



# HEARTLAND ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

## LEBANON – AT A GLANCE

Heartland Alliance International (HAI) has been serving Syrian refugees and other marginalized populations in Lebanon for five years with the central belief that survivors of trauma require integrated, comprehensive support for successful recovery. This includes holistic mental health care and access to legal services. In Lebanon, HAI prevents and responds to violence through a Safe Space model; researches gaps and needs of the most excluded, vulnerable individuals; and leverages a practical, comprehensive approach to building the capacity of local institutions and service providers.

### HAI HAS:



Provided education, protection, and social services to more than 3,000 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)



Partnered with and mentored more than 10 nascent local non-governmental organizations to become high-quality service providers for women and girls at risk of SGBV



Developed and disseminated a community workers' guide to understanding SGBV and child protection



Conducted groundbreaking research on the vulnerabilities, needs, and experiences of LGBT refugees in Lebanon

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**"I LOVE COMING TO THE CLASSES OF ART, IT MAKES ME FEEL STRONG. WHEN I GROW UP, I WANT TO BE A TEACHER AND HELP ALL THE CHILDREN I CAN BY GIVING THEM EDUCATION."**

— Layla, Syrian teenager

## ABOUT HEARTLAND ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL

Heartland Alliance International (HAI) is the global arm of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, a family of organizations that has been leading anti-poverty and social justice work in Chicago for more than 125 years. HAI's offices in nearly a dozen countries implement programs on a range of global human rights issues, including trauma-informed mental health care and access to justice for survivors of conflict or abuse, as well as high-quality and stigma-free health care. Across all programs, HAI promotes progressive, innovative approaches to human rights protections and gender equality.

## PROGRAMMING

-  **Combatting gender-based violence and expanding access to services:** HAI has worked closely with local partner organizations in Tripoli and Akkar to create Safe Spaces that serve Syrian refugees and Lebanese women and girls who are at risk of or have survived violence. These walk-in community centers provide mental health and legal services, vocational training, and child care services.
-  **Trauma-informed education for emergency-affected, out-of-school Syrian refugee youth:** HAI and local partners in northern Lebanon are training teachers to provide trauma-informed basic literacy and numeracy classes as part of a United Nations-approved structured educational program. HAI focuses on fostering youth-centered, gender-sensitive, and emotionally supportive classroom environments for children traumatized by war and displacement to enhance knowledge retention and prevent a "lost generation" of Syrian children.

## WHAT'S NEXT

As the war in Syria continues, HAI will continue to implement education and SGBV awareness and prevention programs to support both the Lebanese host communities and Syrian refugees. HAI has also identified a need to support juvenile justice reform and can use its expertise in juvenile justice in Iraq to support efforts in Lebanon.

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### BACKGROUND: SYRIAN REFUGEES AND GENDER INEQUALITY IN LEBANON

Since the 2011 start of the Syrian civil war, more than 1.5 million Syrians refugees have fled to Lebanon

- Seven years into the conflict, one in five people in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee

Women and children represent 79% of registered refugees in Lebanon

- 53% of refugees are children, many of whom are out of school and working to support their families

Lebanon is ranked 135 out of 142 countries in gender equality by the World Economic Forum's 2016 Global Gender Gap Index, in part due to a religion-based court system that contributes to gender inequality

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