

## **Resilience Beyond Displacement: Education and Empowerment for Refugee Women and Girls in Jordan**

### Interim Report

**Organization:** Collateral Repair Project (CRP)

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**Project Name:** Resilience Beyond Displacement: Education and Empowerment for Refugee Women and Girls in Jordan

**Grant Start date:** 1 September 2019

**Grant Amount:** \$75,000

**Reporting period:** 1 September 2019 – 30 November 2021

### **1. Recap briefly what outcomes the project was designed to achieve**

The Resilience Beyond Displacement project aims to support and empower women and girls from refugee and vulnerable Jordanian households by providing them with the resources, education, and skills they need to build sustainable futures. Our programs provide psychosocial support to families who have experienced the trauma of war and displacement, alongside opportunities to learn and develop practical skills which can help them to support themselves financially.

### **2. Has funding changed for this project? For example, have you received unexpected funding from another source?**

Building on the success of DfW supported projects in 2018 and early 2019, CRP has successfully secured additional funding from the Blossom Hill Foundation (\$20,000), Schüler Helfen Leben (\$42,000), Mankind is My Business Foundation (\$18,000) and the Children of Haiti and Refugee Projects (\$79,4500) to support youth programming during 2020 and 2021. We also secured funding through the Julia Taft Refugee Fund (\$25,000) for our Hope Workshop and Beauty School projects, and from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (\$15,200) supporting our Women's Empowerment and GBV Awareness and Prevention programs in the second half of 2020. In 2021 CRP secured funding from the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women (\$300,000) which will help us to scale up our GBV prevention programming over the next three years.

**3. Is your organization or project situation different that presented in the approved proposal? For example, new executive director, significant project staffing changes or NGO affiliation, loss of large funding or other significant changes?**

Although CRP has secured a number of grants this year for programming and basic needs assistance, we continue to face challenges in direct fundraising which makes up a significant portion of our annual income. We also need to put this into context of the much greater need in the community for CRP's services. Although the height of the lockdowns are hopefully behind us, the Jordanian economy continues to struggle and we are seeing many vulnerable families turning to CRP for support with their basic needs.

In terms of organizational changes, we have recently brought in two new members to our leadership team; a new Grants and Partnerships Manager and a new Community Center Programs Manager, Asha Athman. Asha will be taking over as the main contact for this project.

**4. Have the number of beneficiaries changed? To report this refer to the original numbers in your grant proposal under *Number of women and girls directly impacted and population indirectly impacted*.**

Overall, CRP has reached 1835 individuals through our programs to support women and girls between September 2019 – November 2021. Since March 2020, the majority of our programs have been delivered online via Skype or Zoom. However, we are increasingly re-opening classes from our Hashemi and Downtown community centers as the number of COVID-19 cases has stabilized. The following table breaks down the number of community members reached per type of program.

| <b>Program Name</b>                   | <b>Target Beneficiaries</b> | <b>Number of Beneficiaries</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Educational Support                   | Children aged 3-13          | 1053                           |
| Parents Awareness Sessions            | Men and Women               | 284                            |
| Women's livelihoods                   | Women                       | 204                            |
| GBV Prevention and Awareness training | Men                         | 40                             |
| Women's Empowerment 101               | Women                       | 39                             |
| Leadership Training                   | Girls aged 6-12             | 74                             |
| Psychosocial Support                  | Women and Girls             | 137                            |

|       |  |      |
|-------|--|------|
| Total |  | 1835 |
|-------|--|------|

**5. What challenges are you facing as you move forward with this project? How are you approaching these challenges?**

In order to ensure that people can safely participate in programming, CRP is currently operating at around 50% capacity. We are, therefore, continuing to offer many of our programs online and we have made some good progress in making sure that remote programming is accessible to our community. For example, we have changed class schedules and lengths to include more evening-based learning and adapted content to make it easier to participate using only mobile devices. We have also secured funding in the majority of our programs to provide a small internet stipend to help participants cover the cost of mobile data. As we bring programs back to the center, we try to build in a contingency for how we could continue them remotely if necessary. This is something that requires quite a bit of planning and cooperation with funders to ensure we have the necessary contingencies in place.

**6. Have you revised your original objectives since the project began? If so, why? What are your new objectives?**

The main priorities outlined by the community at the beginning of this project were:

- 1) ensuring better educational support for their children,
- 2) accessing a source of income,
- 3) better managing the threat of violence in their families, and
- 4) finding concrete opportunities to develop and learn leadership and advocacy skills.

These objectives remain unchanged. Indeed, the loss of income and opportunity due to lockdowns, the transition from in-person to online schooling for most children, plus the rise in incidents of domestic violence make the work which Together Women Rise supports more crucial than ever.

**7. What progress have you made toward achieving your objectives? Please address each stated objective?**

- 1) Ensuring better educational support for children

The majority of school-age children in Jordan have faced school closures in the last 18 months, some having not attended school in person at all between March 2020 and September 2021. This is of huge concern to parents in our community as their children face significant barriers to home-based learning. The most significant of these challenges is that most households do not

have a home computer, and so the children must share the mobile phones of their parents to complete their school work, and even their exams in some cases. Home-based learning also requires a lot of data, with the children needing to have virtual calls and watch educational videos. This places an additional financial burden on families who are already struggling.

CRP has responded by offering both parents and children more support to navigate the online school system. For parents, CRP staff spent more than 700 hours on the phone to parents during lockdown, providing support on how they can help their children to learn at home. This included specific guidance on how to navigate the government's official online schooling platform. For the children, CRP has begun a new after school tutoring initiative for a small number of students. This program gives students a chance to do extra study together in small groups with CRP volunteer tutors. All students in our youth programs receive a monthly internet stipend which they can use to top up their phone's data to support their general learning.

We are delighted that, since June this year, we have been able to bring back many of our youth programs to our centers so that the children in our community can learn and play together. Over the summer we were able to hold outside sessions for our SuperGirls program, a psychosocial support initiative for vulnerable girls aged 6-12. We also held a very exciting week-long workshop with local partners, Seenaryo, where a group of local children devised a short theater piece and performed it for their families (*picture, right*).



## 2) Accessing a source of income

We are committed to providing women with opportunities to develop marketable skills and to turn their passions and talents into ways of generating a sustainable income. So far, 204 women participated in livelihoods programming supported by this grant. This includes 50 women who are members of CRP's Hope Workshop. The Workshop is a women's collective which produces crafts for sale through local bazaar's and vendors. There is also a production kitchen, which produces snacks for CRP's youth programs. This program ensures that all the children enrolled in our classes can eat healthy, freshly prepared food every time they come into the center and in turn programs can support the production kitchen's work with their food and refreshment funds rather than purchasing commercial snacks and meals.

The past 18 months have been challenging for the workshop and kitchen, with the community centers being closed for long periods and with many of the local bazaars and markets being closed due to COVID-19. One plus side of this is that the Workshop has focussed on growing its online presence using Facebook and Instagram. For the holiday season in 2021, the women have produced a collection of festive decorations and are very excited to be able to return to selling in person at local Christmas markets (pictures below from three different holiday bazaars).



Other livelihoods activities include computing skills or coding classes. These classes provide women with the basics of using a computer, including using internet services such as search engines and desktop publishing applications such as word processors and spreadsheets. For more advanced students, classes are available that introduce the basics of coding and web design. CRP's Beauty School program has also been going strong, three new cohorts beginning the course since our last report. The Beauty School is one of the most popular programs we run at CRP and provides women with the skills they need to begin working as freelance hairdressers and beauticians. These skills are much in demand in the community for weddings and other celebrations, and freelance work provides the flexibility that many women need in order to balance a career with their other responsibilities in the home.

### 3) Better managing the threat of violence within the family

CRP has delivered Gender-Based Violence Awareness and Prevention (GBVAP) training to 40 men and our Women's Empowerment 101 class to 39 women so far during this grant period. These programs address key issues surrounding the rights of women and girls in a culturally sensitive way, and are geared towards providing men and women with the skills they need to become advocates for women at home and in their communities. Thanks to the long term support of Together Women Rise, this program has been able to demonstrate consistent impact in the community and has now been picked up by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women to be scaled up into a new three-year project. This is a really exciting initiative that will allow us to scale up our GBV prevention programs, and also to develop more comprehensive information and support services for women at risk of GBV.

4) Finding concrete opportunities to develop and learn leadership and advocacy skills.

CRP is committed to providing opportunities for community members to grow personally and professionally. Our Leadership in Action training program takes graduates of the GBVAP and Women's Empowerment 101 programs and provides them with training to become course facilitators. The training consists of classes on key issues in leadership, such as advocacy, public speaking, and facilitation skills, plus practical sessions where participants have the opportunity to lead their own seminar for CRP community members.

During this grant period, 30 community members (23 women and 7 men) participated in the training. The funding from UNTF will allow us to also scale up this program, and provide a larger budget for the participants to lead community initiatives to support at-risk women or survivors in their communities.

**8. Do you anticipate any difficulties in completing your project in the timeframe outlined in your proposal?**

We are pleased with the progress that we have made so far in delivering this project and do not anticipate any problems in completing the work according to the agreed timeframe. Thanks to the hard work of the staff over the past 18 months, we have been able to adapt our work so that we can continue to reach vulnerable women, girls, and their families even under very challenging circumstances and we feel well prepared for any challenges that might arise in the coming period.

We wish to thank Together Women Rise once again for your continued trust, patience, and support through these difficult times. Through our partnership we will continue to support women and girls in Amman to build a more secure and sustainable future for themselves and their families.