



LEBANESE ASSOCIATION FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATION
للتنمية الاجتماعية والتواصل

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

2022 was a year of challenges. Economic, health and social problems affected the Lebanese population as well as the refugee community. Despite these rising challenges, Salam LADC supported nearly 6000 beneficiaries, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, religion or political affiliation. Our dedicated team have shown the possibilities of increasing intercommunity dialogue through humanitarian aid. Together with our international branches and donors we have shown that there are no limits to humanity.

We are proud to say that our projects in education, basic assistance, social stability and livelihoods continued, with expansions to our Basic Literacy and Numeracy and Early Childhood Education programs. Thank you to the volunteers, staff, branches and donors, and thank you to everyone that contributed to the work of Salam LADC. I hope that the coming year will bring peace and prosperity to all.



Joseph Matta
Founder & Director



2022: OVERVIEW

In 2022, Lebanon remained mired in a crisis with no end in sight. A political vacuum paralyzed the government and stymied the potential for international intervention, further compounding the economic crisis. The devaluation of the Lebanese Lira only intensified, inflaming tensions and prompting protests as the value of cash assistance plummeted and prices for essential goods soared.

Despite the ongoing turmoil, Salam LADC remained steadfast in our commitment to serve the vulnerable populations of the Bekaa Valley. In addition to navigating disruptions caused by Covid-19, we faced a water crisis and bread shortages, exacerbated by the war in Ukraine. Sadly, yet more people from both the host and refugee communities fell below the line of extreme poverty. The strength of the population continued to amaze and inspire around the world.

We are proud to have continued to serve this population, thanks to our dedicated team we continued and improved our programs in education, social stability, livelihoods, and basic and food assistance.

In 2022 we proudly opened our Beirut project, the Olive Branch, fulfilling a fundamental need expressed by local stakeholders for a forum where segregated communities can interact.

We also had the joy of celebrating the 5-year anniversary of our Saadnayel community center. A veritable community hub, our center is the home and heart of many of our projects, and we look forward to many more years. At our center we opened a new dedicated Early Childhood Education space, allowing us to expand our invaluable Basic Literacy and Numeracy program.

All of this could not have been achieved without the dedication of our incredible local staff and the 97 international volunteers we welcomed in 2022. As we look forward to 2023, we are filled with gratitude for our staff, donors, partners and volunteers for their continued support.

EDUCATION

Although every child in Lebanon has the legal right to a free primary school education, a significant number of children receive minimal or no schooling due to financial and logistical barriers, further aggravated by teachers' strikes throughout 2022 and continuing today.

Education is a crucial tool in the fight against poverty, inequality, and social exclusion in Lebanon. Access to education can help individuals develop their full potential, break the cycle of poverty, and contribute to the economic and social development of their communities.

At our community center and mobile classroom, we strive to break down these barriers and provide a safe and supportive environment for the educational and emotional development of vulnerable children. Education projects are at the core of our mission to promote lasting solidarity between Lebanese and Syrian communities, by creating shared classrooms and conversations that foster a sense of community and belonging.

SAADNAYEL COMMUNITY CENTER

Since 2018 our community center in Saadnayel has been the home and heart of many of our projects. Managed by our dedicated local team, the center provides a space for our English and French as a Second Language and Basic Literacy and Numeracy programs, Kids Club, Art, Yoga, Sport and Cinema as well cash-for-work and vocational training.



English and French as a Second Language

Thanks to our international volunteers we provide English and French as a second language (ESL/FSL) from beginners to intermediate level.

In 2022 our volunteer program saw 97 international volunteers providing ESL & FSL to over 200 beneficiaries.

Our educational projects are open to beneficiaries regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion and in 2022 34% of our 227 beneficiaries in ESL & FSL were Lebanese.

The economic crisis in Lebanon has made child labour a necessity for many Syrian and Lebanese families alike; although both young boys and girls may be put into seasonal work, boys are more likely to be engaged in child labour. By providing free and local educational projects we encourage parents to keep their children in school.

Basic Literacy & Numeracy (BLN)

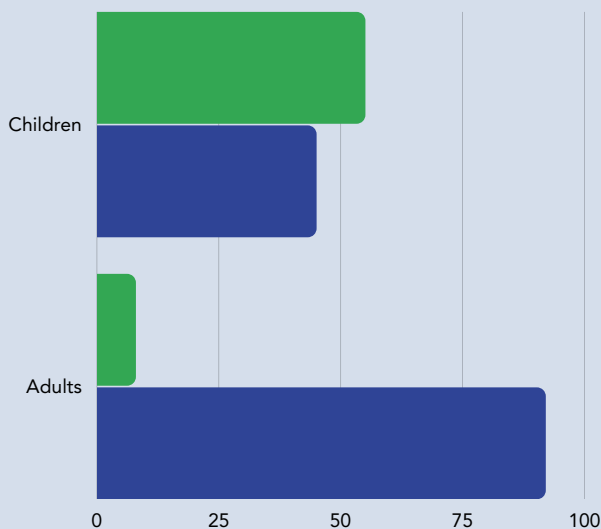
Strengthening our BLN program was a core focus of 2022 and we successfully conducted eight classes for children and two for adults, reaching a total of 171 beneficiaries.

Taught by our dedicated local staff, BLN provides vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian children with the necessary literacy requirements for further formal education, at the age of 6 or later.

Adult literacy classes target beneficiaries who have never had the chance to receive an education, providing invaluable life skills, supporting their personal development and increasing employability.



■ Male ■ Female



The gender split in BLN highlights the impact of child labour on education. Children's BLN saw an almost 50% gender split, the target group often being too young to work.

Adult's BLN saw a large majority of women. Less likely to be employed out of the home, these women could attend literacy classes close to their home - an invaluable life skill, providing basic literacy and numeracy skills supports their empowerment, independence and employability.

Kids Club



Educational games, activities and songs seek to teach new concepts in an entertaining way, whilst also encouraging constructive communication, turn taking and developing classroom behaviour.

Early Childhood Education aims to bridge the developmental gap suffered by vulnerable children living in poverty. Through our Kids Club program, we aim to prepare children socially and academically for entry into the formal school system, which starts at 6 years old in Lebanon.

At the end of 2022, over 70 children between the ages of 4 and 7, with a 50% gender split, were enrolled in our Kids Club program. A portion of these were the children of students enrolled in our ESL classes, providing vital childcare services during the lessons. Kids Club reached our goal of 25% Lebanese beneficiaries.



Bus Project

Since 2018 our mobile classroom has been visiting informal settlements every day to bring the classroom to the children.

Providing a tablet-based program thanks to collaboration with the Breteau Foundation, our teacher provides basic English skills and Arabic literacy and numeracy to some of the most vulnerable children in the Bekaa.



Targeting up to 4 settlements during one cycle, in 2022 the Bus Project provided twice weekly education to 136 children during a nine month cycle.

LIVELIHOODS



Follow-up visits to previous microbusiness beneficiaries

Microbusiness

Seed to Grow: Empowering Local Business Women

Livelihood projects provide an opportunity to approach beneficiaries' material needs in a sustainable and empowering way.

In collaboration with Doin' Good, our 9-month Microbusiness cycle provided 10 women with training sessions in the logistical and financial essentials of running a home-based business. The women were supported with an individual budget of \$500 to provide the initial materials to get their businesses up and running.



Businesses have included a hair salon, dressmaker, manousheh bakery, catering, home and kitchen items and new and second-hand clothing.

Follow up evaluation showed many of the businesses providing a sustainable and increasing income for the participants' households.

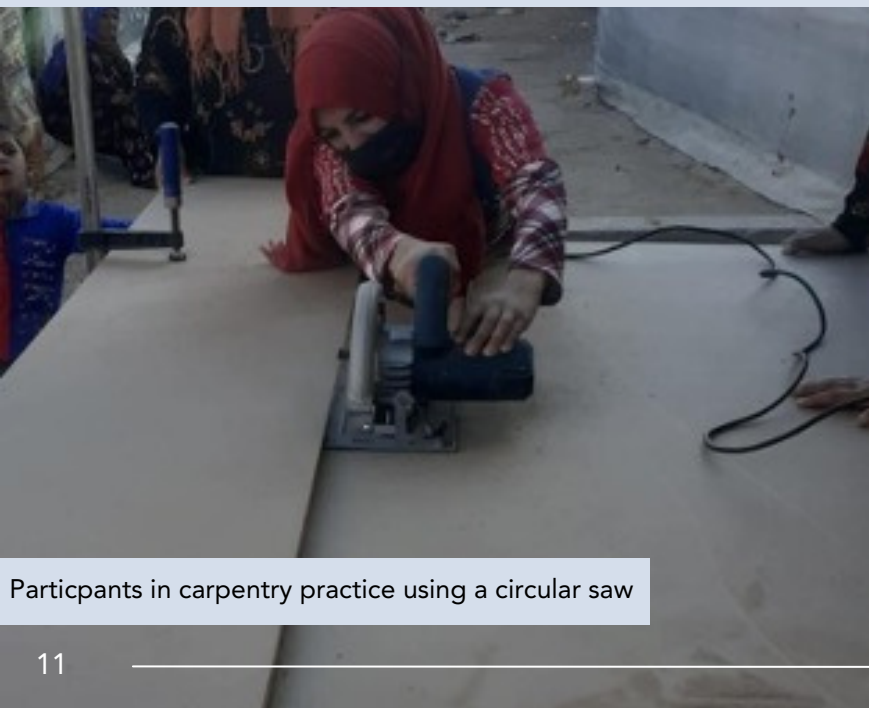


Makerspace



Putting the finishing touches on participants' abayas

In 2022 Salam LADC and Doin' Good provided 77 participants with vocational training in carpentry, electrics and sewing. Our vocational training seeks to provide both long-term employment opportunities and increased self-sufficiency. Carpentry students made wardrobes for their homes, electric students repaired and improved wiring in multiple tents and houses and sewing students made abayas and repaired their own clothes.



Participants in carpentry practice using a circular saw

- Sewing classes had all female participants.
- In the second cycle of carpentry and electricity, 55% of participants were female.
- 25% of participants were Lebanese.
- Participants were aged from 18-69

Sustainable Dignity

A multi-approach cash-for-work program, our Sustainable Dignity project in collaboration with Wing Woman saw 6 women learn how to make reusable sanitary products, which were then distributed in the local area.

The distribution was joined with awareness sessions on period poverty and discussions on the use of reusable products.



Focus groups led by Multi Aid Programs (MAPS) hope to inform future cycles of Sustainable Dignity to increase the program's impact and effectiveness.

In 2022, 966 reusable sanitary products were made by 6 women at our community center.

Reusable sanitary products being made at our community center



Trees for Lebanon

Trees for Lebanon is a sustainability focused cash-for-work program that began in 2021, funded by IKI Small Grants.

In 2022 nearly 300,000 seedballs were produced by Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian women at our Community Center.

In collaboration with Lebanon Reforestation Initiative and Live Love Lebanon, nearly 500 volunteers were mobilised to plant the seedballs all over Lebanon.

SOCIAL STABILITY



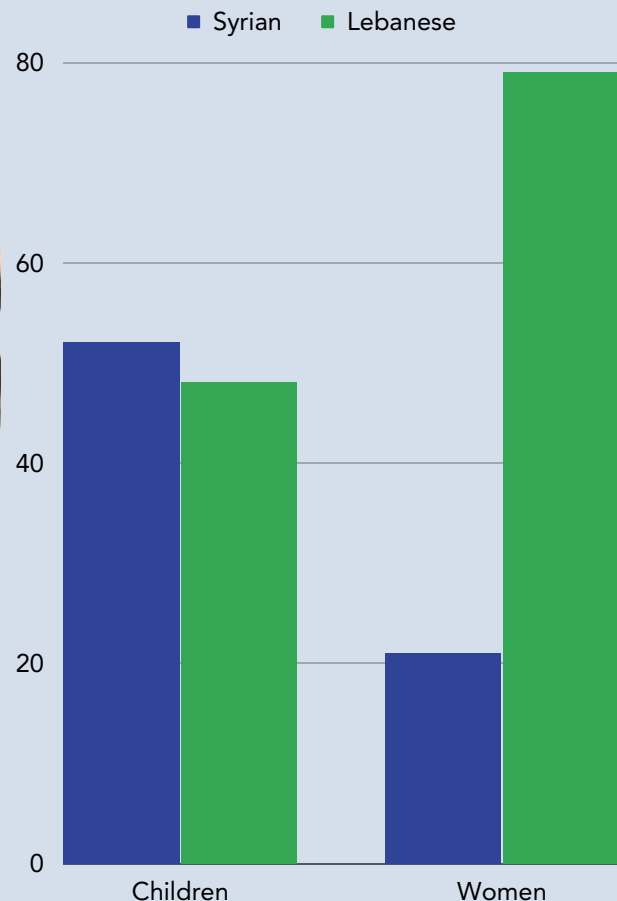
Yoga class at our community center

Yoga

Our trained local teacher conducts weekly yoga classes for women and children at our community center. The program emphasizes developing body and emotional awareness, promoting self-care and cultivating mindfulness.

While Salam's efforts address the material challenges of extreme poverty, our yoga program acknowledges the emotional toll it takes and equips students with strategies to enhance self-awareness and resilience.

Our children's lessons saw a near 50% split of Syrian and Lebanese beneficiaries, whilst women's classes saw a higher Lebanese intake.



Cinema

In 2022 we continued to provide twice weekly cinema sessions for children in the local area. Every week ten to twenty students gather at our community center to watch English and Arabic cartoons together; a chance for disadvantaged Syrian and Lebanese children to enjoy the small escape of a film.



Music

In early 2022, 19 students took part in a 3-month music program. Instruments such as piano, drums, flute and oud were brought to give beneficiaries a chance to enjoy a musical education.

Sport

Once a week, international volunteers facilitate sport sessions for ten to thirty students. Weather dependent, volunteers lead the children in football, tag, relays and roller skating sessions. Our sports program provides a space for beneficiaries to enjoy healthy exercise, fun activities and team building opportunities.

Dabke

In late 2022 we began a traditional Arabic dancing class. Taught by a talented local teacher, the class has become highly popular among both the beneficiaries and international volunteers. 24 teenage girls gather at the center twice a week to learn basic and more advanced moves.

Chess

Beneficiaries at our community center enjoyed chess lessons and the provision of boards and pieces, provided by members of Team for Humanity. A perfect opportunity for children from the host and refugee community to spend productive time together and learn a new skill.



Art



Art class takes place outside the community center

At our community center, our international volunteers facilitate five art classes a week, with more than 60 students enrolled in summer 2022. The children's and teens' classes provide an hour of creative activities for disadvantaged children who do not have access to school or extracurricular activities. Thanks to our volunteers, beneficiaries have the opportunity to enjoy painting, drawing, crafting, and a variety of other creative activities.

Art Class Beneficiaries:
60% female - 40% males
80% Syrian - 20% Lebanese



Art community

Art Community sessions providing an hour of coloring with our international volunteers were open to all without registration and reached over 1000 beneficiaries in 2022.

Photography School

In 2022, we started the second cycle of our photography school, encouraged by the success of the previous cycle, which resulted in the exhibition of our beneficiaries' work in Beirut.

Our local teacher provided technical and practical photography lessons to 31 beneficiaries. Of these, 25 students received technical instruction on photographic equipment and methods at our community center, while the remaining 6 received more practical-based lessons within settlements.



BASIC & FOOD ASSISTANCE



Distribution

Targeting 4298 households, in 2022 we distributed:

610 Period Hygiene Kits



91 Cholera Hygiene Kits

4,875 Clothing Items



195 Winter Jackets



1,522 Food Parcels



4,800 Water 1L



3,552 Fuel 20L



1,070 Toys



979 Pairs of Shoes



Throughout the year, our partners, branches and individual donors allowed us to continue and expand our seasonal distributions of clothing, fuel and water.

In response to Lebanon's cholera outbreak in autumn 2022 we also distributed Cholera Hygiene kits with bleach and soap.

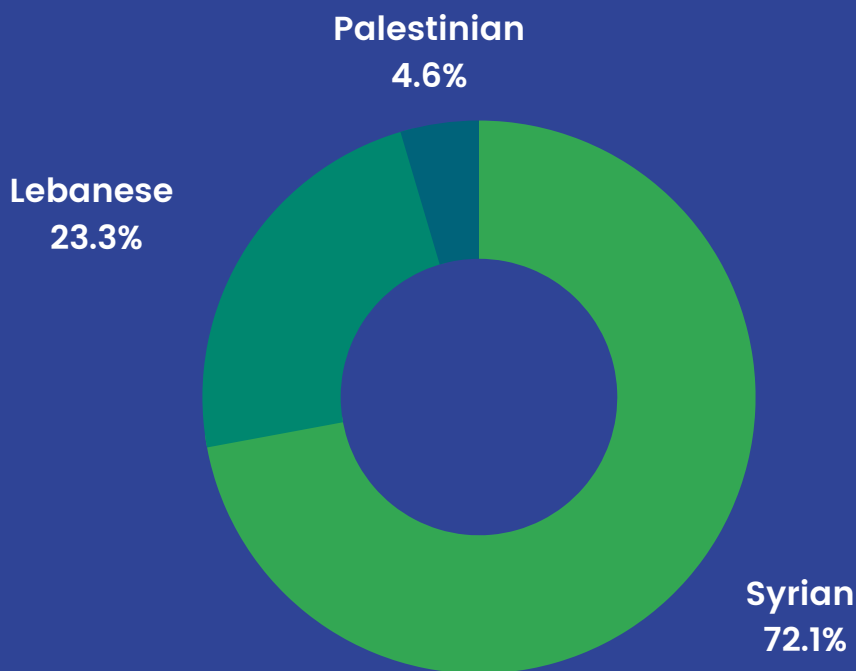
On a weekly basis, food parcels are distributed to vulnerable families identified by our Sahra/Community Day project and through ad hoc mass distributions.



In 2022 we reached a total of 4298 households with our distributions.

Salam LADC's mission is to provide assistance to those in need regardless of their ethnicity, religion, or background. As the economic crisis deepens, more and more Lebanese households find themselves struggling to survive.

In 2022, 23.3% of our distribution beneficiaries were Lebanese households.



Sahra · Community Day

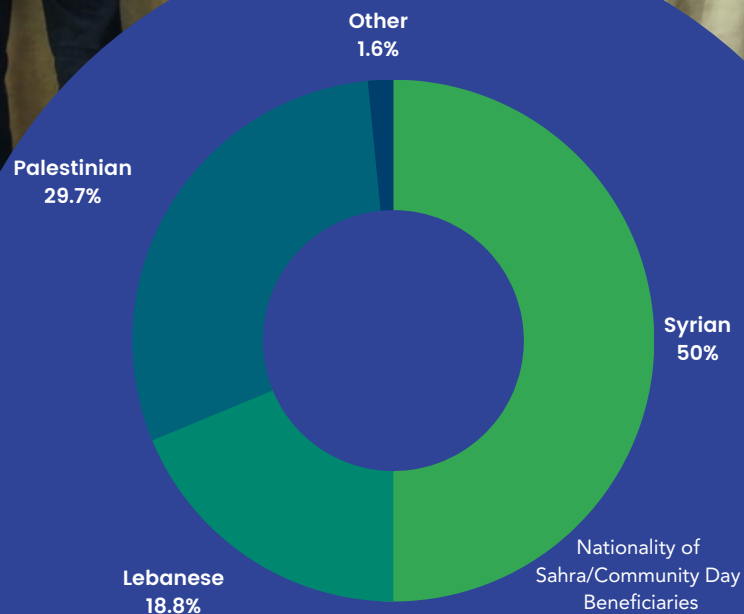
Our Sahra and Community Day projects provide distributions tailored to a household's specific needs whilst providing an opportunity for volunteers, staff and beneficiaries to come together and engage in conversation.

Both projects target families living outside of informal settlements, who are often more isolated from aid programs.



In 2022 we completed:

- 37 Community Days - Food parcel and food distribution for a shared meal
- 27 Sahra - Food parcel and distribution tailored to household needs up to \$50



OTHER SECTORS



Psychosocial support

Psychosocial support sessions are a type of therapeutic intervention that focus on improving emotional well-being and psychological resilience, addressing issues related to interpersonal relationships, self-esteem and personal growth.

The aim of these sessions is to help individuals build their coping skills, increase their self-awareness and develop strategies for managing their emotions and improving their overall quality of life.

Working in collaboration with local NGOs Himaya and Sawa, throughout 2022 we provided psychosocial support to 450 beneficiaries in our community center and Bus Project.

Sessions for children included topics of personal hygiene, bullying, self-esteem, changing bodies and body autonomy.

Sessions for women included discussions of early marriage, women's rights and positive parenting.

Responding to the outbreak of cholera in autumn 2022, we provided cholera awareness sessions for over 150 women, in tandem with the distribution of cholera hygiene kits.



Greenhouses, South Lebanon

In Kawkaba, where Salam LADC was founded, our Greenhouse Project provides an effective and sustainable support for vulnerable households.

In 2022, 4 families (3 Lebanese and 1 Syrian) shared the original Salam greenhouse space, helping to support their own financial and food security.

This year we installed another greenhouse in Kawkaba, providing space for more families to grow their own food in 2023. Half of this greenhouse is shared between 4 families, the other half being reserved for use by women.

Olive Branch

New Beginnings

The Olive Branch was opened in September 2022 to address the lack of safe public space in Sin el Fil and Nabaa, a disadvantaged neighbourhood that is home to a large and diverse community.

The Olive Branch fulfills the fundamental need expressed by local stakeholders for a forum where segregated communities can interact in a safe environment.

What We Offer

At the Olive Branch, we welcome everybody regardless of nationality, gender or religion. By providing a space for members of different religions and nationalities, we hope to foster positive intercommunity dialogue and a sense of belonging.

The center provides education, psychotherapy and open social sessions, allowing diverse members of the local community to learn new skills and engage in positive discussions together.



Olive Branch Programs

Computer Classes

In collaboration with CG Funds, a professional teacher provided vocational computer skills lessons to 26 beneficiaries.

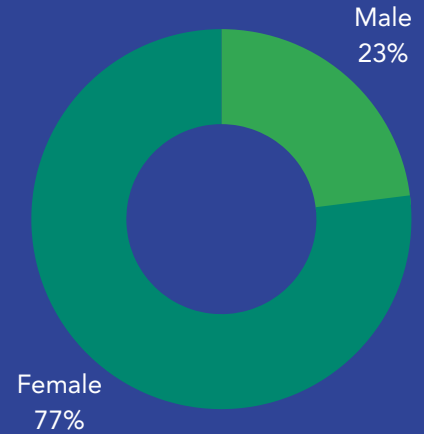
English as a Second Language

English lessons are provided for teenagers and adults from absolute beginner to intermediate levels and reached 112 beneficiaries.

Psychotherapy

With Al Najat Village we provided group psychotherapy sessions to 49 beneficiaries, recognizing that personal healing experiences can contribute to greater inter-community understanding and reduce social tension.

Average gender distribution of all projects



Palestinian and other
2%



Average nationality distribution of all projects



INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM

Launched in 2016, our International Volunteer program has hosted over 500 volunteers who provide essential support to our projects. We are so grateful for the volunteers who dedicate their time for Salam LADC; working in collaboration with our local team, they make the implementation of our projects possible.

Our volunteers provide English and French lessons, Art, Cinema and Sport lessons and support our Early Childhood Education and Basic Assistance programs.

Living together in Sin el Fil and our new Zahlé apartment in the Bekaa Valley, volunteers enjoy a social experience of Lebanon, taking part in regular activities and trips around the country together.

International volunteers have been invaluable in filling the roles of volunteer and wellbeing coordinators, contributing to the daily running of Salam LADC and gaining valuable professional experience.

In 2022 we welcomed 97 volunteers from 29 countries and look forward to welcoming more in 2023.

If you are interested in volunteering please contact:
volunteering@salamladc.org

Our Partners



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Supported by:



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on the basis of a decision
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