



Newsletter

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Together Towards a Brighter Future



Beit Atfal Assumoud newsletter is published monthly by the National Institution of social Care and Vocational Training. Each letter is issued to circulate information about the work and activities of the institution and its centers over the course of the month. We have been working on providing services for Palestinian refugees living in the camps of Lebanon for 39 years.

About Beit Atfal Assumoud

Beit Atfal Assumoud is a secular nonprofit organization that aims to contribute to the development of the Palestinian community in Lebanon through services addressing the needs of the families, and through various gender-balanced projects empowering the potentials and skills of the children, youth, women and parents or guardians.

He, who supports the Palestinian Community,
ensures a brighter future!

Assumoud means steadfastness.

BAS is the house of the steadfast people who
believe in the right of return and who are
struggling to achieve it.

Below are the activities that the steadfast people
perform and support during November.

BAS would like to share with you these activities
since together we can work to achieve a brighter
future for the Palestinian community!

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EVENTS

National Bike Du Liban



65 participants from BAS/ Shatila and Burj Barajneh centers took part of the great event “The National Bike Du Liban” and enjoyed fun all along. The event was organized by Bike Lebanon on November 1st, and the track started from Beirut waterfront till Al Manara district in Beirut for the purpose of supporting the conversion to a more eco-friendly form of transportation.



Chess Closing Ceremony

By finishing the Chess game course offered by the Palestinian Chess for Forum two months ago, 21 students from Shatila and Burj Barajneh centers graduated from the chess course and received official certificates on November 6th.



Orphan Fair Event-LAU

100 KG children from Nahr El Bared and Beddawi centers participated in the Orphan Fair event organized by LAU in Byblos Campus on November 28th. The children enjoyed the full entertainment plan including games, dancing, hand and face painting, drawing and many other games, along with distribution of small gifts.



Assumoud Sports Teams

Assumoud Sports Club in Nahr El Bared center organized a ping pong tournament as solidarity with Al Aqsa martyrs on November 15th. 25 PRS and PRL players participated in the play and the international player Mr. Jalal Yafawi won the first place.

Participating in the football league organized by Bayt Al Mukaddas Club in Nahr El Bared camp, Assumoud Sports Syrian Teams won the second place on November 23rd.



BAS Music Band in Norway

Within the Cultural Exchange Program with NORWAC, and under the invitation of Jessheim Senior High School in Norway, a group of music trainers and music students from Rashidieh center visited Norway from November 17th till 27th. They represented the Palestinian culture, and they exchanged music and dances with the Norwegian students. The visit was rich in cultural and recreational activities, including music workshops.



Learning Disabilities Conference

On November 25th & 26th, a staff from BAS participated in the conference organized by the Institut Europeen de Cooperation et de Developpement (IECD) on Learning Disabilities moderated by two specialist from USA and Dubai. The conference aimed at raising awareness among medical and paramedical staff, as well as social care providers.



Signing Ceremony – UNRWA

With the imminent release of the Service Contract related to the Community Targeting Sensitization Sessions on Mental Health related issues, BAS signed a partnership with UNRWA Lebanon Field Office in Beirut on November 16th. The field procurement and Logistics officer Mr. Ram Trivedi signed the agreement with the General Director of BAS Mr. K.A. The partnership falls in the framework of the European Union-funded project, 'SPRING - Improving the living conditions of Palestine refugees in Lebanon' that aims at promoting partnerships, reforms and inclusive growth.

Over the period of eight months starting on 18 November 2015 and ending on 17 July 2016, the Family Guidance Centre's specialized psychiatrists and psychologists will conduct sessions on a monthly basis in Palestine refugee camps across Lebanon, including Nahr El-Bared and Beddawi in the North, Wavel in Beqaa, Burj Barajneh in Beirut, Ein El Hillweh in Saida, and El Buss in Tyre, that encompass the provision of counselling and guidance on psychosocial support to parents and families of children and youth with disabilities.



Deserve to Be a Member!

Based on the long history of BAS and the proficiency of its Social Work, it is worth to announce its active membership in the Arab Social Work Association created by the Association of the Arab Universities.



The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People & Partition of Palestine

On the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People and partition of Palestine designated on November 29th, 1947, BAS commemorated this great day in all its centers and organized national, art and cultural activities including sit-in, music show, handicrafts etc... KG Children, children with special needs, remedial education children, sponsored children, parents and other NGOs took part of this day expressing their solidarity and affiliation to their home land Palestine.

BAS achieved two ends with a single effort. The first one was the solidarity day with the Palestinian People, and the second was "Women can Do it" Project supported by the Norwegian People's Aid organization (NPA). Based on both, BAS organized an open day on November 27th in Rashidieh center. Burj Shemali, Ein El Hillweh, And El Buss centers participated in the event in addition to 140 participants including parents and NGOs. The event included speeches on the solidarity day and the role of women and her integration in the society, in addition to the useful games and activities that aimed at increasing awareness towards a successful community.

Since BAS has a relation with ESCWA since a long time. It participated in the Palestinian Heritage Exhibition organized by ESCWA in the presence of BAS General Director Mr. K.A on November 27th. BAS embroidery works had a special corner in the exhibition aimed to show the uniqueness of the Palestinian culture.

Burj Barajneh and Shatila centers commemorated the occasion in a special way. They took advantage of the music band and organized a music show in Shatila center on November 29th attended by 70 mothers of the musician children. Al Kamandjati organization had a vital role in training the children.



Palestinian Heritage Exhibition

BAS shared with its embroidery works in the Palestinian Heritage Exhibition organized by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee from November 26th till 29th in Khan Al Iفرanj-Saida. The deputy Mrs. Bahiya Al Hariri, the mayor Mr. Mohamad Al Soudy and the representative of the Palestinian Parties Mr. Fathi Abu Al –Ardat were among the prominent persons who attended the event.



Donations-Thank You!

- Supported by ANERA, BAS received 900 shoes to be distributed on the KG children in all its centers. 563 remedial education children received stationary bags.
- BAS distributed fuel for heating on 650 families displaced from Syria under the support of the Japanese organization "Campaign for the Children of Palestine" (CCP-Japan).
- The Palestine Children's Relief Funds distributed 46 milk bags on the KG children of BAS in Burj Barajneh center.
- Doctors without Borders distributed 15 anti-lice shampoo for the KG children.





Wash Awareness Campaign in the Palestinian Gatherings - UNDP

Sessions and a series of activities

Within the second phase of the United Nations Development Programme project “Wash Awareness Campaign in the Palestinian Gatherings” run in North of Lebanon and Beqaa, BAS performed different useful activities tackling health issues with children and parents on weekly basis during November.

Cleaning Campaign

Nahr El Bared and Beddawi centers organized a cleaning campaign in both camps in participation with 100 volunteers on November 8th. The campaign aimed at keeping the environment safe and healthy.

Puppet Theater Show

BAS centers in the North and Beqaa organized theater puppet shows on November 20th & 22nd. 250 children from the North and 450 from Beqaa enjoyed the play that aimed at increasing the children awareness on the importance of keeping the environment clean.



Open Day

For the purpose of increasing the awareness of people in Beqaa towards a healthy and safe environment, BAS/Ba'albek center organized an open day on November 29th. 230 mothers and children participated in all the useful activities performed by animators and activators from Nahr El Bared center.



Hairdressing Course

13 females from Beddawi have finished their intensive hairdressing course in Beddawi center on November 12th and corrected their clients' misconceptions on head lice and benefited as well from a lice treatment course.

EDUTAINMENT

Remedial Education-Workshops

Exploring their Intellectual Potentials!

Teaching the children how to use their intellectual potentials is an important activity that allows them to think how to defeat the problems they face. The remedial education children in Shatila center worked with their teachers on finding solutions concerning the spread of the irregular electric wires spread in the camp on November 7th. The children suggested that precaution is an important issue that all the people should follow and be aware of in order to avoid harm and death accidents especially in winter.

Burj Barajneh center performed a drawing activity with the talented Remedial Education children under the title "Drawing in Tones and Values" on November 13th. The workshop will be held on weekly basis under the support of CCP-Japan, aiming at exploring the creativities and potentials of the children.



Mothers' Awareness Sessions

Early Childhood-IECD

85 mothers from Shatila and Burj Barajneh centers attended the learning difficulties session organized in coordination with IECD on November 10th & 11th.

In addition, 50 mothers from Ein El Hillweh center participated in the child development session organized in the center on November 26th.

Family planning and vaccination

108 mothers from Burj Barajneh and Shatila centers attended the family planning and vaccination sessions organized under the support of CCP-Japan in cooperation with Dr. Ikhlas Mustafa from BAS reproductive Health clinic on November 19th & 20th.



Entertainment

Supported by CCP-Japan, 78 Remedial Education Children from Burj Barajneh center went in trip to Moussa Castle on November 22nd.



Family Guidance Centers

Touching Minds Raising Dignity

Within the project “Touching Minds, Raising Dignity” in partnership with the Handicap International, and over the period of a month starting on November 24th and ending on December 23rd, social workers from FGC El Buss will give awareness sessions in Rashidieh and Burj Shemali centers for the KG mothers. The sessions encompass topics tackling behavioral problems, bedwetting, stuttering, and psychological pressures.



Mothers' Committee-FGC Saida

FGC Saida conducted a workshop with the mothers' committee on November 30th. The workshop tackled the importance of playing with children in a way to develop their intellectual potentials, skills and abilities.



Internship

BAS gave the opportunity for 13 graduate students from Imam Moussa Sadr foundation to get an internship in El Buss family guidance center (FGC) running the mental health program. They are all going to participate in all the activities and sessions performed within the mental health program.

MSN Program-Evaluation

In order to evaluate the degree of benefit from the Multiple Special Needs program (MSN), the FGCs of BAS gathered the beneficiaries' parents from FGCs El Buss and Saida on November 16th, and discussed the benefits achieved within the program for the possible continuation of the program.

The evaluation was done through questionnaires and focus groups conducted with the parents.

The result was successful where all the parents agreed to continue attending the program for its efficiency and positive impact.



HEALTHIER WITH BAS

Dental Care

For November, 880 children received dental treatment in BAS dental clinics.

Added to the 3599 checkup that took place in BAS dental clinics in October, 1434 children checked their teeth in Nahr El Bared dental clinic during November.

460 children received awareness sessions that tackled topics related to dental care issues.

309 mothers received awareness sessions that increased their awareness concerning different issues related to dental hygiene.



Pediatrics

451 children received treatments by the pediatrician Mr. Sameh Jaber in the pediatric clinic of BAS in Nahr El Bared center.

15 mothers had the chance to attend sessions on the proper use of medicines and the effects of their misuse on November 14th.

Reproductive Health & Peer Education Program

OPEN DAY

Your Choice Defines Your Life!

This is the title of the open day organized in Burj Shemali center on November 6th within the Reproductive Health and Peer Education Program in coordination with MAP organization.

The open day aimed at increasing the awareness of people

Concerning the social lesions faced by the youth in the community, and their role in building a successful community. The open day included different useful educational and recreational activities, including theatrical show and other games that were impressive and enjoyable for more than 200 participants.



Awareness Sessions

BAS centers organized monthly awareness sessions targeting different age groups in the Palestinian community. It is very important to follow the people in the community and increase their awareness concerning misconceptions on different real issues.



Peer to Peer Training

The Technical coordinator who is responsible for the Reproductive Health and Peer Education Program in BAS Ms. Dunia Fatayri received training for 10 days by IRC on Case Management. Based on that, she was selected by IRC to train 14 workers from different NGOs in UNHCR office on November 30th,



Psychosocial Support Program

The International Day of Child Protection

BAS celebrated the International Day of Child Protection and organized a week of awareness campaign starting from November 19th till November 30th in the centers embracing the psychosocial support program. During the week, each center organized useful activities and awareness sessions in participation with children and parents. Games, acrobatics, puppet shows, and other recreational and educational activities were enjoyable and beneficial for all the participants (290 participants from El Buss, 275 from Rashidieh, 200 from Burj Shemali and 450 from Nahr El Bared). As an appreciation for the participants, BAS presented gifts for all.

Fun with I DEAL

Burj Shemali center accompanied the children participating in the I DEAL theme to Tyre Public Park on November 15th.



Parents Deal Closing Ceremony

Nahr El Bared center finished 13 parents deal sessions and organized a closing ceremony on November 25th in participation with 20 mothers.



Relationships

General Director's Meetings

The General Director of BAS Mr. K.A met the Program Coordinator Mrs. Kristil Haraldstad from NORWAC and discussed the workflow of the common projects on November 12th & 30th.

He met the Program Officer in UNICEF Mr. Nazih Ya'coub on November 13th and discussed the support of BAS Kindergartens.

Staff Meetings

Mental Health

Since BAS has a successful history in the mental health activities, El Buss center is participating in the monthly Task Force Meeting of the National Mental Health Project released by the government. This project aims at overseeing community guide reviews, considering review results and their implications on public health practice and policy, making recommendations for interventions shown to promote population health, identifying areas within the reviewed topics that need more research.

Dibs Vocational Training Center

In coordination with ANERA, BAS met the students who received scholarships to study in Abdul Hadi Dibs Vocational Training Center on November 24th. The students started participating in the activities run in BAS on weekly basis in Shatila and Burj Barajneh centers.



Visitors

Follow up Visit

The Coordinator of the Dental Care project in BAS Dr. Faizah Masri went to Beddawi and Nahr El Bared centers on November 10th and visited the dental clinics for follow up.

Prima Materia-Italy

The two coordinators of the Community Music project run in FGC Saida and Beddawi center Ms. Rebecca Brown and Mr. Dario Gentili were in visit to Lebanon from October 28th till November 6th. During their visit they met the teachers of the community music project and attended some of the lessons with the children. They also met BAS coordinators Ms. Lilian Younes and Ms. Layal Hakim and discussed the continuation of the project.

The Head of Prima Materia-Italy organization Mrs. Deborah Parker paid a visit to Lebanon from November 16th till 23rd. She held supervision meetings in FGC Saida and Beddawi with the Music Therapy Trainee.

She met the Mental Health Coordinator in BAS Ms. Lilian Younes and discussed the proposal of the project "Developing music therapy and music resources in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon" to be submitted to Welfare association.



Mrs. Sirkku Kivisto in Lebanon

The Finnish project coordinator of FIPSR and FAFS organizations and the board member of FIPSR Mrs. Sirkku Kivisto visited Lebanon with the two Finnish friends Mrs. Agneta Parkki and the Professor Mr. Hannu Juusola from November 18th till November 26th. They met the General Director Mr. K.A in the main office, and Mrs. Kivisto held meetings with FGC staff in FGC Beirut office to discuss and check the workflow of the common ongoing projects. In addition, they paid field visits to BAS centers along with visiting sponsored children. They conducted meeting with the members of the Palestinian Popular Committee in Shatila and discussed the camp's problems especially the potable water problem.



Hosting

BAS hosted Majed Abu Shrrara media foundation in Mar Elias center on November 3rd to organize poetry evening.

Interviews

Yasunori Kawakami-Japan

The Japanese Journalist Mr. Yasunori Kawakami conducted an interview with the General Director Mr. K.A in the main office to make a documentary about BAS history on November 11th.

He made field visits to Shatila and Burj Barajneh centers and conducted interviews with families displaced from Syria and with some workers asking about the services provided by BAS. He also went to FGC Saida and conducted interviews with the center's director Ms. Ibtissam Khalil and some sponsored families.



Nacamulli Edgardo-Italy

The Italian Journalist Mr. Nacamulli Edgardo was accompanied to BAS with the two Italian friends Mr. Mauro Bertozzi and Mrs. Marinella Corongiu. They visited Burj Shemali on November 19th and the journalist made reportage about a family displaced from Syria living in the camp. On November 24th, they spent time in Shatila center getting information about the activities and services provided. In addition, they conducted an interview with the General Director Mr. K.A on November 25th talking about the Palestinian cause and the right of return.



Nothing is Impossible



Shams' Family

Mr. Khaled Sham's family is a sponsored family in Ba'albek center. It consists of 6 members; the parents and the children. The father works as a porter to ensure his family's needs although he suffers from a bad

health situation which prevents him from work. The mother is illiterate and doesn't work. The children are still studying in UNRWA school. The social and economic situation of the family is not good; they lost their home in Tal Al Zaatar camp, and lived with their father's family in a rented house paid monthly by the grandfather in Al Galilee camp. They lack stability, calmness and comfort.

Fortunately, BAS sponsored the family, and the mother started participating in the center's activities. She learned embroidery works, and started working in BAS project "Embroidery" to receive wages and ensure her family needs. The mother's participations in BAS activities were reflected positively on her personality. She became stronger and more responsible, and she started thinking to work more in her free time. In addition, she decided to sell clothes and make foodstuffs (Kishk, Makdous ...). Consequently, the family's financial situation improved gradually and they moved to another rented house away from the father's family. Now, the family members are more comfortable, stable and independent, and the children are continuing their studies.