Annual Report 2012



The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training – 2012

I- Introduction:

As all agree, the logic of the human capital theory is based on the principle that education is an investment in people, and when successful individuals acquire knowledge and skills, they become human capital" (Arab Knowledge Report 2010/2011)

When we talk about creating **human capital**, we directly mean comprehensive reform in education that requires intensive political reform enabling an environment of freedom, accountability and social justice. In highly developed knowledge societies educational reform is a continuous process that goes parallel to the rapid progress in the new technology and furthermore focusing on building new digital societies. Hence, the knowledge gap between developed and under developed countries is enormous and this is having a negative impact on all aspects of life mainly quality of life, stability and world peace. Not to forget the phenomenon known as brain drain, that is depriving those countries from highly educated individuals, the essential pillars for progress.

Building knowledge must become a national target; it requires a technological infrastructure based on quality education that can build minds capable of producing thought and focusing on research methodology whilst enhancing the creativity and critical thinking of the young generation and their flexibility to create change.

From another side there is a fundamental link between education and a new labor market characterized by technological capabilities. Accordingly, development of technical education is a must; it is a vital step towards the age of knowledge and enlightenment. Being part of a region searching for a way to get out of a stagnant situation, we have no other options; time is far ahead of us, prompt actions are needed to get rid of an old system rotating in an orbit far away from the current world of enormous scientific achievements.

I- Family Happiness Project (FHP):

This project launched since the foundation of the organization is still considered the cornerstone of all other projects and services. Expanding along the years FHP currently includes diverse programs and activities that are people centered, addressing the needs of all family members with a main objective to develop their potentials and capabilities on all levels.

1. Sponsorship 2012:

| Center | Children | Females | Males | Families |
|------------------|----------|------------|------------|----------|
| Burj El Barajneh | 171 | 102 | 69 | 83 |
| Shatilla | 111 | 60 | 51 | 59 |
| Mar Elias | 44 | 26 | 18 | 20 |
| Baddawi | 208 | 100 | 108 | 96 |
| Nahr El Bared | 186 | 81 | 105 | 80 |
| Ein El Helwe | 146 | 78 | 68 | 71 |
| Rashidieh | 132 | 65 | 67 | 59 |
| Burj El Shamali | 166 | 92 | 74 | 70 |
| El Buss | 63 | 34 | 29 | 30 |
| Ba'alback | 72 | 35 | 37 | 39 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | 1299 | 673 | 626 | 607 |
| | | <u>52%</u> | <u>48%</u> | |

2. Art Activities:

"Drawing, painting, singing, playing an instrument, dancing or writing are ways to experience life, it is a way to communicate, a way to develop, a way to learn, and a way to get to know ourselves". (X-art report/FORUM).

The above words from our Norwegian friends are demonstrated in all activities presented to our children and youth which is an essential part of projects aimed at applying the active learning methodology, making learning an attractive and amusing process. In addition to that we have strong belief



that art is a therapy by itself for disadvantaged children that can create a positive change in their life, while from another side it can be used as an effective and colorful method to preserve our local culture.



| Art Activities 2012 | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|------------|------------|--|--|
| Activity | # of Groups | Participants | Females | Males | | |
| Dabkeh | 11 | 195 | 104 | 91 | | |
| Singing Groups | 8 | 78 | 37 | 41 | | |
| Musical Bands | 22 | 196 | 83 | 113 | | |
| Drama | 9 | 90 | 55 | 35 | | |
| Handicraft | 15 | 272 | 193 | 79 | | |
| Drawing | 11 | 235 | 138 | 97 | | |
| Photography | 2 | 12 | 5 | 7 | | |
| Comics | 8 | 45 | 29 | 16 | | |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>83</u> | <u>1123</u> | <u>644</u> | <u>479</u> | | |
| | | | <u>57%</u> | <u>43%</u> | | |

3. Cultural Activities:

The report received from our Norwegian friends at **FORUM** for" **Culture and International Cooperation**", gives an idea about their programs and activities with our children.

X-art: The culture education program

As the 3 year long X-art program was concluded in December 2011, the workshop-activity has been somewhat reduced in 2012, in order to give time to produce the X-art report, which was distributed to the institutions and all the participants in December 2012. This report, which also contains a DVD, has



been designed to function as a manual for the X-art participants in their implementation of the program in their work with children.

The workshops held in 2012, has mainly focused on repetitions. Two young Danes a music and literature students who have been residing in Tyre for most of the year, held workshops in music and literature on behalf of Forum. In addition, they also took part in the cross-institutional workshops arranged by the participants. Improvement was done to Rashidieh library.

Music:

Regular music activities every week were implemented in Rashidieh on Fridays and Sundays, involving children of different ages. Supported by FORUM students and teachers from the Norwegian Academy of Music have visited Lebanon for the 9th consecutive year and held workshops with children in Rashidieh.

In Shatila and Burj El-Barajneh Two Musical bands are active under direct support and training by al-kamanjati organization from Palestine.



Art:

The art activities continued in Beddawi and Rashidieh, with workshops held by the local staff.

The library in Rashedieh:

The library activities experienced revival efforts in 2012. An inviting corner was created for the younger children, furnished with a cosy carpet to sit and read on, in addition to improvement on the book display. A rise in interest, number of visitors and book lending has been reported.

| Activity | # of events | Participants | Females | Males |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cultural of groups & Library | 76 | 1299 | 793 | 504 |
| Lectures + Workshops | 143 | 2467 | 1486 | 981 |
| Exhibitions/ theatre/ TV Interviews | 56 | 4873 | 3161 | 1712 |
| Competitions | 20 | 3420 | 1885 | 1535 |
| Other (Kermes outside celebrations) | 6 | 600 | 360 | 240 |
| TOTAL | <u>301</u> | <u>12675</u> | <u>7685</u> | <u>4972</u> |
| | | | <u>60%</u> | <u>40 %</u> |

Cultural Activities 2012

4. Mother's Activities/ FHP 2012:



| Activity | Number Of Participants |
|---|------------------------|
| Monthly Meetings | 1623 |
| Mother's Day | 811 |
| Exhibitions/ Concerts/ theatre/ Films | 1182 |
| National Events/ Sabra & Shatila Massacre | 4735 |
| Health & Psychological Lectures | 1893 |
| Ramadan Dinners | 332 |
| Workshops | 386 |
| Women in the Society / Lecture etc | 410 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>11381</u> |

5. Sports Activities 2012:

| Activity | teams | Members | Females | Males | Coaches |
|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Football | 6 | 95 | 0 | 95 | 4 |
| Marathon | 10 | 196 | 85 | 111 | 12 |
| Ping Pong | 3 | 22 | 0 | 22 | 2 |
| Hand Ball | - | - | - | - | - |
| Basket Ball | - | - | - | - | - |
| TOTAL | <u>19</u> | <u>313</u> | <u>85</u> | <u>228</u> | <u>18</u> |
| | | | <u>27%</u> | <u>73%</u> | |



Participation in the Beirut Marathon supported by friends from Finland children, all camps eagerly attend. A series of sports events were organized between Naher el-bared clubs and the Lebanese town of Bebnine, as part of the reconciliation efforts between the Palestinians and Lebanese people in the North. In Addition to "Fun Festivals" for the children were implemented in the Lebanese towns and villages of Bebnine,

Minich, Muhamarah and Nahr el Bared camp. The program was funded and supported by the UNDP.

6. Scouts Activities:



| Groups | Members | Females | Males | Trainers/ Leaders | Females | Males |
|--------|---------|------------|------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| 32 | 558 | 294 | 264 | 61 | 37 | 24 |
| | | <u>53%</u> | <u>47%</u> | | <u>61%</u> | <u>40%</u> |

7. Embroidery Project 2012

This income generating project for Palestinian women is not only an opportunity for those women to provide extra income, but also to preserve the most beautiful part of our Palestinian heritage and try to add a modern touch by introducing new creative items and designs.

In 2012 a number of 85 women benefited from the project from different camps. That was under the supervision of two professional full time workers in Beirut workshop and four part time workers in different areas.

A number of 7,605 items of different sizes were produced including traditional pieces and new items in addition to special demands from our partners.

Our main partners in this project who are making remarkable efforts for marketing our products are mainly from Japan, Germany, Finland, Switzerland, Malaysia, and USA.





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8. Other Activities:

Among the implemented activities was participation in the annual exhibition at the UNESCO palace for the week of "Palestinian Heritage". Another exhibition took place at the American University.

As usual, special care to present some recreational activities for the women that included celebrations for the women's international day and the mother's day. A picnic was organized to Rashidieh camp, during which women from different regions had an opportunity to know each other.

From Italy some friends organized a session for the women on how to make fresh pasta.

A group of 40 young girls joined a one month course to learn the art of embroidery implemented through a special support from Germany (Fluchtlingkinder im Lebanon). The course included some computer training aimed at using this technology to create modern designs.

The main objective was to help those girls become financially productive and know how to help in preserving this part of their heritage.

A knitting program with the help of our friends in Finland started in Baalbeck , an area known for its harsh winter , so 15 women learnt to knit woolen items by attending a course for three months, once a week.

Accordingly, it is obvious from the above information that this project is developing to include other beneficial skills and entertainment activities that the women are in great need for.

II- Educational Services

1. Kindergartens

During summer 2012, the teachers worked hard in producing a new coherent curriculum that emphasizes an integrated approach and is based on active and interactive education where the children themselves, as individuals and in groups, are involved in activities that develop their skills and through which they acquire knowledge. The teachers also attended a workshop about how to make a project with preschoolers. Implementing "Projects" into the curriculum is necessary since it encourages the growth of the children's critical thinking skills and teaches them how to collect data, organize it and analyze it to come up with the required information. Some teachers also attended a "How to Write Stories" workshop at The American University of Beirut and are going to

present it to their colleagues to ensure that all the teachers will benefit from the workshop and thus apply it in their classrooms.

This year, an English teacher was hired in each kindergarten and the children are exposed to the language on daily basis to help them acquire it during early years. The teachers also worked on performing an English curriculum related to the new curriculum aiming at establishing an inquiry-based learning environment in which children are given the opportunity to realize their social, emotional and academic capacities.

Our kindergartens also aim at helping the children obtain knowledge and values and develop their cultural identity to become active members in the Arab Palestinian society. The teachers' main objectives are to motivate them become better citizens which contribute to achieving their rights.





Number of children in each kindergarten/2102

| Preschool | # of children | Male | Female | Teachers |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Shatilla | 113 | 52 | 61 | 5 |
| Borj Al-Barajneh | 72 | 32 | 40 | 4 |
| Ain Al-Helweh | 81 | 40 | 41 | 4 |
| Al-Rashidieh | 74 | 37 | 37 | 4 |
| Bourj Al-Shemali | 88 | 41 | 47 | 4 |
| Naher Al-Bared | 63 | 41 | 22 | 4 |
| Beddawi | 77 | 33 | 44 | 4 |
| Total | <u>568</u> | <u>276 49%</u> | <u>292 51%</u> | <u>29</u> |

Kindergarten Sponsorship 2012

| Center | # of children | Females | Males |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Buj El-Barajneh | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Shatilla | 21 | 11 | 5 |
| Beddawi | 55 | 25 | 30 |
| Naher El-Bared | 55 | 26 | 29 |
| Ein El-Helweh | 41 | 25 | 16 |
| Rashidieh | 43 | 22 | 21 |
| Total | <u>242</u> | <u>119 49%</u> | <u>123 51%</u> |

Mother's Activity/KG

| Activities | participants |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Meetings | 657 |
| Different activities with children | 737 |
| Local and National Events | 928 |
| Picnics with Children | 663 |
| Various Lectures | 594 |
| Total | 3579 |

2. <u>Remedial Classes 2012</u>

If a student appears to be significantly behind the expected level of a class, a teacher may require him/her to take a remedial class. These classes act as a safety valve for struggling students, allowing them to work at the level they are truly on, rather than fail because they are not on the level with the standards of the class.

Remedial classes can be a positive environment for students suffering from low self-esteem, as they are encouraged to ask as many questions as necessary to understand the subject, rather than feeling pressured to understand at once.

Special emphasize was directed this year for grades 1 and 2, in an attempt to help the children build their basic knowledge in the three main topics English,



mathematics and Arabic, as they are the most important to master at an early age. The results reflected itself in better school performance, satisfaction and comfort from the parents and school teachers.

| Center | Children | Females | Males | classes | Teachers | Females | Males |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Shatila | 61 | 29 | 32 | 3 | 4 | 4 | - |
| Baddawi | 56 | 28 | 28 | 3 | 3 | 3 | - |
| Nahr El Bared | 70 | 43 | 27 | 4 | 4 | 4 | - |
| Ein El Helwe | 35 | 16 | 19 | 4 | 2 | 2 | - |
| Rashidieh | 56 | 30 | 26 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Burj El Shamali | 57 | 29 | 28 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Ba'alback | 35 | 19 | 16 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>370</u> | <u>194</u> | <u>176</u> | <u>23</u> | <u>26</u> | <u>23</u> | <u>3</u> |
| | | <u>52%</u> | <u>48%</u> | | | | |

Remedial Classes 2012

English language classes:

Supported by LEAP organization, 56 volunteers from the USA organized English classes for our children in the camps of Beirut and the South; the program lasted for one month with that included teaching hours, recreational activities and picnics that made learning fun and attractive for the children.

| | | | • | | | | |
|------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Center | Classes | Students | Females | Males | Teachers | Females | Males |
| Borj El Barajneh | 1 | 23 | 23 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Baddawi | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ein El Helwe | 2 | 22 | 22 | - | 2 | 2 | - |
| Rashidieh | 1 | 14 | 14 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Burj El Shamali | 1 | 18 | 18 | - | 1 | 18 | - |
| Ba'alback | 1 | 12 | 12 | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>89</u> | <u>89</u> | - | <u>6</u> | <u>24</u> | - |

Classes for Drop out students 2012

Classes for girls with special needs

| Center | No. of Girls | Teacher |
|------------------|--------------|---------|
| Burj al Barajneh | 18 | 1 |
| Ein El-Helweh | 18 | 1 |
| Beddawi | 10 | 1 |
| Total | 46 | 3 |

3. Vocational Education:

NISCVT keeps on exerting enormous efforts to improve the vocational training education. Some of those courses took place inside our centers and others were implemented inside official schools through generous funds from RESCAT/Spain, ASBL/ Belgium, Fluchlingskinder/ Germany, ANERA and NPA/Lebanon.



The project for houses rehabilitation in southern Lebanon combined with vocational training on construction professions, continued with our partner RESCAT /Spain, and as a result 21 houses in Al Qasmieh gathering were repaired that improved the living conditions for the people. As mentioned above, eight construction courses were implemented in Bourj Al Shemali center where more than 123 youths benefited from the professional skills acquired during the course and the job opportunities that were ready for them.



In coordination with ANERA/Lebanon, a course on sanitary works was implemented in Naher El-bared center that benefited 15 youth. In addition ANERA offered thirty six scholarships on different vocational professions, while NPA offered additional thirty scholarships for Palestinian youth at Amlieh Institute.

In cooperation with ADPM/Belgium, three courses were implemented for sanitary works, hair dressing, and electrical works.

Fluchlingskinder/ Germany supported a course on sanitary works for 15 beneficiaries.

| Course Name | Courses | beneficiaries | female | male | No. of Trainers |
|----------------------|---------|---------------|--------|------|-----------------|
| Sanitary | 3 | 45 | 0 | 45 | 1 |
| English | 2 | 49 | 38 | 11 | 2 |
| computer Fundamental | 6 | 90 | 67 | 23 | 2 |
| Photography | 1 | 13 | 12 | 1 | 1 |
| Handicrafts | 1 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 1 |
| Aluminum | 2 | 24 | 0 | 24 | 1 |
| Sanitary | 2 | 30 | 0 | 30 | 1 |
| Electricity | 3 | 44 | 0 | 44 | 2 |
| Painting | 2 | 26 | 0 | 26 | 1 |
| Barbering | 2 | 38 | 0 | 38 | 2 |
| Hair dressing | 2 | 29 | 29 | 0 | 1 |
| | 26 | 400 | 158 | 242 | 15 |
| | | | 40% | 60% | |

Vocational Training 2012

Scholarships 2012

| Scholarship | Number | Females | Males |
|---------------------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| University | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Vocational Training | 66 | 35 | 31 |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>70</u> | <u>37 53%</u> | <u>34 47%</u> |

III- Health Services:

1. Dental Services



Good health requires good oral health. Yet, multiple factors exist that create barriers which prevent access to care for vulnerable and underserved populations such as children and poor communities.

Children learn best when they are healthy. One of the most overlooked and most important ingredients for overall well-being is good oral health. Oral health includes the natural development of children's teeth and gums from primary to permanent teeth as well as freedom from dental decay, care of broken and missing teeth, and the ability to have a beautiful smile. Poor oral hygiene can lead to failure to thrive, inability to concentrate and learn, because of chronic pain, misbehavior and infections that can lead to abscesses, severe systemic illnesses and even death.

BAS has been offering dental services since 1991 for children and families living in six refugee camps in Lebanon. Services include dental health education, dental screening, preventive care, diagnosis, treatment, and emergency services. Children may receive these services from dentists, dental nurses, health educators, and/or trained kindergarten teachers in a variety of settings. This ongoing, timely care and multi-faceted method ensures for better dissemination of services. This approach guarantees a greater likelihood for a positive outcome. In particular; it benefits at-risk children and low-income individuals living in the camps. A total of 7323 children age 3-12 and 1317 adults were all scanned

| Extraction | Amalgam filling | COMPOSITE | R.C.T | cement | PERIODO NTICS | X-RAY | Dentures & bridges |
|------------|--------------------|-----------|-------|--------|------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 696 | 948 | 8726 | 1239 | 1628 | 385 | 1291 | 748 |

Kind of treatment offered & Number of teeth treated

Dental Screening Results in the 7 Camps

| | Number of Screened children | Female | Male | Treated teeth | Untreated teeth | Extraction needed |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------|------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Beirut (3camps) | 2363 | 1143 | 1220 | 3251 | 3861 | 430 |
| South (2camps) | 1319 | 668 | 651 | 5370 | 7489 | 736 |
| North (2camps) | 2483 | 1159 | 1394 | 3049 | 1408 | 678 |
| Total | 6522 | 3193 | 3329 | 8496 | 10454 | 1582 |

Summary of Dental Treatment Conducted in all 7 Camps



2. <u>Reproductive and sexual Health Project</u>

In spite of the limited funds for this project during 2012, we had to find a way to sustain the important services of this project that has been successfully running since 2006 providing treatment, counseling, and awareness with a peer education program. To overcome the financial difficulty we had to ask for a symbolic fee in exchange for treatment and medication, and then reduce the doctor's working hours. The cooperation and assistant received from the doctors who voluntarily agreed to provide their services for very minimal fees, was an important factor that enabled us to continue. In addition to that MAP covered the salaries of the technical supervisor, one health counselor and one social worker.

However, due to the increasing number of patients from the refugees from Syria, who are given full services free of charge, we are hoping to receive extra funds to cover these specific needs and also include the refugees in the current awareness program for adults and peer education for youth. This also means additional working hours for the professionals is needed.

| centers | specialties | Patients number | female | male | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|------------|------|
| Burj El- shamali | Urologist | 363 | 138 | 225 | |
| | Gynecologist | 515 | 515 | 0 | |
| | Counseling | 878 | 653 | 225 | |
| | Awareness sessions | 9 | | | |
| | Beneficiaries | 102 | 102 | | |
| Total El-shamali | | 980 | 755 | 225 | 980 |
| Rashidieh | Urologist | 285 | 111 | 174 | |
| | Gynecologist | 385 | 385 | 0 | |
| | Counseling | 670 | 496 | 174 | |
| | Awareness sessions | 4 | | | |
| | Beneficiaries | 80 | 80 | | |
| Total Rashidieh | | 750 | 576 | 174 | 750 |
| Burj El- Barajneh | Urologist | 220 | 119 | 101 | |
| | Gynecologist | 593 | 593 | 0 | |
| | Counseling | 813 | 712 | 101 | |
| | Awareness sessions | 5 | | | |
| | Beneficiaries | 83 | 83 | | |
| Total El-Barajneh | | 896 | 795 | 101 | 896 |
| Beddawi | Urologist | 582 | 195 | 3387 | |
| | Gynecologist | 502 | 502 | 0 | |
| | Counseling | 1084 | 697 | 387 | |
| | Awareness session | 16 | | | |
| | Beneficiaries | 346 | 346 | | |
| Total Beddawi | | 1430 | 1043 | 387 | 1430 |
| Naher El-Bared | Urologist | 933 | 348 | 585 | |
| | Gynecologist | 461 | 461 | 0 | |
| | Counseling | 1394 | 809 | 585 | |
| | Awareness session | 7 | | | |
| | Beneficiaries | 72 | 72 | | |
| Total El-Bared | | 1466 | 881 | 585 | 1466 |
| All centers | Urologist | 2383 | 911 | 1472 | |
| | Gynecologist | 2456 | 2456 | 0 | |
| | Counseling | 4839 | 3367 | 1472 | |
| | Awareness session | 41 | | | |
| | Beneficiaries | 683 | 683 | | |
| Total all centers | | 5522 | 4050 73% | 6 1472 27% | 5522 |

Reproductive Health Youth Advisory Centers (YAC) 2012

Peer education program: This program continued with great popularity among the youth and was financially rescued through a generous support from the Norwegian Embassy in Lebanon; although the residential workshops were reduced to only one which was a great disappointment to the youth. 2012 was characterized by a special attention from UNFPA who invited two of our youth to participate in a workshop on the "Violence against Women", which took place in Jordan. The youth were required to organize sessions for their peers and reach at least 200 youth, which they did by reaching 235. This success lead to another cooperation with UNFPA in coordination with

Balamand University, when our team was asked first to organize two open days for the public presenting in different ways the theme of violence against women. The days took place in Beddawi for the north and in Burj El-Shemali for the south. The letter of thanks from UNFPA calling us great People and great team was the most precious reward. Another event was an invitation for our youth to participate in a drawing competition to celebrate the "International Day for Human rights". The big surprise was gaining all three prizes set for the competition that brought not only joy for our youth, but also boosted their self esteem. Thanks boys and girls you are the pride of our people. Again we emphasize here the importance of approaching the youth of the refugees from Syria.

Another new approach took place in Burj El-Shemali by starting working with a group of youth who are already involved in risk behavior. This was one of the project's main objectives which took it time to evolve being a very difficult step. Plans are under preparation to gradually consider having same experience in other cam





Peer Education sessions 2012

| Camp | sessions | Participants | Boys | Girls |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|--------|-----------|
| Burj El-Barajneh &Shatilla | 24 | 347 | 204 | 143 |
| Naher El-Bared & Beddawi | 21 | 366 | 104 | 262 |
| Burj El-Shemali, Rashidieh & El-Buss | 27 | 395 | 97 | 298 |
| Residential workshop | 1 | 23 | 11 | 12 |
| Total | 73 | 1131 | 416 37 | % 715 63% |





Two Awareness Days "Stop Violence against Women"

| Camps | Participants | Males | Females |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------|-------------|
| Beddawi & Naher El-Bared | 146 | 55 | 91 |
| Burj El-Shemali, Rahsidieh & ElBuss | 226 | 108 | 118 |
| Total | 372 | 163 | 44% 209 56% |

3. Family Guidance center for mental health services 2012:

During the year 2012 the situation in Lebanon was very much affected by the events going on in Syria. In addition a very shaky security situation was seen all over the country and more obviously in the northern part where recurrent clashes took place in a very frequent rhythm.

Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon inside the camps were equally affected by this general vulnerable situation and thus were more prone to psychological distress. The great need for mental health services for the Palestinian refugees was clearly seen during the year 2012.

A- FGCs COMMON ACTIVITIES

The paragraph below resumes the common activities organized and implemented at the 5 FGCs knowing that each center had certain specificities in some activities.

The Family Guidance Center in Beirut was following its task of coordination for the whole project. Field visits were done to the centers in the areas to meet the working teams, in addition to the regular staff meeting taking place separately in each center.

1. Sponsorship and referral of Special Needs Children Project

The Family Guidance Center was able to continue the "Sponsorship Program" for referring some children with special needs to specialized institutions. A number of 30 children from Beirut and the South benefited from this program in this program.

By October 2012, 30 children were included in the program for the school year 2012-2013.

Three associations contributed in financing the tuition fees of those children:

- The Finnish Arab Friendship Arab Society FAFS
- The Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility FPSR
- Association for the support of needy Palestinian children– PAICh Switzerland

2. Conference 2012

The annual conference 2012 on "Resilience" * financed by NORWAC was a step forward in the network established among the Mental health associations working in services provisions, studies and researches .For the year 2012 this event gathered a variety of speakers from different countries and backgrounds who presented various topics in relation with the concept of Resilience , under different perspectives. This event proved the importance of this platform in reinforcing the efforts done in the Mental Health Field especially for the Palestinian in Lebanon.

3. Trainees

Many trainees – university students - and volunteers were received during the year 2012 at the FGCs (mainly in Beirut and Al Bass) for observation but also to help in some specific /research tasks

4. Coordination with other NGOs and UNRWA

A solid network is gradually being created between the FGCs and various NGOs working in the Palestinian camps as well as UNRWA and other Lebanese, national and International NGOs.

5. Awareness sessions

Focusing on raising awareness within the community is part of FGC's policy. Accordingly, a series of sessions were organized aiming to spread knowledge and to work towards a preventive approach regarding mental health issues.

6. Task Shifting and Home based approach

This method was mainly adopted at FGC Al Bass and helped to serve a higher number of right holders by delegating some tasks to the social workers with a continuous supervision from the specialists.

Home visits were a vital part of the services provided at the 5 FGCs and helped draw a holistic figure of families' situations.

7. Internal evaluation

A regular evaluation was taking place according to a set agenda aiming to recognize points of strength and weakness in the provided services, and the best way to improve the negative factors.

8. Meetings with partners

Many partners visited the centers during the year 2012 representing the Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility, the Finnish Arab Friendship Society and others representing NORWAC/Norway.

A meeting was organized to gather representatives from various donors and discuss new strategy policies taking into consideration the donors' and their government's requirements.

B- TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS FOR THE FGCs STAFF

1. Mental Health Social Workers Training

12 social workers from the 5 FGCs attended training for "Mental Health Social Work" which started in November 2011 and ended up in March 2012. This training provided by a group of university teachers, doctors and professionals in Mental Health included a variety of topics and was financed by the Canada Funds in Lebanon.

2. Online Library search

Through a donation from the Norwegian partners – NORWAC- we were able to subscribe on an online library (Cochrane) for a six months period. In order to help the staff benefit from this opportunity. However, due to technical problems that we are trying to overcome created an obstacle to benefit from this service.

3. Music therapy Training

In June 2012 training on Music Therapy started in collaboration with two Italian NGOs "Prima Materia" and "Associazione Ulaia". A music therapist provided the training course in its theoretical and practical part to a group of 11 participants (therapists and social workers at the FGCs)

One supervision visit for follow-up was done. The project will continue until June 2013 and will be extended in case of available funds. Through the use of this method, a number of 35 children were followed and supervised by professionals at the centres.

4. Workshop on "Assessment "

A two days workshop was held with Ms Kaisa Kanerva from Finland on "Assessment". This workshop was attended by a group of psychiatrists and psychologists working at the different FGCs.

5. Conference on Social Trauma - Istanbul

Two clinical psychologists had the opportunity to attend the "International Psychological Trauma Meeting VII - Social Trauma: Consequences and Coping Strategies 'in Istanbul Turkey.

6. Workshop with Diakonia

Diakonia one of our partner donors organized a workshop in cooperation with Save Children/Sweden, on "Adaptation to climate change and the use of the Environmental Lens tool". Two representatives from FGCs attended the workshop.

A workshop on "Non-Violent Communication - Mass Media and Social Media" also organized by Diakonia was attended by 3 representatives from FGC.

C- FGCs – Figures 2012

| | Beirut | Beddawi | Nahr-el Bared | Al Buss* | Saida |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------------|----------|-------|
| New Patients | 135 | 143 | 92 | 162 | 115 |
| Psychiatry FU | 415 | 141 | 99 | 268 | 137 |
| New referrals to psychotherapy | 16 | 66 | 44 | 16 | 36 |
| Psychotherapy FU | 192 | 457 | 413 | 235 | 279 |
| New referrals to speech therapy | 17 | 12 | 24 | 10 | 56 |
| Speech therapy FU | 474 | 93 | 92 | 674 | 154 |
| New referrals to psychomotor therapy | 19 | 12 | 17 | 26 | 56 |
| Psychomotor FU | 337 | 144 | 102 | 634 | 171 |
| Evaluations | 32 | 41 | 06 | 38 | 34 |
| New referrals to special education | - | - | 08 | - | - |
| Special Education FU | - | - | 92* | - | - |
| Occupational therapy | - | - | - | 228* | - |

*The high numbers seen at FGC Al Bass are to be linked with the double projects financed by Diakonia and by Handicap International; a bigger staff is providing services there.

*Special Education is a service only available at FGC Nahr El Bared

*Occupational therapy is a service provided only at FGC Al Bass

D- Wrap up

To sum up it is worth mentioning that the year 2012 marked a transitive phase in the services and the projects implemented by the five Family Guidance Centres. An expansion of trust within the right holders as well as within the other NGOs and the solidification of the network with UNRWA and international partners proved an increased credibility in the activities provided by the centres. The involvement seen in the parents either in the treatment of their children at the centres or through their participation in the centres activities was a source of motivation to create more activities for them.

The services provided to the Palestinian refugees from Syria are increasing due to the continuous influx of refugees seeking security in Lebanon.

4- Naher El-Bared paediatric clinic

The clinic was opened due to the great need for specialized medical services for children of Naher El-Bared and is financially supported by Dr. Mahmoud Loubani from Canada. The clinic is open four days/week and two doctors are currently working there, assisted by a clerk and a nurse.

The total number of patients who received treatment from January till December 2012 was 2965 cases 1329 females and 1636 males.

IV- Staff 2012:

| Center | Full Time | Female | Male | Part time | Females | Males |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Burj El Barajneh | 11 | 10 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 |
| Shatila | 13 | 12 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Mar Elias | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | 1 | - |
| Baddawi | 14 | 12 | 2 | 10 | 7 | 3 |
| Nahr El Bared | 17 | 11 | 6 | 13 | 8 | 5 |
| Ein El Helwe | 12 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Rashidieh | 16 | 12 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| Burj El Shamali | 14 | 11 | 3 | 17 | 6 | 11 |
| El Buss | 8 | 8 | - | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| Ba'alback | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | - |
| Administration | 13 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 3 | |
| TOTAL | 123 | 97 79% | 26 21% | 76 | 47 62% | 29 38% |

Overall staff 2012

V- Emergency Relief Aid

In view of the current military violence in Syria since two years now, the influx of refugees both Palestinians and Syrians is increasing on daily basis. All support provided by different UN agencies and local and foreign NGOs, is not enough to meet the enormous needs of such a devastating catastrophe which is expanding on all levels.

It was normal for NISCVT, with the help of some partners, to share the responsibility of providing aid for the refugees mainly the Palestinian refugees who took shelter inside the camps or surrounding population clusters. Beside the in-kind aid that was distributed, we made our services available for those families by enrolling their kids in our kindergartens, opening classes for the children who dropped out from UNRWA schools, encouraging all children and youth to participate in the recreational activities. As for health services, all clinics working under the dental, mental and reproductive health projects, are providing treatment, medication and counseling free of charges.

A fun festival was organized in Naher El-Bared for the refugee's children during which they enjoyed the clowns, played games and received presents.

More future plans are being set to increase support for the refugees and include them in different activities, this depends on the generous support that we highly hope to receive from partners and international organizations.

VI- Conclusion:

Poor countries cannot continue being the source of cheap human labor for developed countries. In view of the quick pace in which smart technology is progressing, the need for cheap labor is diminishing. Consequently, we will end up in abject poverty, ignorance and alienation from the outside world rotating in an orbit far away from becoming part of the great achievements of the emerging new renaissance.

The Arab region carries a burden of three solemn religions that are deeply rooted in all aspects of life, and a rich history of scientific achievements that contributed a lot to the human civilization. However, it is due time to stop the on-going dialogue with the past and start a serious dialogue with the present and future, where the real solutions for our problematic situation lie. A new methodology is required to link our local culture and national vision to the modern scientific outlook, and open the door for freedom of thought and diversity.

Tolerance and democratic behaviors start inside the classrooms, obviously schools in this context play informative and formative roles, being the places where **human capital** is created and developed. Without this **capital**, all other resources will wither away and get lost.





Appendix

How to say thank you to a dead man?

This is a story of great love and gratitude that we decided to share with everybody.

No matter how painful, it is a real indication that love is an eternal human emotion that survives even after death. Mohamed Mozahem was one of our sponsored children, who lost his father and was sponsored by Mr. Sabet who passed away several years ago. Mohamed was continuously emailing him but received no respond; he didn't know that his beloved father was dead. Our contact with Mohamed was lost since he started working in UAE. Here is Mohamed's last message to Mr. Raja Khalidi who kindly volunteered since a long time to follow the sponsors in Switzerland.

Dear Mr. Raja,

I read your email yesterday, that I couldn't directly answer. It was the news that shocked me. I phoned my family in Lebanon, I told my mother and she was also shocked, no body informed me, he was part of our family. You know Mr. Raja he gave me without waiting for me to say thank you. He gave a lot and a lot, 4 years at the university he paid my fees in Beirut, without him after Allah I couldn't have gone to the university and later couldn't be here working in Abu Dhabi.

I cannot believe till now, I always tried to contact him just to be with him to care for him, we are humans and we do care. So, tell me how you can say thanks for someone who helped you for 20 years without getting back what he paid? I have all his greeting cards, since 1989 till 2009 all of them letters, Christmas cards Eid al-Adha and Al-Fitr, back to school cards etc... I've never heard his voice or saw his photo, I never knew if he was a Muslim, Christian or whatever... I only knew that he was my godfather.

My father died in 1988, I was only four years, we were nine kids with very bad living conditions in a Palestinian camp, he did everything to support me, and I never felt that my father was dead.

I want to do something for him, help a poor child like what he did to me, and pray every day for him. I cannot think about it now I'm just confused he passed before I pay him back. I want to pay him a lot of love, care and thanks, he is the most important part of my life. I wish he is still alive to see me working in the biggest construction company in the Middle East, to see that each word he supported me by gave a result.

I loved him and still, please pass my love to his widow, she knows me in each letter or card I sent him, I mentioned SAY HELLO TO MOM, and I hope I can keep in touch with her.

He will always be with me and tomorrow when I get married I will tell my sons that there was someone in the other side of the world who helped me and helped till I graduated.

I'm proud to be his son.

M.Mozahem