Global Communities, known as CHF International inside of the country, has been working in Lebanon since 1997. With more than 15 years of experience, Global Communities has established a reputation for implementing community-driven programs that address a broad range of social issues, from agricultural development, to education and the current Syrian Crisis.

CURRENT PROGRAMS

Support to Syrian Refugees

With funding from the UNHCR, Global Communities is assisting Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon. Over a million Syrians have fled across the border into Lebanon, a country of just four million people, overwhelming communities and straining local resources. Since 2013 the Emergency Shelter and WASH Assistance to Syrian Refugees and Host Communities in Beirut and Mt Lebanon program has rehabilitated 627 homes of Lebanese families hosting 1,185 Syrian refugee households, provided weather proofing sealing off kits for 2,092 houses for both Syrian and Lebanese households, and rehabilitated 10 collective shelters accommodating 116 Syrian refugee households in the Chouf, Aley and Baabda Districts in Mt. Lebanon Governorate. Global Communities has also rehabilitated three public schools attended by both Lebanese and Syrian children, and installed generators to 12 pumping stations in Mount Lebanon to ensure adequate access to water during electrical cuts to relieve water shortages for those villages.

To provide long term access to clean water for vulnerable households – both Lebanese and Syrian – Global Communities assisted in the construction of 12 reservoirs, analyzed 866 water distributed 300 water filters, aqua tabs, 2128 mattresses and 518 blankets. Global Communities assessed 23 public pumping stations, and conducted hygiene promotion sessions with over 8,500 beneficiaries in numerous villages across our target districts, distributing 3,092 hygiene kits. Throughout the process Global Communities staff maintain relationships with families, landlords and community leaders, conducting multiple visits to ensure benefits are realized for all.
Creating Employment Opportunities for Youth

Through the MENA Youth Empowerment Strategy (MENA-YES), Global Communities, in partnership with the Caterpillar Foundation, has launched a three-year, $4.5 million program to target youth aged 15 to 29 in Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen to prepare them for the labor market and job placement. Special emphasis is given to disadvantaged youth, women, peri-urban and rural youth, and individuals working in hazardous environments. The program offers technical, demand-driven training, assistance with internship and apprenticeship placement, as well as, support for entrepreneurship and self-employment activities and assistance accessing credit.

In Lebanon, MENA YES Program aims to increase both the supply of and demand for skilled labor by facilitating linkages between the private sector and training providers so that youth can attain relevant skills and on the job work experience that directly matches the immediate needs of firms in targeted sectors. MENA YES is designed to bridge the gap between the skills needed by employers and the skills available in the labor market by working with private companies to identify their specific needs, engage local training providers, collaborate with the private sector on the development of training curriculums, and facilitating the placement of trained youth in internships and apprenticeships with participating private sector firms. The program also provides participants with an entrepreneurship and soft skills (ESS) training, which includes modules on resume writing, language skills, and business etiquette.

MENA YES facilitates the development of a mentoring program for participating youth, with experienced executives from participating private sector firms providing knowledge and guidance over time to youth who are interning, apprenticing, and pursuing additional training and hoping to follow similar career paths.

So far, MENA YES Lebanon, in collaboration with 43 private sector companies across a broad range of sectors including the Service Industry, Hospitality, and Renewable Energy, etc. has tailored 11 technical trainings in: Graphic Design, AutoCAD, Secretarial, Swimming and First Aid Cooling and Refrigerating Maintenance, Line Cook, Food Runner, Waiter, Plumbing for solar heated water, and Solar Power Electrician.

To date 141 Youth have successfully completed technical trainings, while another 352 youth have successfully completed the entrepreneurship and soft skills training in the Great Beirut area. Overall, more than 74% of the youth were placed in internships or apprenticeships, received direct employment and/or pursued further technical training.

MENA YES Lebanon has also initiated a field study to pilot our activities in two rural areas – Tyr as a hub in South Governorate, and Zahleh as a hub in the Bekaa Governorate. As a result of our findings, MENA YES Lebanon will soon launch a Waiter technical training in Zahleh with more than 5 private sector firms partnering with Global Communities.

To learn more about MENA YES, please see the MENA YES factsheet.
Global Communities in Lebanon

Improving Educational Facilities and School Programs

With funding from USAID, the Lebanon Education Assistance for Development (LEAD) improved the infrastructure and learning facilities of 85 schools located throughout the country. More than 30,000 students benefited from LEAD program activities including rehabilitation of school facilities, provision of laboratory equipment and establishment of clubs and after-school activities. In conjunction with the LEAD program, Global Communities made repairs to additional schools with funding from the Caterpillar Foundation.

Municipal Capacity Building and Service Delivery

The TAMKIN program helped to strengthen the capacity of local municipalities, improve service delivery and promote integrated and participatory planning. Funded by USAID, the program worked with 40 municipalities in Northern Lebanon to become more effective in leading local socio-economic development through democratic engagement with the private sector and citizenry. The program included mobilizing local communities and municipalities, conducting leadership mapping, and electing and training Municipal Development Committees (MDC) in each village. Once trained MDCs worked with partners and the municipality to develop and execute local economic development plans which identified projects with the greatest economic impact.

Agricultural Development

The Lebanon Apple Production Improvement (LAPI) program promoted economic development in the apple producing areas of Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and North Lebanon. Through LAPI, Global Communities provided training to growers in improved production techniques and developed a mechanism for quality control and food safety. As a result, agricultural producers were able to grow higher quality fruit for domestic and foreign markets and increase their incomes.

Global Communities is an international non-profit organization that works closely with communities worldwide create long-lasting, positive and community-led change that improves the lives and livelihoods of the vulnerable. Development is not something we do for people; it is something we do with them. We believe that the people who understand their needs best are the people of the community itself.

Learn more at www.globalcommunities.org

Updated 01/10/2016