

# HYGIENE PACKS FOR SYRIAN WOMEN IN REFUGEE CAMPS IN LEBANON

## Global One: A Project Overview



# PROJECT STATUS REPORT

## WHO WE ARE

Global One is a UK-based charity founded in October 2013 after a group of driven and passionate women recognised that there was a need for more women to come forward as change-makers in positions of leadership in the third sector. This was done with a particular emphasis on Muslim women who are too often considered to be side-lined and disempowered.

We believe that the key to prosperous communities lies in sustainability and understanding. Our unique faith-based approach is effective because it appeals to the personal and strongly-held beliefs of our beneficiaries and puts sustainable development firmly within a framework they are familiar with. Our work within our livelihood pillar focuses on those who are chronically underrepresented and disempowered and offers them the opportunity to secure and manage their own livelihoods.

## PROJECT SNAPSHOT

	Description
<b>Project Name</b>	Providing hygiene kits to Syrian refugee women and researching female WASH from a faith-based approach.
<b>Project Description</b>	Distributing hygiene kits to women in refugee camps across Lebanon including sanitary products, a bar of soap, liquid soap, shampoo/conditioner, tissues, baby wipes, toothbrush/toothpaste, comb, towel, laundry detergent and a torch.
<b>Country/Region</b>	Lebanon

## BACKGROUND

Of the 2.1 million Syrian refugees registered by the UN in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon, 50.5% are women. Within these communities, women are often responsible for collecting the water, cooking, cleaning and looking after the children. Women can spend six hours a day collecting water for their basic needs<sup>1</sup>, for refugees with severely restricted access to nutrition this task alone can use up to two-thirds of their daily caloric intake<sup>2</sup> leaving them hungry and vulnerable to malnutrition and deficiency diseases such as anemia.

Women are often placed into camps without safe and private spaces for sanitation. This means that young girls are very often forced to drop out of any valuable education the camp might offer when menstruating, because there is no safe or hygienic place for them to change. Compounding this problem is the lack of access to underwear for these women and girls, who are often unable to bring personal items with them to the camps and when they arrive underwear is neither distributed by the organisations supporting the camp nor sold by local shops. This forces many women to use unsafe materials that can cause infection when menstruating.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.wateraid.org/uk/what-we-do/the-crisis/women>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/arabic/waterforlifedecade/unhcr\\_water\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.un.org/arabic/waterforlifedecade/unhcr_water_brochure.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <file:///C:/Users/Work/Downloads/syrian-women-refugees-in-erbil-monetring-report1-english.pdf>

## RISKS TO WOMEN

### Gender-based violence

Furthermore, 1 in 3 women in the world has been a victim of violence is almost doubled within refugee camps where such incidences are more frequent. The lack of locks and lighting in and around toilets and a lack of gender segregation only compound the issues of violence further whilst open spaces such as wells and areas used for open defecation remain particularly dangerous at all times for women and girls, due to a lack of security and their distant placement in camps.

### Reproductive issues

A rapid assessment in clinics in Lebanon found that Syrian refugees report gynaecologic problems such as menstrual irregularity, reproductive tract infection, severe pelvic pain or dysmenorrhea and some combination of the above conditions<sup>4</sup>. Moreover, many female Syrian refugees within the camps are pregnant and need specialised WASH facilities and provisions throughout their pregnancy and after giving birth.

### Cultural sensitivities

Being away from home and facing uncertainty about their future affects Syrian refugees greatly. Having a lack of WASH facilities only serves to further impact these issues. The escalated conflict has direct effects on the provision of medical and hygiene supplies. In addition to the lack of resources, cultural and religious norms such as prioritising other family members, gender dynamics and a fear of seeking services means that Syrian women's health suffers disproportionately. A research assessment into this disproportionality is necessary to understand the intersection between gender-based violence, menstrual hygiene issues, women's health issues, maternal complications and WASH practices.

## THE PROJECT

This project will provide hygiene kits to women living in refugee camps in Lebanon. The kits shall include: sanitary products, a bar of soap, liquid soap, shampoo/conditioner, tissues, baby wipes, toothbrush/toothpaste, comb, towel, laundry detergent and a torch. We have previously distributed kits in Bar Elias Camp in Beqaa Valley and would seek to carry out distributions in other camps, based on the advice of our partners in Lebanon.

## THE RESEARCH

The distribution will be conducted in the context of a research project conducted by Global One and partner organisations on the WASH needs of women living in Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon and IDP camps in Syria. It investigated the perceptions, attitudes and types of practices which exist within these communities through a faith based perspective, to highlight the importance of cultural sensitivity in these circumstances. The research will be compiled into a report which will feed recommendations into national, international and NGO processes to improve services, and facilitate projects, to provide female refugees with the necessary WASH facilities and provisions necessary.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1472-6874-14-25>