



WORLD REHABILITATION FUND

Transforming Disability into Possibility

2019 Annual Report

“To believe in rehabilitation is to believe in humanity” - Dr. Howard Rusk, Founder of WRF



Today, the World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) continues the legacy of Dr. Howard Rusk to ensure that all people, regardless of disability, have the right to participate fully in their communities, to attain education and viable employment.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the individual donors, private foundations, as well as to the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)/Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) for supporting our work, allowing us to serve people with disabilities in this ever so turbulent world.

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.

This report summarizes WRF's work and impact of programs in **Lebanon, Guyana, and Haiti** during the fiscal year of **July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.**

Serving Lebanese and Refugees with Disabilities throughout Lebanon

During the last two years WRF in Lebanon has been implementing the project **“Filling Assistance Gaps in Basic Rehabilitation Services for Syrian Refugees with Disabilities and their Peers in Host Communities in Lebanon”** funded by the **United States Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)** to provide direct and indirect essential assistance to people with disabilities.

The project targets **five different regions of the country**, by working with local Community Based Organizations (CBOs), native professional service providers, and in coordination and partnership with concerned governmental organizations, activists, and international organizations and the UN Agencies to provide Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) services to refugees and local community. WRF is a leading organization in coordination of efforts to help people with disabilities and elderly population in the country.



Students of Father Andeweg Institute for the Deaf and WRF Lebanon staff



The youngest WRF project beneficiaries, refugees from Syria, are gifted with balloons in addition to the physical therapy sessions that they received

IMPACT:

The program has served 2,794 people with disabilities (including 1784 Syrian refugees, 877 Lebanese, and 133 other nationalities)

- ❖ 83 prostheses, 143 orthoses, 794 rehabilitation aids and self/home care supplies, 418 physical and occupational therapy, 25 basic home/car alterations, 258 hearing aids and 1064 prescription eyeglasses and 32 visual aids (mainly white canes)
- ❖ The CBR programs were instrumental in securing assistance services to 957 persons with disabilities. Direct assistance was provided as follows: 686 people received rehabilitation aids and self-care supplies, 25 benefited from basic home adaptations, and 248 people received physical and/or occupational therapy
- ❖ 188 persons with disabilities were identified as needing psychological support services. 173 individuals (92%) were referred to other service providers to receive special services
- ❖ Eight structured training programs on Disability, CBR, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Community Awareness and Advocacy were conducted benefiting 310 community members



Mr. Basel Al Othman received a hearing device through WRF's UN OCHA/LFH project

In addition, in 2018 WRF completed a six-month program **“Alleviating the burdens of displacement on persons with disabilities from Syria and their peers in Lebanese Host communities”** funded by United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)/Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF).

IMPACT:

The program served 1,023 people with disabilities (including 694 Syrian refugees, 276 Lebanese, and 53 other nationalities) with:

- ❖ 350 providing rehabilitation and mobility aids and disposable and non-disposable home care products
- ❖ 93 physical and occupational therapy sessions
- ❖ 160 hearing aids and launch of speech therapy sessions
- ❖ 420 visual aids, including prescription eyeglasses and white canes

In September of 2019 WRF launched a new phase of the project funded by the BPRM of the U.S. Department of State, to continue providing life changing services to refugees from Syria and local Lebanese communities. We are grateful for the opportunity to live the mission of the organization through funding from the U.S. Government and the United Nations.

Targeted Assistance to a Rehabilitation Center in Guyana



In May of 2019 WRF utilized the funds received from an Anonymous foundation for an extremely effective short-term training program in the country of Guyana, one of the smallest countries in South America. With about 800,000 people it has a unique character as an only English-speaking country in the continent.

A request for assistance came from the **Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** to assist the only rehabilitation center with orthotics and braces for people with neurological disorders like cerebral palsy and with severe scoliosis. A team of rehabilitation professionals in Prosthetics and Orthotics and Physiotherapy addressed the identified problems through hands-on training and fitting of the devices and worked to help improve general management of the facility. **The intervention is expected to result in a major transformation for the facility in Guyana, the only facility serving people with these types of disabilities.**

This particular project is another one of the successful short-term training projects with WRF's long standing partner, ProsthetiKa, which led the implementation of the project with funding from various sources. Short-term interventions like these are very effective, and **WRF is thankful to the Anonymous foundation and to its partnership with ProsthetiKa and PAHO to be able to continue implementing its mission and improving lives of people with disabilities.** Other countries in which such WRF initiatives have occurred in the last five years include Bolivia, Ecuador, Haiti, Mexico and Ukraine.



Jon Batzdorff of ProsthetiKa working in Guyana (on the right)



IMPACT:

- ❖ **33 rehabilitation service workers received the intensive two-week training**
- ❖ **16 children were treated for custom made leg braces.** Four children and three adults received bilateral orthoses. Total of 6 pediatric AFO's (lower extremity bracing for CP) for children, 10 AFO's for adults, and 1 young adult received HKAFO for spinal cord injury
- ❖ 9 idiopathic scoliosis patients, all teenage girls, were assessed and for 2 of them TLSO scoliosis braces were fabricated and fitted
- ❖ Impact of this training is anticipated to be of value in **helping several hundred persons per year** who are diagnosed with the problems for which the training was designed. Moreover, a relationship was set up whereby follow-up training and troubleshooting can be continued by the training team involved through future internet sessions

The Music Goes on in Haiti

WRF collaborates with New Jersey - Haiti chapter of the Partners of the Americas and Dr. Josephine Stein, scientist and musician, to support an innovative music education program at École St. Vincent, a school for children with physical disabilities in Port-Au Prince. “**Music for Haiti**” collects and provides musical instruments and music supplies to the students of the school.



Music for Haiti, led by Dr. Stein, organized a benefit chamber music concert as part of the Herne Hill Music Festival in London, in October of 2018.

St. Vincent's School for Children with Disabilities is the only school in Haiti offering education and healthcare to children with all varieties of physical disabilities. They are a unique 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.

In 2018 the Music for Haiti was able to secure additional funding from a Fresh Leaf Foundation for the next three years.

These funds cover the cost of music lessons, instrument repair, concert expenses, and now a summer school scholarship. Reverend Frantz Cole of Ecole St. Vincent decided to open a new music school, which has recently been moved to a new site.

IMPACT:

- ❖ Music program became a signature brand of Ecole St. Vincent, where **every student in the school (200 children) has access and participated in music education**
- ❖ Against the ongoing instability in the country, the Music for Haiti project has been going for seven years, helping the disabled children learn to play music and participate in orchestral and band performances
- ❖ Ecole St. Vincent set up a new, dedicated music school in downtown Port-au-Prince at the site of the former school



Blind children at Ecole St. Vincent are in an English handbell choir taught by blind teacher, Simeon Francisque

Once again, we wish to thank our donors for believing in the mission of the World Rehabilitation Fund and for supporting the programs of the organization.

Your generosity has allowed us to continue to help persons with disabilities to attain self-sufficiency and for victims of war and disaster to presume productive and meaningful roles within their families, communities and nations.

Respectfully,

WRF staff and Board of Directors