of the priorities before selecting the **infrastructure to be rehabilitated**. Tdh then hired contractors for the various aspects of the rehabilitation work, overseeing their work to ensure timely completion per the required quality standards. Tdh also trained local staff working at these schools, clinics, and water facilities. This was done to help ensure ongoing maintenance of the infrastructure so that the beneficiaries can keep benefitting from sustainable adequate sanitation, hygiene and water provided by the rehabilitated facilities in the future.





Tdh rehabilitated 12 schools and 3 Health Centres. Tdh also rehabilitated 7 water networks and 5 water treatment plants, providing safe drinking water to more than 70,000 people. Tdh also established local committees and donated items to help maintain water supply, sanitation, and hygiene after the rehabilitation was complete.

Tdh promoted good **hygiene** to **5,000 beneficiaries** by explaining general hygiene, infection prevention, water cycle, water saving, handwashing practices and the importance of keeping sanitation areas clean. Tdh also trained teachers in hygiene promotion and provided them with all the tools necessary to provide HP (Hygiene Promotion) sessions for the students at least once week.

#### **Quote of a beneficiary**

Amany is a 10-year-old girl from AI Sharifiyah village in AI Reyadh sub district of Hawija in the Kirkuk governorate. She said, "As I am at home and school is closed now due to the COVID-19 situation, I still remember Tdh HP team instructions regarding washing hands and keeping our personal hygiene to be healthy. I'm ready to go back to school and finish all the remaining sessions of Hygiene." Amany's favourite activity was Multiply hygiene messages through snake and ladder game learning how to WASH hands properly with soap, personal hygiene, and school and environmental hygiene. Amany's happiest moments were when she was given a Hygiene gift included nail clippers, toothbrush, toothpaste, and piece of soap. She said, "Really, I was so happy with all my friends at school. I love my blue school bag so much, and I always clean it and keep it with me. My dream in the future is to become a doctor and help people."





# 10 years of war in Syria

#### "I was four years old when I left Syria. I remember my street and a small market where we used to buy things. I also remember the tank that was parked near our house and that we used to hide from."

At the age of 12, Bakr recalls the handful of memories he has of his homeland, Syria. His sparkling green eyes and big smile contrast with his tragic story. Eight years ago, his family left everything behind to escape the civil war that was ravaging the country. *"We were living in Homs, but we were afraid for our survival. We fled while they were bombing the area*", says Asmaa, his mother.

**2021 marks 10 years of war in Syria.** The conflict that began in 2011 has since become the "WORST MAN-MADE DISASTER SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR" according to the UN. The numbers are staggering : hundreds of thousands of victims, **6,2 million people displaced within the country**, and **5.6 million refugees**. 99.4% of these refugees have found refuge in five countries: Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Almost **one million Syrian children** have been **born as refugees** and have only known their country of origin through the stories of their families. It was to Egypt that the family of Bakr fled. He, his parents and his two brothers, Talal, 11, and Adam, 4, now live in a tiny 60-square-metre flat in a neighbourhood an hour north-west from central Cairo.

#### Outlook for 2021

Following Syrian authorities' approval, a Tdh delegation is soon to be opened in Syria. This most important step will then allow us to provide emergency humanitarian aid and to set up our various transversal programs benefiting to Syrian children & their relatives.



# **Table of beneficiaries**

Country	Program	Number of beneficiaries
Afghanistan	l 🕂 🕹	182 688
Egypt	沐 魦 ኅ	105 621
Iraq	😰 🕂 🏔	411 729
Jordan	沐 ₺ 다	13 391
Lebanon		12 126
Morocco	Ċ,	199
Palestine		16 487
Tajikistan	<b>∕</b> .→	694









# **Special thanks**

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"I would like to take the opportunity to appreciate you and your team for your service deliveries and supporting the people and the communities who are really in need. Thanks a lot, once again".

Sakhi Ahmad Noori, former Program Manager Caritas Germany



Every child in the world has the right to a childhood. It's that simple.

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