



Towards the respect of Rights and the Reinforcement of the Rule of Law

**The AFKAR II Program
Empowering the Lebanese Civil Society**



A Bridge between the Public Sector and Civil Society

The Afkar II Program represents the promotion of a trend set by a first model project implemented between 2004 and 2008 with the aim of supporting Lebanese civil society. The program provides, in its two parts, funds to initiatives undertaken by Lebanese NGOs in the fields of dialogue and human rights.

The program establishes an advanced-level partnership, with one of its aspects being manifested in the cooperation between the European Union as a party making two donations (one million Euro for the first and 3 million Euro for the second) and the Lebanese government, represented by the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, which is entrusted with managing the two parts of the program. The other aspect of this partnership is manifested in the cooperation between the public sector and civil society on projects that reflect society's needs and include plans for activities targeting the respect of basic rights and their enforcement.

The Afkar II Program has supported Lebanese NGOs in their attempt to fulfill the objectives of promoting dialogue among Lebanese youth groups and to enhance the respect of political, civil, and economic rights. The program has fulfilled the objectives of such initiatives to a large

extent and in various domains. It has also led to a deeper level communication about these initiatives among the concerned parties, governmental and non-governmental, in addition to sharing experiences in order to develop capacities and improve performance.

This book is the second of its kind and it includes a presentation of the 24 projects funded by the Afkar II Program. It follows a first book in which the 16 projects of the Afkar I Program are presented.






Twenty-Four Projects Promoting Dialogue and the Respect of Rights

The Afkar II program was launched to support Lebanese civil society as regards the respect of political and civil rights, following the signature of a financial agreement between the European Union and the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform on March 15, 2006. According to this agreement the EU funded the Afkar II Program with a total budget of 3 million Euros, 2,300,000 Euros being allocated to support initiatives undertaken by Lebanese NGOs.

After the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform, with the participation of 69 Lebanese NGOs, drew various proposals, a panel of experts from the same office evaluated the submitted projects in collaboration with experts in civil society work in the presence of observers from the European Union. The evaluation process took place according to previously published criteria.

The winning projects numbered 24 and were divided, as decided, into two domains. The first one consisted of promoting civil, political, economic, and social rights in addition to democratic values through pressure and advocacy for the adoption, enforcement, or amendment of laws guaranteeing equality among citizens and marginalized groups



before the law. These include, for instance, juvenile delinquents, drug addicts, present or former prisoners, the elderly, migrant workers, prostitutes, refugees, and others. The laws should also guarantee ensuring them legal and social protection. The second domain focuses on the promotion of dialogue among different Lebanese youth groups through new and innovative projects including artistic or cultural works, concrete participation, or the participation of people from diverse backgrounds, in a direct partnership with the beneficiaries. These projects were characterized by the variety of themes in the different areas. The projects funded by Afkar are:

In the area of promoting rights, 15 NGOs won and the winning projects had the following themes:

- “The Right of Making Work Available for All”, Al-Zawrak Foundation.
- “Toward a Greater Respect of the Rights of Drug Addicts”, Soukoun Association.
- “Advocating a New Media Law in Lebanon”, Maharat Foundation.
- “Twelve Angry Lebanese”, a play performed in prison, ADDL.
- “Psychosocial Interventions with Prisoners and their Families”, Restart Center, Lebanon.

- 
- “Toward a National Law for the Protection from Domestic Violence”, KAFA.
 - “Informing Migrant Workers in Lebanon about the Practical and Legal Means to Assert their Basic Rights”, CESMO.
 - “A Model Strategy of Key Article Enforcement in Law 220/2000”, Forum of the Handicapped of the North.
 - “Promoting Tolerance of Marginalized Groups of Children and Youth in Lebanon”, Lebanese Autism Society.
 - “Life Does not Wait”, CDP.
 - “Toward an Ethical Independent Media Council in Lebanon”, LADE.
 - “The Lebanese Environmentalist”, Terre-Liban Association, Lebanon.
 - “Training in Gender-Related Terminology”, NCFUWI.
 - “Reducing the Burden of Mental Diseases in Lebanon: Towards the Creation of a Law for Mental Illnesses”, IDRAAC.
 - “The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women as a Main Agent for Nationwide Change Regarding the VAW Issue”, LECORVAW.

In the area of promoting dialogue among youth groups, the projects had the following themes:

- “Young Journalists Struggling for the Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue”, Nahar Al-Shabab.
- “Entrusting the Youth Aged 16 or Less with Educational and Social Tasks with the Aim of Achieving Consensus across Lebanon’s Broad Political Spectrum”, Offre-joie.
- “Our Dialogue”, AFDC.
- “The Youth Express Themselves”, Mouvement Social.
- “The Other.com: from Awareness to Active Citizenship”, A Step Away.
- “Youth Communication”, Oum el-Nour.
- “Let’s Talk”, Makhzoumi Foundation.
- “The National e-Dialogue”, Baldati.
- “The Youth Right to Participation”, Permanent Peace Movement.






Technical Assistance and Eight Training Sessions

Like the Afkar I Program, Afkar II has funded projects undertaken by local organizations in addition to funding the technical assistance project provided by the European Emergence Foundation. The latter was selected according to the solicitation of bids procedure and according to common European procedures. A committee of experts from the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform was in charge of the evaluation and selection process in the presence of observers from the European Union.

Technical assistance involved a number of tasks such as the follow-up of project implementation in coordination with the Afkar Program and the release of periodic reports about the follow-up results (8 reports). This necessitated the organization of 8 training sessions for the representatives of Lebanese NGOs, and the preparation of 8 dialogue seminars about issues of interest to Lebanese civil society, with the participation of the vital elements in such society.

The follow-up of the 24 projects contributed to removing various obstacles hindering the implementation process. It also facilitated the achievement of the objectives of the existing activities, and fostered the development of the partnership between the Office of the Minister of



State for Administrative Reform and relevant organizations, on the basis of cooperation and equality.

As for the themes and content of the training sessions, they were selected according to a scientific and realistic identification of their needs in meetings held with decision-makers in the associations on the one hand, and with executive officers on the other hand. This approach allowed the identification of the most pressing needs. Thus, workshops were organized under the following titles:

- “Financial Management: Lebanese Laws and the Requirements of the European Union”
- “Monitoring: Capitalization and Assessment”
- “Team and Time Management”
- “Working with Children: Challenges and Stakes”
- “Group Dynamism: Activating Groups to Make them Engage in Dialogue and Conflict Resolution”
- “Volunteerism: the Management and Sustainability of Volunteer Service”
- “Identifying and Developing the Project Concepts, and Analyzing the Needs”
- “Project Planning and Preparation”.

The training workshops were led by 3 European and 8 Lebanese experts, while the participants were selected on the basis of the harmony between their roles and the material presented during the sessions, to ensure effectiveness and impact. The invitations were sent at intervals by giving priority to the Afkar II associations, followed by the Afkar I associations, and then by the rest of the associations.

These workshops were attended by 180 trainees, i.e. 20 to 25 persons on average per session. After every training workshop, Lebanese training experts ensured follow-up in order to consolidate the acquired concepts and contribute to putting them into practice. In this connection, the experts' reports identified an attempt to bring about change in the management of projects and institutions through the adoption of concepts and methods acquired during the training and follow-up periods.








Eight Seminars Held on Dialogue

The favorable reaction of NGOs and the media to the dialogue seminars was remarkable. The roundtables were held by the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform within the framework of the AFKAR II Program and they were organized by the European Emergence Foundation. Drawing over 300 participants, these roundtables were characterized with a varied content, although some of the topics outdid others in terms of arousing the interest of civil society.

As for the dialogue seminars, or roundtables, they numbered eight and were held under the following titles:

- “Towards a National Strategy for the Abolition of Gender-Based Discriminatory Laws”
- “The Promotion of Inter-Youth Dialogue in Post-Conflict Periods”
- “Is the Drug Addict in Conflict with the Law or in Need of Treatment?”
- “The Status of Volunteers in the Organizational Hierarchies of NGOs”
- “The Role of the Media in Promoting Civil Society Concerns and Initiatives”
- “Post-Traumatic Program Approaches: Tasks and Challenges”

- 
- “The Promotion of the Sense of Citizenship to Foster a Friendly Environment”
 - “Mechwar bi Afkar”, “A Trip to Afkar”.

These seminars were a meeting space for the Lebanese people and active NGOs to get acquainted, share experiences, concerns, and successes, discuss their problems, and put forward recommendations as the basis of future ideas and projects.

The different mass media ranging from the print to the audio-visual provided the coverage of these seminars, while the Afkar website posted their contents on the Internet. The program will also publish a book that includes the contents of these seminars and the various views expressed, in addition to the results and conclusions attained through these discussions.







Better Knowledge for a Better Future

The Afkar II Program has allowed a follow-up of the conditions of Lebanese civil society and a deep understanding of its problems and concerns. In this regard, the program monitored technical assistance, by constantly feeding the database relative to the Afkar I program. It also monitored NGO conditions in terms of their scope of work, staff and volunteers' numbers, the social groups benefiting from their projects, as well as the sources of funding. The collection of information on the various activities such as follow-up, training, and roundtables, has permitted drawing conclusions on the characteristics of civil society that can be used as points of departure. Thus, better progress can be achieved while the hindering difficulties and gaps can be dealt with in a professional and effective way.

The Afkar II Program has allowed the fund-receiving organizations, through projects and field experiment, to learn about the practical and legal conditions relative to the themes explored in these projects. It has also highlighted the roots of the problems and the suffering of the concerned categories. Thus, it has become a real communication bridge between civil society and its active organizations. In addition to promoting field communication, the Afkar II Program has sought to

ensure e-communication by developing the layout and content of its website (<http://afkar.omsar.gov.lb>) with the aim of providing all the information, ideas, news, and publications in connection with the program.



SKOUN

Founded in 2003



Objectives

- Raising awareness of addiction and drugs in different social circles, particularly the youth, the most vulnerable group.
- Providing drug addicts with medical and psychological treatment and follow-up within an integrated treatment program (individual, collective, and family).
- Helping drug addicts to reintegrate in society during and following the treatment period.
- Offering advice, guidance and support to the families of drug addicts and their milieu.

Main activities

- Offering preventive programs in private and public schools through the Life Skills Program.
- Giving cultural lectures and organizing recreational activities with the aim of providing accurate and objective information on drug addiction and all kinds of drugs to school students and their families, university students, juveniles in special centers, and to the youth active in the field of social

services or participating in summer camps and living in Palestinian camps.

- Organizing general meetings for groups of drug addicts, extending over a period of ten weeks and aiming at strengthening the relationship of each drug addict with their milieu, and helping them to assess their strengths and weaknesses in comparison with the rest of drug addicts participating in the meeting.



The Rights of Drug Users: Towards Greater Openness

Project definition and objectives

This project is funded by the European Union and is managed by OMSAR.

It aims at:

- The enforcement of the Drugs Act (1998), whereby there is respect for the right of drug addicts to treatment and to exemption from punishment in case they pledge to receive and complete the treatment.
- Urging people taking care of drug addicts to treat detained ones humanely.

Major publications

A booklet entitled *Beyond Prejudice: an Addict, a Criminal, a Patient*, and a documentary entitled "From To", published by the Dar Onboz Publishing House.

Contact information

Nakhle Bldg., 1st Floor, 97 Monot Street, Achrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon

President: Mrs. Sarah Trad
Telefax: 961 1 583583

Email: prevention@skoun.org

Main activities

- Training the law enforcement personnel involved in combating drug addiction (100 members of the Narcotics Division, 80 heads of police stations and investigation officers, 1500 military recruits), in dealing with drug users by organizing for them awareness campaigns and training sessions which provide them with accurate and objective information about drugs and addiction.
- Organizing lectures and reflection meetings for judges (100 judges) to encourage them to play a key role in taking appropriate decisions on the amendment of drug legislations, referring drug addicts to treatment, treating them respectfully, and offering them care, thus preserving their dignity as human beings.
- Exerting pressure on the relevant ministries and law enforcement officers concerned with addicts with the aim of suspending punishment in case addicts pledge to receive and complete treatment, which is equivalent to the enforcement of the 1998 Act.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- We are witnessing a nationwide interest in forming a committee that studies the establishment of a center providing free-of-charge treatment to drug addicts and AIDS patients.
- We have noticed that with respect to the latest verdicts on drug addicts, some judges started to refer the latter to treatment centers rather than sending them to prisons.
- We noticed, during the training sessions, responsiveness on the part of the participants. A large number stressed the importance of developing implementation decrees for the 1998 Act, particularly as regards the establishment of a governmental center providing free treatment, so that they can refer all drug addicts who pledge to receive treatment to it.
- The participants in the training sessions demanded the creation of a cooperation mechanism between the medical team and the judicial system. This allows for a follow-up of drug addicts and checking the seriousness of their commitment to undergo treatment.

Maharat



Founded in 2003

Objectives

The Maharat or skills association includes a team of young journalists who have worked together for some time and experienced practical difficulties and obstacles which free journalists face in Lebanon and the Arab World. They are united in their common aspiration for freer journalism and a much more democratic society. They consider that the only way to make the idea of peace deeply rooted is to promote democracy that is undermined in times of peace and war.



Main activities

The association focuses on reforming media laws in Lebanon, providing training opportunities to future journalists to enhance their professional capacities, producing reports on the status of the freedom of expression in Lebanon, in addition to the publication of books and training manuals on various media issues, including the media and conflicts, a media code of ethics, investigative journalism, the principles of

credible information, the organization of seminars and meetings on the challenges posed by the profession, and the need to introduce reforms.



Towards a New Media Law in Lebanon

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at developing a vision for a new media law, as the current law is old and suffers from many deficiencies. The project also aims at making the Lebanese parliament adopt the proposed bill or a basket of proposals.

Main activities

While the preparatory work was being done, the Maharat team made many trips to Lebanon's mohafazat where many interviews were conducted, and dialogue groups and workshops were organized with journalists, activists and jurists to let them articulate their views regarding a modern media law.

This was followed by intensive work with a team of jurists, which consisted of monitoring and analyzing all the articles of the current law and suggesting alternatives to the articles that suffer from deficiencies.

After formulating a plan of suggestions and amendments, the Maharat team started working with Lebanese parliamentarians and chairpersons of specialized parliamentary committees to make them adopt recommendations or introduce some amendments to the current law.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

The project received special attention from the media. In fact, journalists expressed their desire to introduce a modern law which protects and advances the profession. The project was welcomed by some parliamentary committees as the bill was submitted to the Chairman of the Committee of Administration and Justice MP Robert Ghanem, and will be incorporated in the national plan for human rights that will be dealt with in parliament.

Contact information

Australia Center, 6th Floor,
New Jdeideh, Lebanon
President: Walid Abboud
Telefax: 961 1 888741
Email:
info@maharatfoundation.org

Association for the Defense of Rights and Liberties (ADDL)

Founded in 1995



Objectives

Defending human rights

Main activities

Working towards the
abolition of capital
punishment in Lebanon.



12 Angry Lebanese, a Therapeutic Drama Theatre Project in the Roumieh Prison.

Project definition and objectives

- Using theatre techniques to rehabilitate prisoners and improving the conditions of prisons.
- Creating a permanent theatre in prisons.

Main activities

- Organizing therapeutic drama sessions for 45 prisoners in the Roumieh Prison.
- Producing a play for external audiences.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- Improvement in the prisoners' psychological conditions.
- Creating a bridge between the prisoners and their society.
- Changing society's perception of prisoners.

Major publications

- A short documentary on the preparations for the play.

Contact information

Hanna Bldg., 1st Floor,
Sioufi Street, Achrafieh,
Beirut

President: Lawyer Marie
Ghantous

Phone: 961 1 331210

961 3 336932

961 1 201081

Fax: 961 9 926932

Email:

12angrylebanese@gmail.com

zeinada@hotmail.com



Al-Zawrak

Founded in 1985



Objectives

Defending the rights of people with special needs.

Main activities

Providing psychological and educational services, training, rehabilitation, and ensuring professional and social integration.



The Rights of People with Special Needs to Employment and Integration.

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at the enforcement of the economic, social, and civil rights of people with special needs, particularly the rights related to employment and integration.

Major publications

- Conducting a legal study on people with special needs and their right to employment and integration, and developing a legal framework and targeted policies.
- Producing a reference guide for employment and integration for people with special needs.
- Producing a documentary entitled : My Right to Work.
- Producing a guide on the center and its activities.
- Creating a website (I Have the Ability).

Main activities

- Developing a legal framework and policies to ensure adherence to the articles on work and employment as stated in Law 220/2000.
- Organizing a national conference on the issue of employment and integration, in addition to organizing a workshop for journalists to raise awareness and to stress the importance of this question.
- Creating a center for social and professional rehabilitation and preparation for employment.
- Creating a specialized website.
- Developing NGOs capacities so that they play their roles in empowering people with special needs regarding employment and integration.
- Producing a documentary on the project and success stories.
- Developing a specialized network of employment and integration, including key parties in the field.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- The impact of the project is clear on people with special needs and on their parents, at both the economic and moral levels, particularly with respect to their participation in professional life.
- Employers praise the quality of work and the participants.
- Major companies are aware of the advantages of recruiting people with special needs, tax exemption being an example.
- The culture of the right of people with special needs to work and employment is spread by media programs.

Contact information

Fanar, Metn, Lebanon
President: Gabriel Dabaneh
Roland Tamraz
Telefax: 961 1 685708
961 1 685707
Email: alzawrak@inco.com.lb

Restart Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture

Founded in 1996



Objectives

- Evaluating treatment services and psychological, physical, and social rehabilitation services offered to torture and trauma survivors and their family members.
- Developing an awareness program on torture.
- Empowering torture survivors to become productive individuals in their communities.
- Cooperating with NGOs (local and international) and governmental agencies, and networking among concerned specialists.
- Conducting search with the aim of improving our services.

Main activities

Rehabilitation:

- Medical
- Psychological
- Physical
- Social
- Legal assistance

Training:

The Restart center team offer training sessions, and invite outside expert trainers to offer some training sessions. The general objective of all training initiatives is to raise the level of awareness, knowledge, and skills of all concerned parties on the questions of torture, violence, and trauma.

Information:

The information program works continuously towards increasing the level of societal awareness on torture through the media.

The Legal Assistance Unit:

Created in 2002, the unit is staffed by volunteer lawyers. Its activities include the following:

- Guidance
- Evaluation of needs
- Preparation of legal files
- Cooperation with UNHCR regarding refugees who survived torture
- Legal intervention



Psycho-social Intervention on Behalf of Prisoners and their Families

Project definition and objectives

The project, which is implemented in north Lebanon in the framework of the Afkar II Program, is funded by the European Union and managed by OMSAR.

This project aims at improving the quality of life, at both the psychological and social levels, of people who are deprived of their freedom and their families in north Lebanon.

Special objectives:

- Providing free psycho-social and legal services to prisoners and their families, who are in need for such

services.

- Building the professional capacities of policemen such as the ISF and the Judicial Police, with respect to the social, legal, and human rights of the prisoners.
- Building the professional capacities of law practitioners and activists in the field of human rights, with regard to the human and legal rights of the prisoners.
- Creating a cooperation network and systems between governmental agencies, NGOs and the Bar Association with the aim of amending laws, regulations, and policies relative to

prisoners in Lebanon.

- Developing a cooperation system and a partnership among concerned bodies, including NGOs, governmental agencies, and the different social and cultural parties, such as municipalities, human rights activists, schools, health care centres, as well as activists in mental health and the media, in order to create a reporting and follow-up system.
- Building a central source of information on the psychosocial conditions and needs of prisoners and their families in north Lebanon.



Contact information

Fattal Tower, 7th Floor,
Tripoli

Ghattas Bldg., 2nd Floor,
Badaro Street, Beirut

President: Ms Suzanne
Jabbour

Phone: 961 1 385358

Telefax: 961 6 410577

Email: Restartc@idm.net.lb

Psycho-social Intervention on Behalf of Prisoners and their Families

Main activities

- Providing psychological, social, and legal services to prisoners and their families, within the rehabilitation program which includes:
 - Psychological treatment
 - Physical therapy
 - Neurology
 - Psychological counseling
 - Dynamic psychotherapy treatment
 - Speech therapy and speech therapy education.
- Offering check-up services in all medical specialties.
- Providing legal assistance and consultation upon need.
- Providing counseling and orientation to contribute to social integration.
- Social intervention on behalf of people deprived of their freedom and their families.
- Providing rehabilitation services in the community.
- Holding 4 training sessions, each targeting 50 ISF and Judicial Police.
- Holding 2 training sessions targeting 50 lawyers in north Lebanon and human rights activists.
- Creating a network of lawyers in north Lebanon to exert pressure on NGOs, governmental agencies, the Bar Association in north Lebanon, and political authorities with the aim of introducing amendments to laws, legislations, and policies relative to prisoners in Lebanon.
- Building a central source of information on the conditions of prisoners and their families in north Lebanon, and the creation of a reporting and follow-up system.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- A decrease in the number of psychosocial problems suffered by prisoners and their families.
- Decreasing rates of psychological symptoms and disorders suffered by prisoners and their families.
- Decreasing rates of psychological symptoms, as well as manifestations of violence and trauma among prisoners' wives and children.
- Improvement in the relations between former prisoners and their wives.
- Additional opportunities for former prisoners to integrate in their communities.
- Improving the ability of former prisoners to work and to become active individuals in their communities at both the economic and social levels.
- Creating opportunities for prisoners to give them access to outlets which respond to their needs, in the framework of the reporting and follow-up system.
- The existence of a central source of information on the psychosocial conditions and needs of prisoners and their families in Al-Qebba Prison in Tripoli.
- Urging the ISF in charge of prisons in north Lebanon and who are in direct contact with prisoners, to respect the fundamental principles of dealing with prisoners.
- Urging the Judicial Police in charge of preliminary investigations not to use torture methods while conducting such investigations.
- Improving the legal conditions of more than 100 prisoners in Al-Qebba Prison.

Enough Violence and Exploitation (KAFA)

Founded in 2005



Objectives	Main activities
Seeking to check the causes and consequences of violence and exploitation targeting women and children within and outside the family.	<p>The goals are achieved through advocacy and awareness campaigns, while the victims are provided with social, legal and psychological services.</p> <p>KAFA focuses on its working strategies and exerts efforts in three areas: trafficking in women and children, sexual harassment of children, and gender-based violence.</p>



A Draft Law on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence

Project definition and objectives

Violence against women within the family is the most common type in Lebanon, but it is still hidden behind social concepts and traditions which consider the practice of violence against women a private family matter, and an interference infringing on the inviolability of the home.

Under the influence of these concepts, many women - victims of violence – suffer in silence, in the absence of a law that ensures them the desired protection. Impediments to the efforts exerted to protect women and to criminalize domestic violence still persist.

Consequently, the Law on the Protection of Women from Family Violence limits this flagrant violation of women's human rights, and ensures protection from violence within the family.

To achieve the long-term objective, i.e. the law enactment, we are conducting a campaign to legalize the protection of women from family violence. This is a national and popular advocacy

campaign aiming at:

- Admitting that violence against women is a crime and a violation of their human rights.
- Exerting pressure on the government to draft a law which protects women from family violence and punishes its perpetrators.
- Increasing awareness of the problem of family violence, and highlighting its different implications and effects.
- Activating the role of the local and media communities to form a lobby that adopts the law and calls for its promulgation.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- An increase in the number of: the campaign supporters on the facebook, the volunteers for the campaign, the petition signatories, and the participants in the film competition.
- The success of the final ceremony of the 16-day-campaign at the UNESCO.
- Making the law an attractive media material for many audiovisual and written programs.
- Discussing the Law on Women's Protection from Family Violence in the Council of Ministers and working towards introducing amendments.

Major publications

- The draft law on women protection against family violence.
- Website: <http://protect.kafa.org.lb/>
- Group on facebook "Towards the Protection of Women from Family Violence"
- 5 TV spots with the participation of the

performers Nada Abu Farhat and Ammar Chala'.

A film entitled "I Am for the Protection Law"

- 5 short films (3 minutes each) taking part in the film competition.
- Special campaign publications.
- A banner for the coalition.

A Draft Law on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence

Main activities

- Paying visits to ministers and members of parliament.
- Organizing a roundtable for journalists on 7/2/2008.
- Launching a legislation campaign regarding the protection of women from domestic violence, on 5/3/2008.
- Organizing a roundtable for NGOs and forensic doctors at the Crown Plaza Hotel on May 2, 2008.
- Organizing a workshop for legislators, judges, lawyers, and representatives of parliamentary committees on 27/6/2008, in order to come up with a final formula for the draft law on the protection of women from domestic violence.
- Forming The National Alliance for the Legalization of Women's Protection from Domestic Violence which is made up of 18 NGOs, on 6/10/2008.
- Organizing a workshop on the law on women's protection from domestic violence for the NGOs members of the national alliance.
- Organizing a film competition under the title

“Create a Film, Press for the Enactment of a Law.”

- Conducting a 16-day-campaign to reject violence against women, during which the following activities were carried out in cooperation with the NGOs members of the alliance and the Beirut Marathon Association:

* From November 25 till December 10, 2008:

Organizing an exhibition at universities accompanied by a campaign for a petition signature, in addition to a seminar on the most important articles of the Law on Women's Protection from Domestic Violence.

Giving lectures in many Lebanese areas

* November 25:

Campaign for the petition signature, and an exhibition on the campaign at 12 universities in Beirut.

From November 26 till 29:

An exhibition for the campaign held at the Biel: The marathon village “Bib Pick Up”

* November 30:

The Marathon Day: collecting petition signatures

at the arrival point at Martyrs' Square.

* December 12:

The final ceremony of the 16-day-campaign for the rejection of violence against women, and awarding the film prize in the competition “Create a Film, Press for the Enactment of a Law.”

- Setting a six-month work program in collaboration with the NGOs members of the alliance to give awareness lectures in many Lebanese areas in the five mohafazats.

• Organizing a workshop for women's committees in Lebanese political parties, on March 4, 2009.

- Conducting a campaign for the petition signature to press into the enactment of the Law on Women's Protection from Domestic Violence (in progress).

Contact information

Baydoun Building, 1st floor,
43 Badaro, Beirut, Lebanon
P.O. Box 116/5042

President: Mrs Zoya Rouhana

Telefax: 961 1 392220/1

Email: kafa@kafa.org.lb

Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies



Founded in 2004

Objectives

- Enhancing knowledge of the region and of regional powers
- Supporting the rule of law, democracy, transparency, accountability and the principles of good governance
- Fostering active citizenship
- Promoting human rights, gender equality, and equal opportunities in general
- Formulating and implementing sustainable development strategies

Main activities

- Training of Youth on human rights.
- Group discussions for community members.
- Awareness raising on the rights of children, women and migrants.
- Participation in issues related to decentralization and local governance at the University of La Sorbonne.

عاملهم كما تحب أن تعامل



حقوق العمال الأجانب

قبل يوافقون على العمل 48 ساعة قبل قبلون أنه
الضربوا بمساواة من قبل رب، جملكم، أهل، لواقفون، جليل
الاختصار من مكان عملكم، قبلون أنه بضار رب
العمل جوار سفيركم؟
ما لا يملوه لا يملكم. لا يملوه لسواكم. احتراميا
الحقوق الأساسية للعمال الأجانب، فكمنا تكبرون ويكبر
معنا العجز السامي
لكن المثل وعامل العمال الأجانب باستلوب إسماعيل



الوزارة
العمل والشؤون
الاجتماعية



Centre Sorbonne



Providing Foreign Workers in Lebanon with the Legal and Practical Means to Have their Rights Respected

Project definition and objectives

The project is aimed at offering foreign workers, particularly the most vulnerable ones, i.e. domestic helpers, the means to have their rights respected.

It is also aimed at raising public awareness of this issue and at creating sympathy towards foreign workers.

Main activities

- Creating a network of NGOs
- Conducting a survey on the perceptions of foreign workers conditions in Lebanon.
- Putting ads in newspapers.
- Broadcasting TV spots.
- Drafting a bill on the promotion a healthy relationship between employers and employees.
- Publishing a pamphlet on foreign workers in Lebanon.
- Displaying posters on foreign workers' rights.
- Creating a helpline.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

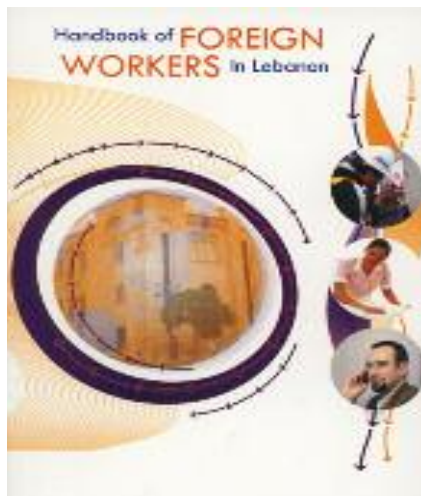
- Domestic workers have heard about the helpline and used it.
- Many people have expressed satisfaction with TV spots.

Contact information

Ezzeddine Bldg No. 602,
Masaref Street, Tripoli,
Lebanon. P.O. Box 30
President: Dr. Mustapha Adib
Phone: 961 6 42 99 90
Fax: 961 6 42 99 91
Email:
mustapha.adib@cesmo.org

Major publications

- Newspaper supplements
- TV Spots
- Law bills
- Pamphlet on foreign workers in Lebanon:
 - available in English, Arabic, and Sinhalese (Sri-Lanka) versions
 - due for publication in Tagalog (The Philippines) and Nepali (Nepal) versions
- Posters



The Forum of Handicapped Association (FOH)

Founded in 1986



Objectives

The Forum of Handicapped Association is an NGO founded in 1986 with the aim of integrating disabled persons in their milieu through rehabilitation programs.

Main activities

- Health services and assistance programs
- Social programs
- Architectural adaptation programs
- Educational integration programs
- Professional training and employment opportunities programs
- Sports programs
- A physiotherapy and rehabilitation centre
- Centre for the development of the skills of mentally disabled persons
- Working continuously on defending the rights of the disabled and seeking the enforcement of Law 220/2000 on the rights of the disabled, especially that its enforcement depends on issuing decrees, most being postponed by the relevant ministries and governmental agencies.



A Strategy Model for the Enforcement of the Key Articles of Law 220/2000

Project definition and objectives	Main activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overcoming the obstacles posed by all the parties involved in the enforcement of Law 220/2000, and countering the arguments made by them, especially that they consider its enforcement very difficult and costly. • The application of samples of strategies used in the enforcement of key articles of this law, in order to provide a model to follow. • Involving some social forces in the enforcement of the law, in cooperation with the association. • Building a support base of committed parties from different social groups, having the conviction, will, and intention to enforce the law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering a training session to instructors in some private and public institutions, on their role in promoting the educational integration of disabled students in regular schools, at both the relational and academic levels. • Adapting the architecture of some private and public educational institutions. • Holding a national conference to sensitize the principals of private and public schools to the right to education for the disabled. • Launching awareness campaigns on the question of disability targeting the students of some educational institutions. • Holding a national conference targeting public and private recruitment agencies on the right of the disabled to work. • Providing disabled facilities in the streets of Tripoli and Mina. • Adapting the architecture of some places of worship and tourist sites in Tripoli and Mina to the needs of the disabled. • Offering a training session to 	
	<p>the municipal police and the ISF on the mobility rights of the disabled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building special parking lots for the cars of the disabled to facilitate their movement. • Organizing scout summer integrated training camps in cooperation with scout associations with the aim of sharing experiences and raising awareness about the right of the disabled to do all sorts of sports activities. • Holding a national conference on the clergy's perception of the disabled. • Launching a comprehensive advertising campaign throughout the period of project implementation. 	
	Contact information	
	<p>Port Said Street, behind Total Gas Station, Tripoli Mina, North Lebanon President: Nabil Abed Phone: 961 3 654199 Telefax: 961 6 610195 961 6 213426 Email: mountada@terra.net.lb</p>	

A Strategy Model for the Enforcement of the Key Articles of Law 220/2000

Major publications

- A poster on the project objectives
- A pamphlet including the forum objectives and a description of the project and its objectives
- A pamphlet on the right of the disabled to education, and on the project implementation in the field
- A pamphlet on the right of the disabled to work, and on the project implementation in the field
- A pamphlet on the right of the disabled to an adapted environment and movement, in addition to the project implementation in the field
- A pamphlet on awareness and sensitization, and the project implementation in the field
- A booklet on the conference on the right of the disabled to education
- A booklet on the conference on the right of the disabled to work.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

In addition to the direct benefits derived by the disabled from the project activities, particularly regarding education and architectural adaptation, there are signs of an indirect and long-term impact the target group can benefit from. These are:

- Communication through this project with a large number of political, social, economic, religious and cultural forces that can influence the decision-making process with respect to claiming the rights of the disabled.

This communication is one of the contributors to awareness about the issue and to sensitization as the basis of making demands

- Receiving, through this project, a number of written guarantees contributing to the enforcement of the law:
- A written cooperation

protocol signed by the Tripoli and Mina municipalities

- Written undertakings issued by the Tripoli and Mina municipalities to provide disabled facilities in the streets

- Obtaining an official authorization from the Training Division of the ISF General Directorate making the Forum a training institution for the police on the disabled right to move

- Including the issue of the disabled in the ministerial declaration, with the support of Mr Ibrahim Chamseddine, the Minister for Administrative Reform who made a promise in this regard during the conference

- Producing written recommendations in cooperation with the different partners involved in the four parts of the project, and developing practical implementation plans.

Lebanese Autism Society

Founded in 1999



Objectives

Defending the rights and improving the conditions of autistic people in Lebanon.

Main activities

- Raising awareness of the characteristics, rights, and needs of autistic people.
- Early diagnosis and rehabilitation services offered by the Early Diagnosis and Rehabilitation Centre.
- Holding special classes for autistic children in the framework of the academic integration programs.
- Professional training programs for autistic children.



Accepting Marginalized Children and Youth in Lebanon

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at changing commonly held beliefs and concepts in the community in relation to marginalized children and youth in Lebanon by focusing on awareness-raising and capacity-building.

Major publications

- *Let's Play: A Guide to Communication between Parents and Autistic Children.*
- A guide for schools offering integration programs.

Contact information

Sacr -Coeur School,
Gemmayzeh, Beirut
President: Arwa al-Amin
Halawi
Phone: 961 6 449988
Telefax: 961 6 443366
Email:
autismlb@hotmail.com

Main activities

- Surveying schools offering integration programs.
- Training the staff of the relevant institutions in creative communication skills.
- Following-up trainees while they are performing the activities they learnt in the training.
- Training instructors in creative awareness-raising methods.
- Following-up instructors performing the activities they learnt in the training.
- Supporting a number of awareness-raising activities performed by the students.
- Producing a special guide for the parents of autistic children.
- Producing and broadcasting TV spots on a number of TV channels.
- Holding a number of parent support sessions.
- Holding a special discussion for school principals on the issue of integration.

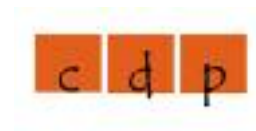
Initial project impact on targeted categories

- The staff of the relevant institutions acquired new communication skills and they can now use these skills in their daily work.
- The instructors acquired new awareness-raising skills they can use in their daily work.
- Parents are now able to better communicate with their children.



Center for Development and Planning

Founded in 2002



Objectives

Operating under the single slogan of “improving the quality of life”, the center aims at fulfilling the following objectives:

- Carrying out research and providing the necessary studies to ensure sustainable development.
- Working with stakeholders on the development of human capacities in scientific, social, and cultural fields
- Offering management consultancy to the local authorities and to civil society organizations.

Main activities

The center focuses on several areas including:

- Public health
- Ecosystem management
- Protection of natural resources
- Democracy
- Good governance
- Youth capacity building
- Social development and poverty alleviation
- Sharing social responsibility.



Life Doesn't Wait

Project definition and objectives

The idea was triggered by a radio commercial. Who has not heard such commercials?

The idea behind the project is to create a database of blood donors on the Internet, based on the principle of on call donor. They are classified according to blood type, areas, their availability, and others.

The main objectives of the center to be fulfilled in the project are as follows:

- Raising public awareness about the importance of giving by donating blood and platelets.
- Supplying public and private hospitals with blood donors to cover their needs.
- Trying through a series of educational initiatives, to increase the number of young volunteers / donors in the community.
- Offering effective aid to local communities in emergency situations.
- Establishing and maintaining invisible ties among community members.
- Fostering one of the most important human values, namely the right to life.

Main activities

- Launching awareness campaigns at universities, at public and private educational institutes, in shops and shopping malls, banks, and in NGO circles.
- Appearing in many morning talk shows in various TV and radio stations to spread the project idea and prospects.

Major publications

- Brochures.
- Posters.
- Newspaper and magazine advertisements, radio and TV commercials on all stations.
- Website address:
www.DonorOnDemand.org

Contact information

Kaline Center, 3rd Floor,
Sin El-Fil, Lebanon
President: Dr Naji Chamieh
Telefax: 961 1 482436-5
Email: cdp@cdpinfo.or

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Responsiveness of the different segments of Lebanese society, of all age groups, either by calling the center to register as on call donors, and / or by donating when asked, or by filling data in all the centers where the campaign was conducted, or by registering online.

Responding to the call upon request, and going to centers to donate blood and to help many people.

Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections

Founded in 1996



Objectives

- Examining the electoral law and suggesting means of amendment.
- Informing citizens about their rights and obligations regarding the elections.
- Following-up and controlling electoral processes.

Main activities

- Controlling electoral sessions on all issues related to the elections.
- Organizing awareness campaigns and training



Towards an Independent Council for a Media Code of Honor

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at cooperating with journalists in order to develop a media code of ethics by formulating a media code of honor and by seeking the creation a council which monitors the enforcement of this code.

Main activities

The organization of 47 workshops for journalists and TV and news agencies reporters in all Lebanese areas.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- Raising journalists' awareness of their obligations and role in the electoral process.
- Shedding light on journalists' mistakes during their professional practice by reflecting reality and comparing it with similar international experiences.
- Attempting to develop clear and sound foundations for the media profession in cooperation with the journalists themselves.
- Establishing a relationship with journalists that paves the way for future cooperation with them, which enables us to reach our goals.

Major publications

- Journalists and Professional Ethics

Contact information

Spears Street,
Sanayeh, Beirut
President: Ziad Abdel
Samad
Phone: 961 1 745623
Telefax: 961 1 741412
Email: info@ladeleb.org



T.E.R.R.E. Liban

Founded in 2002



Objectives

Environmental education and sustainable development for a better life.

Main activities

- The Lebanese Environmentalist Project.
- Protecting the closest forest to Beirut.
- Sustainable agriculture education.
- Awareness of sustainable hunting.
- The Abou Zraik Campaign for Lebanon's Reforestation.
- National training campaign on sorting and recycling, NISR.

Contact information

Chahine Bldg., Charles Helou Street, Baabda
President: Paul Abi Rached
Telefax: 961 5 923060
Email: info@terreliban.org



The Lebanese Environmentalist

Project definition and objectives

By conducting the Lebanese Environmentalist Project, T.E.R.R.E. LIBAN aims at spreading the Lebanese Environmentalist Charter. Putting it into practice necessitated the production and distribution of an educational portfolio to 1139 elementary and intermediate public schools after training civic education instructors in these schools, in the ways of using this portfolio with students. The latter can in turn raise public awareness in their neighborhood about the protection of the environment. The second practical step taken by the association had to do with the production and distribution of *Khumbaya*, an environmental newsletter which ensures the creation of a link among students all over Lebanon. The third step consisted of launching a competition for the active environmentalist to motivate students to protect the environment at the practical level. This charter includes material for dialogue and communication among students, far from politics and confessionalism.

Main activities

- The association has conducted 30 training sessions in Lebanon's six governorates, and has distributed 1139 educational portfolios in all elementary and intermediate public schools, as well as the first issue of the *Khumbaya* newsletter to 150,000 students between the fourth and eighth grades.
- The association launched for the school year 2008-2009 a competition for the active environmentalist to motivate students to protect their country's environment.

Major publications

- The educational portfolio of the Lebanese environmentalist which includes:
- A guide explaining the Lebanese Environmental Charter.
- A book on environmental activities.
- A CD-Rom that assesses the environmental conditions in Lebanon in 240 photos.
- A DVD entitled "Billy in Recycling Country".
- A CD including songs by Paul Abi Rached.
- An environmental newsletter, *Khumbaya*. (2 issues).

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- Once the project was launched at schools, some principals and instructors started raising the students' awareness of environmentalism and held meetings with the parents for the same purpose, using the Lebanese Environmentalist Charter portfolio.
- Students started sorting their paper garbage. The association has so far collected and sent sorted paper from 179 public schools to recycling factories.
- Students have engaged in many activities such as reforestation, cleaning, awareness campaigns, and other activities, in accordance with the Lebanese Environmentalist Charter.
- The association received thank-you letters from students as well as invitations to participate in the project launching ceremony.
- The association has witnessed a significant participation in the competition of the Active Environmentalist all over Lebanon
- The association received many calls from private schools to get information about the project, after learning about it from neighboring public schools.

The National Committee for the Follow-up of Women's Issues



Founded in 1996

Objectives

- Promoting women's participation in all areas of social, economic, and political life; modifying their roles; and eliminating all forms of discrimination against them.
- Raising awareness of the gender issue and incorporating it in national policies.
- Enabling women to participate in decision-making, to exercise their rights, and assume their responsibility in planning and developing public policies.
- Promoting values that encourage the respect of human rights, at the heart of which lie women's rights.
- Promoting communication among women at the local, regional, and global levels.

Main activities

- Developing a national strategy for women in cooperation with the National Commission for Lebanese Women.
- Issuing two documents on "The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women" in 1999.
- Issuing the second Lebanese document on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in Lebanese laws in 2005.
- Establishing units and forming communication networks in different Lebanese areas, in addition to institutionalizing the National Committee in the framework of a plan of action to support national women's bodies.
- Preparing the national report on NGOs (Beijing +5).
- Establishing the Centre of Social Gender for Awareness, Training and Studies.
- Developing a plan for a gender-based reading and analysis of elementary school textbooks.
- Holding training sessions along with the publication of a book entitled *Creating Awareness among Women with AIDS, its Risks and the Ways of Dealing with it*, 2006.
- Publishing three volumes of the Shadow Report (CEDAW) 1999, 2005, 2008.
- Holding training sessions on

political education at universities and publishing a book on this topic.

- Holding six training sessions for 250 instructors, coordinators, and principals, on social gender and discrimination in school textbooks on Arabic reading and civic education for elementary classes.

- Holding a training session for 50 instructors, coordinators, and principals, on social gender and discrimination in school textbooks on Arabic reading and civic education for intermediate classes.

- A book entitled *Women and Politics*, 2007.

- A book entitled *Civic Education, Knowledge, Conduct, and Training Sessions* for teachers of civic education 2008.

- Brochures and posters on the campaigns launched in the mohafazat on the following topics:

- Beka': Repealing Article 562 of the Penal Code (crimes of honour).
- South Lebanon: My Nationality is a right to Be Granted to my Husband and Children (amendment of the Nationality Law).
- North Lebanon: Amendment of the Nationality Law.
- Beirut: Marriage and Divorce in Islam
- Mount Lebanon: Mothers' Right to Custody and Guardianship of their Children until They Reach Adulthood.



Training in Awareness of Gender Issues

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at:

- Highlighting the reality of discrimination against women in school textbooks (elementary and intermediate classes) in terms of images, expectations, roles and language, using the gender-based approach.
- Enabling the target category (instructors, coordinators, and principals) to read, analyze, and draft the content of school textbooks on Arabic reading and civic education in elementary and intermediate classes on the basis of social gender.

Major publications

- A first study: “Discrimination in School Textbooks on Arabic Reading and Civic Education in Elementary Classes, 2006”
- A second study: “Discrimination in School Textbooks on Arabic Reading and Civic Education in Intermediate Classes, 2008”
- Training packages for elementary and intermediate classes.

Main activities

- Holding six training sessions in collaboration with the Educational Centre for Research and Development for instructors, coordinators, and principals in Broummana on July 13-14, 20-21, 27-28, 2007, on November 9-10-11, 20-21-22, and 30, and on December 1-2, 2007.
- Carrying out a second study entitled “Discrimination in School Textbooks on Arabic Reading and Civic Education in Intermediate Classes, 2008”
- Holding two training sessions for instructors of intermediate classes on February 6, 7, 8 and 20, 21, 22, 2009 in Broummana.

Contact information

Saab Bldg., 4th Floor, Ain el-Mrayseh, Beirut
President: Dr Aman Kabbara Chaarani
Phone: 961 1 361035
Telefax: 961 1 366238
Email: info@cfuwi.com

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- The project has a very positive impact as it has achieved its goals.
- It produced a positive response on the part of the targeted category that was eager to acquire the information provided by the two studies as well as by the training sessions.
- The targeted category asked the organizers to hold the largest possible number of similar sessions.
- A suggestion was made on the need to have these associations communicate with instructors.
- The project contributed to a better understanding of the concept of social gender, and to the introduction of modifications and improvements to the curricula with the objective of achieving equality in social education through school textbooks.

Institute for Development Research Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC)

Founded in 1982



Objectives

Promoting mental health research, increasing public awareness of mental health in Lebanon and the Arab World, and mobilizing communities to influence policy makers. The IDRAAC staff, i.e. physicians, psychologists, social workers, nurses, and researchers conduct studies on many topics such as: the impact of the war on mental health, depression and anxiety disorders, suicide, alcoholism, drug addiction, and others. The population under study includes adults, children, orphans, students, women, patients, and society in general.

Furthermore, IDRAAC offers social services as well as training programs in the field of mental health, and gives access to research papers to students specializing in psychology, nursing, pharmacy, social work, and public health.

Main activities

- The World Federation for Mental Health, Lebanon, aims at carrying out a comprehensive survey of mental disorders, in addition to chronic physiological diseases and other information on social, marital, and family relations, the professional and educational career of individuals, and individuals' experiences during childhood and adolescence.

IDRAAC conducted this project in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, University Medical Centre, Saint Georges Hospital and Balamad University, Harvard Medical School, and the World Health Organization (WHO).

- A training project that aims at improving family relations by training mothers who have children with behavioural problems making them vulnerable to physical violence. The mothers are trained to acquire special skills they can use to reduce their children's behavioural difficulties, and replace violence with psychological and educational tools as a means of communication.

IDRAAC carried out this project in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, University Medical Centre, Saint Georges Hospital and Balamad University, the Higher Council for Childhood, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, with the support of Oxfam Quebec (CIDA)/ (CFSD).

- An evaluation study of the psychosocial conditions of children and adolescents in southern Lebanon and Beirut's southern suburb after the July 2006 War, in collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry and Psychology, University Medical Centre, Saint Georges Hospital and Balamad University, at the request of the Higher Council for Childhood, with the support of Handicap International and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). The study included a comprehensive survey of all psychosocial resources in these areas as well as recommendations to planning stakeholders to help the Higher Council for Childhood make future steps.

- For more information, please visit our website: www.idraac.org

Reducing the Burden of Mental Diseases in Lebanon: Towards the Creation of a Law for Mental Diseases

Project definition and objectives

Depicting the reality of the burden of mental illnesses and the treatment approaches in Lebanese society. Accordingly, a draft law on mental health in Lebanon will be prepared.

Major publications

- A report which depicts the reality of the burden of mental illnesses and the approaches to treatment in Lebanese society.
- A draft law on mental health in Lebanon.

Contact information

Saint Georges Hospital,
University Medical Center,
2nd Floor, Rooms 208-209,
Achrafieh, Beirut, Lebanon
President: Dr Elie Karam
Telefax: 961 1 583583
Email: idraac@idraac.org
www.idraac.org

Main activities

- Reviewing all the publications released in Lebanon and the Arab World on the burden and treatment of mental illnesses diseases, in addition to collecting information about all previous attempts to draft a proposal for a mental health law in Lebanon.
- Analyzing information on the burden and treatment of mental illnesses in Lebanon and releasing a report summarizing the results.
- Doing a comparative review of similar laws on mental illnesses in the Arab World and in European countries.
- Completing around 24 dialogue seminars with stakeholders to formulate a draft law on mental health in Lebanon.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

The effects resulting from the project include the following:

- Enhancing the information available to governmental bodies and NGOs on issues relating to the burden of mental disorders in Lebanon.
- Urging the concerned governmental bodies to make an increasing commitment to safeguarding the rights of persons with mental disorders. This helps to create better opportunities for the diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of persons suffering from mental disorders and their integration in society, in addition to enabling them to work better, and to be productive at the economic and social levels.
- Improving coordination and sharing of experiences and information among all stakeholders.
- Urging the community to devote more attention to issues relative to the rights of persons with mental disorders.

The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW)

Founded in 1997



Objectives	Main activities
<p>Founded in 1997 in Beirut, and then in Tripoli in 1999, LECORVAW aims at breaking the taboo of violence against women (VAW) at the level of public awareness, out of its belief in non-violence and equality between women and men in all areas of life.</p> <p>The association's strategy is based on two parallel but intertwined pillars:</p> <p>Handling all VAW cases.</p> <p>Ensuring a follow-up of women at the individual and family levels, thus curbing VAW by raising awareness and lobbying for law amendment.</p>	<p>1- Providing direct assistance to women victims of violence</p> <p>a- Counselling services and individual-family intervention</p> <p>Individual and family intervention services as well as consultations are provided by specialized social workers in interviews held with every woman, or over the telephone, in addition to psychological counselling and follow-up by psychologists.</p> <p>The role of social workers is centered on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Receiving emergency calls on the secure line which is available 24/7 and providing support and counseling. •Providing victims of violence and their families with counseling services. •Maintaining a professional support relationship with such women through phone calls or periodic interviews. •Developing a work plan involving individual and family intervention to prevent the recurrence of violence. <p>•Ensuring individual and family follow-up for victims.</p> <p>•Offering mediation between husbands and wives.</p> <p>•Referring victims to institutions providing multiple services.</p> <p>b- Legal services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Providing free legal counseling for victims and their families by a panel of specialized lawyers. •Covering the costs of legal action in case the people involved cannot afford it. <p>c- Group intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Intervention of a group of women and girls suffering similar domestic violence. •Ensuring assistance and mutual support. •Sharing problems and suggesting possible solutions. <p>2- Development projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sensitization and awareness-raising through a radical change of concepts popularized in the

The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW)



Main activities

educational curricula, by conducting awareness-raising workshops, giving lectures and seminars on domestic VAW, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse of adolescent girls.

- Offering training and workshops to workers in different fields at the forefront and in direct contact with women and girls who are victims of domestic violence. The workers include doctors, nurses, lawyers, the police and security forces, social workers in social and health institutions, and human rights activists.

- Socio-economic Empowerment of Women and Girls Victims of Domestic Violence.

- The project is a very important step in the development of LECORVAW's strategy and action plan. It is considered a

collective intervention and developmental project at the community level.

The project aims at:

- Empowering women economically and socially, giving them the opportunity to find decent jobs, improving their social conditions through awareness courses on self-confidence, improving the relationships between parents and children and teenagers, and improving their economic conditions through vocational training, thus enabling them to achieve financial independence and to share in providing for their families.

LECORVAW implemented its first project on "Cosmetic Work and Nail Care" that was funded by Oxfam Quebec, and benefited 21 women.

It also implemented its second project on "The Industry of Sweets and Pastries" which was funded by the Council for Reconstruction and Development (CDR) and benefited 19 women.

3-Amending the Lebanese Personal Status Act

LECORVAW launched a campaign for amending the Personal Status Act from the office of the Lebanese Press Order. The campaign included the following demands:

- Raising the marriage age for both genders to 18 years.

- Granting equal rights to men and women to ask for divorce or separation.

- Raising the child custody age, for both boys and girls, to 15 years in favor of the mother.

The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW)



Main activities

- Creating a national fund to support children in case the father fails to pay the maintenance, following up the father and urging him to honor his obligations.
 - Streamlining and expediting judicial and legal proceedings in religious courts as regards the issues of divorce, separation, guardianship, child custody, and alimony.
 - Forming social committees in collaboration with religious courts.
- 4- Research and publications
- LECORVAW has become an important source of research, studies, and statistics on battered women over the past ten years. The topics of research include:
- The Lebanese family and its different paradoxes.
 - A guide on awareness sessions dealing with the prevention of domestic violence.
 - Life is possible without violence and discrimination.
 - Arab women speak out
 - The perception of the present and future conditions of Lebanese families by university students.
 - A brochure on child sexual abuse, addressing teenagers.
 - My Neighborhood 2001 – about domestic VAW.
 - Sexual violence perpetrated against adolescent girls in Lebanon.
 - Honor crimes between reality and the law.
 - An advocacy guide and how to deal with the media.

LECORVAW as a Main Agent for Nationwide Change Regarding the VAW Issue

Project definition and objectives

This project contributes to the achievement of the overall LECORVAW objective which is curbing, fighting, and eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination against women, through the provision of direct assistance in the form of guidance for battered women and legal reform (legal advocacy and representation), research and publications, in addition to raising the awareness of Lebanese civil society, and conducting projects on the socio-economic empowerment of women.

The project seeks the promotion of women's rights and progress, particularly the rights of women and girls, the victims of domestic violence and the most vulnerable and marginalized category in society. The project seeks in particular the implementation of gender equality and curbing Gender-based Violence (GBV) and VAW.

This project is composed of

three major parts that include a series of practical initiatives to create a Lebanese feminist movement to support the demands, bring about a reduction in the VAW ratio, and empower women. The project is aimed at establishing a nationwide institutional infrastructure by using as a basis LECORVAW's Listening & Counseling Centers LCCs operating at the local level. The objective is to support change, enable women to claim their rights, take their perceptions and opinions into consideration, collect the main facts, and conduct and monitor activities to track the outcome of GBV and VAW.

As a result, LECORVAW has focused on women's priorities, the organization of campaigns and advocacy with the aim of bringing about change. It has equipped LCCs with computers, and recruited a trained staff that works on the collection and production of data on the VAW issue.

The project broke the silence

surrounding the VAW issue and shifted it from the private to the public sphere by elaborating a new draft law about the protection of the family from violence. Furthermore, LECORVAW produced and published a quarterly newsletter and a DVD on violence, and distributed them to the key sectors of Lebanon's civil society.

As for the specific objectives of the project, they are:

- Establishing a nationwide institutional infrastructure by developing information and services systems at LECORVAW's LCCs.
- Empowering battered females, a vulnerable and marginalized category in Lebanese society, through counseling and follow-up with respect to social services, psychological assessment and medical care, as well as legal services.
- Enhancing the capacity of Lebanese civil society to understand the VAW issue and to deal with it properly.

LECORVAW as a Main Agent for Nationwide Change Regarding the VAW Issue

Main activities

The main activities performed in the establishment of a nationwide institutional infrastructure and in the development of information systems are:

- Purchasing new furniture and equipment for LCCs (computers, printers, offices...)
- Designing special software for the application form to be filled in by battered women reporting to LECORVAW: data computerization.

The main activities performed in the provision of social, psychological, and legal services to women are:

- Receiving calls on the direct secure line.
- Responding to all calls and explaining safety plans.
- Making appointments with social workers.
- Receiving and listening to women visiting LCCs.
- Developing a work and social intervention plan with battered women.
- Providing a follow-up of battered women to ensure the implementation of the work plan.

- Surveying local enterprises which offer different services.
- Ensuring that battered women coming to the center are referred to LECORVAW and those calling are referred to the secure line.

The main activities performed to empower and enhance the capacities of Lebanese civil society to help it understand and properly deal with VAW issue are:

- Developing a draft law on the protection of the Lebanese family from domestic violence.
- Releasing four issues of the magazine *Echo of Silence*, and a CD including a documentary film that addresses the VAW issue.
- Holding awareness workshops targeting enterprises and forefront workers.

Major publications

- A draft law on the protection of the Lebanese family from domestic violence.
- Four issues of the magazine *Echo of Silence*, and a CD including a documentary film that addresses the VAW issue.

Contact information

- Bassoul Bldg., 2nd Floor, Damascus Road, Sodeco, Beirut
 - Abdel Wahab Bldg., 2nd Floor, Amine Moukaddem Sreet, Tripoli
- President: Laura Sfeir Shandar
- Tel/fax: 961 6 624060
961 1 612899
961 1 612846
- Email: lecorvaw@idm.net.lb

LECORVAW as a Main Agent for Nationwide Change Regarding the VAW Issue

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Every project supporting LECORVAW's LCCs helps us get closer to determining our objectives, and helps us persevere in our fight against VAW in Lebanon. This is done by increasingly serving battered women, in addition to disseminating information in Lebanese civil society about LECORVAW's objectives.

Serving battered women, which is provided by LECORVAW, is not originally available in Lebanon. Therefore, it is easy for us to understand the impact of this project on women if we understand the problems and obstacles they face.

The clear impact of this project is visible in the change brought about to the lives of benefiting women, the services they are offered and their contribution to giving them hope in freedom and in a new life, as well as the opportunity to express themselves in public and to

reject abuse and repression. At the same time they are trying to claim their rights by using all available means, even if they have to take legal action and speak openly about violence of which they are victims.

Although this impact cannot be measured, it is great as far as women's conditions in Lebanon are concerned.

In addition, the activities targeting Lebanese civil society contribute to changing behavior and positions regarding battered women, rather than considering them responsible for the violence they are victim of. A large social segment will start treating them as victims of violence and in need of urgent support and assistance.

The project will raise the level of awareness in civil society regarding this problem, and will provide it with sufficient information

on the causes and results of violence.

Finally, the hoped-for impact of the project is to raise the living standards and to improve the conditions of Lebanese women. This can be done by adopting the empowerment approach which rests on eliminating "legal illiteracy", publishing and disseminating information, and raising the level of awareness in Lebanese society. This encourages battered women to take positive steps and speak openly about violence in an attempt to put an end to it. What is needed is changing the behavior and attitudes of battered women from negative to positive, and the adoption of new approaches to the VAW issue by Lebanese civil society.

Nahar al-Shabab

Founded in 2006



Objectives

Addressing youth issues in different fields

Main activities

- The Youth Shadow Government
- Nahar al-Shabab supplement
- Nahar Junior



Young Journalists Active in Interfaith Dialogue

Project definition and objectives

Training fresh journalism graduates in interfaith dialogue and sharing their experience in different areas by holding 21 seminars, and publishing 12 monthly supplements

Main activities

- Forming a team of 140 journalists who participate in training sessions aimed at activating dialogue
- Involving the youth in different areas in dialogue roundtables.
- Publishing 12 issues of a monthly supplement of Al-Nahar newspaper prepared by trained journalists on interfaith dialogue

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Growing interest among members of civil and religious society manifested in the increased demand for training sessions and workshops, and in contributions for The Interfaith Dialogue supplement.

Major publications

The supplement of Interfaith Dialogue is distributed with Al-Nahar and Nahar Junior

Contact information

Achrafieh
President: Ms Nayla Tueni
Phone: 01/994888
Telefax: 961 1 996888



Offre Joie

Founded in 1985



Objectives

Uniting the Lebanese family under the banner of love, tolerance and respect

Main activities

Organizing summer camps, volunteering workshops, and training in citizenship



Project definition and objectives

Conveying an educational and social message to the youth under 16 with the aim of activating reconciliation and promoting national unity

Main activities

Organizing educational and entertainment activities, and pleasure trips to different Lebanese areas

Contact information

Charity Sisters School,
Clemenceau Street, Beirut
President: Mohamed
Hamadeh
Phone: 961 3 090760
Fax: 961 1 429301
Email:
offrejoie@iconnect.com.lb

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Many signs testify to the success of the project particularly in terms of its long-term impact. The centre, which offers access to educational, artistic, and social activities, has become a forum for the youth with different religious

backgrounds in the west Beka', where they interact and launch new activities. The centre is active and will remain functional after the completion of the project, and it represents one the permanent activities undertaken by Offre Joie.



Association for Forests, Development, and Conservation (AFDC)



Founded in 1993

Objectives

The Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC) was established in 1993, and is a non-profit NGO that aims at achieving sustainable conservation of natural resources, raising awareness, and building capacities to contribute to the national efforts for better environmental management. Fundamental to AFDC's mission is the pursuit of community-based conservation for the sustainable livelihoods of people. This comes from the idea that conservation will fail if local communities do not benefit from it.

Main activities

AFDC carries out activities over the regional geographic boundaries, including all of Lebanon in order to achieve better environmental management at the national level, within the framework of its four programs:

- Nature conservation: fighting forest fires, reforestation, rural development, and environmental and rural tourism.
- Networking and Capacity-building: awareness and environmental education,

capacity building and training, media and marketing.

•Research and development: research in the field of sustainable development and environmental monitoring, development of projects and programs, and receiving university trainees.

•General policies and campaigns: religion and the preservation of the environment, general environmental policies, and relief campaigns during wars.

Contact information

Marinian Center, 8th floor,
near AUH Hamra, Beirut,
Lebanon

President: Mrs. Nada Zaarour

Phone: 961 1 752670

Fax: 961 1 752671

Email: afdc@afdc.org.lb



Hiwaruna

Project definition and objectives

The project is implemented under AFDC's Advocacy Program, which aims at reforming and changing environmental policies as well as encouraging youth involvement and participation in environmental and developmental practices. Hiwaruna aims at:

- Creating an environment for constructive dialogue and improved communication among the Lebanese youth with different political, social and cultural leanings.
- Equipping the Lebanese youth with skills they need to participate in the dialogue workshop sessions successfully through teambuilding and personal development training.
- Arranging dialogue series through informal education using indoor and outdoor ropes courses.

Major publications

- Brochures
- Posters
- Handbooks
- Reportage
- Press releases

Main activities

- Creating a network of university students from all Lebanese areas.
- Organizing meetings for youth groups from different backgrounds and affiliations.
- Holding workshops to build the capacities of the participants using the techniques of learning through experience.
- Organizing and holding interactive workshops on specific topics, such as the environment, environmental policy, and social issues.
- Activating communication through the application of roles and practicing field activities, activating team building skills and leadership skills using the techniques of learning through experience.
- Disseminating the project results in a special handbook.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Our project is a pilot one as it adopts a different approach to dialogue. It is the first project in Lebanon that includes experiential learning, and focuses on learning the basics of dialogue in particular, as well as the use of leadership and team building skills. The youth were able to spread the culture of dialogue in their universities and local communities and to communicate continuously through WebPages and meetings.

The most important impact is translated into the acceptance of cultural pluralism and building multicultural friendships; participating in the dialogue and respecting the views and needs of other cultures; and looking for a common ground, despite the differences among them.

Mouvement Social

Founded in 1960



Objectives

- Identifying weaknesses in different fields and finding solutions to them
- Mobilizing the largest possible number of volunteers and members for commitment to social action and in different fields of development

Main activities

- Rehabilitating juvenile offenders in the Roumieh Prison, and women in the Barbar al-Khazen Prison, and helping them to reintegrate in society and build their future life.
- Working on the question of school dropouts by interfering directly with students and by adopting advocacy
- Attracting volunteers among university students and training them in commitment to social issues
- Training youth groups and empowering them by fostering a sense of citizenship, and by enhancing their understanding of conflict resolution, their acceptance of the other, as well as their communication skills
- Providing the youth facing difficulties with immediate professional training and social rehabilitation services



The Youth Express Themselves

Project definition and objectives

The project targets five youth groups aged between 15 and 18, and drawn from five Lebanese villages in different mohafazats, with every village having a specific confessional character. The project aims at activating the role of NGOs in different areas so that they set a framework for dialogue among the youth with varied backgrounds. It also aims at developing youth potential regarding openness, dialogue, self-expression, and democratic participation in public discourse.

Main activities

- Training the youth in the dialogue procedure and the concept of affiliation.
- Training NGOs in the psychological and social follow-up of the youth.
- Equipping and running writing workshops in the five areas, with NGO assistance.
- Establishing advisory youth bodies in the five areas.
- Organizing a summer camp for youth groups and local NGOs.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Change at the level of self-expression and behaviour of the youth groups and at the level of dealing with people with different backgrounds, building close relations with each other, social commitment to the questions pertaining to their villages, and willingness to volunteer.

Major publications

- A booklet entitled *The Youth Express Themselves, a Joint Product of the Five Groups*.
- 3 newsletters.

Contact information

185 Badaro
P.O. Box 116-5212
President: Nadi Tayyan
Phone: 961 1 390335
Telefax: 961 1 381879
Email:

mouvementsocial@mouvementsocial.org



A Step Away

Founded in 2000



Objectives

Since its foundation, the association has been active in the dissemination of culture, the production of contemporary art, and in activating the role of art in extending rights, spreading democracy and raising awareness of social justice.

Main activities

Signs of Belonging, 16sproj.com, “The Other Program”, the Audiovisual Society, the Forum theater.



The Other

Project definition and objectives

"The other.com" aims at enabling the youth to enhance their awareness and knowledge of the issues of citizenship, and to assist them in creating a framework in which they can be active in instilling the values of diversity and non-discrimination. This is done through training workshops that provide participants with skills enabling them to use art, audiovisual media and communication tools with which they create a network of young social activists. Their task consists of designing, making, managing, developing and marketing a special website. They also produce films and a booklet, design an advertising- promotional campaign, and organize exhibitions in different Lebanese areas.

Contact information

Gemmayzeh, Beirut
President: Nel Abou Ghazaleh
Telefax: 961 3 149917
Email: info@astepaway.org

Main activities

Holding training workshops, designing and launching "The Other" website, organizing a drawing competition on sidewalks and exhibitions in different Lebanese areas.

Major publications

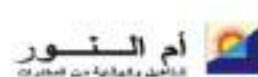
- "The Other" website, a DVD including 7 short films on differences and discrimination, and a DVD including reports on differences and discrimination.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

An increase in the number of youth who interact on the website, and an increase in the number of youth activities in their schools and communities.



Oum el-Nour



Founded in 1989

Objectives

- Raising public awareness about drugs and addiction to prevent such problems, particularly among the Lebanese youth.
- Referring drug addicts to treatment and rehabilitation.
- Enhancing the addicts' capacities, checking the implications of addiction at the health and social levels, and reintegrating them in society through the rehabilitation program.
- Preventing relapse after rehabilitation.
- Counseling the addicts' families on their problem and treatment.

Main activities

- A reception program for drug addicts.
- A rehabilitation and treatment program.
- A follow-up program.
- A prevention and awareness program.



The Youth Connection

Project definition and objectives

This program aims at activating dialogue among the youth from different Lebanese areas about the problem of addiction, and developing creative prevention strategies for the youth and by the youth.

- Forming 8 teams and launching the project.
- Holding workshops to raise the teams' awareness about the drug paradox, and training the youth in the development of prevention strategies.
- Developing prevention measures under the supervision of specialists in the educational and technical fields.
- Launching prevention strategies.

Main activities

- Forming 8 teams and organizing a reception to launch the project.
- Holding workshops to raise the teams' awareness about the drug paradox, and training the youth in the development of prevention strategies.
- Developing prevention measures under the supervision of specialists in the educational and technical fields.
- Holding a reception to launch the prevention strategies.

Contact information

Saint Elie Bldg., 2nd Floor,
Zouk Mikael Highway
President: Mrs Mona Yazeji
Telefax: 961 1 210285
Email: ournour@inco.com.lb

Initial project impact on targeted categories

In addition to developing 8 creative prevention and non-traditional strategies for the youth and by the youth, the project succeeded in activating dialogue among the youth from different Lebanese areas by letting them share in dealing with one problem about which they are all concerned. Moreover, this project highlighted a volunteering spirit among the youth, as well as their eagerness to advocate a social issue and to work for the good of society.

Major publications

Developing 8 prevention strategies:

- Two plays
- Two books
- Making a film
- Producing a CD
- Illustrated story books
- An advertising campaign



Makhzoumi Foundation

Founded in 1997



Objectives

- Promoting the economic, social and cultural development of Lebanese society.
- The development of human resources with the aim of meeting future challenges.
- Promoting a spirit of commitment to responsibility and the pursuit of knowledge, and encouraging financial independence.
- Highlighting the importance of environmental conservation and facing environmental threats.
- Fostering scientific innovations.
- Ensuring good quality health care.

Contact information

Kala' Tower Bldg, 8th Floor,
Kala' Street, Ras Beirut
President: Mrs May
Makhzoumi
Phone: 961 1 860940
961 1 865579
Telefax: 961 1 863949
Email:
info@makhzoumi-foundation.org

Main activities

The foundation works on the fulfilment of its objectives through five programs:

- Training centres

- Small loans
- Health care
- Awareness
- Environment / agriculture.



Let Us Engage in Dialogue

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at bringing together students aged between 12 and 14 from private and public schools in Beirut and its suburbs, familiarizing them with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to enable them to discuss various issues related to the convention, and encouraging them to identify the values and principles embodied in it. The project duration is two years and it will produce two plays performed by the students with the following objectives:

- Highlighting the role of dialogue in finding solutions to different problems.
- Focusing on Article 13 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which emphasizes children's right to express themselves and to have access to information from various sources.
- Identifying ways to encourage dialogue among the youth from different religious and social backgrounds.
- Helping the youth to sharpen their skills with the assistance of specialists, and promoting their creativity.
- Encouraging the youth to cherish values and to uphold principles.

- Encouraging the youth to respect each other and to recognize each other's rights.
- Giving the youth the opportunity to share ideas and to draw the moral of the play.
- Giving the youth the opportunity to express themselves and to discuss their values and beliefs.
- Promoting a team spirit, encouraging cooperation and respect, and strengthening friendship ties among them.
- Developing a dialogue pattern and a course to be distributed to all Lebanese schools.

Main activities

- Organizing two educational seminars held over two years, each consisting of four workshops on the content of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Organizing dance and art shows with the assistance of specialists in the framework of 29 training courses each year.
- Giving two theatrical performances (one play each year) by students in five shows each year.
- Making 3,000 DVD copies of the play each year.
- Distributing them to Lebanese schools and interested parties.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

- The establishment of an internet communication network among the students participating in the work during the first year of the project.
- Growing interest among many schools participating in the project after they learned about it from the media, and among the audience that saw the play. This interest was manifested in their request for additional copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Requests made by many schools and NGOs for the performance of the play in their theatres.

Major publications

- Preparing 10,000 summarized and animated copies of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The final annual product of the project:
- 3,000 DVD copies of the play.
 - 3,000 booklets including the approach adopted in the conduct of the activity.

Baldati

Founded in 2003



Objectives

Our mission is to meet with responsible people having good intentions and make them get together, to interact with our communities to plan, develop, build, and manage sustainable solutions, and to establish a worldwide network by using new technologies that improve our living standards.

Main activities

- The Lebanese Villages portal (www.baldati.com), a regional media tool including 192 countries.
- Baldati Hiking Club, 160 different hiking trips all over Lebanon (www.hiking.baldati.com) made with the participation of more than 800 hikers. All the trips are documented and most are registered on GPS.
- Baldati e-Dialogue project, funded by the EU and managed by OMSAR. Accordingly, a national e-Dialogue was launched on www.baldati.com Each month a new topic such as the electoral law, civil marriage, and others is discussed.
- The Lebanon Citizen Project, funded by the National Democratic Institute (NDI):
- Launching a civic forum all over Lebanon through facilitators.
- A partnership with 6 other Lebanese NGOs.
- Regions assigned to Baldati: Jbeil, Kesserwan, Metn, and Rachaya
- Baldati Academy Project, funded by USAID:
- Launching the Baldati Online academy through the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI).
- The 2005 World Environment Day in Lebanon in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment:
- Organizing the World Environment Day under the title “Running in Green Cities” in Jounieh, Tyre, and Zahleh. Three marathons were organized in the three cities where their inner roads were opened to such events for the first time. More than 5000 participants joined the event in the three cities
- The 2006 World Environment Day in Lebanon in collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment:
- Organizing the World Environment Day under the title “Don’t Turn the Desert

Baldati



Main activities

into a Desert” in Baalbek. More than 23 local NGOs contributed with Baldati to the planning of the event. A new record was set when 500 trees were planted in 23 minutes. An exhibition was organized for the projects undertaken by the NGOs.

- The 2006 National Heritage Day in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.

- Organization by Baldati of 2 visits for about 300 elite guests to Jezzine and Baalbak.

- Exploration of the heritage sites in both cities, guided by the local municipalities and NGOs.

- The 2007 National Heritage Day in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture:

- Exploration of the heritage

sites in both cities, guided by the local municipalities and NGOs.

- The 2006 Social Development Project (CDR and World Bank):

- Implementation of Eco-tourism projects in 3 different areas (Ayha, Chouf, and Batroun).



Baldati National e-Dialogue

Project definition and objectives

The project consists of launching a Lebanese e-Dialogue that runs parallel to the needed “well-known” Lebanese National Dialogue. When the latter, which excludes most of the Lebanese, led to the closure of the Beirut Downtown area for security reasons, and failed to get other than Lebanese leaders together, the former invited all the Lebanese, particularly the youth, to assume their responsibilities in their communities. Thus, they are enabled wherever they are, whenever they want, abroad, at home, at work, in their village or in the city, in the car or in a café, to be part of national life through the e-Dialogue that involves all Lebanese communities in one portal www.baldati.com. At the end, elections will be held to choose the best Baldati moderator, facilitator, and host in a final ceremony during which people can get the results in presentations while witnesses and hard workers are rewarded in the best way.

We believe that the participants should come up with a sort of e-Referendum that can be our guide to a better and stable e-Lebanon owing to the existence of clear and previously defined objectives, valuable incentives, proper technical preparation, a good promotional campaign allowing us to reach every Lebanese in the world, a carefully planned follow-up and capacity building for those who need it, as well as switching between a neutral cyber space and typical targeted outdoor activities.

Our e-Dialogue is the only space that can host millions of people without even disrupting traffic. There is not need for a parking lot, or classic suits; all that is required is goodwill to make a difference.

The specific objectives are:

- Promoting interfaith dialogue by targeting critical age groups.
- Training the youth to use the regional media tool

provided by Baldati.com as a way to discuss their ideas and express themselves.

- Training managers from each village (or city) having the potential to train others at a later stage and to manage their native village website.
- Promoting a virtual space (www.baldati.com), accessible from almost every house, for the suggestion and discussion of ideas and projects.
- Creating a section for online learning as an ICT4D (Internet Communication Technology for Dialogue).
- Promoting knowledge of Lebanese society and its components in youth circles, in addition to promoting the concepts of their rights and obligations to their country.

Baldati National e-Dialogue

Main activities

Activity 1- Preparation of the office and the needed applications on the website:

- Equipping the meeting room in the Baldati offices and enhancing the website www.baldati.com

Activity 2- Press conference and media campaign to launch and announce the project.

Activity 3- Launching a campaign in each caza (schools, universities).

- 25 media appearances throughout the project duration.

• Targeting 1437 young people in 12 schools, 15 universities, and 8 NGOs, and organizing roadshows all over Lebanon's 5 governorates. The gender distribution of the targeted people is 51.64% females and 48.36 % males.

Activity 4- Launching the website of the e-Dialogue to conduct opinion polls about ten issues that members find most interesting:

- The opinion poll covered 1072 participants on the website module and resulted in the choice of 10 main discussion topics.

Activity 5- The current e-

Dialogue on the internet and moderating the e-Dialogue on the following topics:

- Interfaith Dialogue
- The educational system
- Dialogue between generations
- Emigration
- Civil marriage
- Best political system for Lebanon
- Best economic strategy for Lebanon
- The political role of the communities
- Lebanon's defense policy
- The electoral law

Activity 6- The training and capacity building training sessions whereby continuous training is divided into 3 kinds of actions:

- Online assistance from experts (trainers) during the e-Dialogue period.
- Physical presence in actual meetings for support and direct intervention.
- Training workshop in Baldati offices.

The main topics dealt with in training were as follows:

- An interactive course on the Lebanese constitution.
- An interactive course on journalism.

- An interactive course on management.

- An interactive course on teamwork.

- An interactive course on human rights.

• Introducing www.baldati.com as a regional media tool for dialogue and project management.

Activity 7- Hiking trips:

- Making 25 different hiking trips all over Lebanon during which the discussion covered the selected topics.

- The participation of 620 people in the hiking trips.

Activity 8- Publishing a summary of the discussions on the web and giving a final rating of the participants:

The points are calculated for:

- The best Baldati host
- The best Baldati moderator
- The best Baldati facilitator
- The best 3 topics

Activity 9 - The final ceremony

The ceremony was held at the Palais de L'UNESCO on September 1, 2008 under the patronage of the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform and the prizes were offered to the 3 winners.

Baldati National e-Dialogue

Major publications

Brochure on the project.
Poster on the project.
Press release on the press conference.
Press release on the final ceremony.
The e-Community website on Baldati.com
<http://www.baldati.com/networks/community.php?networkid=1516>

Initial project impact on targeted categories

The promotion of the e-Dialogue section for each e-community on Baldati.com whereby each village, project, club, profession and education can now initiate their own discussions. Additional youth membership on the Baldati website, while the youth are active in their e-communities.

Contact information

Elyssar, Baldati Bldg., behind Bank Audi turn, Metn, Lebanon
President: Chaker Noun
Phone: 961 1 4 922 999
961 3 666 565
Telefax: 961 4 922 999
Email: info@baldati.com



Permanent Peace Movement



Founded in 1989

Objectives

An NGO seeking through its activities to:

- Generalize non-violence skills and techniques, and peaceful resolution of conflicts, especially among youth
- Promote women and youth capabilities in sustainable development
- Limit armament, especially the bad proliferation and usage of light arms
- Strive against the recruitment of children in armed conflicts
- Generalize the principles and concepts of human rights, citizenship, democracy, human security, and rehabilitative and interim justice.

Main activities

- Some of the current development in Mount Lebanon
- Lebanon of the citizen: Civic education and advocacy
- Training on peaceful resolution of conflicts in many Lebanese universities
- A school adoption program in Baalbek and Hermel cazas
- Project of reconciliation and



Youth's participation rights

Project definition and objectives

The project aims at promoting the participation of youth volunteers, those who are endangered, and youth with special needs, through social empowerment in effective participation.

Major publications

A brochure and poster on the project and on youth's participation rights.
A training guide for those who work with youth on youth's participation rights.
A special brochure on lowering the age of vote designed by youth council members.
The "Fingerprint" basma magazine edited and designed by youth council members.
A brochure on media and youth.
A documentary on the project produced by the elected youth council.

Contact information

Mkalles roundabout, Jisr el Bacha – Slaibi tower 7th floor
President: Fadi Abi Allam
Telefax: 961 1 501516
Email:
info@ppm-lebanon.org
www.ppm-lebanon.org

Main activities

Training workshops for those who work with youth in the different Lebanese institutions on the youth's participation rights.
Training workshops for youth in all Lebanese regions on their participation rights.
Creation of a youth parliament composed of 90 young men and women who represent all Lebanese regions.
Leisure and cultural tours as well as acquaintance gatherings for youth from and to all Lebanese regions.
A national conference on the youth's participation rights and the election of a youth executive council composed of 30 young men and women.
A media and advocacy workshop for the elected council.
An advocacy campaign organized by the council on the question of lowering the age of vote.
Meetings with many Lebanese political figures.

Initial project impact on targeted categories

Enable those who work with youth to conduct initiatives that promote the role of youth in public life.
Empower institutions that work with youth by giving them the chance to express their opinions and concerns and play their role.
Allow the participation of youth in many public activities, in addition to some activities of the association, such as the preparation and the implementation of the world peace day in Lebanon.
Create a network of social links and friendships, and continue visits exchange between the different young men and women of all confessions and political orientations in Lebanon.
Create a working network composed of the different associations and schools to which youth belong.

A Bridge between the Public Sector and Civil Society	3
Twenty-Four Projects Promoting Dialogue and the Respect of Rights	5
Technical Assistance and Eight Training Sessions	9
Eight Seminars Held on Dialogue	13
Better Knowledge for a Better Future	17
SKOUN	19
Maharat	21
Association for the Defense of Rights and Liberties (ADDL)	23
Al-Zawrak	25
Restart Center for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence and Torture	27
Enough Violence and Exploitation (KAFA)	31
Center for Middle Eastern Strategic Studies	35
The Forum of Handicapped Association (FOH)	37
Lebanese Autism Society	41
Center for Development and Planning	43
Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections	45
T.E.R.R.E. Liban	47
The National Committee for the Follow-up of Women's Issues	49
Institute for Development Research Advocacy and Applied Care (IDRAAC)	51



The Lebanese Council to Resist Violence against Women (LECORVAW)	53
Nahar al-Shabab	59
Offre Joie	61
Association for Forests, Development, and Conservation (AFDC)	63
Mouvement Social	65
A Step Away	67
Oum el-Nour	69
Makhzoumi Foundation	71
Baldati	73
Permanent Peace Movement	79