

2024 - 2025

LEBANESE

SPOTLIGHT

ANNUAL

REPORT



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A Message from the Founder

Resilience, Hope, and the Unyielding Spirit of Lebanese Youth

Ali Omar Ali Founder Of LSL



Mindset, responsibility, solidarity, and engagement these words, among many others, encapsulate the essence of the past year and a half. With each passing day, we, as Lebanese youth, hold steadfast to our hope for a brighter future. The close of the past year brought an unprecedented storm: war, invasion, and the displacement of our families from the South to Beirut. We lived through the sounds of bombing, felt the palpable fears of our children, and witnessed the dreams of our youth being shattered before our eyes.

Yet, in the face of such adversity, the youth at Lebanese Spotlight took immediate initiative. We mobilized directly, extending a helping hand in 12 shelters across Beirut, tirelessly working to spread hope and rekindle dreams for those most affected. It is truly inspiring to witness the profound bond among the youth of Lebanese Spotlight, our dedicated volunteers as they support one another, striving collectively towards a future where no challenge is too great, no mountain too high to break our collective spirit. We are growing together, step by step, as one resilient family.

The year 2024 began with ambitious plans: securing our own funding and launching new projects, including the design of our first youth hub center in Ras el Nabaa. However, with the onset of the war, all our efforts pivoted instantly towards emergency response. Our 180 youth volunteers were on the ground, providing crucial assistance. We recognize that rebuilding our initiatives and projects after the conflict requires time and unwavering dedication.

Nonetheless, the resilience and steadfast commitment of our youth are already transforming dreams back into reality for Lebanon. We are proud to represent our Lebanese dream as agents of change.

We understand that the reconstruction of our own house, Lebanese Spotlight, is essential. Our solidarity and resilience are the cornerstones for a better Lebanon, a Lebanon we are determined never to abandon. The spirit of the Cedars, deeply ingrained in our personalities, guides us. As a youth-led NGO, we are resolute in continuing our path towards a brighter tomorrow.



History

Founded in 2017 was originally launched as a community service initiative by theatre teacher Ali Omar Ali in 2013, Lebanese Spotlight is a youth-led NGO based in Beirut, Lebanon, officially registered under number 1166. Driven by a mission to empower and inspire young individuals in Lebanon, we equip them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities to become proactive changemakers in their communities. Our vision is to see youth as catalysts for positive societal change possessing crucial life skills and a deep sense of purpose that fosters unity, mutual support, and lasting community impact.

Guided by values of transparency, confidentiality, cooperation, honesty, sustainability, inclusivity, respect, and accountability, we uphold open communication, ethical behavior, and mutual respect across all areas of our work.

Our objectives summed up as CEDE are fourfold: **Cultivating Self Discovery and Community Building** through annual workshops and events in Beirut; **Encouraging an Entrepreneurial Mindset** via skill enhancement programs (targeting 700 participants over six months and reaching 500 youth annually in tech-based training); **Driving Sustainable Change** through eco-conscious projects aligned with the Go Green movement; and **Empowering Youth Ambitions** by offering mentorship, career-oriented curriculum, and resources with goals of supporting 10,000 young individuals within a year and guiding significant career milestones for 10,000 students over three years. These objectives are aligned with our commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

With over 350 volunteers aged 15–25, our organization fosters small communities that promote collaboration, mutual aid, and social cohesion. We partner with local and international NGOs, academic institutions, and civil society organizations to amplify our impact through shared resources and aligned goals. At our core, who we are is a collective of driven youth, change-makers, and volunteers committed to promoting civic participation and social development in Lebanon; what we do is design and implement projects addressing education, environment, mental health, and youth unemployment while cultivating leadership and volunteerism; how we do it is by engaging youth in committees, delivering hands on training, and developing grassroots initiatives tailored to community needs; and our approach is bottom up, participatory, and youth centered ensuring that young people are not just beneficiaries but active agents of change.

Lebanese Spotlight is proud to collaborate with a diverse and inspiring group of national and international organizations, including:

Procol, World Vision, Democracy Reporting International, UNDP, TADAMON, Himaya, AUB NGOi, DOT Lebanon, Mentor Arabia, CIVICUS, Shabebik, Institute for Global Prosperity, Catalytic, Save the Children, ForumZFD, UNODC, LHDF, and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

These partnerships strengthen our reach and impact, enabling us to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and foster sustainable, youth-centered development across Lebanon.



Situation Brief

Lebanese Youth in 2024 - A Crisis of Survival and Uncertainty

The year 2024 proved to be an exceptionally challenging period for Lebanon, with the ongoing economic crisis deepening and a significant escalation of conflict in the latter half of the year. Lebanese youth, in particular, bore the brunt of these compounding crises, facing unprecedented hardship that impacted their economic prospects, educational continuity, mental well-being, and overall sense of security.

Deepening Economic Hardship and Exodus of Youth:

Lebanon's protracted economic crisis continued its relentless grip in 2024. While specific real GDP growth for 2024 was estimated to be at least 6.6% due to the conflict, compounding five years of severe contraction, the impact on purchasing power and salaries was profound. The International Monetary Fund reported an annual inflation rate of 45.2% for 2024, further eroding the value of already diminished incomes. Youth found themselves increasingly accustomed to, yet still struggling with, the economic hardship. Job scarcity reached critical levels, with youth unemployment having already surged to 47.8% in 2022 (compared to 23.3% in 2018-2019), and indications are that 2024 saw no significant improvement, especially with 166,000 individuals losing their jobs due to the conflict.

This dire economic landscape fueled a significant wave of emigration among young Lebanese.

Faced with bleak job prospects and the inability to secure a dignified future, many sought opportunities abroad for employment or to continue their education. While precise 2024 figures for youth emigration are still emerging, the overall net migration for Lebanon in 2024 was 17,267, a continuation of a trend driven by the lack of opportunities and deteriorating living conditions.

Education Under Siege:

The economic crisis severely impacted access to quality education. Rising costs of tuition, transportation, and materials forced many young people to drop out of schools and universities to seek work. By 2022, the "Not in Education, Employment, or Training" (NEET) rate for youth had risen to 29%, and school enrollment for 10-14 year old had dropped to a concerning 35.8%. The situation was further exacerbated by the conflict.

The war that intensified from September 2024 had a devastating effect on education across the country. Over 500,000 students faced severe educational interruptions, with more than 73% of public schools and other educational establishments becoming non-operational, and 43% being repurposed as shelters.

During the war, 69% of children were out of school. This disruption led to compounded learning losses, with many children unable to return to school even after the ceasefire, primarily due to financial barriers.



Situation Brief

Escalating Conflict and its Humanitarian Fallout:

While the economic crisis was a persistent backdrop, 2024 saw a dramatic escalation of hostilities, particularly in the south of Lebanon from the first quarter. After August, the conflict widened significantly, with widespread bombing and invasions affecting broader areas across Lebanon. This led to massive internal displacement. By mid-October 2024, over 1 million people were displaced, with safer cities and Beirut suburbs grappling with the influx of citizens fleeing the south.

These displaced citizens, including a substantial number of youth and families, faced immediate and urgent needs for basic necessities like food, water, shelter, and medical supplies. The conflict also severely disrupted essential services, including education and healthcare. The repurposing of schools and universities as shelters further halted academic activities, creating immense tension and fears among youth from different backgrounds. The economic and financial hardship deepened for all, coupled with heightened social tensions as communities struggled with resource scarcity and the psychological toll of conflict.

Deteriorating Mental Health and Basic Needs Crisis:

The combined weight of economic hardship and armed conflict took a severe toll on the mental health of Lebanese youth and their families.

A UNICEF survey in January 2025 revealed that 72% of caregivers reported their children being anxious or nervous during the war, and 62% reported them being depressed or sad. These figures represent a significant surge from pre-war data.

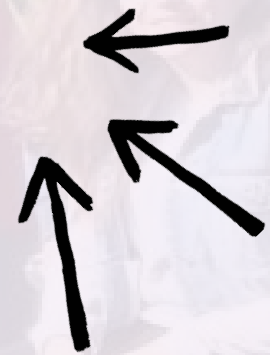
While some improvement was noted after the ceasefire, the long-term psychological consequences for those exposed to prolonged traumatic stress are undeniable.

Access to basic needs became a critical struggle for many. The conflict compounded existing vulnerabilities, making it even harder for families to afford food, secure clean water, and access necessary medications. Reports indicated that 45% of households were forced to cut spending on health and 30% on education to afford basic necessities. The search for these fundamental needs became a daily battle, adding immense stress to already struggling families.

In conclusion, 2024 was a year of profound crisis for Lebanon, with its youth facing a multifaceted emergency. The confluence of a relentless economic downturn, widespread unemployment, educational collapse, a surge in emigration, and the devastating impact of war created an environment of pervasive uncertainty, fear, and deteriorating well-being. Addressing these interconnected challenges, particularly for the younger generation, remains paramount for any prospect of recovery and stability in Lebanon.



Interventions





VOLUNTEERING



MARATHONS



PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY- CANDIES DISTRIBUTION



MAYYEL IFTAR



BIGGEST CLEANUP



ORPHANAGE ACTIVITIES



BIGGEST CLEANUP

Objectives:

- Promote environmental responsibility among youth.
- Foster teamwork and volunteerism through direct action.

Outputs:

- Volunteers: 120 (40 male, 80 female)
- Indirect beneficiaries: Over 5,000 local residents

Activities:

- Promote environmental Organized a large-scale community cleanup in Horsh Beirut
- Engaged 120 volunteers to clean streets, stairs, and public areas.
- Collaborated with municipality and local partners for waste collection.

Challenges:

- Limited availability of tools and safety equipment.
- Delay in waste pickup after the cleanup.

Solutions:

- Secured donations of gloves and bags from shops.
- Sent follow-up reminders to the municipality for trash removal.

Change & Feedback:

- Residents became more aware of waste habits.
- Several participants asked for more regular cleanups.

Lessons Learned:

- Pre-event orientation boosts efficiency.
- Need for more volunteer safety guidance.

Team Involved:

- Activity coordinators
- Media documenters
- Procurement support



MARATHONS

Objectives:

- Encourage healthy lifestyles.
- Promote solidarity through physical activity.

Activities:

- Organized and supported marathons in coordination with city events.
- Provided volunteers to help with logistics, and distributing water.
- Engaged community members to participate or cheer.

Outputs:

- Volunteers:
- 200
- (87 male, 133 female)

Challenges:

- Volunteer fatigue due to long hours.
- Difficulty coordinating with external event organizers.

Solutions:

- Assigned shifts to reduce overload.
- Designated a liaison to coordinate with event teams.

Change & Feedback:

- Volunteers enjoyed being part of a public event.
- Increased visibility of Lebanese Spotlight in the community.

Lessons Learned:

- Clear task distribution is key in large-scale events.
- Water stations and rest spots for volunteers are crucial.

Team Involved:

- Events unit
- Volunteer coordinator
- Health & Safety volunteer team



ORPHANAGE ACTIVITIES

Activities:

- Distributing Gifts
- Eid Celebrations

Challenges:

- Ensuring fairness in gift distribution by age and gender.
- Emotional strain on volunteers when engaging with vulnerable children.
- Limited space and time during on-site events.

Objectives, Activities & Outputs:

- Provide emotional support, joy, and a sense of belonging to orphaned children during special occasions.
- Engage volunteers in empathetic, child-focused activities that promote compassion and social inclusion.
- Organized gift collection, wrapping, and direct distribution in orphanages.
- Hosted interactive Eid events including music, games, arts, and shared meals.
- Reached approximately 600 children across two orphanages with support from 25+ volunteers.

Solutions:

- Categorized gifts by age group and gender with color-coded packaging.
- Provided pre- and post-visit emotional debriefs for volunteers.
- Rotated activity groups to manage space and maintain energy.

Change & Feedback:

- Children expressed joy, excitement, and trust through repeated engagement.
- Orphanage staff noted increased happiness and energy in the children.
- Volunteers felt emotionally impacted and requested more frequent visits.

Lessons Learned:

- Personalized and culturally relevant engagement leaves lasting impressions.
- Structured scheduling improves the experience for both children and volunteers.
- Volunteer preparation and reflection are essential for emotionally sensitive settings.

Team Involved:

- Facilitators
- Volunteering team
- Event planning team
- Logistics and gift prep volunteers



TRIPS

Objectives:

- Offer recreational and cultural learning opportunities.
- Strengthen social bonds among volunteers.

Activities:

- Organized day trips to historical, natural, and cultural sites.
- Included games, discussions, and interactive group activities.

Outputs:

- Volunteers: 20 (9 male, 11 female)
- Beneficiaries: 180 youth

Challenges:

- Transportation delays.
- Budget constraints affecting the number of participants.

Solutions:

- Partnered with transport companies for discounts.
- Prioritized mixed groups for diversity.

Change & Feedback:

- Participants described trips as eye-opening and relaxing.
- Many requested more frequent trips.

Lessons Learned:

- Clear communication of timing prevents delays.
- Joint reflection during trips builds connection.

Team Involved:

- Field coordinator
- photographers
- Trip leaders



VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

Activities:

- Volunteer's Day Celebration
- Independence Day Activity
- Community Movie Nights

Challenges:

- Limited budgets and resource constraints.
- Scheduling conflicts and technical issues.

Solutions:

- Used recycled and donated materials.
- Divided tasks among small volunteer teams and used polls for decision-making.

Objectives, Activities & Outputs:

- Foster a sense of community, appreciation, and national belonging among volunteers and local participants.
- Celebrate key moments and values through inclusive events such as national holidays, volunteer appreciation, and cultural gatherings.
- Engaged volunteers in planning and leading events, including games, arts & crafts, screenings, and informal dialogues.
- Created interactive experiences using limited resources, supported by creative volunteer initiatives.
- Reached approximately 400 direct participants and over 120 volunteers across the three events.

Change & Feedback:

- Increased volunteer satisfaction and retention.
- Participants expressed a deeper connection to Lebanese identity and to the organization's mission.
- Movie discussions opened space for reflection and idea-sharing.

Lessons Learned:

- Small, consistent events can have strong long-term impact.
- Volunteers thrive when given ownership and recognition.

Team Involved:

- Volunteer engagement team
- Media & technical support volunteers



RAMADAN ACTIVITIES

Activities:

- 30 Days of Distributing Dates and Water
- 7 Beneficiary Iftars
- 3 Mayyel Iftars
- 3 Volunteering Iftars
- Packing food packages wrapped in dignity.

Challenges:

- Safety during roadside distribution.
- Limited resources for food, transport, and setup.
- High demand with short preparation windows.

Solutions:

- Provided safety training and gear to volunteers.
- Partnered with caterers, donors, and local vendors for supplies and meals.
- Used rotating volunteer shifts and pre-packed items for efficiency.

Change & Feedback:

- Participants reported feeling seen, honored, and emotionally connected.
- Elderly attendees in Mayyel expressed deep gratitude.
- Volunteers felt spiritually and socially fulfilled.
- Community members offered spontaneous support during distribution.

Objectives, Activities & Outputs:

- Promote the values of solidarity, empathy, and inclusion during the holy month of Ramadan.
- Engage volunteers in meaningful, spiritual, and community-driven initiatives such as iftars, cultural participation, and daily acts of kindness.
- Reached over 8,000 beneficiaries through street distributions, communal meals, and festival outreach.
- Volunteers organized logistics, meal preparation, decoration, and elderly support across all events.
- Built strong emotional connections with the elderly, underserved families, and local passersby.

Lessons Learned:

- Visibility in public builds reputation and trust.
- Inclusive planning and small gestures go a long way.

Team Involved:

- Ramadan coordination team
- Volunteer engagement leaders
- Logistics and food support team
- Media and outreach volunteers



PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY – CANDY DISTRIBUTION

Objectives:

- Share joy and tradition on the Prophet's birthday.
- Engage children in culturally significant practices.

Outputs:

- Volunteers: 20 (10 male, 10 female)
- Beneficiaries: 300 children

Activities:

- Packed and distributed candy boxes in neighborhoods and schools.
- Added positive messages and greetings in each package.

Challenges:

- Short preparation time.
- Budget for candy and packaging.

Solutions:

- Partnered with local candy shops.
- Used recycled wrapping.

Change & Feedback:

- Families appreciated the thoughtfulness.
- Children were excited to receive personalized packs.

Lessons Learned:

- Small gestures create big smiles.
- Local partnerships lower costs.

Team Involved:

- Activities team
- Volunteering committee and volunteers



DISTRIBUTING BINS IN RAS AL NABAA & MAR MKHAYEL

Objectives:

- Promote waste management and recycling.
- Empower neighborhoods to take ownership of cleanliness.

Outputs:

- Volunteers: 12 (8 male, 4 female)
- Bins distributed: 100
- Beneficiaries (indirect): 2,000+ neighborhood residents

Activities:

- Installed color-coded bins in key public areas.
- Held mini-awareness sessions with residents and shop owners.

Challenges:

- Vandalism and misuse of bins.
- Some community members are unaware of the purpose.

Solutions:

- Conducted follow-up visits and awareness flyers.
- Involved local leaders in bin placement.

Change & Feedback:

- Cleaner streets were noticed within a month.
- Residents requested more bins.

Lessons Learned:

- Ownership increases with direct engagement.
- Visual instructions on bins reduce misuse.

Team Involved:

- Team of Volunteers
- Team from Save the Children
- Media committee
- Community liaisons



MUSIC & SPORTS TEAMS

Objectives:

- Promote mental health, discipline, and teamwork.
- Offer creative and athletic outlets for youth.

Outputs:

- Volunteers: 25 (11 male, 14 female)
- Participants: 80 youth in music and sports combined

Activities:

- Organized weekly practices and occasional showcases.
- Formed mixed-gender teams for inclusivity.

Challenges:

- Equipment damage and lack of rehearsal space.
- Scheduling conflicts with academic exams.

Solutions:

- Partnered with local schools for space.
- Created flexible schedules.

Change & Feedback:

- Participants showed improved self-confidence.
- Parents reported better behavior at home.

Lessons Learned:

- Music and sports improve holistic well-being.
- Consistency and routine are key to engagement.

Team Involved:

- Music coach
- Sports trainers
- Logistics support



TRAININGS & CAPACITY BUILDING



DML



CLIMATE CHANGE



RED CROSS



SAVE THE CHILDREN - PSS



DIGITAL TRAININGS – DOT

Activities:

- AI Training (2 groups)
- Microwork
- Digital Media Literacy (DML)
- Climate Change Training (2 groups)

Challenges:

- Varying tech proficiency among participants.
- Limited internet access for some.

Solutions:

- Offering pre-training onboarding.
- Provided devices and hotspot support when needed.

Change & Feedback:

- Increased interest in tech-related volunteering and jobs.
- Participants requested follow-up mentorship and advanced courses.

Objectives, Activities & Outputs:

- Equip youth with market-relevant digital skills and awareness of global challenges.
- Prepare participants for remote work and AI-integrated job opportunities.
- Strengthen knowledge of online safety, misinformation, and climate-related advocacy.
- Trained over 150 participants (70 male, 80 female) across multiple sessions.
- Participants completed digital tasks, small projects, and simulations.

Lessons Learned:

- Youths are highly adaptive when given the right tools.
- Blended (offline/online) methods increase accessibility and engagement.



CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

Activities:

- Emergency Plan Workshop
- First Aid
- Red Cross Trainings:
 1. Humanitarian Values and Principles (HVP)
 2. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)
 3. My Health My Priority (MHMP)
 4. Youth-Led Initiatives

Objectives, Activities & Outputs:

- Strengthen organizational and volunteer capacity in key NGO functional areas.
- Improve community preparedness and personal response to emergencies.
- Over 250 participants trained (130 female, 120 male).
- Interactive methods used: case studies, role-play, group work, and simulations.

Challenges:

- Overlap in training content from different providers.
- Volunteer availability for full-day workshops.

Solutions:

- Mapped learning progression and tailored invitations by profile.
- Delivered some sessions in hybrid formats to increase access.

Change & Feedback:

- Volunteers felt empowered to lead and support field work.
- Increased internal efficiency and role clarity among staff.
- Feedback emphasized the need for more real-life simulations.

Lesson Learned:

- Repetition across groups reinforces learning.
- Partner-led sessions enhanced motivation and development.



PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS – PARTNER-LED

Activities:

Save the Children Trainings:

- Climate Change
- Psychosocial Support (PSS)

UNICEF Online Trainings:

- Community Based Psycho-Social Support (CBPSS)
- Adolescent Girls
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

AUB NGOI Trainings

- MEAL
- Proposal Writing
- Finance
- Project Management

Objectives, Activities & Outputs:

- Strengthen Lebanese Spotlight's internal capacity in core humanitarian and programmatic functions.
- Build technical expertise aligned with international standards.
- Over 40 staff and core volunteers trained across 3 partner institutions.
- Training formats included in-person, hybrid, and online self-paced modules.

Challenges:

- Limited time for staff to attend long training sessions during peak project phases.
- Low engagement with some online content.

Solutions:

- Adjusted workload during training weeks.
- Held post-training peer sharing and summaries.

Change & Feedback

- Stronger proposal quality, donor reporting, and internal systems.
- More cross-department collaboration emerged.
- Feedback suggests regular refreshers and follow-up mentoring are needed.

Lessons Learned:

- Investing in staff growth improves program outcomes.
- Tailored content by role makes training more impactful.



URGENT RELIEF



EMERGENCY PLAN



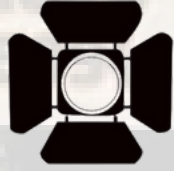
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NEEDS DISTRIBUTION



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



URGENT RELIEF RESPONSE

Activities:

- Organized Child protection workshops for volunteers.
- Implemented “Filling Pillows” initiative – filled and distributed 12,000 pillows to families in temporary shelters.
- Distributed food, medications, clothes, mattresses to 200+ families.
- Prepared and packed over 3,000 food boxes for immediate response.
- Conducted an Emergency Plan workshop to prepare volunteers for field operations and crisis response.
- Supported displaced individuals in 12 schools through:
 1. Daily recreational & psychosocial support activities.
 2. Distribution of food, hygiene items, and basic necessities.
 3. Sports and movement-based stress relief.
 4. Arts and crafts for children and youth.
- Breakfast gatherings to foster belonging and warmth.

Objectives & Outputs:

Respond rapidly and compassionately to the urgent needs of displaced families due to the 2024 war in Lebanon, particularly those who fled to Beirut with no belongings.

- Total Beneficiaries: Over 2,500 individuals
- Approx. 1,300 Female / 1,200 Male
- Volunteers Involved: 90+
- Schools Supported: 12 shelters across Beirut

Challenges:

- Ongoing sudden bombings created instability and increased trauma among beneficiaries.
- Difficulty in tracking volunteers on the ground, especially during movement-heavy activities.
- Need to restructure emergency team roles quickly based on field conditions and locations.



URGENT RELIEF RESPONSE

Solutions:

- Assigned field leaders and zone coordinators for each school and shelter.
- Created daily volunteer check-in/check-out systems using messaging apps.
- Implemented a flexible rotation plan for volunteers to reduce burnout and enhance responsiveness.

Change & Feedback

- Beneficiaries expressed deep gratitude for consistent presence and dignified support.
- Volunteers reported feeling more empowered after the emergency workshop and coordination training.
- Emotional bonds were created between displaced families and volunteers, especially during art and meal-sharing activities.

Lessons Learned:

- Preparedness workshops significantly enhance the speed and quality of emergency response.
- Delegating clear leadership roles in chaotic settings prevents confusion and boosts morale.
- Emotional support is as vital as physical aid in emergencies; activities like arts, sports, and food-sharing create resilience.



PROJECTS & PROGRAMS



UNLOCK LITERACY



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



MAYYEL



ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES - YOUTH FORCE



SOS DIGITALIZATION – POWERED BY ACTED

Brief

Lebanese Spotlight was accepted to implement the Sustainable Operated Society (SOS) digitalization process. The project introduces digital tools to enhance operational efficiency, improve data management, and expand outreach.

Expectation

Successful digital transformation and implementation of digital tools such as Volunteering Management System (VMS), HR system, and an Accounting system that eases the tracking processes.

Challenge

Aligning internal systems and staff readiness for digital transformation.

Suggested Solution

Preparing internal IT support and training sessions before rollout.



SAFE PARKS (KASKAS & KARM EL ARES)

Brief

Weekly recreational and psychosocial support activities for children at risk, implemented in public parks to ensure safe, inclusive, and healing environments.

Outputs

- Total children reached: 380 (158 males, 222 females)
- Number of volunteers: 50 (28 female, 22 Male)

Challenge

Ensuring consistent attendance and safety in public areas.

Solutions:

Assigned fixed facilitators and collaborated with parents/community leaders.

Lessons Learned:

Community trust and consistency are key to child protection outreach in public spaces.



JOWAN PROGRAM FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL CHILDREN

Brief

This initiative offers foundational education in Arabic, English, Math, and Art, as well as weekly summer camp activities for out-of-school children.

Outputs

- Children enrolled: 50 (24 males, 26 females)
- Volunteers involved: 12 (8 females, 4 males)

Challenge

Different academic levels among children, and some have no academic background.

Solutions:

Divided students into groups based on level and need; and kept the lessons weekly.

Lessons Learned:

Flexibility and tailored approaches increase the impact of non-formal education.



MAYYEL (ELDERLY PROGRAM)

Brief

A social inclusion program for elderly people (launched in Mar Mikhael and Ras Al Nabaa), promoting mental health and solidarity through regular coffee gatherings and joint activities.

Outputs

- Elderly participants: 50 (12 males, 38 females)
- Volunteer Participation: 10 (4 male, 6 female)

Challenge

Engaging isolated or mobility-challenged elderly.

Solutions:

Partnered with local families and youth to assist with mobility and follow-up.

Lessons Learned:

Intergenerational inclusion builds stronger community networks.



YOUTH ACADEMY

Objective

Equip youth with essential life skills for personal growth and employability in schools, covering topics like communication, self-confidence, adaptability, and conflict resolution.

Activity

- Trained 10 female volunteers on a TOT program for Life Skills
- 7 Life skills sessions in 8 schools.

Output

- Youth reached: 636 (308 males, 328 females)
- Female youth trained as facilitators: 10

Challenge

School scheduling conflicts and short time Periods.

Solutions:

taking more than one period to give the session and school coordination ahead of time.

Lessons Learned:

Peer-led education makes life skills more relatable.



YOUTH FORCE - DRI

Brief

A youth-led initiative promoting advocacy, democracy, and leadership. Two advocacy campaigns were conducted with the Ministries of Environment and MPs. In Phase 3, the program pivoted to emergency response due to the war.

Outputs

- Campaigns conducted: 2
- Youth engaged: 40 (18 males, 22 females)
- Emergency phase beneficiaries: 170 families

Challenge

- Adjusting activities in response to war.

Solutions:

- Transformed Phase 3 into emergency support for displaced families.

Lessons Learned:

- Youth-led programs are resilient and can adapt to urgent societal needs.



PEACE ROAD- WORLD VISION

Brief

A symbolic and awareness-raising project focused on unity, tolerance, and peacebuilding through community walks and storytelling.

Outputs

- Participants: 120 (60 males, 60 females)
- Stories collected/shared: 20

Challenge

- Mobilizing participation during politically tense times.

Solutions:

- Focused on apolitical messaging and partnered with other peace initiatives.

Lessons Learned:

- Neutral, values-based programming can still create civic engagement in divided environments.



YOUTH CONNECT- OUT OF THE BOX

Brief

Youth built a safe, inclusive library space in Ras Al Nabaa and conducted 10 playful, youth-led mental health workshops.

Outputs

- Library users: 250
- Workshops held: 10
- Workshop participants: 30 (16 males, 14 females)

Challenge

- Limited time for data collection and analysis.

Solutions:

- Engaged youth in participatory monitoring to speed up feedback loops.

Lessons Learned:

- Youth-led design and evaluation increase ownership and relevance of mental health support.



UNLOCK LITERACY

Brief

A dual-track program targeting caregivers and children with sessions on early literacy, Arabic, and playful learning.

Outputs

- Children: 50 (28 males, 22 females)
- Caregivers: 45 (majority female)

Challenge

- Caregiver commitment over time.

Solutions:

- Aligned caregiver sessions with child sessions for parallel learning.

Lessons Learned:

- Engaging parents alongside children strengthens long-term learning outcomes.



ANNUAL CAMP – DISCONNECT TO CONNECT

Brief

A 3-day camp for over 70 youth and volunteers focused on life skills, self-reflection, and team building.

Outputs

- Participants: 72 (42 males, 30 females)

Challenge

- Coordinating logistics and activities for multiple days and locations.

Solutions:

- Formed task forces for meals, transport, and safety.

Lessons Learned:

Immersive experiences deepen bonds and learning far beyond one-day workshops.



FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Brief

A youth-focused tournament with 8 teams, fostering teamwork, discipline, and sportsmanship.

Outputs

- Players: 48 (all male)
- Volunteers managing event: 12

Challenge

- Time management and resolving player conflicts.

Solutions:

- Created a clear code of conduct and assigned referees/moderators.

Lessons Learned:

Sports can unify diverse youth when structured with clear expectations.



CLIMATE CHANGE TOT – SAVE THE CHILDREN

Brief

Lebanese Spotlight volunteers were trained to deliver climate education to 2000+ individuals through engaging activities.

Outputs

- People reached: 2,000+
- Trained volunteers: 15

Challenge

- Translating technical content for multiple age groups.
- Implementing the training during war

Solutions:

- Used games, visual tools, and storytelling to simplify climate topics.
- Checked for safety measures before head

Lessons Learned:

- Climate education is more effective when localized and creative.



READY PROGRAM – MENTOR ARABIA

Brief

Youth-led implementation of the READY program reaching 100 children, covering drug prevention and life skills.

Outputs

- Children reached: 100 (40 males, 60 females)
- Youth trainers: 8

Challenge

Adapting curriculum to different age groups.

Solutions:

Developed age-appropriate methods and games.

Lessons Learned:

Developed age-appropriate methods and games.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP



COFFEE HUB



ONLINE BAKING BUSINESS



CLOTHING BRAND



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Objectives, & Outputs:

To support youth and vulnerable individuals in launching or growing sustainable microbusinesses, enhancing their financial independence and long-term resilience through capacity building, mentorship, and seed support.

- Total Beneficiaries Supported: 21
 - Male: 11
 - Female: 10
- Businesses Launched or Expanded: 8
- Aspirants Trained: 35 (16 males, 19 females)
 - Target for 2025: 100 businesses

Activities:

- Conducted targeted outreach and needs assessments for aspiring entrepreneurs.
- Provided business development and financial literacy training.
- Matched individuals with mentors and supported idea prototyping.
- Offering seed support and continuous technical guidance for selected micro-enterprises.
- Showcased success stories to inspire new applicants.

Challenges:

- Limited access to capital and tools for business launch.
- Entrepreneurial fear of failure among youth.
- Market competition and pricing challenges.

Solutions:

- Offering seed support in the form of material/toolkits instead of cash.
- Built a mentorship network including local business owners.
- Conducted market simulation activities and fairs for confidence building and exposure.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Change & Feedback:

- Participants reported increased confidence in managing their own projects.
- Several community members offered collaboration after observing initial success stories.
- Local shops expressed willingness to host or sell products from the supported entrepreneurs.

Lessons Learned:

- One-on-one mentorship is key to sustained business development.
- Real-world practice (pop-up markets, testing days) is more effective than theory alone.
- Starting small and community-based builds trust and visibility for youth-led businesses.

Highlighted Success Cases

- Coffee Hub: A youth-led mobile coffee stand offering quality brews at community events.
- Basher T-Shirts: A creative line of printed t-shirts that share cultural slogans and local stories.
- Batoul's Baking Business: A home-based baking startup that now caters for birthdays and small events.
- Farhan's Shoe Cleaning & Custom Drawing: A niche business combining art with service, offering shoe care and unique designs.



NETWORKING & PARTNERS



SPAIN



ALBANIA



MUSEUM VISIT - YDO



EGYPT



GREECE



NETWORKING AND PARTNERS

Objective

- Strengthen Lebanese Spotlight's presence and visibility in regional and international platforms.
- Provide exchange and learning opportunities for youth and team members.
- Build long-term partnerships that support knowledge-sharing, resource development, and collaborative projects.
- Enhance intercultural understanding and cooperation across diverse communities.

Output

- Total Exchanges & Visits: 9
- Volunteers Participated: 7 (4 males, 3 females)
- Youth Reached through Theatre of the Oppressed: 250+
- Countries Engaged: 7 (Lebanon, Romania, Egypt, Albania, Greece, UK, Spain, Luxembourg)
- Local Beneficiaries (Museum + Chouf Visits): 60 (28 males, 32 females)



NETWORKING AND PARTNERS

Activities

1. Local Partnerships & Cultural Engagement

- Participated with Youth Development Organization (YDO) in organizing:
 - 3 museum visits across Lebanon.
 - A cultural day in the Chouf area.

2. Cross-National Project: Theatre of the Oppressed

- Collaborated with Lebanese and Romanian partners.
- Delivered Forum Theatre training and interactive performances.
- Reached over 250 youth participants.
- Focused on using theatre for self-expression and tackling societal issues.

3. Cinema to Media – Egypt Exchange

- Volunteers Enjeel and Miryam joined a mobility program in Egypt.
- Trained in transforming real-life challenges into impactful short films.

- Developed scripts and concepts tackling Lebanese social concerns.

4. International Cultural and Mobility Exchanges

- Albania & Luxembourg: Participated in online cultural exchange activities, building connections through shared storytelling and cultural dialogue.
- Greece: Volunteer Basheer took part in a volunteering and environmental sustainability program.
- Albania: Volunteer Ziad represented Lebanese Spotlight in a mobility exchange, promoting our programs and exploring future collaboration.
- United Kingdom: Ali joined a Citizen Scientist program, presenting Mayyel and Jowan initiatives.
- Spain: Ali further engaged in a workshop on advocacy and democracy, representing Lebanese Spotlight in policy-related dialogue.



NETWORKING AND PARTNERS

Challenges

- Managing logistics and coordination across different time zones and partner countries.
- Visa and travel restrictions delayed participation for some members.
- Limited funding for larger-scale participation.

Solution

- Utilized online exchanges where physical travel wasn't possible.
- Prioritized cost-efficient partnerships and co-funded travel with host organizations.
- Delegated coordination roles to volunteers to enhance ownership and reduce staff pressure.

Change and Feedback

- Volunteers returned with new skills and wider networks, fueling new initiatives.
- Partners expressed willingness to deepen collaboration for 2025 and co-design more joint activities.
- Increased external visibility of Lebanese Spotlight in Europe and the MENA region.

Lesson Learned

- Strategic networking opens doors for long-term sustainable collaboration.
- Investing in youth mobility fosters leadership and multiplies impact at the local level.
- Online exchanges can be powerful alternatives when in-person travel isn't feasible.



Closing word – Recommendation

Charting a Path for Lebanese Youth - The Resilient Spirit of Lebanese Spotlight

The year 2024 served as a stark reminder of the profound vulnerabilities faced by Lebanese youth, caught between a debilitating economic crisis and the harrowing realities of armed conflict. The ripple effects on their livelihoods, education, and mental well-being have been catastrophic, leading to widespread disillusionment and an accelerated exodus of talent. Reversing this downward spiral and building a more resilient future for Lebanon's youth requires immediate, coordinated, and sustained interventions across multiple sectors.

Recommendations:

1. Prioritize Economic Stabilization and Youth Employment:

Implement Urgent Economic Reforms: A stable macroeconomic environment is fundamental. This includes tackling inflation, stabilizing the currency, and fostering an environment conducive to investment. International support tied to genuine reforms is crucial.

Invest in Demand-Driven Vocational and Technical Training: Bridge the skills gap by aligning educational programs with market needs, including green economy sectors and digital skills. Focus on practical, competency-based training, as initiatives like UNICEF's Learning to Earning program have shown success.

Support Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Provide access to seed funding, mentorship, and business development support for young entrepreneurs. Encourage "gig economy" opportunities and explore incentives for businesses to retain local talent (e.g., through dollarized wages and benefits) as highlighted by initiatives by UNDP and Amideast.

Create Public Works and Cash-for-Work Programs: Offer immediate income-generating opportunities for unemployed youth, particularly in reconstruction efforts and community-based projects. This can also help address basic needs and inject cash into local economies.



Closing word – Recommendation

Recommendations:

2. Safeguard and Rebuild the Education Sector:

Ensure Learning Continuity and Catch-Up Programs: Prioritize the rehabilitation of damaged schools and provide alternative learning spaces, including digital platforms and mobile classrooms. Implement accelerated learning programs to help students catch up on lost education, especially for displaced youth.

Invest in Teacher Support and Training: Provide financial incentives, professional development, and psychosocial support for educators who are at the forefront of this crisis.

Facilitate Re-enrollment and Retention: Address financial barriers to schooling by offering tuition assistance, school meal programs, and transportation support. Develop flexible pathways for out-of-school youth to re-enter the formal education system.

Integrate Psychosocial Support into Education: Recognize the deep trauma experienced by students and teachers. Implement mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) programs within schools, train personnel in identifying and referring cases, and establish robust referral systems to specialized care



Closing word – Recommendation

Recommendations:

3. Address Mental Health and Psychosocial Needs Systematically:

Expand and Integrate MHPSS Services: Scale up accessible and affordable mental health and psychosocial support services for youth and their families across all communities, including in displacement sites. This requires a nationwide governmental commitment, not just reliance on NGOs.

Raise Awareness and Destigmatize Mental Health: Launch public awareness campaigns to reduce the stigma associated with mental health issues and encourage help-seeking behavior.

Train Community Workers and First Responders: Equip community leaders, social workers, and local volunteers with basic psychological first aid and referral skills.

4. Strengthen Social Cohesion and Youth Participation:

Foster Dialogue and Peacebuilding Initiatives: Support youth-led initiatives that promote inter-communal dialogue, reconciliation, and social cohesion, particularly in areas affected by displacement and tension.

Empower Youth in Decision-Making: Create formal channels for youth participation in local and national governance, ensuring their voices are heard in recovery and policy-making processes that directly affect their lives.

Provide Safe Spaces and Recreational Activities: Establish youth-friendly spaces that offer a sense of normalcy, safety, and opportunities for positive engagement, recreation, and skill development.



Closing word – Recommendation

Recommendations:

5. Enhance Humanitarian Response and Preparedness:

Ensure Timely and Equitable Distribution of Aid: Improve coordination and logistics for delivering basic necessities to all affected populations, with a particular focus on displaced communities and vulnerable households.

Strengthen Early Warning Systems and Disaster Preparedness: Build national and local capacities to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to future shocks, mitigating their impact on youth.

The Way Forward: Lebanese Spotlight's Commitment to a Brighter Future

Amidst the profound challenges of 2024, the Lebanese Spotlight youth demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to solidarity and community engagement. Around 150 dedicated volunteers, some of whom were themselves displaced by the conflict, stepped forward to provide crucial assistance during the war. Their unwavering spirit highlighted a powerful unity and a profound giving side within the youth, emerging as true agents of change.

Following the immediate crisis response, Lebanese Spotlight youth remained steadfast in their commitment to ongoing projects and partnerships. This year, their collective efforts began to yield a tangible impact in Beirut and beyond, through initiatives such as the Mayyel project for elderly, the Jowan project for children, and the Youth Force program. Through Youth Force, young people have actively engaged in implementing advocacy campaigns, articulating their needs, and asserting their role as agents of change. In the crucible of war, unity was forged, and the inherent desire of these young individuals to contribute positively to their society was clearly evident.

Looking ahead, Lebanese Spotlight is dedicated to building comprehensive programs aimed at reconnecting these resilient youth to the communities they belong to, particularly after the immense mental health challenges and fears they have endured. We are developing robust internal systems, including new accounting and human resources frameworks, to efficiently manage our projects and ensure sustained impact. Furthermore, we are actively moving towards digitalization, enhancing our software and volunteer management system through our website to streamline operations and maximize our reach.

The path to recovery for Lebanon is long and arduous, but the unwavering spirit and proactive engagement of its youth, exemplified by initiatives like Lebanese Spotlight, offer a beacon of hope. By investing in their well-being, education, and empowerment, we are not merely addressing immediate needs, but fostering the very foundation for a more stable, prosperous, and unified Lebanon.