



# Newsletter

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# BAS ... Home For the Community



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 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.*

No one left behind the support of BAS!  
The first letter in BAS is Beit which means home. It's the home that embraces the children, youth, the elderly and guardians who are in need. We never deny the support we receive from our appreciated donors, partners, friends and colleagues in Lebanon and abroad to all needy persons. All the activities listed below are waiting for your precious time to share them with us.

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# Family Happiness Project

## Donations

Thanks to all the sponsors and donors who drew the smile on the faces of our sponsored families and children. In Eid Al Adha occasion, all the children sponsored in BAS and in the Family Guidance Centers (FGCs) were offered clothes and cash gifts to spend the Eid joyfully. Not only did they receive clothes, but also their families received meat portions from different donors and sponsors. The children in return sent greeting cards and thank you letters to the sponsors thanking them for their generous support.



Shatila and Burj Barajneh centers distributed 590 meat portions for families in the two camps donated by the Helping Hand for Relief and Development organization in coordination with Dar Al Fatwa.



## Awareness Sessions

The mothers involved in the family happiness project are still participating in the monthly meetings organized on different topics. A group of mothers of FGC – Buss received a lecture about immunity system by a doctor from Amel Association on September 8<sup>th</sup>. 32 mothers participated in the session given in Burj Shemali center on Adolescence; its problems and solutions on September 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition, 50 mothers from Nahr El-Bared center participated in the session that tackled family disintegration issue on September 30<sup>th</sup>.



# Let's Learn Again

## EDUCATION

*The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as we continue to live.*

*Mortimer Adler*

All the children enjoyed the fun summer and had a rest for three months. However, it's high time they returned back to school. It's the beginning of the year, all the children are energetic... ready to learn... and happy to benefit from all the services provided by BAS.

During September, BAS opened its classes for the Palestinian children from Lebanon and Palestinian refugees from Syria and the Syrian refugees from Syria. For the academic year 2015-2016, BAS opened in its seven centers 8 nursery classes with 199 children, 11 KG1 classes with 293 children, and 8 KG2 classes with 209 children. In addition, BAS started the remedial education program with 532 children enrolled in 30 classes inside 8 centers. Not only this, but BAS opened two classes for drop-outs in Ein El Hillweh and Ba'albek centers with 22 students, and two classes for students with special needs in Ein El Hillweh and Burj Barajneh centers with 28 students.

The teachers started performing activities with the children in order to motivate them, and encourage them to explore their potentials since the beginning of the academic year.





# Workshops & Awareness Sessions

## FGCs workshops

- 12 social workers of FGCs followed a 9 days intensive training on Community Based Rehabilitation-CBR, financed by Handicap International and moderated by Mr. Said Faraj from Egypt.
- In partnership with Sante Sud organization, a 2 days training on “TEA-CH” and “CPT” has been organized for a group of 5 professionals from FGCs Beirut and Saida moderated by Mr. Elie Abou Chacra.



## CHESS Game

A group of children started learning chess in Burj Barajneh and Shatila centers under the supervision of the trainers from the Palestinian Chess Forum. The trainings are taking place two days per week.



## Comics

20 youth from Beirut centers participated in the Comics workshop that was held in Mar Elias center on September 11th, under the supervision of the Art Project coordinator Mrs. Jamal Abu Saleh.



## Remedial Education Teachers

Thanks to the Japanese organization Committee for the Children of Palestine “CCP”, BAS remedial education teachers in Beirut, Ba’albek and Northern areas received training on September 17<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> in Mar Elias center. The trainings were given by the psychologist Ms. Lilian Younes on the child development, and by the animator Mr. Fadi Dabaja on performing activities performed for the children.



## Interactive Hygiene Promotion

Animators from Beddawi and Ba'albek centers completed an advanced training organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on September 29th. The trained animators would be leading interactive hygiene promotion activities with children in the Palestinian gatherings. The training was held in Crown Plaza Hotel for two days.



## Reproductive Health & Peer Education

During September, social workers and specialists in Burj Shemali, Nahr El-Bared and Beddawi centers organized awareness sessions that tackled issues beneficial to youth and women in the camps. Groups of youth and women learned about cervical and breast cancers, scabies and lice, Icterus, thalassemia, Peer pressure, communication, bullying, sexual harassment etc.... All these sessions aimed at increasing awareness among the people in the camps.



In addition, two days peer education training was given by the Technical Coordinator Ms. Dunia Fatayri for a group of Palestinian teenagers in FGC Saida.

## Psychosocial Support Program

As part of the Psychosocial Support Program, 23 mothers participated in the sessions organized within the Parents Deal theme. They received 5 lectures on child development, rights and responsibilities, needs and desires by social workers from FGC-Buss.





# EVENTS

## **Commemoration of Sabra & Shatila Massacre**

The General Director of BAS Mr. K.A welcomed the delegation "Not to Forget Sabra and Shatila Massacre and the Right of Return" on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Their visit aimed to commemorate the massacre that was committed by Israel and its allies before 33 years where around 4000 victims were martyred. 14 participants from Italy, Malaysia, Finland, Norway, USA, and Britain participated in the commemoration, in addition to other 8 participants from the West Bank and Gaza strip representing the National Action Coordination Council, and the director of the refugees department in Ramallah. The delegation started their tour in September 14<sup>th</sup>; they visited the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and met some of Sabra and Shatila massacre martyrs' families, and some Palestinian families displaced from Syria. They also met Lebanese and Palestinian bodies and political parties. In addition, they visited Maroun Al Ras Garden and Tyre monuments and they passed by Rashidieh center. Assumoud music band of the 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 and Burj Shemali. Finally, their last station was the cemetery of Sabra and Shatila massacre on September 18<sup>th</sup>. They had marched towards the cemetery and laid coronas on the graves of the martyrs, after the speeches that were made in the cultural center of Al Ghobeiry municipality - Resalat Hall.



## Participations

- The bagpipes of Burj Shemali center participated in Meshkal Festival organized in Hamra-Beirut and introduced national music for the opening of their theatrical work on September 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Dabke group of Burj Barajneh center participated in Jabalna Festival in Ma'asser Ashouf on September 13<sup>th</sup>. This band was the only Palestinian band that introduced Palestinian Folkloric dances.



## Assumoud Sports Club

As part of UNDP Wash Awareness Campaign in Palestinian Gatherings, an eco-football tournament was launched with Assumoud Sports Club under the title "We Score for an Environmental Community" on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

34 Palestinians from Lebanon, Palestinian from Syria and Lebanese football teams participated in this tournament to promote peace as well as recycling and water conservation in their communities.





# MEETINGS

## General Director's Meetings

Mr. K. A met the head of Prima Materia -Italy organization Mrs. Deborah Parker. He met The Finnish project coordinator of FIPSR and FAFS and the board member of FIPSR Mrs. Sirkku Kivisto. He also met Dr. Svein Staff and the Program Coordinator Mrs. Kristil Haraldstad from NORWAC.

In addition, he met the Middle East journalist Ms. Marika Kataja-Lian from the Finland's national public-broadcasting "YLE" and then the vice president de Cap L'orient Agglomeration and the Conseiller municipal de l'orient Mr. Gwendal Rouillard on September 28<sup>th</sup>.



## Centers' Meetings

Dr. Svein Staff from NORWAC was in a visit to Lebanon from September 6<sup>th</sup> till 13<sup>th</sup>. He made field visits to FGC-Beirut and Beddawi; he met the staff and discussed the work development as well as the plan for the coming mental health conference in 2016.



The head of Prima Materia-Italy organization Ms. Deborah Parker and the Music coordinator Mr. Dario Gentili came to Lebanon and followed the music projects in FGCs and in Beddawi centers.



The Finnish project coordinator of FIPSR and FAFS and the board member of FIPSR Mrs. Sirkku Kivisto arrived Beirut on September 13<sup>th</sup>. She held many meetings with FGCs Staff and discussed the progress of the projects running in BAS. In addition, she met sponsored children within the MSN project to follow up their situation.



Ms. Munica Musri from Christian Codrai Foundation-Italy and Ms. Ursula Hayek from PalCH met sponsored children within MSN and Family Happiness Projects.



# INTERVIEWS

## Al Quds TV

Al Quds TV conducted interviews with some parents of Sabra & Shatila massacre martyrs on September 11th. Some of them were conducted in Shatila center and others in their homes.

## With 3 Palestinian Generations

In coordination with Shatila center, the Norwegian journalist Mr. Ole Christian Eklund conducted interviews with three different generations of Nakba, after Nakba, and today's generation for documentation.



# VISITORS

During September, BAS welcomed visitors from Lebanon and abroad. An Italian delegation from ULAIA organization visited Burj Shemali center on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. A Norwegian delegation from the Palestine Committee of Norway visited Shatila, Embroidery and Rashidieh centers on September 4<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Shatila center welcomed Mrs. Ellina Smyrriou from Cyprus and Mrs. Alina Frey from Germany on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. 15 students from Germany visited Sabra and Shatila massacre cemetery and made a tour in Shatila camp in the presence of Mr. K.A and Shatila center's director Ms. Jamila Shehadeh on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Moreover, a delegation from "IECD" visited Burj Barajneh center and distributed toys for the KG children on September 28<sup>th</sup>.





# SUCCESS STORY

## Marwa Jomaa - Family Happiness Project

Marwa is a sponsored child in BAS-Ba'albek center. She lost her father when she was in the kindergarten. She joined UNRWA School and continued her studies till grade 9, but unfortunately she failed the official exams. She decided to leave the school to avoid the mockery of her classmates and teachers because she is older than them. She started learning hairdressing in a vocational training institute in the camp, although she was dreaming to join a university. Consequently, the social workers in BAS intervened and helped her to enroll in a private school. They ensured the tuitions, and then she got a scholarship from the school. She continued her studies until grade 12 and she passed the official exams. Marwa now is studying Social Science in the Lebanese university for the second year with good academic performance, and she is dreaming to work in BAS when she graduates because she believes that they played a big role in giving her the opportunity to achieve her first dream.

