



# Newsletter

October 2015  
Volume 2, Issue 17

## Special Interest News:

- About Beit Atfal Assumoud
- Family Happiness Project
- Enlightenment
- We Care for You
- Reproductive Health & Peer Education Program
- Psychosocial Support Program
- Events
- Relationships
- Success Story

# You Give They Live



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.*

When you give, our community lives!

The second letter in BAS is Atfal which means children. Those are the children we care of; they are the generation who grown up to become youth, mothers and fathers. When you give, they live, when they live, they take the role of being survivors for independency and right of return. Here is the opening of the newsletter, below is the list of activities that we would like to share with you!

**Contact BAS at:**

Phone: 00961-1-859 076  
00961-3-233 073

Fax: 00961-1-859 071  
Email: NISCVT@socialcare.org

Website: [www.socialcare.org](http://www.socialcare.org)  
Fb: BeitAtfalAssumoud

P.O.Box: 13/5621 Chouran  
Beirut 1102-2060-Lebanon

# FAMILY HAPPINESS PROJECT

## Awareness Sessions

Monthly awareness sessions are given for the sponsored mothers within the Family Happiness Project in BAS centers. In coordination with the psychosocial support program and the reproductive health Project, sponsored mothers and children benefited from the sessions organized on different topics including dealing with children, Individual work, social intervention, social service and communication.



## Personal Hygiene

In cooperation with the Lebanese Red Crescent, 12 animators from Beirut Arab University performed an activity with 60 children from Shatila center aged between 7 and 12 years old on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The activity tackled personal hygiene issues, including a film and a sketch beside other activities that were beneficial for all the children.



## English Course

The volunteer Ms. Alina Frey from Germany started on October 28<sup>th</sup> teaching English language for 12 children in Grade 5 sponsored by BAS in Shatila center. The English course will be given on weekly basis for 2 months.



# ENLIGHTENMENT

## EDUCATION

### Music Lessons

Resumption of music lessons in Burj Barajneh and Shatila centers in coordination with Al Kamandjati organization on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



### Vocational Training

A new group of 15 girls started a new hairdressing course in Rashidieh center on October 12<sup>th</sup>. It will last for four months.



### Recreational Activities

Beside the monthly educational activities, 94 children enjoyed the outing to Al Sanayeh Public Park in Beirut on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, 12 children with special needs in Burj Barajneh were accompanied to Kaskas Public Park in Beirut on October 31<sup>st</sup>.



### Parents' Meetings

All BAS centers running the remedial education program and KGs organized meetings with the parents during October. These parents are part of the institution, and their cooperation is very important to develop both programs.



# WORKSHOPS

## It's Just a Paper!

Thanks to the support of the Japanese organization Committee for the Children of Palestine "CCP", the KG teachers in Burj Barajneh center participated in the workshop held on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The workshop aimed at teaching the teachers how to make handicrafts using papers.



## Learning Difficulties-IECD

The Institute European de Cooperation et de Developpement "IECD" is still continuing its monthly sessions with the KG teachers of Burj Barajneh and Shatila centers. On October 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, two workshops were given to them tackling learning difficulties and individual differences among children.



## MOTHERS COMMITTEE

On October 12<sup>th</sup>, all mothers involved in the mother's committee in the Family Guidance center (FGC) of Saida attended the multi topics workshop including communication and cooking art.



## Art Therapy

CCP organization organized an Art Therapy workshop in participation with 30 mothers of the Remedial Education children on October 13<sup>th</sup>. They all were happy to have the chance to participate and express their feelings.

## Lice & Scabies

Supported by CCP organization, 74 mothers of KG and remedial education children received information about lice and scabies infection and treatment in Burj Barajneh center on October 16<sup>th</sup>.



## Early Childhood – Welfare

As part of the Early Childhood program run by the Welfare association-Lebanon in Saint Joseph University-Beirut, the KG teachers of BAS attended an educational workshop held on October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. In addition, a group of KG teachers attended the educational supervision concept workshop held on October 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale – Sante Sud

In partnership with Sante Sud organization, two days training on Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale were organized for a group of 5 professionals in BAS FGCs Beirut and Saïda, moderated by Mr. Elie Abu Chacra.



## Breast Feeding

107 mothers attended the breastfeeding workshops organized by CCP and received towels, wipes and diapers in Burj Barajneh and Shatila centers on October 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.



## Stress Reduction – Finland

14 social workers of BAS participated in the Stress Reduction workshop organized by the Finnish friends Mrs. Nina Lyytinen and Mrs. Kirsti Palonen in Mar Elias center on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The workshop was followed by three hiking days to the mountain of Lebanon and Beirut Beach during the last week of October, in participation with social workers, FGCs professionals and children.



## Cultural Exchange Program

Mr. Vegar Storsve and his wife Mrs. Rina Birgitte Groenlund from the Norwegian Academy of Music – NORWAC, gave music training for the children and the trainers in Rashidieh center on October 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>.



## Pediatrics

The Pediatrician Dr. Sameh Jaber in Nahr El Bared center gave a session to 28 mothers about the way to deal with head trauma and its dangerous effects.



# WE CARE FOR YOU



3599 children from the KGs in all the camps, and sponsored children had the chance to check their teeth by BAS dentists.



189 children were happy to treat their teeth in BAS dental clinics



252 children received awareness sessions by BAS dentists, and 50 children enjoyed movies about dental care presented by BAS centers.



214 mothers from BAS and the other KGs became aware of the importance of BAS dental care program and received dental care sessions.

# REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & PEER EDUCATION PROGRAM

## Open Day

Beit Atfal Assumoud organized an open day within the Reproductive Health and Peer Education Program under the title “Your Choices Define Your Life” in cooperation with MAP organization in Beddawi center on October 9th. The open day aimed at spreading awareness concerning the risky behaviors facing our youth in the camps. It included a theater show that tackled the social lesions, in addition to educational and useful activities that were impressive for more than 150 participants. At the end, all the participants received gifts, and group photos were taken for all.



## Keys to Awareness

Social workers, specialists and peer educators of BAS are engaged in giving awareness sessions and conducting workshops for children, teenagers, youth including vocational trainees and mothers from BAS centers and from the camps. During October different sessions and workshops were held, and different issues were tackled and discussed, including peer education, peer pressure, cancer diseases, self-esteem, adolescence, early marriage, sexual harassment, communication, personal hygiene etc...





# PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

## Recreations

22 mothers from Nahr El Bared center enjoyed a trip to Akkar River on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

15 children aged between 3 to 5 years old were accompanied to a Public Park in the North within the Early Childhood group of the Psychosocial Support Program.



## Awareness Sessions

Within the Parents Deal Theme and in coordination with the social work, 20 new mothers from Rashidieh center had the chance to attend 4 sessions and learn about child growth stages, needs and desires, taking responsibilities etc...



# WASH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN IN The GATHERINGS BY UNDP

Awareness sessions were provided for adolescent girls and mothers in the Palestinian gatherings within the wash awareness campaign project, 4 social workers and a counselor from Nahr El Bared and Beddawi centers attended training by UNDP on October 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>.



On October 5<sup>th</sup>, 10 women from Bar Elias and Ghorro Barrack in Beqaa have finished their small hairdressing business in Ba'albek center and corrected their clients' misconceptions on head lice and benefited as well from a lice treatment course.



The eco-football tournament "We Score for an Environmental Community" launched on September 10<sup>th</sup> was concluded with a ceremony on October 11<sup>th</sup> in the municipality of Bebnin. The Lebanese Bibnin Youth and the Palestinian Yarmouk teams were awarded trophies as the first and second winners, and the other 256 players received sportswear.



# EVENTS

## International Day of Older Persons

As an appreciation for our elderly persons in the Palestinian camps, BAS centers celebrated the International Day of Older Persons designated on October 1<sup>st</sup> with groups of elderly during the first week of October. Some of them were visited in their home, others were invited to the centers and all were presented with small gifts as souvenirs.



## Donation – CCP & Flucht

633 Palestinian Refugees from Syria Families in Al Galilee camp in Ba'albek benefited from the distribution of food parcels by BAS in Ba'albek center during the first week of October. BAS is thankful for the support of the Japanese organization in Japan "Committee for the Children of Palestine" (CCP) and for the German organization in Germany "Fluchtlinge-Kinder".



## Mental Health Day – HI

In partnership with the Handicap International (HI) organization, a staff from the FGCs of BAS attended the Mental Health Day organized on October 6<sup>th</sup> at Monroe Hotel. During the event, and within the project "Touching Minds, Raising Dignity" the steps achieved within the new strategy of the ministry of public health, the Multidisciplinary approach implemented within the project through the HI activities.



## In solidarity with Palestine

Dabke Band in Rashidieh center introduced a folkloric dance in the ceremony organized by Al Galilee Development organization in Al Quds center for Youth in Rashidieh camp on October 13<sup>th</sup>. This was a solidarity stand with Al Aqsa and prisoners in Palestine.

Burj Shemali center organized a sit-in in front of UNRWA office on October 20<sup>th</sup>. All the KG children in the camp carried the flags of Palestine expressing their solidarity with Palestine.



# RELATIONSHIPS



## Palestinian Performing Arts Network-Al Kamandjati

BAS Music Bands became officially members of the Palestinian Performing Arts. This contributes to develop and enhance the organizations' self-expression and strengthen cultural identity in the Palestinian society by a vibrant art performing community.

## General Director's Meetings

BAS General Director Mr. K.A met the Program Coordinator Mrs. Kristil Haraldstad from NORWAC on October 6<sup>th</sup>. He met Mrs. Marta Petagna, the Director of Programs' in Lebanon from MAP organization on October 26<sup>th</sup>. In addition, he attended the meeting with Al Zaytouna center for studies and consultations discussing The Palestinian Existence Future in Lebanon on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Social Work Meeting

Dr. Rania Mansour the coordinator of social work in BAS met the social workers in Mar Elias center on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting aimed at creating new strategies to improve the social work in BAS.



## FGC's Meetings

- On October 6<sup>th</sup>, a social worker from FGC-El Buss attended the coordination meeting organized by Blue Mission organization under the title "South Mental Health and Psycho-social Support. The social worker presented a summary of the main services provided within BAS Mental Health Program.
- Together, Dr. Svein Staff, Mr. K.A and Ms. Lilian Younes participated in the meeting organized in FGC-El Buss on October 8<sup>th</sup>. An overall review of the activities was made, and plans for future steps were set.



- An evaluation of the Mental Special Needs program has been done at BAS FGCs of Beirut, El Buss and Beddawi with the parents of 23 children benefiting from a school sponsorship, medications and other related services provided last year. The evaluations will be continued in FGCs of Nahr El Bared and Saida in November.

## Hosting

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, BAS hosted in its center in Mar Elias the representatives of the Palestinian Political Parties and organizations' directors to unify the Palestinian Popular Committees in Lebanon.

# Visitors

## AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY

The Ambassador of Norway in Lebanon Mrs. Lene Lind, Dr. Svein Staff and the Program Coordinator Mrs. Kristil Haraldstad from Norway and the second Secretary in the Royal Norwegian Embassy Ms. Ane Jorem were all accompanied by Mr. K.A to Rashidieh and El Buss centers of BAS on October 9<sup>th</sup>. They got information about the centers' projects and programs especially the Cultural Exchange Program with Norway and the Mental Health Program. The music and dancing bands of Rashidieh center and the Bagpipes of Burj Shemali presented impressive shows that encouraged the visitors to participate and enjoy dancing with them.



## CCP-JAPAN

The General Director of the Japanese organization Committee for the Children of Palestine "CCP" Mrs. Yoshiko Tanaka paid a visit to Lebanon from October 19<sup>th</sup>, till October 24<sup>th</sup>. During her visit, she visited BAS centers in Shatila, Burj Barajneh, FGC Saida and Ba'albek, and she visited some of the Palestinian Refugees Families from Syria. In addition, she met the coordinators of the KG and Remedial Education Programs Mrs. Rania Khartabil and Ms. Layal Hakim, and Mr. Diab Kassem from the financial department in order to follow up the programs workflow.



## WALDENSIAN CHURCH-ITALY

Accompanied By the coordinator of the Dental Care Program Dr. Faizah Masri, two visitors from Waldensian Church-Italy Ms. Susanna Pietra and Mr. Marco Magnano paid a monitoring visit to Burj Shemali to check the music project performed by ULAIA association and the dental clinic on October 20<sup>th</sup>. They also paid visit to Shatila center.

## BAU STUDENTS-LEBANON

On October 21<sup>st</sup>, 8 students from BAU studying Psychology visited FGC-Beirut to have an idea about the services offered, the policy of work and the interdisciplinary team. They also met some of the staff.



## GLOBAL PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Mr. K.A and a group of KG children welcomed a delegation from the Global Progressive Forum on October 31<sup>st</sup>. They visited Sabra and Shatila Massacre cemetery, and laid a corona on the martyrs' Memorial, and then they moved to Shatila center. The non-humanitarian situations faced by the Palestinians and Syrians had a sad and negative impact on the group.



## ANERA-LEBANON

A staff from ANERA visited Burj Barajneh center and videotaped a documentary film on the KG children and the activities they perform on October 28<sup>th</sup>. They also conducted interviews with two teachers.

# SUCCESS STORY

## JIHAN ABU TABLA

Jihan is a twenty three years old girl from Rashidieh camp. She suffers from Epilepsy and psychological problems because of her parents' divorce. Therefore, she spends most of her time sleeping and alone.

Beit Atfal Assumoud had a strong influential role on Jihan's situation; the social worker in Rashidieh center intervened and started working on her situation. She encouraged her to come to the center and participate in its activities, and then she motivated her to join the hairdressing course in the center. Hence, she became sociable, approachable, and ambitious girl looking for learning and being literate. In order to make her dream come true; BAS assigned two days per week to teach her reading and writing. Jihan's situation is improving gradually, her participation in the center affected her positively; she became energetic, helpful, taking care of her physical appearance, helping her mother in the domestic house and integrating in the society.

