



ACTIVITY REPORT - 2019

مؤسسة عامل الدولية
amelassociation International



About AMEL

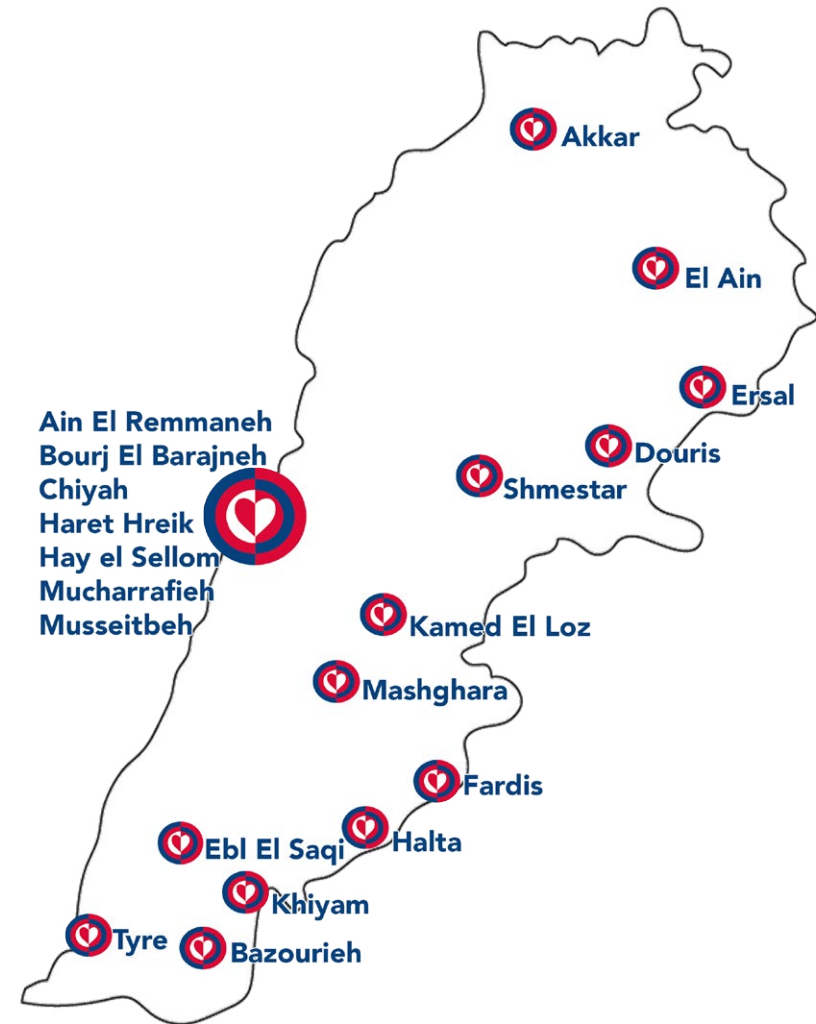
Amel Association International (Amel) is a non-governmental, non-sectarian, civil organization established in 1979 by Dr Kamel Mohanna.

Through 25 centres, 6 Mobile Medical Units, 2 Mobile Education Units, and 1 Mobile Protection Unit, Amel provides access to healthcare, education, protection, livelihood and food security, whilst implementing development and human rights programmes across Lebanon, targeting vulnerable communities regardless of their nationality, ethnicity, gender, age, political beliefs or religious affiliations.

Amel aims to uphold the rights of all those in need, as well as to promote their access to basic human rights and their involvement in public life, whilst respecting their humanity, dignity and encouraging solidarity.

This vision is a unique catalyst for social change in the region, embedded in a culture of equality and strengthened by partnerships between all actors (i.e. national and international, governmental and non-governmental) committed to ensure sustainable change.

Amel's community centres are located across Lebanon, in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach areas, namely in Beirut and Mount Lebanon, Bekaa and South Lebanon regions.



HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT

Since its inception in 1979, health has been at the heart of Amel's mission and priorities. Over the years, the medical support provided has consistently grown in scope and in size.

Today, Amel develops its activities in 14 primary health care centres (PHCCs) across Lebanon. These centres are vital to provide essential health care to vulnerable populations, as well as offering preventative health awareness. Amel's health approach places patients and their needs at the centre of its action, by allowing anyone to seek medical assistance regardless of their background.

This medical support is enhanced by a psychological support through raising awareness of basic health and hygiene, as well as psychological evaluation.

Amel's work is anchored in national and international standards. This is achieved through the plurality of programmes and the number of beneficiaries reached.

For example, the basic health care package and provision of acute medication offered across all Amel PHCCs includes general consultations, paediatrics and gynaecology. Furthermore, patients can also have access, depending on the centre they visit, to other types of specialty consultations, chronic diseases, family planning, laboratory testing, vaccination, x-ray imaging.

Amel has also built a strong referral network across all

regions it operates in with various partners, to ensure patients receive the medical attention suiting their need.

Additionally, Amel's PHCCs have also been included in the Ministry of Public Health network, which has enhanced the quality of care that they provide, through aid and support from the government.

Amel's team and partners contribute to consolidating a strong, nation wide health system, ensuring access to health care for all.

More than 142,500 consultations have been performed through Amel's PHCCs in 2019.



MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT

Amel currently has 6 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) covering several informal settlements (ISs), shelters and remote municipalities, in the Bekaa and South Lebanon regions, where a large number of populations affected by the Syrian crisis are currently living.

These MMUs monitor and prevent outbreaks of communicable diseases, while dispensing basic healthcare, raising awareness of basic health and hygiene, and social

counselling. More than 70,500 consultations have been performed through Amel's MMUs in 2019.

Through the MMUs and coordination with partners, Amel actively reaches people who do not attempt to visit centres, to start engage with patients and advise them on what steps to take to get the best treatment.



EDUCATION & CHILD PROTECTION

Amel believes access to education is a child's fundamental right. Thus, one of Amel's priorities is to support the most vulnerable children, in accessing, retaining and succeeding in the educational system.

In 2019, Amel provided educational activities (homework support, remedial sessions, reading sessions, etc.) as well as recreational and psycho-social activities to more than 1,800 vulnerable children through its centres in Haret Hreik and Ain el Remaneh, in the Beirut and Mount Lebanon area.

In addition, Amel greatly emphasises on the significance of the psychosocial well-being of children and their parents. Given the critical situation in which many members of host and refugee communities are living in, such services are of utmost importance. Within the framework of its child protection activities, Amel provides psychosocial activities for children as well as awareness sessions and parenting skills for adults, reaching over 19,500 individuals.



MOBILE EDUCATION UNIT

Access to education is even more challenging for children living in informal settlements scattered across Lebanon. Indeed, these children often face subpar living conditions and most of them do not have access to education due to: the distance of the camp from the nearest school, the lack of available spaces in classes, transportation and school supplies costs, of the high frequency of child labor or early marriages in those regions.

Thus, in Autumn 2016, based on this extensive experience within informal settlements and hard-to-reach areas with the - 6 Medical Mobile Units, Amel launched a pilot project of a Mobile Education Unit in KhiamMarjayoun, to assist vulnerable children in South Lebanon. Since, the success of the project gave rise to a second MEU in West Bekaa. The MEUs, also known as 'The Amel Bus', are vehicles specifically equipped with educational and recreational material (books, educational games, numeric tablets, etc.) as well as a cabinet for psychological consultations, benches, tables and movie projection equipment.

Since early 2017, the MEU operates directly in 5 informal settlements in Khiam-Marjayoun area on a weekly basis, and provides 800 vulnerable children (7 to 14 years old) with retention support activities (homework support, remedial sessions), psychosocial activities (individual consultations, focus groups, awareness sessions for the parents), and recreational and cultural activities (weekly movie projections in the ITS, outdoor activities, drawings, theatre, etc.). In April 2017, following a needs assessment conducted in an informal

settlements in Kamed el Loz (West Bekaa), a second Mobile Education Unit was launched. Based on the same model, this new "Amel bus" provides similar activities reaching 600 children in 2019. In parallel to the education activities, the social worker and the psychologist organise awareness sessions with children's parents on various topics related to health, social and cultural issues.

In addition, the Mobile Education Unit reaches out families inside the camps, to aware them about importance of education. Finally, public film projections are organized every week in the camps at sunset.



MOBILE PROTECTION UNIT

Amel also developed a Mobile Protection Unit (MPU) composed of one social worker, one nurse and one driver/social assistant, reaching out to vulnerable children and youth in street situation (living, begging, or working) and their families, and provide a range of services, including social and medical support. It also accompanies children to Amel centres and provides referrals to other organisations to ensure they receive the most appropriate attention, during both day and night shifts.

The MPU operates on the field in the most sensitive and marginalised areas of Beirut and its suburbs, and aims to reinsert the most marginalised population of society, by reducing exclusion, increase access to information, ensure that children can reintegrate the school curriculum and their parents to find livelihood opportunities. The MPU reached 875 persons in situation of street in 2019.



LIVELIHOOD

Amel understands the importance of empowering youth. Hence, as the future of our society, several projects were setup to enable them to reach their potential.

Several of our centres offer vocational trainings such as language classes, IT courses, internships, life skills training, but also provides psycho-social support and coaching to Lebanese and refugee youth and women. More than 6,700 youths benefitted from these activities in 2019.



GENDER & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Amel's team is mostly composed of women at all levels of the organisation. As such, empowering women is an essential component of Amel's work, and emphasis is given to increasing their economic independence, which leads to greater social independence. Thus, Amel has launched several initiatives with women in rural and urban areas. Through vocational trainings, awareness raising and a community-based approach, Amel tries to provide support and a safe environment for women to reach their potential.

Initiated in the same spirit, the Mann Hiya project was established to empower women through handmade crafts and artefacts. The artisanal soap factory of Ebl el Saqi is another example of rural development projects that Amel has launched, providing women participating in those projects with greater opportunities to reach economic stability.

Menna is another project that aims to provide access to the labour market for women working in food production, handcrafts, recycling, hand made accessories and organic soap, and consequently providing wider selling opportunities.

Amel launched a Menna Hand Made Products shop, to showcase and sell the products to create sustainability. The Menna Catering Group was also created by women who prepare sweet and savoury pastries for events and occasions.

Amel also strongly advocates for women's rights, regard less of their background, nationality and religious beliefs, frequently participating in national campaigns aiming at greater respectand implementation of women's rights.

More than 8000 women benefitted from these activities in 2019.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & VOLUNTEERING

Amel developed several activities and projects to empower youth by enabling them to take leadership, develop communication skills, foster peace-building, equality and non-discrimination, as well as enhance public well being. Amel's youth are constantly involved in multicultural settings, allowing them to exchange experiences and share Lebanese culture, concerns and values with others.

Amel implements projects and workshops with young people on cultural sharing and to learn how to tackle anti-hate speech. Participants often networked

with international partners and developed training programmes suited to the specific Lebanese context.

Continuously aiming to develop its youth projects and to be embedded in current topics of concerns, Amel acts at local, national and regional level. Mainly, Amel continues to engage volunteers from local communities and universities, to promote and implement its participative approach.



MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKERS

Amel programmes to support Migrant Domestic Workers (MDW) and Victims of Human Trafficking (VHT) ,takes on a holistic approach in supporting these vulnerable groups, namely through a six-pronged approach:

- Advocacy with key stakeholders;
- Awareness raising on rights and duties with employees, employers and students;
- Collaboration with countries of origin (research, case management, referral...);
- Empowerment through skill building;
- Research on Human Rights issues affecting MDWs in Lebanon and abroad;
- Legal, health, social and psychosocial services.

Amel aims to improve the living and working conditions of MDWs in Lebanon, as well as to alleviate the suffering of victims of abuse and of humantrafficking. In 2019, Amel handled over 90 legal cases, and provided PSS activities and awareness for over 630 participants in Baajour.

Approximately 1600 participants took empowerment classes over 12 months in Chiyah (languages, computer, makeup, fashion, etc.), as well as approximately 280 took extra curricular activities (cooking days, day trips, special events, etc.). Amel provided over 5000 empowering activities for MDWs in 2019.

Amel works with all stakeholders in Lebanon (employers, employees, students, NGOs and civil society, as well as ministries and governmental bodies) and engages though nation wide advocacy conference to protect MDWs. Furthermore, during 2017, Amel has enhanced links with actors in countries of origins, through conducting field research in Ethiopia, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In addition to regular coordination with other NGOs involved, Amel produced 2 training tools, one to identify victims of human trafficking, and another on rights and duties of employers and employees.



AMEL SPORTS LEAGUE

Amel Sports League was established in 2018 with the goal of providing valuable life skills to vulnerable youths in Beirut while enjoying sports.

It all started in Amel's Hay el Sellom center and included around 90 at-risk children divided into teams for a 3 months season which included weekly team practices, life skills and health sessions after each practice.

Starting in 2020, what started as a modest project in Beirut will expand across Lebanon and will aim to target 1,000 vulnerable children.



SUPPORT TO ELDERLY

Amel also actively supports the vulnerable elderly populations by providing psycho-social support through inter-generational activities, occupational therapy, gardening and cooking activities, and community events.

Furthermore, chronic diseases in elderly is major component that Amel targets through awareness raising, medical consultations, centres renovation to adapt facilities to their needs, and capacity building.

In 2019, 5330 individuals were reached and 120 psycho-social support sessions to more than 520 attendees.



FOOD SECURITY

In accordance to the 2019 strategy developed by the Ministry of Agriculture to strengthen the Lebanese agricultural sector, and in line with the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan's (LCRP) objectives in the food security sector, Amel operates in the most vulnerable and hard to reach areas.

In Ain El Remaneh and Haret Hreik centres, located in Beirut and Mount Lebanon regions, where 14% of Syrian refugees are moderately food insecure and are at risk of deteriorating food security as food aids decline, the installation of collective kitchens and collective gardens allowed community members to attend professional trainings on malnutrition, and healthy and low cost cooking habits. A total of 21,800 meals were distributed to vulnerable populations. Fruits and vegetables were harvested and distributed to the most vulnerable people in the community.

Amel's Food security program in 2019 also consisted in training of 400 students on different themes related to sustainable agriculture targeting different audiences: construction of family gardens for vulnerable families living in refugee camps or surrounding villages, agronomy students or young farmers, "nature classes" with vulnerable children, training of trainers in agricultural animation, etc.

300 family gardens were prepared with our partner Buzuruna Juzurna in Informal Tented Settlements and villages in Khiam, Ersal and El Ain.



AMEL HOUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Amel House of Human Rights (AHHR) is a project in collaboration with La Sagesse University that works to develop advanced programmes in education and training on human rights. Through this project, Amel seeks to become a strong academic reference and an established training centre on issues related to human rights and international humanitarian law in Lebanon and the Arab world.

Every year, AHHR organizes a summer school on law during armed conflict, in collaboration with La Sagesse University, gathering around 70 participants from the Arab region.



Amel is well-established on the international scene, notably through consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and observer status at the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). Amel also gained membership to NGO networks fostering principled and improved coordination of humanitarian action through advocacy corridors and effective practices, including the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), the Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2), and the UN Office for South-South Cooperation's (UNOSSC) Centre of Excellence.

The organization has also opened offices in France, Switzerland, and the USA to replicate its approach with vulnerable populations, thus expanding Amel's scope of humanitarian activities, both for programmes and education.

As such, Amel has initiated in 2017 in partnership with Samusocial International, the '3 Ls' movement (Lebanon, Lampedusa and Lesbos) to increase cooperation and share practical experience on refugee inflow management and ensure that their rights and dignity are safeguarded. Five conferences took place in Paris, Athens, Rome, Beirut in 2017-2018 and, in September 2019, in Tunis, on the protection of people in exile. This was initiated to highlight our commitment to social justice and devotion to the most vulnerable populations, in and outside Lebanon, wherever they come from.



OUR PARTNERS

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:

- Ambassade de Belgique au Liban
- Ambassade de France au Liban
- AFD
- Agora Europa
- Anera
- ARCS
- BMZ
- The Big Heart Foundation
- CAMPFIRE Innovation
- Caritas Germany
- CIAA
- Diakonia
- Dorcas
- Fondation Breteau
- Fondation De France
- Fondation Mérieux
- Fondation Peugeot Citroën
- Fondation Protestante de France
- GFFO
- HelpAge
- ICRC
- Institut Français du Liban
- Intersos
- International Alert
- Italian Cooperation
- KNH
- Lebanon Humanitarian Fund
- Les Enfants de la Méditerranée
- Les Baroudeurs de l'Espoir
- Médecins du Monde
- Medico
- MSF
- Orienthelfer
- RDPP
- Samusocial International
- Second Kicks
- Stanford University
- TdH Lausanne
- NAMAA
- OIF
- PLAN International

- PISCCA
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- UNODC
- Un Ponte Per
- WDF
- WFP
- WHO
- WZB Berlin

LOCAL PARTNERS:

- Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Ministry of Social Affairs
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ajyal Al Mostakbal School
- Al Majmoua
- Akkar Network for Development
- Arcenciel
- Aydoun
- Beit Atfal El Somoud
- Buzurna Juzurna
- Cirquenciel
- Collège Protestant Français
- Culture and Science Foundation
- Himaya
- Skoun
- Youth for Development
- Lebanese NGOs network
- Mrs Arwa and Mr Aziz Chibani
- Dr Ghada Al Yafi
- Dr Nahida Al Yafi
- Mrs Hofsa Al Azem
- Mrs Rabiha Al Eidi
- Mrs Loubana Kabbani
- Father Pierre Lacoste and Mrs Christine Lacoste
- LAU, AUB, Lebanese University, La Sagesse and USJ

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