



Newsletter

September 2016

Volume 3, Issue 9

Special Interest News:

- ♣ About Beit Atfal Assumoud
- ♣ Family Happiness Project
- ♣ Dental Care Program
- ♣ Back to school
- ♣ Reproductive health and Peer education
- ♣ Commemoration of Sabra and Shatila Massacre
- ♣ It's not a goodbye, it's a see you later to Maurizio
- ♣ Meetings
- ♣ Sports
- ♣ Distributions and Visitors
- ♣ Participation
- ♣ Achievement
- ♣ Let us remember!!

Let's continue ...



Beit Atfal Assumoud newsletter is a publication that includes implemented works and activities of the institution and its centers over the course of one month. We have been working on providing services for Palestinian refugees living in the camps of Lebanon for 40 years.

About Beit Atfal Assumoud

Beit Atfal Assumoud is a 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.

“Remember that all through history, there have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they seem invincible. But in the end, they always fall. Always.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Contact BAS at:

Telephone: +961 1 859 076 **Fax:** +961 1 859 071 **Website:** www.socialcare.org **P.O.Box:** 135621/Chouran
+961 1 859 076 **Email:** NISCVT@socialcare.org **Fb:** BeitAtfalAssumoud Beirut 1102-2060-Lebanon
+ 961 3 233 073

Family Happiness Project

Awareness Sessions and Workshops

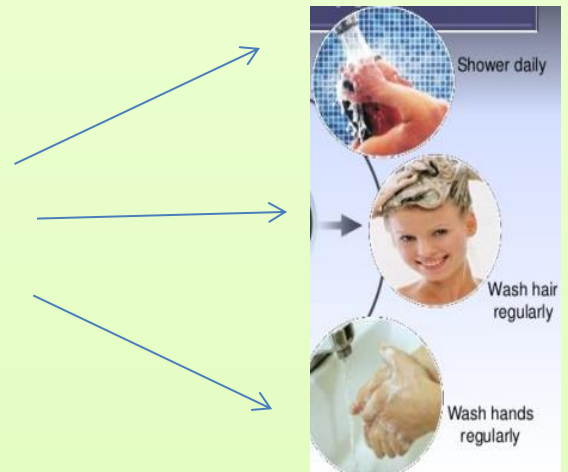
The maintenance of personal hygiene is as necessary as food and water that's why one of the main goals of BAS is to educate the refugees to adopt and develop good hygiene practices to protect them from infectious diseases and develop positive attitudes towards good health practices.

Unfortunately, camps in Lebanon are in need for the basic facilities required for healthy living.

BAS succeeded in organizing sessions for woman in the centers to educate them about the complications they may face if they don't pay attention to the issue of hygiene. In addition, at the end of each session the mothers were provided with hygiene kits.

During September, Miss Waela Auouti from Doctors without Borders Organization was present to give an awareness session under the title "personal hygiene" at Bourj El Barajneh.

Several sensitization sessions (stress management, emotional management) were moderated by the FGC professionals within the partnership project with UNRWA at Beddawi, Rashidieh and Burj al Barajneh camps during that month in order to improve the living conditions of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.



Dental Care Program

It has always been important for BAS to keep a beautiful smile on our children's faces. Our Doctors have managed to give sessions about the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions of the oral cavity for KG children in all camps in Lebanon. Sessions were also given to the students of remedial classes under the subject maintenance of teeth and the harmful and beneficial food for healthy teeth. As dentist from our centers has prepared visits for children to the dental clinic and gave instructions. In addition, children and families are being encouraged to attend all workshops and sessions concerning the dental care.





What we learn with pleasure, we never forget.

Alfred Mercier

Here we go, a new year with joy and fun has started at BAS. With a smile, all teachers welcomed the children for the beginning of the new academic year of 2016-2017. BAS's children will benefit from all the services during this academic year.

During September, BAS opened its classes for PRL, PRS and Syrian children. For this year, BAS will have in its seven centers 7 nursery classes with 195 children, 11 KG1 classes with 278 children, and 7 KG2 classes with 192 children. A total of 665 children are present in our kindergartens composed of 480 PRL, 66 PRS, 97 Syrian, 20 Lebanese, 1 Jordanian, and 1 UAE. In addition, BAS started the remedial education program in 21 classes inside 7 centers each operating 3 classes. Last year, there were 2 classes in Bourj El Shemali and Ein El Helweh for Palestinian refugees from Syria sponsored by the Finish embassy that are unfortunately closed for this academic year. However, BAS opened two classes for school drop-outs in each Ein El Helweh and Baalbek and Bourj El Shemali centers, and two classes for students with special needs in Ein El Helweh and Bourj El Barajneh centers.



Reproductive Health and Peer education

The peer educator, Miss Dunia Al Fatayri gave several sessions on risk behaviors that included smoking, drugs, argyle, and miss use of social media for some of youth from BAS Beirut centers at Bourj El Barajneh. Furthermore, the sessions included motivational activities in order to motivate them for continuous participations.



In order to draw a smile on the children's faces, BAS's teacher of special needs students at Bourj Al Barajneh center prepared activities which included housekeeping, drawing and coloring to develop the skills of those students.



Because behavior problems shouldn't be ignored. It is important to be careful from the beginning about children's behavior. Within the reproductive health project, a lecture was given to mothers from Bourj El Shemali and Shatila about behavior problems during 20 till 25 September.



Commemoration of Sabra and Shatila Massacre 34

The General Director of BAS Mr. Kassem Aina welcomed the Italian delegation “Not to Forget Sabra and Shatila Massacre and the Right of Return” on September 11th. Their visit aimed to commemorate the massacre that was committed by Israel and its allies before 34 years where around 4000 victims were martyred. 39 participants from Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Finland, USA, and Britain participated in the commemoration. The delegation started their tour in September 12th; they visited the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and met some of Sabra and Shatila massacre martyrs’ families, and some Palestinian families displaced from Syria. Assumoud music band from Al Rashidieh center presented a national folkloric show that was impressive to the whole delegation. Moreover, they paid visits to BAS centers in Shatila, Burj Barajneh, Nahr El-Bared, Mar Elias and Rashidieh. Finally, their last station was the cemetery of Sabra and Shatila massacre on September 16th. In collaboration with Al Ghobeiry municipality, our children from all Palestinian camps came to join the march from the cultural center of Al Ghobeiry municipality towards the cemetery where they laid coronas on the graves of the martyrs.



It's not a goodbye, it's a see you later to Maurizio

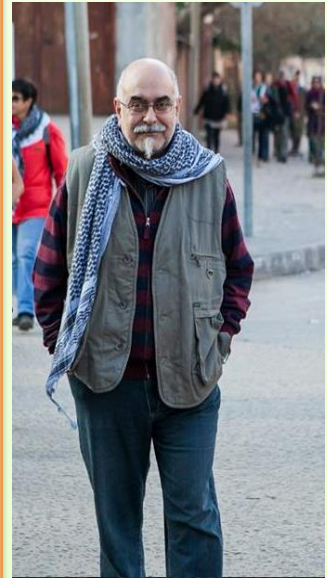
Our beloved friend and dearest comrade Maurizio Musolino passed away after suffering from illness. We were as usual waiting for Maurizio to join us for the memorial of Sabra and Shatila Massacre. Yes, he was always one of us during this occasion. All friends in Lebanon were asking about him and missed his presence. We didn't know as well as our entire friends that you will leave us so soon before a week of the memorial.

On our visit to Modena on February, 2016, you welcomed us with your inseparable smile during Mr. Mahmoud Al Jomaa's participation in Stefano Chiarini prize.

It is important to mention that on March 8th, Mr. Kassem Aina General Director of BAS went to Modena to visit our dear Friend Mr. Maurizio Musolino with some members of the Italian committee "Not to forget Sabra and Shatila" since Maurizio has been in hospital for more than one month. Mr. Maurizio was glad to see Mr. Kassem Aina despite his suffering he smiled and mentioned that he will always cherish the Palestinians.

You insisted on following up with the triumph of our people and interacting with them. You dedicated your life in order to struggle for the freedom and independence of our people also in favor of the values of freedom, equality, democracy and peace. You were a solid fighter against all forms of discrimination and terrorism in all his forms and methods. We will you as a dear friend and a loyal supporter to the Palestinian cause. Thank you and may you rest in peace.

We promise that we will continue to revive the memorial of Sabra and Shatila Massacre and we will cherish your memory until our people find justice.



These picture were taken on September 2016

Meetings

1) General Director's meetings

On Thursday Sept 21, 2016 Mr. Kassem Aina, NISCVT general Director, had the pleasure to welcome Her Excellency Ms. Lene Lind the Norwegian ambassador and her assistant Ms. Anne JOREM together with Mrs. Manal Kortam ,the development officer at the embassy, at his main office. They had a fruitful meeting and discussed BAS services and the future collaboration between BAS and the Norwegian embassy to support BAS Projects.

2) Family Guidance Center's meeting

First, Mr. Kassem Aina had a meeting in his office with Mr. Philippe Dicquemarre and Mrs. Mrs. Sarah Cheaib on 25 September, 2016 afterword on Tuesday 27 September, 2016 At FGC-Beirut as a continuity of the meeting with Mr. Philippe Dicquemarre and Mrs. Adeline Battier, representatives from Santé Sud, to discuss the implemented project during 2016 and the new proposed projects of partnership between Santé Sud and Beit Atfal Assumoud. The meeting was held in the presence of Mrs. Sarah Cheaib , chief of project in Lebanon , Dr. Madeleine Badaro Taha, psychiatrist and Ms. Liliane Younes, Mental Health program Coordinator.



A meeting was held on September 19 at FGC Beirut, to discuss the results of the midterm evaluation report prepared by Dr. Aziza Khalidi for the 2 projects financed by the FIAFS and the FPSR in the presence of Ms. Sirkku Kivisto, Dr. Muna El Khalidi, Dr. Madeleine Badaro Taha, Ms. Liliane Younes and Ms. Khawla Khalaf.



SPORTS

BAS always emphasizes the strong relationship between Lebanese and Palestinians as a matter of fact Thirty Four football teams composed of Lebanese and Palestinian participated together in the Lebanese Palestinian fraternity fourth football League that began on August 2016 with the support of the UNDP and concluded on September 2016 in collaboration with the Sports Committee of Nahr Al Bared and the Federation of Clubs of Akkar and sponsored by the Municipality of Benin chairman Dr. Kifah Al-Kassar. As always, our young Palestinian boys have raised our head with the victory of BAS team. The captain of the team and Mr. Abdalah Barake received a trophy.



Distributions and Visitors

On Friday September 23, 2016 BAS distributed food parcels for twenty PRL and PRS families living in Shatila camp through a donation from Mr. Gilbert Goh from Singapore



Tuesday 20 September, 2016, Mrs. Sirku Kivisto from Finland and Mrs. Monica Musri from Christian Cordai Foundation in Italy visited BAS Family Guidance Center in Saida to meet the sponsored children studying at special classes. The children were very happy from that visit and received gifts from the visitors.



Tuesday 13 September, 2016 A delegation of "Not to forget Sabra and Shatila" with the director Kassem Aina visited Nahr Al-Bared center and public park for children. On 14 September, the delegation also visited the Rashidieh Center where a folkloric performance was presented heritage for the occasion with the participation of Dabke troupe and the musical band from Rashidieh



Participations

The music students of Shatila and Bourj El Barajneh and Bourj El Shemali participated in a musical traditional ceremony hosted by Hourch Beirut Festival where BAS band performed music from classic and national Palestinians songs.



Our children from all camps such as the Ghuirab band and Scout participated in Sabra and Shatila commemoration. As they played Guirab and marched in honor of all the martyrs that left us during Sabra and Shatila Massacre.



On Friday 2 September, 2016 BAS Band from Bourj El Shemali played the Guirab at Beirut Theater. In addition, they presented a painting done by the band and met Mr. Hasan Al Said.



Achievement

Based on Data of studies, prepared by BAS's centers during the end of 2015. BAS organized trainings for the social workers in coordination with Welfare and MAP in order to improve, develop and reinforce the professional competence. The training started from the beginning of this year until June. Social work subjects such as of child protection, techniques of interventions, methods, anger and stress management etc.

Due to the success produced of this project, BAS is preparing to launch a second phase of training, which will extend until the end of the year to cover a variety of topics that seek to develop the personal and professional standard of the social workers.



Let us remember!!

This article was written by Ellen Siegel from USA a loyal supporter of BAS

September 16-18th, 2016 marks the 34th anniversary of the massacre in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut. Hundreds if not thousands of innocent Palestinian men, women and children were slaughtered in a most barbaric way by the Phalangists supported by the Israeli Defense Force.

I am once again in Beirut to commemorate this event as part of an international delegation hosted by Beit Atfal Assumoud (National Institution for Social Care and Vocational Training) which serves the needy Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian Palestinians refugees

We have visited the camps of Sabra & Shatila, Mar Elias, Bourj el-Barajneh, Nahr el-Bard, and Rashidieh. By far, Sabra & Shatila are the worst. Conditions continue to rapidly deteriorate (severe overcrowding, overflow of rubbish, lack of ventilation, narrow alleyways marked by flowing sewage, no trees, plants or green areas, lack of play areas for children, electrical wires hanging low. The saddest part is that there is no hope among the population that their lives will improve.

One is quickly reminded of the persistent problems of being a refugee.

Currently, there are Palestinians from 1948 and their descendants plus Syrian-Palestinian and Syrian refugees in need living in these camps. Living conditions have been made worse due to the decrease in funding and services from UNRWA and international organizations. Focus is now on the Syrian refugees but you cannot put aside the Palestinian problem. The infrastructure of the camps and the host communities in rural areas cannot handle all of these people.

The problem of the refugees must be solved. It is up to the international community to help, not to prevent them from coming to different countries. There is no solution without a political one. We must invest in empowering people. Justice is the key to putting an end to the inequality and lack of human rights. These people have the right of self-determination. Root causes need to be addressed.

And of course, the central issue – a just and sustainable solution to the Palestinian situation must be found, Palestinians must be allowed to return to their “historic land”- U.N. resolution 194 – the Right to Return must be implemented.

I was here for the Eid – the best part was seeing all the girls in the camps all dressed up in new clothes, wearing colorful bracelets and necklaces, ribbons in their hair. The worst part was seeing all the lambs being slaughtered!

Once again, the story of the massacre will be re-told, prayers will be said for those who died, and those who survived will be recognized as heroes.

Please take a minute during these days to remember.

Ellen Siegel