



THE WORLD REHABILITATION FUND

To believe in  
*rehabilitation*  
is to believe in  
*humanity.*  
Dr. Howard Rusk ~ Founder of WRF

## Transforming Disability into Possibility

Since 1955, the World Rehabilitation Fund, Inc. (WRF) has been transforming disability into possibility to ensure that all people, regardless of disability, have the right to participate fully in their communities, to attain education and viable employment.

**Our mission** is to enable individuals around the world with functional limitations and participation restrictions to achieve community and social integration through physical and socioeconomic rehabilitation and advocacy; and to prevent disability and reduce disadvantage.

### WRF Annual Report

We thank our individual donors, George D. Benjamin foundation, an anonymous foundation, the PSRD Foundation, the Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), and UN OCHA for their financial support of our work.

This funding provided WRF with the means to fill the gaps in protection services for Syrian Refugees with disabilities in Lebanese Host Communities, support work of the Artisans Association of Cambodia (AAC), continue assistance to the music program for children with disabilities in Haiti, fund the construction of a hospital auditorium and a library in Pakistan, and conduct an intense short-term training project to help Ukrainian soldiers injured in the war against Russian supported fighters in Eastern Ukraine.

This report summarizes WRF's work and impact during the fiscal year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 in **Lebanon, Cambodia, Haiti, Pakistan** and **Ukraine**. It is our hope that together we can continue and expand these life-changing, innovative and transformative programs improving the lives of persons with disabilities around the world.

### LEBANON

**The World Rehabilitation Fund** has been awarded a Cooperative Agreement by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration to implement a one-year Project titled "**Filling Assistance Gaps in Basic Rehabilitation Services for Syrian Refugees with Disabilities and their Peers in Host Communities in Lebanon.**"

The project addresses protection needs of persons with disabilities (PWD's) among Syrian refugees and their peers in Lebanese host communities and has provided assistance to 1,778 direct beneficiaries and 850 indirect beneficiaries through partnerships with six Community Based Organizations (CBO's).

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The project provides:

- Prosthetic and orthotic devices, visual aids, hearing aids, and related services;
- Training and technical assistance for Lebanese civil society organizations to increase their capacities to improve their services, and support WRF in providing Community Based Rehabilitation Services within their operation areas;
- Activities designed to improve understanding of the protection rights and needs of persons with disabilities among key stakeholders and the public.

#### **PROGRAM IMPACT:**

- ❖ The project provided 746 rehabilitation services for 739 persons in need including 530 Syrian refugees, 180 Lebanese, and 29 other nationalities (including Palestinian and Iraqi refugees). These services included provision of 41 prostheses, 114 orthoses, 119 hearing aids and 472 prescription eyeglasses (including few with multiple needs)
- ❖ Training for 41 persons on “Disability and Community Based Rehabilitation” (CBR). The training included 36 individual sessions and one group session
- ❖ The CBR programs referred 1,004 persons with disabilities for rehabilitation assistance. This included 629 for various rehabilitation aids, 284 for self-care supplies, nine for basic home adaptation services and 82 for physical or occupational therapy
- ❖ 188 persons with disabilities were identified as needing specialized psychological support services. 173 individuals (92%) were referred to other entities to receive the services
- ❖ Eight community awareness and advocacy sessions were conducted connecting to resources 310 attending community members
- ❖ WRF maintains a close working relationship with the United Nations (UNHCR), Red Cross (ICRC) and Humanity Inclusion (HI-formerly known as Handicap International); we also maintain close ties with various governmental and private Lebanese service and advocacy agencies
- ❖ Humanity Inclusion (HI) transferred to WRF a set of rehabilitation aids, orthotic items, self-care supplies, and other accessories that were available to HI through a previous PRM funded project. 69 persons (beneficiaries) from the area near the CBR program at Arcenciel – Taanayel (Bekaa) benefited from these items

Starting July 2018 WRF Lebanon is gearing up to start the implementation of the UN OCHA funded project “Alleviating the Burdens of Displacement on Persons with Disabilities among Refugees from Syria and Their Peers in Lebanese Host Communities”.



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## CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, WRF's long standing program, the **Artisans' Association of Cambodia (AAC)** is enabling the nation's most vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, AIDS Survivors, victims of human trafficking, single parents, migrants and vulnerable youth to achieve socio-economic independence.

In the reporting year, the AAC provided ongoing training and technical assistance to 50 of its member groups. Through strengthening its member organizations, increasing quality of their products and sales, and advocating on their behalf, AAC secures higher wages and better working conditions for their employees - the artisans from vulnerable populations.

### PROGRAM IMPACT:

- ❖ Eight of the member organizations are actively supporting the needs of persons with disabilities
- ❖ The number of artisans and support staff employed by member organizations and benefiting from the AAC services is currently about 4,000 people. 79% of persons benefitting from this program are women and 53% of the member organizations of the Association are directed by women
- ❖ 11 members groups are engaged in support projects for youth from vulnerable backgrounds and 5 members groups are particularly involved with helping to promote environmental improvements
- ❖ This year AAC members participated in Trade Fairs in Thailand, Japan and Brunei, in addition to several in Cambodia. Three AAC member groups, **Lotus Silk**, **Khmer Creations** and **Women for Women**, were award winners for best designs at a trade fair in Japan
- ❖ Two new member groups joined AAC this year. They are *Cambodian Knits* of Siem Reap and *Grace Sewing* of Battambang
- ❖ Fair Trade products of AAC member groups are sold in USA, UK, Netherlands, France, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Italy, Sweden, Spain, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, Germany, Canada, South Korea, Finland, and Cambodia, benefiting local craftsmen directly

## HAITI

This year marks six years for Music for Haiti program, helping the disabled children learn to play music and participate in orchestral and band performances. WRF collaborates with New Jersey-Haiti Partners of the Americas and Dr. Josephine Stein, a scientist and a musician, to support an innovative music education program at École St. Vincent, a school for children with

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physical disabilities in Port-Au Prince. **“Music for Haiti”** collects and provides musical instruments and music supplies to the students of the school.

St. Vincent's is the only school in Haiti offering education and healthcare to children with all varieties of physical disabilities. They are a one-of-a-kind school for 200 children who are deaf, blind or have other physical disabilities. Throughout its lifetime, St. Vincent's School has opened its doors to hundreds of children with disabilities, many of whom would not have had the opportunity to attend school elsewhere.

On January 2018, Dr. Josephine Stein visited the School. Her main purpose was to support the music program at École St. Vincent. Dr. Stein informed the Director of St. Vincent's, Rev. Frantz Cole (known as Père Fanfan), that the school got a grant from the Fresh Leaf Charitable Foundation, funds administered by WRF for the next three years in the amount of \$2,150 per year. Annual “Music for Haiti” concerts in London raise approximately \$1,000 per year. These funds cover the cost of music lessons, instrument repair, and concert expenses. Encouraged by the support received from the “Music for Haiti” initiative, Reverend Père Fanfan, head master of Ecole St. Vincent, decided to open a new music school at the old site of the school.

#### PROGRAM IMPACT:

- ❖ 50 instruments have been donated and shipped to the school
- ❖ Ecole St. Vincent is setting up a new, dedicated music school in downtown Port-au-Prince at the site of the former school
- ❖ New partnerships are forming - a donated cello and some recorders were shipped to Haiti in cooperation with the Airline Ambassadors, and Diakonos International, Inc.



Hand-bell choir at École St. Vincent



Donation of musical instruments

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## PAKISTAN

WRF continues its partnership with The PSRD Foundation (TPF), formerly known as the American Friends of Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, established in U.S.A. in 1991 with the objective of soliciting support for the Pakistan Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PSRD). These donations are vital in helping the PSRD in the maintenance and expansion of its multi-disciplinary rehabilitation services in Lahore. Among the facilities is a 100 bed hospital, areas for physiotherapy and occupational and speech therapy, a High School, and an orthotics and prosthetics workshop.

This year, TPF/WRF supported the construction of an auditorium and a library which will have a major impact on the future education of the disabled students.

### PROGRAM IMPACT:

- ❖ The **library** will offer much more than just books and quiet reading. It will provide a safe environment for the 156 students with disabilities who attend the school. The school provides special education and life skills training for 200 students, of which 78% have disabilities
- ❖ The newly built **auditorium** will accommodate 164 people with 150 seats. The auditorium will play a significant role by providing special space for all types of formal assembly including lectures, staff and community meetings, and ceremonies.

## UKRAINE

This year, WRF in collaboration with the Canada-Ukraine International Association and ProsthetiKa, Inc. have undertaken an Artificial Limb Training Project to aid those disabled from the war in the form of:

- Training Ukrainian medical personnel on up-to-date strategies for fabricating artificial limbs, and
- Providing direct care to selected cases identified as problematic by Ukrainian medical authorities.

### PROGRAM IMPACT:

- ❖ 22 Ukrainian specialists were trained in sports prosthetics and rehabilitation
- ❖ The project experts were able to treat: 5 lower extremity and 8 upper extremity amputees, including providing sports prostheses

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- ❖ One of the amputees who received an upper limb sports prosthesis took first place in the rowing competition in the 2017 International Invictus Games held in Canada



Photo: Valkyrie Tereshkova

Once again, we wish to thank all our donors, for your continued support and interest in the programs and activities of the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF). Your generous help has allowed us to continue to help persons from vulnerable backgrounds to attain economic self-sufficiency and victims of war to resume productive and meaningful roles in their communities and nations.

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