



The National Institution of Social Care & Vocational Training

Beit Atfal Assumoud



Annual Report 2023

INTRODUCTION

2023 LEBANON AT A GLANCE

Lebanon grappled with another year marked by a myriad of crises that persistently evolved deepening financial crises and lack of governance. Essential services and protection have reinforced social and economic inequalities across the country pushing most of the population, including an estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees, into poverty and disproportionately. The economic crisis, started in late 2019, caused the loss of 98% of the Lebanese lira. Due to instability of the local currency, essential items in supermarkets became labeled in US dollar. Thus, people earning their wages in lira are left with increasing challenges to meet the basic needs for their families. Most impacted of the population is the Palestinian community as a result of the long-term structural discrimination and the denial of basic rights.

Lebanon has also witnessed a surge in child labor, child marriage and abuse, heightening the comprehensive protection needs for children and vulnerable populations. The unemployment and financial hardships among households have heightened the risk of gender-based violence. The rising costs of education, including transportation and school materials, have made it increasingly challenging for vulnerable families in Lebanon to keep their children in school.

Within this environ, middle-income people become poor, and the poor become poorer. Such is the case of the Palestinian refugees, especially those living in the camps. The latest UNRWA survey results showed that 93% of the PRL are poor, of which around 80% live below the poverty line. The 2023 UNICEF annual report revealed that a staggering 97% of the Palestinian families buy essential groceries on credit or borrow money for food due to soaring prices and rising poverty. Financial challenges are particularly severe for the PRS, according to the report, who face employment barriers due to their legal status, placing them at constant risk of deportation, making them more vulnerable to various forms of exploitation, including higher rent prices, violence, and crime.



2023 has been further overshadowed by unforeseen crises triggered by Israel's war against the Palestinian people. Categorically a genocide, the war on Gaza has profoundly affected the Palestinian community in Lebanon, including children and youth, many of whom have relatives and friends in the Gaza Strip. In its analysis, the UNICEF reported that almost half of the Palestinian children suffer from anxiety while 30% show signs of depression. Palestinian children face numerous challenges, including inadequate living conditions, insecurity within the camps, uncertainties about their future, and distressing news of violence and shelling in Gaza, the West Bank, and south Lebanon. These factors intensely impact their mental health and overall well-being.

Lebanon's ability to manage and address these multifaceted crises — including the escalating hostilities by Israel against Lebanon's sovereignty — appears fragile. As we look ahead to the next year, observers and analysts report that Lebanon appears to have limited capacity to protect its population from Israel's hostilities and to implement essential structural reforms that would lift its population out from poverty and uncertainty. Due to overall instability, Lebanese, Palestinians and Syrians alike are increasingly resorting to desperate measures by taking dangerous boat trips from Lebanon to Europe in search of a better future.

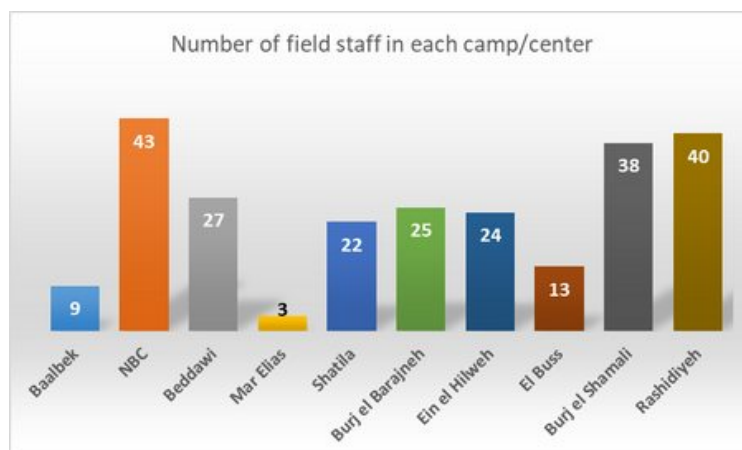
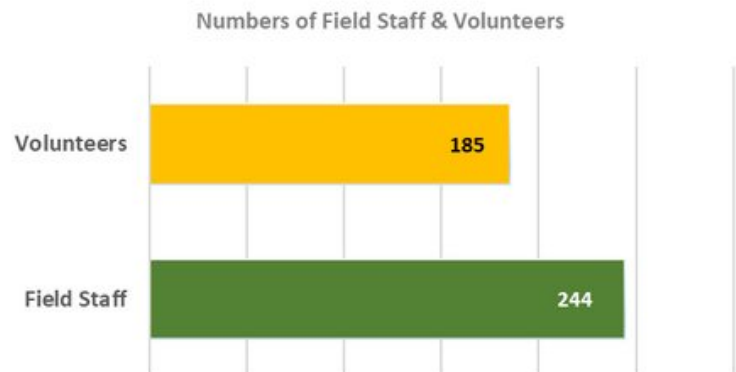
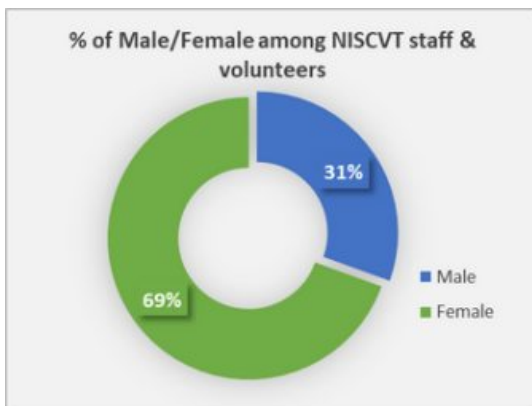
Who We Are

Locally known as Beit Atfal Assumoud (BAS), The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training (NISCVT), is a humanitarian, non-governmental, non-profit, non-political organization that works on the development of the Palestinian refugee communities in Lebanon. Founded on August 12th in 1976, NISCVT provides developmental programs, health, and relief services to Palestinians living in the camps and gatherings on the Lebanese territories. Access to these services is enhanced by establishing 13 centers around Lebanon; 10 of which are in ten camps in different districts and governorates.

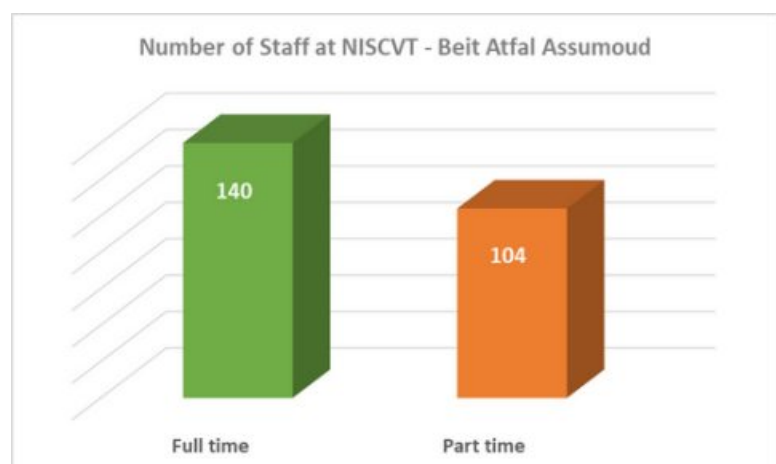


Specialized and Expertise Human Resources

Indiscriminate of gender, nationality or religion, NISCVT has significant human resources dedicated to serve the community. **265** motivated members, of whom the management team forms less than 8% of the total (21 members), are committed to BAS mission and vision. In addition, numerous national and international volunteers and interns take part to support in providing the specialized services. The field centers are invigorated by positive energy disseminated by **244** staff and **185** volunteers, of whom about 70% are female.



Nb. Staff at the headquarters' office are not included in this chart.





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Thoughts & Reflections

It has always been the struggle to exist, to sustain living in dignity in these forgotten long-lasting refugee camps scattered on the Lebanese soil. Fighting against enforced ignorance, unemployment and deprivation of rights, has caused sweat and taken huge efforts trying to secure the orphans left behind the martyrs, those who paid their lives for the sake of liberating Palestine, and the human being, and ensuring the right of return to the upcoming generations!

For decades, we've been striving to improve the living conditions of our people in the refugee camps. We took the responsibility to provide education, health, social care, recreational and cultural programs, and shelter sometime in the past. At the end of each year, we look back at our achievements to see the change we succeeded in accomplishing to those underserved people, and to learn from lessons of the past year's work. We measure the improvements in their lives which we participated in happening, and we count the numbers of those beings we served and learned about their stories of development. But we are never satisfied completely with the results. Other needs emerge out of the socioeconomic, political and security instability. Then, we adjust and resume the action to make these people smile.

We, as Palestinians, are aware that we should not get tired of fighting to live. October 7, a date engraved in modern history, evidence to the genocidal policies of the global community and injustice of international laws against the Palestinian people, has just increased our intent to educate the refugee children, youth and adults, and take care of families and elderlies. The people of Palestine, who has been resisting conspiracies and ethnic cleansing since 1947, owns a full calendar to remember.

We struggle for existence, for the right to live, and we are sure that despite the challenges, we will live, and will exist as long as we have friends and supporters like you. Thank you for supporting our rights.



Kassem Aina
General Director

2023 in Numbers

PROGRAMS AND BENEFICIARIES

Total PRL PRS SR LB

Sponsorship (Family Happiness Project)

Sponsored Children	1,050	84%	13%	1%	2%
Sponsored Families	548	84%	13%	1%	2%
Sponsored Elderlies	51	98%	2%	0%	0%
Sponsored KG Children	372	94%	5%	0%	1%

Education

Pre-school/Kindergarten	605	87%	5%	4%	4%
Learning Support Education	1,056	82%	12%	5%	1%
Special Classes (L.Difficulties, Dropouts, Informal Ed)	41	61%	15%	24%	0%
Vocational Education	155	83%	15%	1%	1%
Scholarships (Uni, VET, & Music)	65	92%	6%	2%	0%
Scholarships - Children with Multiple Needs (MSN)	48	86%	1%	8%	0%

Health

Dental Clinics: Children (3-5 years)	7,132	75%	5%	17%	3%
Dental Clinics: Children and Youth (6-18 years)	1,618	88%	9%	2%	1%
Dental Clinics: Adults	2,056	77%	11%	5%	7%
Pediatric Clinic - Nahr el Bared: Children	2,112	96%	2%	1%	1%
Pediatric Clinic - Nahr el Bared: Mothers' Education	154	95%	2%	1%	2%
Reproductive Health - Medical Services	5,148	83%	8%	7%	2%
Reproductive Health - Awareness Sessions	5,135	78%	11%	7%	4%
Mental Health (Children under 18 years)	1,399	68%	4%	18%	10%
Mental Health (Parents & Adults)	245	77%	6%	7%	10%
Mental Health (Support Groups - Parents)	191	83%	11%	4%	2%
Psychosocial Support for Children & Youth	2,394	93%	3%	3%	1%
Psychosocial Support for Parents/Caregivers	640	91%	5%	3%	1%
Peer Education Program - Parents	441	49%	25%	9%	17%
Peer Education Program - Youth (14-25 yrs)	1,321	61%	16%	8%	15%

Cultur, Art, & Recreational Activities

Embroidery Production Project - Women	85	100%	0%	0%	0%
Scouts Groups - Children & Youth	239	84%	16%	0%	0%
Sports Teams - Children & Youth	323	76%	12%	8%	4%
Dabkeh Groups	144	93%	5%	2%	5%
Musical Bands & Choral Groups	397	83%	10%	3%	4%
Comics	130	73%	16%	7%	4%

Relief Aid and In-Kind Distributions

Food Support (parcels, meals, & vouchers)	6,263	87%	9%	2%	2%
Hygiene & Baby essential Kits	4,910	16%	78%	5%	1%
Clothing (Eid and winter clothing, shoes)	511	83%	12%	3%	2%
KG Gifts & Stationery (Dream Bags)	1,801	92%	2%	3%	3%
Cash for Medicine & other needs	2,445	90%	7%	2%	1%
Household & Women's Special Needs	155	92%	6%	1%	1%

PRL = Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon SR = Syrian Refugees
 PRS = Palestinian Refugees from Syria LB = Lebanese

SPONSORSHIP

FAMILY HAPPINESS PROGRAM

"Never miss an opportunity to put a smile on someone's face."
Arabic Proverb



The primary objective of social work being to render itself unnecessary to the community. Its goal is to empower families to become self-reliant. But achieving self-reliance may not be feasible for all, particularly for the elderly.

Yet, the overarching goal of social work remains to support beneficiaries in leading meaningful lives with dignity, despite the hardships.



FAMILY HAPPINESS PROJECT

Evelina Sironen, an intern and a volunteer at NISCVT from Holland, wrote:

“Social work is the core of NISCVT services; the social workers’ role is essential in improving the wellbeing of diverse client groups. They focus on the beneficiaries and all people within the camps and surroundings. They engage with all family members residing in the same household. They manage communication between the sponsors and sponsored, aiming at fostering and nurturing meaningful relationships through exchange of letters, cards, and organizing visits.

These workers dedicate time to client planning and reporting to the sponsors, keeping them informed about the progress of their selected individuals (or families).

Through these comprehensive efforts, social workers at NISCVT address needs of each client group, promoting holistic wellbeing, and fostering strong, supportive communities.”

The Family Happiness Project (FHP) has been implemented to support Palestinian refugee orphans, elderly people not supported by their families, kindergarten children, and most-in-need families. NISCVT sponsorship provides monthly financial aid, educational support, health services, psychosocial support and mental health care.



Locations & Beneficiaries

NISCVT’s people-centered approach enhances the reach to the various categories and age-groups of the community. In 2023, the program provided care to **548** families, **51** elderlies, and **1,050** children from 0 to 18+ years old of which **372** in the kindergarten. The numbers are shown in the chart below.



51
Elderlies

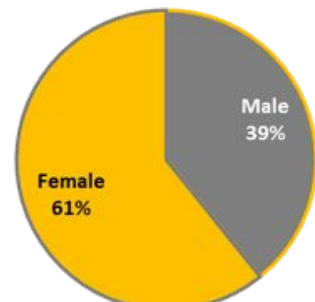
548
Families

1,050
Children



Elderly Sponsorship: The social workers visit the elders regularly at their houses, extending social and material support (food, medicine, etc.). They ensure the elderlies participate in the social and national activities. BAS embraced 50 PRL and 1 PRS elders in 2023, ages starting from 50 years. Details below.

Elderly Persons	Male	Female	Total #	PRL	PRS
50-60 yrs.	2	4	6	6	0
61-70 yrs.	6	7	13	13	0
71-80 yrs.	7	12	19	19	0
81-90 yrs.	4	6	10	9	1
90+ yrs.	1	2	3	3	0
Grand Total	20	31	51	50	1



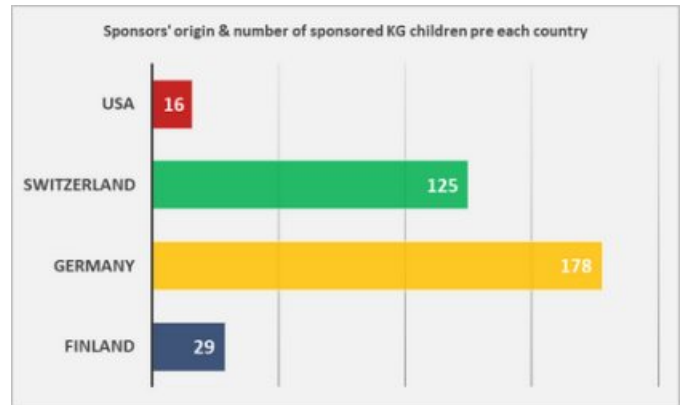
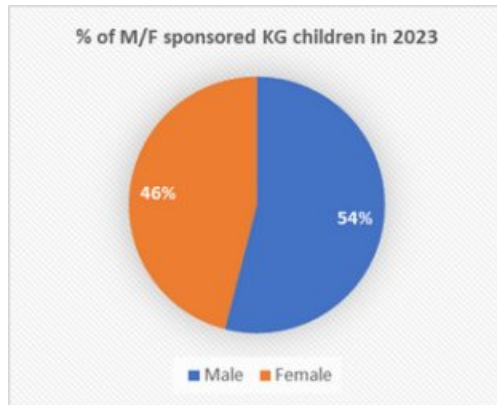
% of Male/Female among the Sponsored Elderlies

Children Sponsorship: NISCVT facilitates sponsoring of children in two ways: (a) providing preschool education, and (b) supporting children within their families until attaining university degrees and becoming independent individuals, capable of supporting themselves and their families.

A. Kindergarten Children:

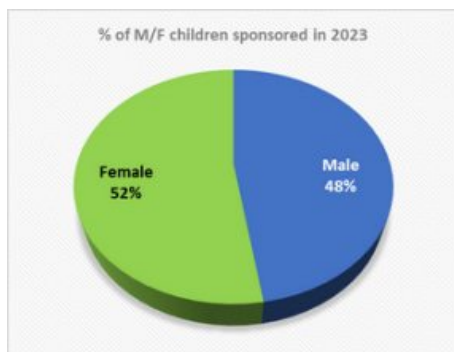
Of the **372** children sponsored at BAS KGs, **94% are PRL, 5% PRS, 1% LB** and only one Syrian refugee child, as clearly reflected from the table below. Additionally, **46%** of the total are girls, as the figure below shows.

Camp/Center	Male	Female	Total	PRL	PRS	SR	LB
Shatila	27	24	51	43	7	0	1
Burj el Barajneh	19	28	47	38	5	1	3
Ein el Hilweh	33	29	62	62	0	0	0
Rashidiyeh	31	25	56	55	1	0	0
Burj el Shamali	35	10	45	39	5	0	1
Beddawi	21	28	49	49	0	0	0
Nahr el Bared	35	27	62	62	0	0	0
Grand Total	201	171	372	348	18	1	5

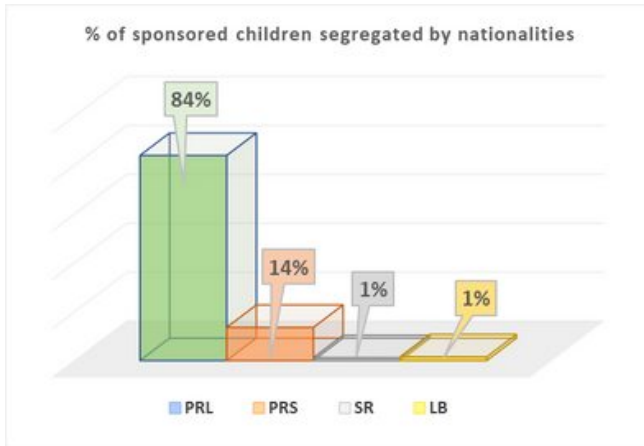
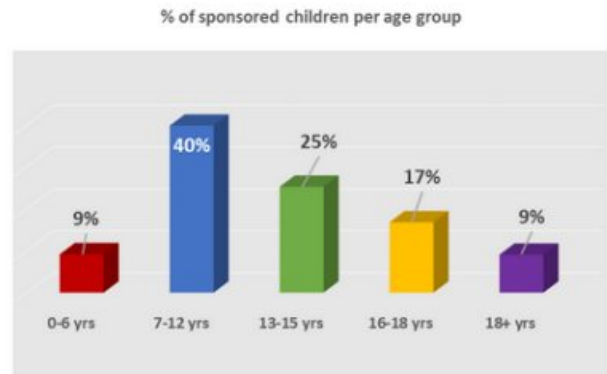


B. Sponsored Children:

1,050 sponsored children, ages 0-18+ years (inclusive of the KGs'), segregated by age groups, gender and nationalities, are detailed in the table where the figures illustrate the corresponding percentages of gender and age group segregation.

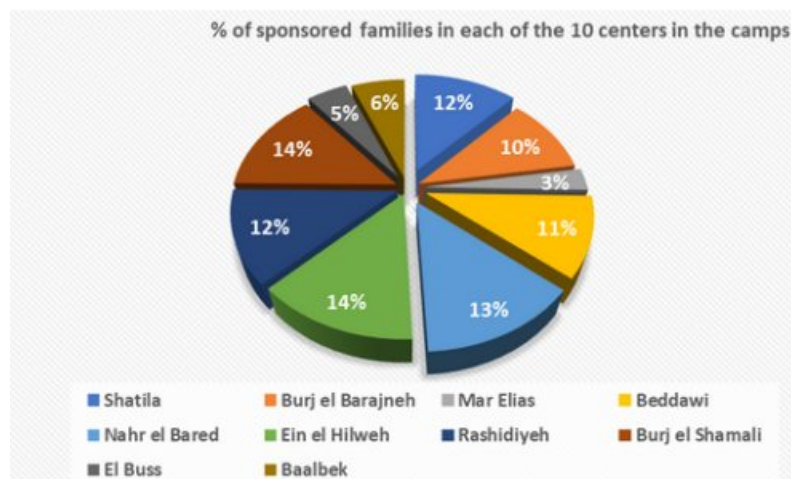
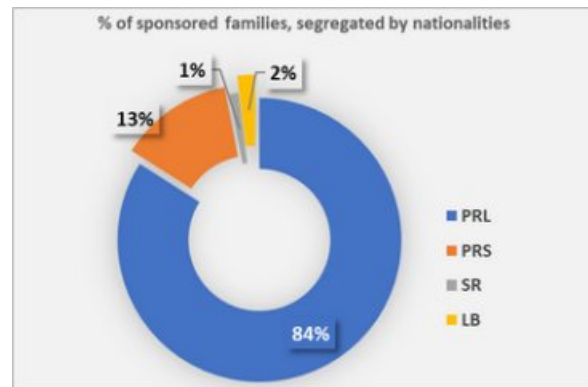


Age Groups	Male	Female	Total	PRL	PRS	SR	LB
0-6 yrs	44	52	96	76	16	0	4
7-12 yrs	214	204	418	352	57	3	6
13-15 yrs	125	140	265	218	42	3	2
16-18 yrs	75	101	176	157	16	3	0
18+ yrs	41	54	95	77	11	3	4
Grand Total	499	551	1,050	880	142	12	16



Family Sponsorship: The **548** families reached through this program include **84% PRL** and **13% PRS** families, whereas Syrian and Lebanese families formed 1% and 2% of the total, respectively. The need remains pressing among the various nationalities due to the economic conditions in the camps. The total numbers are described in the charts below.

Center / Camp	Total	PRL	PRS	SR	LB
Shatila	66	55	6	0	5
Burj el Barajneh	57	38	15	2	2
Mar Elias	16	15	1	0	0
Beddawi	58	47	11	0	0
Nahr el Bared	73	64	7	1	1
Ein el Hilweh	74	71	3	0	0
Rashidiyeh	68	62	5	1	0
Burj el Shamali	76	61	13	2	0
El Buss	26	23	3	0	0
Baalbek	34	26	8	0	0
Grand Total	548	462	72	6	8



EDUCATION

"Children and young people have the right to education no matter who they are: regardless of race, gender or disability; if they're in detention, or if they're a refugee."

Article 28, UNCRC

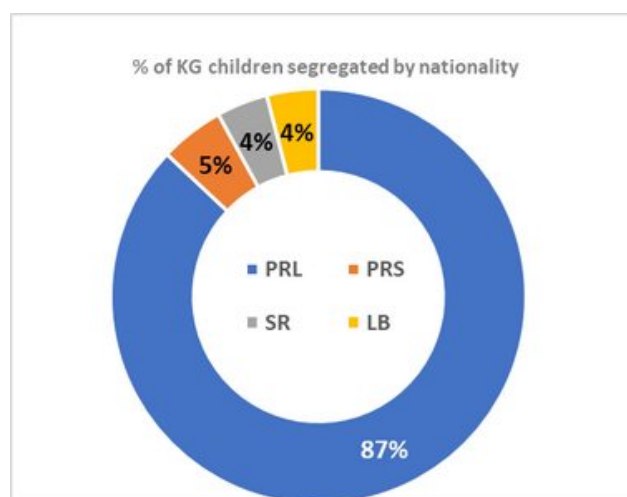
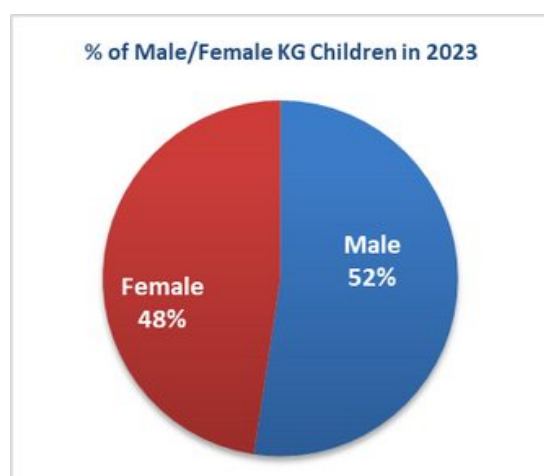


PRESCHOOL EDUCATION - KINDERGARTENS

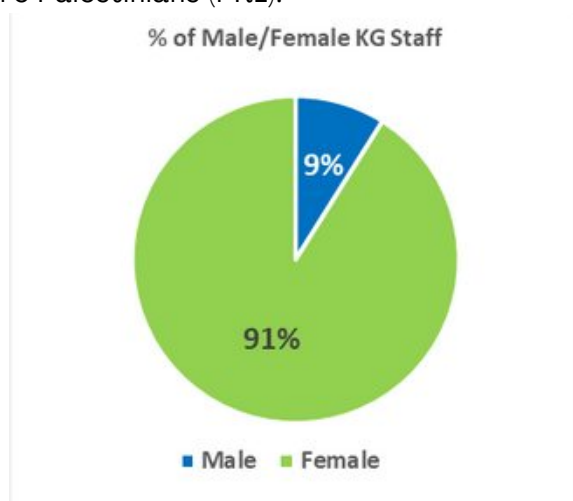
Providing inspirational early years of learning, preschool education is accessible to children in the refugee camps and their surroundings, regardless of gender, religion, disability, or nationality. BAS runs 7 kindergartens in:



The scholastic year 2022-2023 provided preschool learning to **605** children in the 7 locations. Of the total, **48%** are female children. **87%** are PRL and **5%** are PRS, whereas the Syrian refugee children and the local Lebanese formed 4% each. The figures below show the percentages of gender and nationality segregation of the KG children.



A team of **56 teachers and assistants** (9% male) is devoted to continuous learning of advanced techniques and methods, ensuring an enjoyable learning experience for the children. Ensuring employability of Palestinians, who are deprived of the right to work, 96% of the KG staff are Palestinians (PRL).



LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

NISCVT's LS program is dedicated to realizing the vision that every child has access to learning opportunities and essential decision-making skills. Through fostering values that contribute to a better future, the program targets UNRWA schools' Cycle-1 students, school dropouts, children having learning difficulties and other special needs, in addition to Syrian refugee children who do not attend school. The program is implemented in 8 camps around Lebanon.

LS program is built on 6 fundamental pillars that ensure its successful results. These are



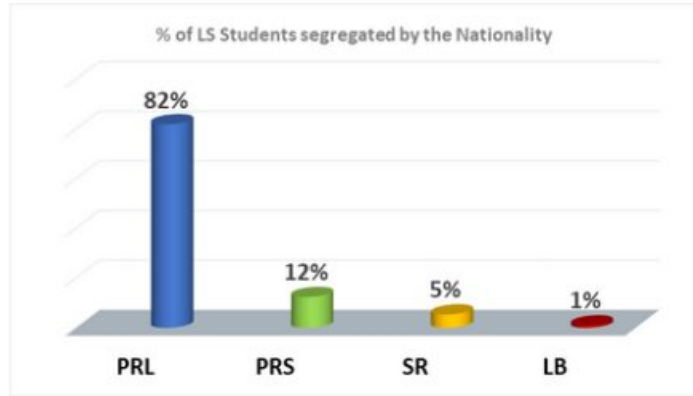
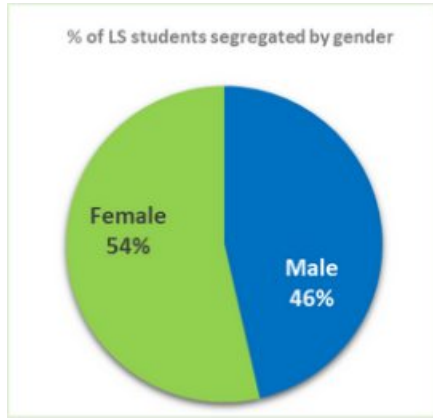
To achieve the targeted success, the teachers continuously participate in trainings to further develop their skills. In 2023, they received training various subjects that focused on planning, monitoring & evaluation, case studies, active teaching techniques, and health.



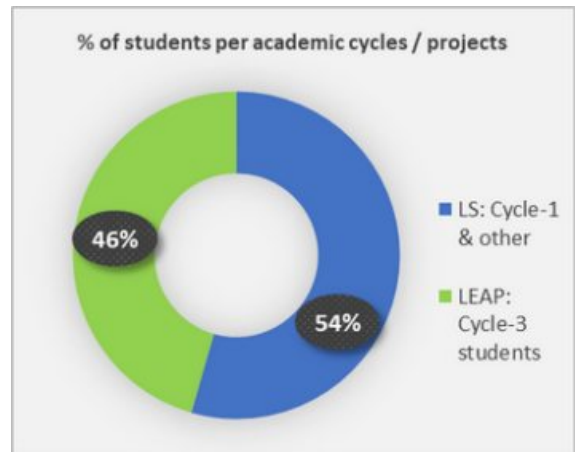
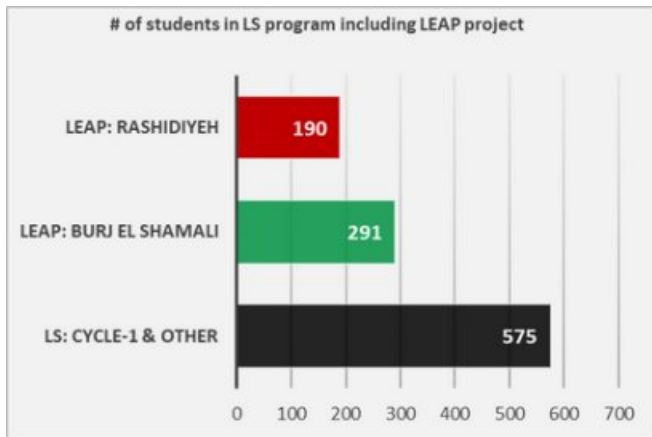
The students enrolled in LS program live in the camps and are of different nationalities. The number and description of the total LS students in each of the centers are illustrated in the chart and figures below.

Center/Camp	Male	Female	Total	PRL	PRS	SR	LB
Nahr el Bared	40	28	68	68	0	0	0
Beddawi	26	44	70	67	2	1	0
Wavel	31	25	56	38	18	0	0
Shatila	22	19	41	34	5	0	2
Burj el Barajneh	24	35	59	24	3	32	0
Ein el Hilweh	35	55	90	87	2	0	1
Burj el Shamali	194	201	395	302	73	14	6
Rashidiyeh	118	159	277	237	28	10	2
Grand Total	490	566	1,056	857	131	57	11

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

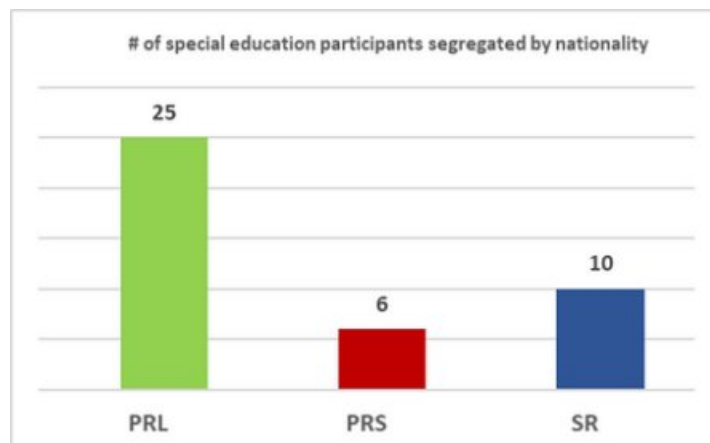


Partnering with *Learning for the Empowerment and Advancement of Palestinians* (LEAP) organization, educational and psychosocial support is extended to students in the preparatory cycle of grades 7, 8, and 9. SHINE and ASPIRE projects are implemented in the southern camps of Burj el Shamali and Rashidiyeh making up 46% of the total beneficiaries. The following figures show the numbers and the percentages of the students participating in the program.



Special Education Classes

With a ratio of 4% to the total LS beneficiaries, the special education class students are involved in activities that enhance their abilities. The special education is implemented in two of NISCVT centers, Ein el Hilweh (South) and Burj el Barajneh (Beirut). **41 female children** are engaged in learning activities that meet their interest and attract their attention. The children participate in multiple activities including awareness-raising and handicrafts. As all NISCVT programs, no discrimination is made among the beneficiaries, as the chart below shows.



LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAM

Along the journey of the learning, the children are accompanied by their caregivers. The staff focuses on engaging the parents and caregivers in the learning process to ensure sustainability of positive results. They are encouraged to participate in awareness educative sessions that support their children's learning.



It was through collaborative efforts between LS staff and parents that Ali showed the desired improvement in his behavior and significant progress in his learning.

Ali (7 years, in Ein el Hilweh center) was suffering from difficulty in concentration accompanied by aggressive behavior. However, the diverse learning methods applied by his teachers, individualizing Ali's case and tailoring the most effective techniques that met his learning needs, have succeeded in showing the positive change needed. From aggressive to friendly; from hyperactive to rule-abiding, Ali showed the significant improvement on all levels. These results proved the effectiveness of the methods in nurturing both the academic and personal growth of an individual.

"The joint efforts of both, the teachers and the parents, maintaining regular communication and agreeing on the same method of treatment, played a crucial role in understanding Ali's behavior," said Ali's LS teacher at NISCVT center.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING

NISCVT's VET program hugely contributes to the empowerment of the Palestinian refugees and other youth. Shifting their sense of frustration and despair, NISCVT provides these youth with the proper education and professional skills, enabling them to be ambitious of a better future. The program offers updated learning of in-demand jobs with modern practical techniques, opening innovative horizons to 15-25 year old girls and boys. The accelerated non-academic courses, accompanied by personal and social skills training, help the youth pave their way into the job market.

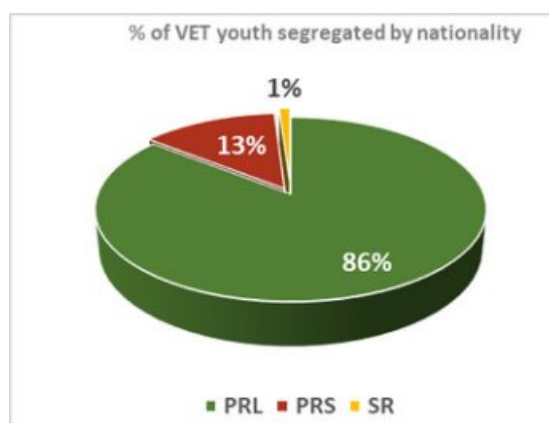
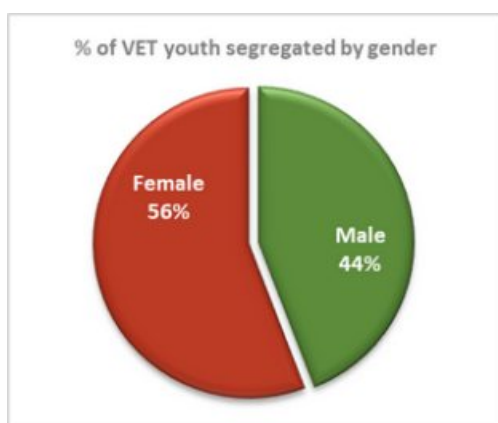
Late in 2023, BAS launched a special vocational training course in solar energy specialization. The project, implemented in Burj el Shamali camp, includes entrepreneurship and life skills. Funded by the Embassy of Finland, the six-month course offers opportunities for the youth to develop their knowledge and skills, targeting mainly school dropouts youths.

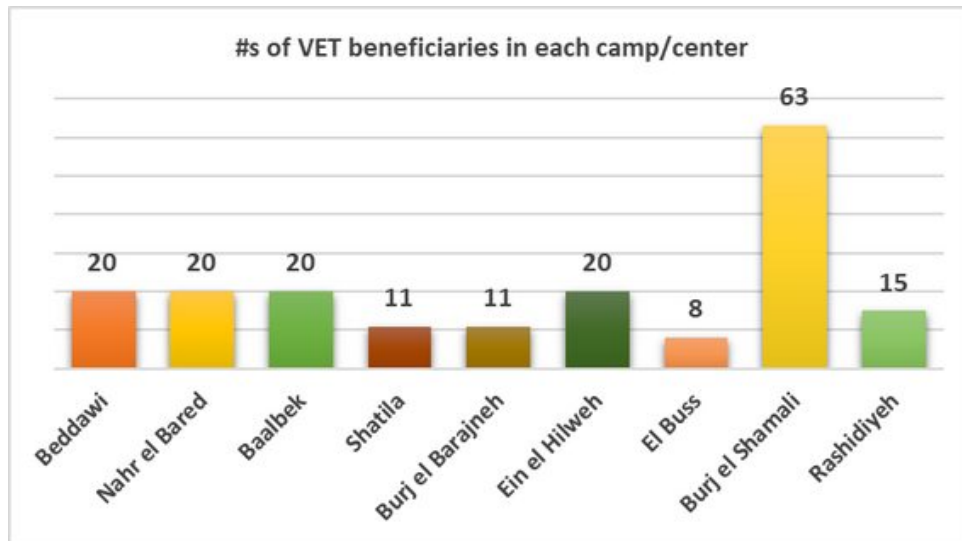


188 youth (56% female) joined the vocational education program in NISCVT in 2023. The number includes youth from different nationalities living in the camps and surroundings. The table below lists of the numbers segregated by gender and nationalities per each center/camp.

Camp/Center	Total #	Male	Female	PRL	PRS	SR
Beddawi	20	0	20	15	5	0
Nahr el Bared	20	20	0	18	2	0
Baalbek	20	4	16	18	2	0
Shatila	11	7	4	11	0	0
Burj el Barajneh	11	5	6	11	0	0
Ein el Hilweh	20	20	0	14	4	2
El Buss	8	7	1	8	0	0
Burj el Shamali	63	20	43	52	11	0
Rashidiyeh	15	0	15	14	1	0
Total	188	83	105	161	25	2

Of the total number of VET students, **56%** are female. Among the different nationalities, PRL's remain the highest number representing 86%. The following figures illustrate the percentages of the beneficiaries segregated by gender and nationality, followed by the number in each camp/center.





Thinking of not only the market demand, but also of the employment opportunities the Palestinian refugees are allowed to occupy provides limited choices of study. Hence, most professions sought by these young people are related to technical skills, such as, electricity technicians, solar system installation, appliance repair and maintenance, beauty and hairdressing (male and female), and preschool education. Sewing and embroidery arts are also in demand. In addition, several young people were guided by their talents towards hospitality management, culinary arts, computer programming, nursing, and accounting. In some centers of NISCVT, computer literacy and practice are popular among the youth.



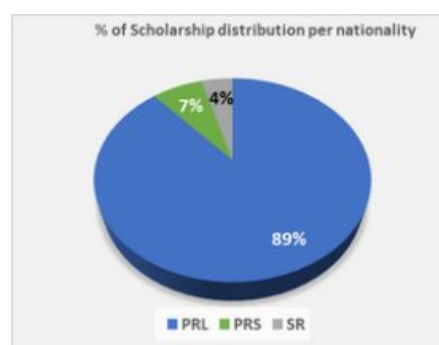
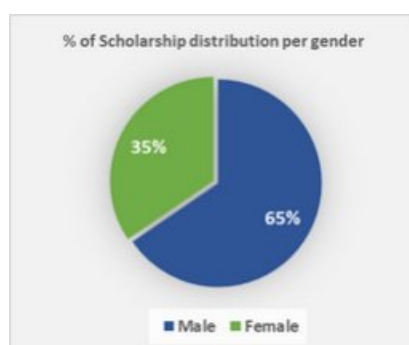
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By the generous support of friends and donors, NISCVT provides a number of scholarships for university studies and vocational education. In 2023, **113** scholarships were provided to students in the various camps, **63** of which are university and VET degrees, **2** music scholarships for accreditation from the national conservatoire, and **48** for Multiple Special Needs (MSN) children.



The chart shows the percentage distribution of the scholarships per each section. The below tables and figures show the numbers and the corresponding percentages of the students who received the academic, vocational, and MSN scholarships, segregated by gender and nationality.

Scholarships	Male	Female	Total	PRL	PRS	SR
MSN	31	17	48	41	3	4
University	2	1	3	3	0	0
Music	2	0	2	1	1	0
VET	39	21	60	55	4	1
Total	74	39	113	100	8	5



MSN project scholarships are distributed through the Family Guidance Centers (FGC) in Beirut, Nahr el Bared and Beddawi camps, Saida, and el Buss camp. The Multiple Special Needs Project (MSN) is supported by the Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibility (FIPSR) and the Finnish Arab Friendship Society (FAFS). The project enables children living with multiple disabilities to pursue their academic education in specialized institutions.

NISCVT staff keeps track of the students' performance regularly to ensure successful progress and completion of degrees from the private institutions/universities.

HEALTH

"It is health that is real wealth, and not pieces of gold and silver."

Mahatma Gandhi



Despite the increasing challenges of the socioeconomic conditions and financial constraints, NISCVT continued to provide dental health services throughout 2023. To NISCVT, dental care is not merely the treatment to dental problems; it is rather a full school-based health program. It integrates dental health education for children and their mothers/caregivers focusing on prevention of oral diseases. The services encompass:

- Treatment,
- Health Education, and
- Prevention (involves regular examination of the children's teeth)

NISCVT operates six dental clinics that provide free dental treatment for the preschool children in its centers in the Palestinian refugee camps

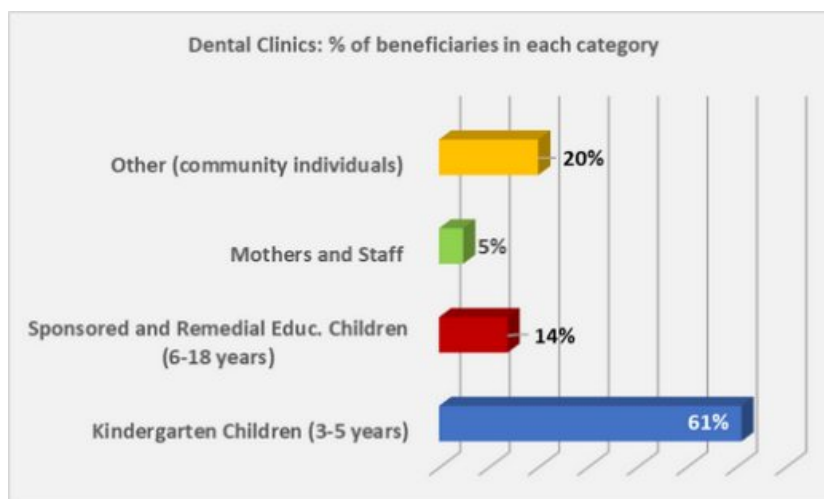


The sponsored children and their families are the main target of the dental care service. However, these services are also accessible to children and community members participating in the organization's activities, in addition to NISCVT staff.

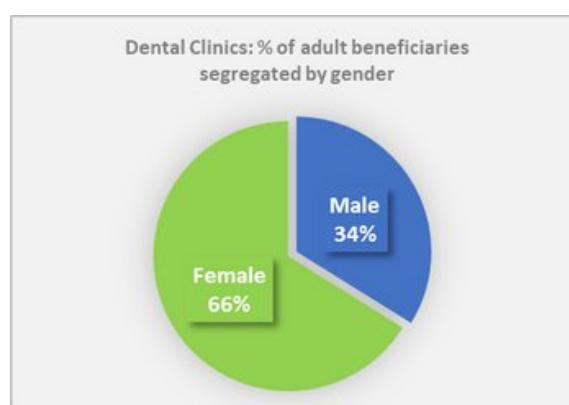
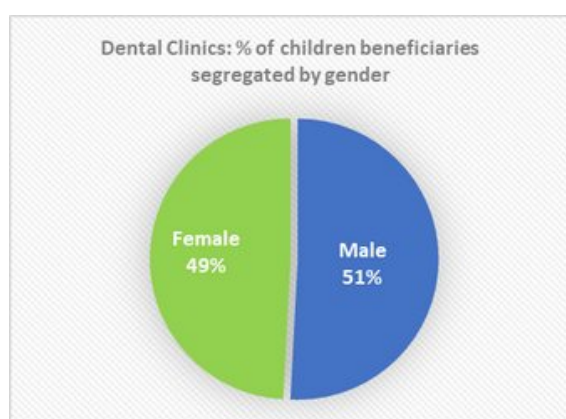


11,657 beneficiaries of different age groups were reached in 2023, with **73%** of the total are the kindergarten children. The table and figure below show the categories of beneficiaries with the numbers and corresponding percentages, segregated by gender.

Age group / Description of beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total #
Kindergarten Children (3-5 years)	3,743	3,389	7,132
Sponsored and Remedial Educ. Children (6-18 years)	705	913	1,618
Mothers and Staff	60	508	568
Other (community individuals)	924	1,415	2,339
Grand Total	5,432	6,225	11,657



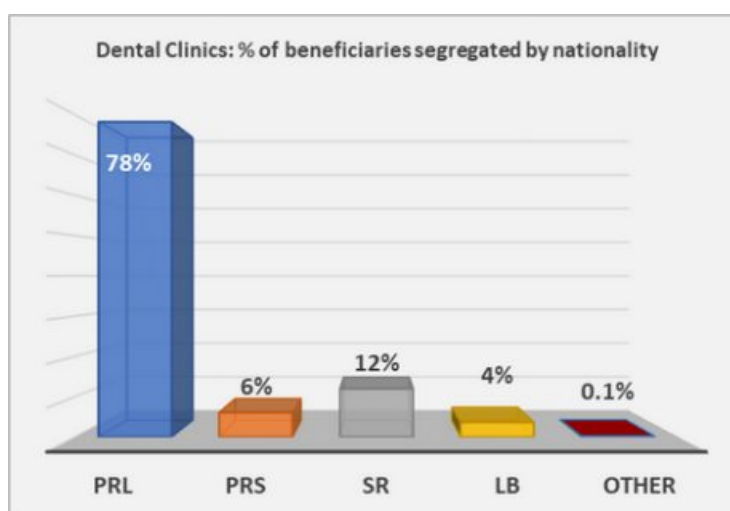
Among the children (3-18 years), 49% are female; whereas the female percentage reached 66% among the adults. The results are illustrated in the figures below.



Although the main target of beneficiaries are the Palestinian refugees living in the camps, NISCVT's support prioritizes the needy without any form of discrimination. The table and the figure below show the segregation by nationality in numbers and percentages.

Beneficiary Description / Age-groups	PRL	PRS	SR	LB	Other*	Total
Kindergarten Children (3-5 yrs.)	5,375	332	1,206	210	9	7,132
Sponsored and LS Children (6-18 yrs.)	1,418	150	36	12	2	1,618
Mothers, Staff, & other Adults	2,326	221	153	201	6	2,907
Grand Total	9,119	703	1,395	423	17	11,657

**Other refers to minorities living in the camps of different nationalities*



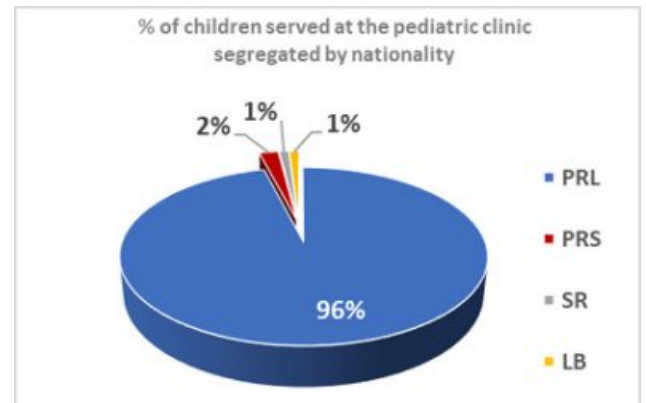
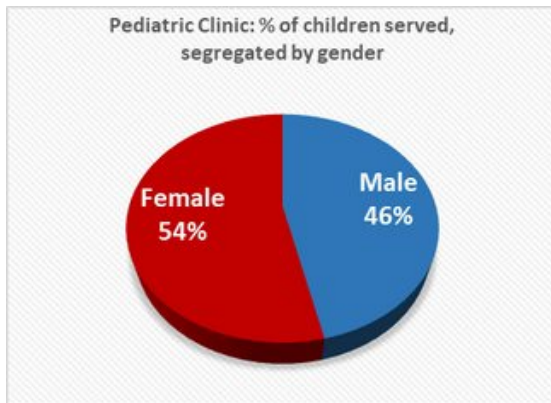
NISCVT's Pediatric Clinic in Nahr el Bared camp has been operating since 2012. Established to support the returnees to the camp after its destruction in 2007, the clinic provides treatment to infants and children. Additionally, it works on raising awareness about common and seasonal diseases that affect the children, sharing knowledge with mothers/caregivers about health protection and prevention.

Children at the Pediatric Clinic

2,112 infants and children (0-13 years) benefited from the clinic services in 2023. With 54% female, PRL beneficiaries reached 96%. The table shows the number of children, segregated according to gender and nationalities, and the figures illustrate the corresponding percentages.



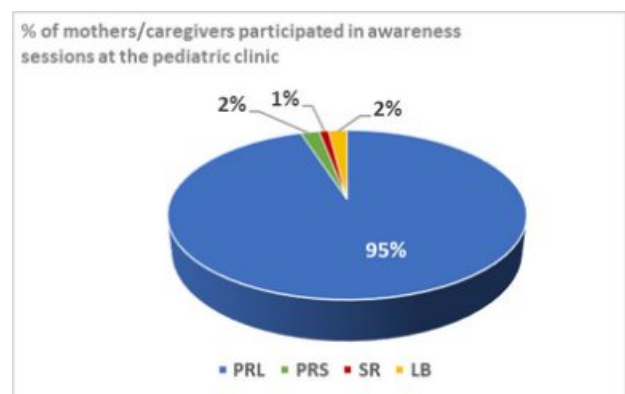
Infants & Children	PRL	PRS	SR	LB	Total
Male	955	14	2	10	981
Female	1,104	16	5	6	1,131
Grand Total	2,059	30	7	16	2,112



Educational & Awareness Sessions for Mothers

154 refugee mothers/caregivers and underprivileged Lebanese attended sessions on multiple health subjects at the pediatric clinic. The attending pediatrician and assistant provide sessions to reinforce health protection and prevention within the community.

The sessions focus on helping mothers to understand symptoms of sickness, learn about prevention ways, and find answers that concern the wellbeing of their children.



This figure shows the percentages of the learning mothers segregated by nationalities.

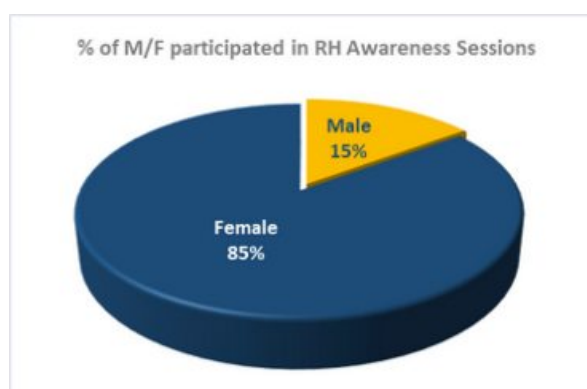
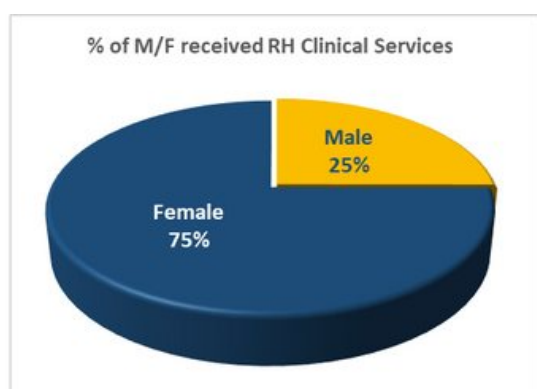
NISCVT's Reproductive Health (RH) program remains a dire need for the community in the Palestinian refugee camps. It is important to encourage the poor population to follow up on their wellbeing, and to be aware of their body needs. The program, implemented in five centers/camps, focuses on improving the physical, psychological, mental, and emotional well-being of the targeted groups, their families, and the community as a whole through a comprehensive approach of prevention and intervention with male and female adolescents and young parents.

Established in 2007, RH clinics provide consultations, medical screening and treatment, counseling, sexual education for youth, and at-home awareness-raising sessions. Additionally, it conducts lab tests including infertility tests, and provides the needed medicine

RH clinics are found in Beddawi and Nahr el Bared (north), Ein el Hilweh (south, Saida), Rashidiyeh and Burj el Shamali (south, Tyre).

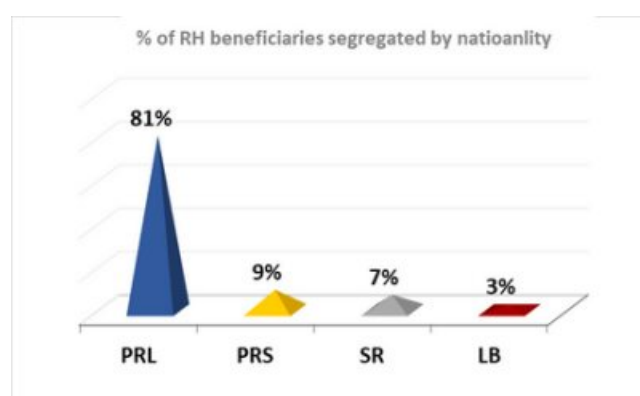
In 2023, **10,283** men and women benefited from RH various services. With an almost equal ratio of 50% of the total beneficiaries for each of the consultations/treatment and the education and awareness activities, the percentages varied among male and female participants in each of the services, as shown in the table and the following figures.

RH Service	Male	Female	Total
Consultation & Treatment	1,289	3,859	5,148
Awareness-raising Sessions	767	4,368	5,135
Grand Total	2,056	8,227	10,283

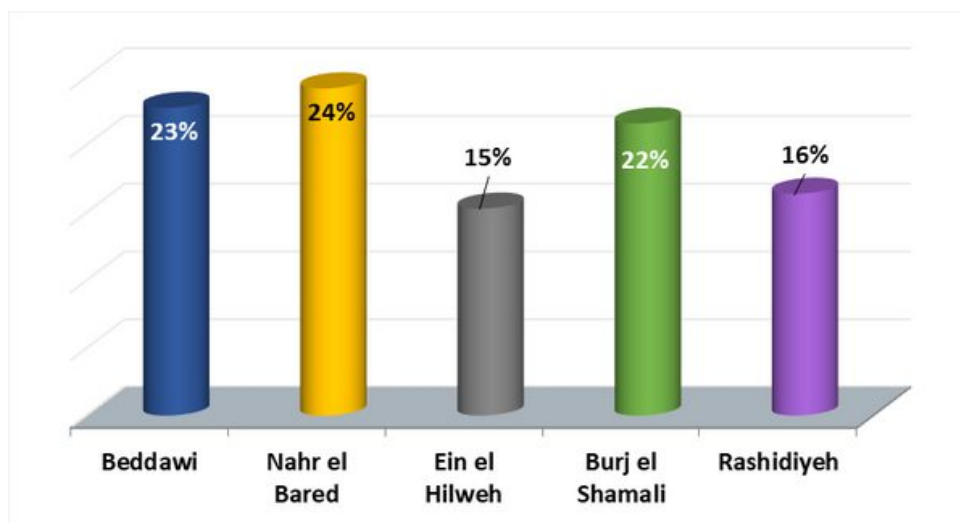


Among the beneficiaries, **81%** are PRL and only **3%** are Lebanese living in the camps and the surrounding. The number of beneficiaries, segregated by nationality, is described in the table below and the corresponding percentages are illustrated in the chart that follows.

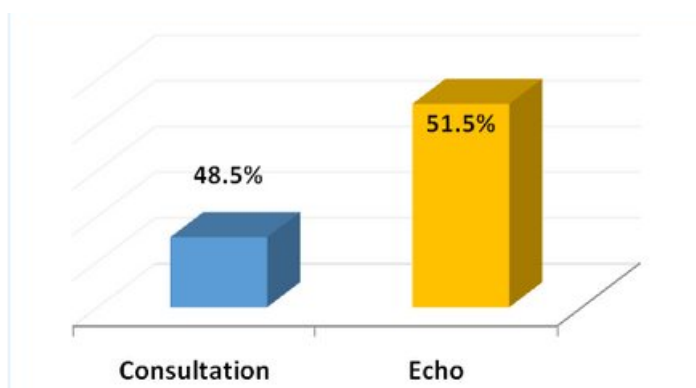
RH Service	PRL	PRS	SR	LB	Total
Consultation & Treatment	4,292	391	366	99	5,148
Awareness-raising Sessions	4,007	577	363	188	5,135
Grand Total	8,299	968	729	287	10,283



All year long, RH services are provided at NISCVT centers in five different camps in north and south Lebanon. The below figure shows the percentages of beneficiaries per each camp/center during 2023



Of the total numbers reached in all the locations, **51.5%** benefited from the Echo services, in comparison to the number of beneficiaries who were reached in consultation services.. Percentages of beneficiaries per service are illustrated in the adjacent figure.



Emerged as part of the Reproductive Health, Peer Education has become an integral part of BAS programs implemented towards developing and empowering the community.

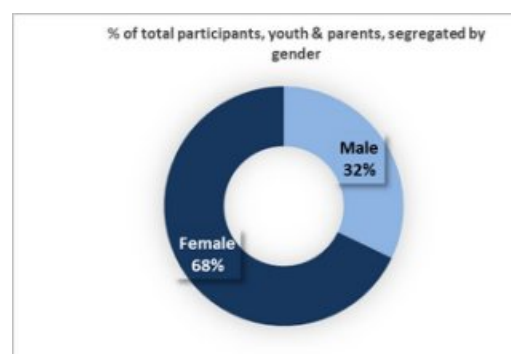
As its title implies, the activities address the youth with focused self-esteem and expression skills while developing knowledge in personal reproductive health and rights. They pass on the knowledge to their peers in the community. They learn to teach others. Such education is provided a safe space where the youth, male or female, feels free to express own thoughts and feelings. Activities tackle social and domestic issues relevant to the youth concerns.



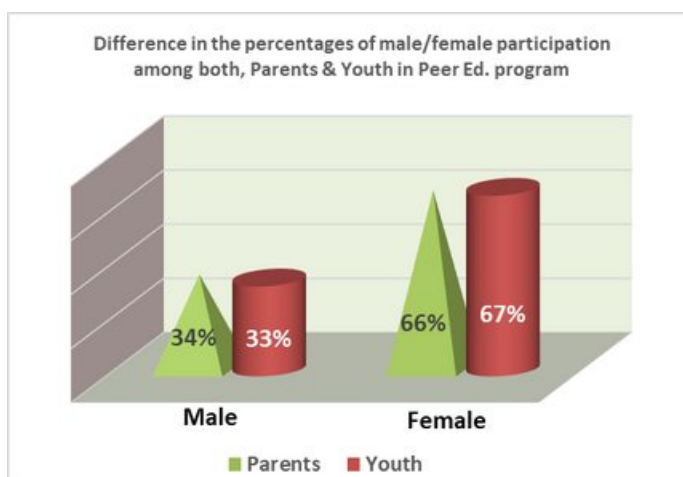
Implemented in eight BAS centers, the program targets male and female youth, ages 14-24 years, living in the Palestinian refugee camps. Parents and caregivers are also involved in the program activities which allow them understanding of their teenager children's development stages and related needs.

By the continuous funding from two sources, MAP and NAP, the program reached a total of **1,762** youth and parents in the eight camps in 2023. Maintaining a 75% of the youth beneficiaries, the participants description is shown below in numbers and corresponding percentage details of gender.

P. Ed. Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Youth (14-25 years)	448	873	1,321
Parents	118	323	441
Grand Total	566	1,196	1,762

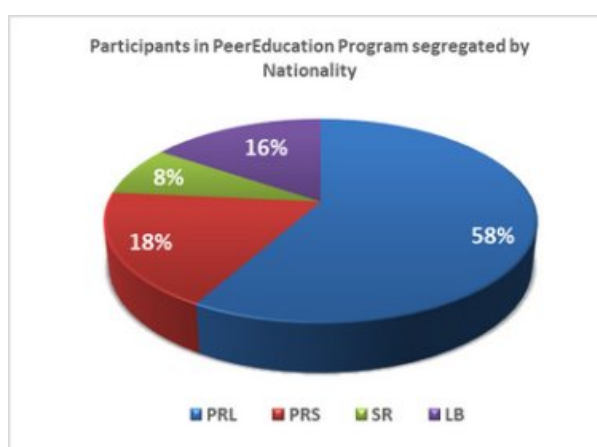


As seen in the figure above, the percentage of female participation of the total beneficiaries is 68%. As the goal of the program being to build up future leaders, this female percentage indicates stronger future participation of women and girls in leadership roles regarding the welfare of the community. Almost the same percentage is marked in each of the categories, and clearly shown in the chart below.



The groups of participants included **58%** PRL, whereas the Syrian refugee youth and parents formed 8% only. The table below details the numbers of participants from each nationality, and the figure illustrates the corresponding percentages.

<i>P. Ed. Beneficiaries</i>	Total	PRL	PRS	SR	LB
<i>Youth (14-25 years)</i>	1,321	808	213	100	200
<i>Parents</i>	441	217	110	40	74
<i>Grand Total</i>	1,762	1,025	323	140	274



Peer Education conducts awareness sessions, day workshops, and residential workshops for the male and female youth from the camps. Engaging in group work, theater and role play, the youth gain confidence to express themselves freely.

Of the challenges that changed into a success was the community's acceptance to allow the girls participate in residential workshops. It is the trust in the program staff, following BAS principles and values, that helped the parents accept their girls' participation.



The young leaders receive extensive training in positive communication, leadership and essential life skills, in addition to subject-specific education and research.

The workshops are conducted in a participatory and interactive methodology where the youth learn how to transmit the knowledge to their peers maintaining the same spirit.

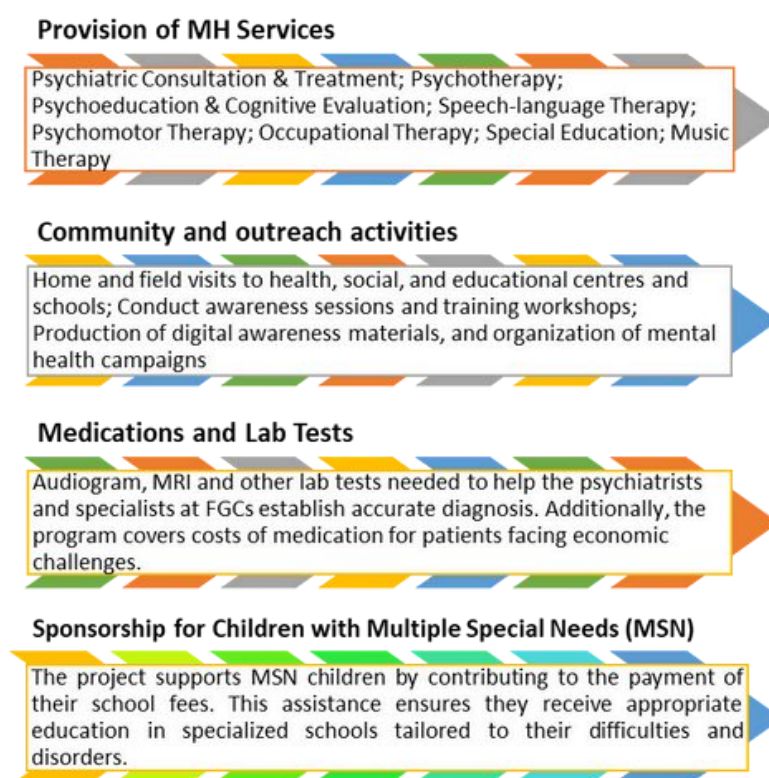


“If it wasn’t for BAS, I wouldn’t have ever heard my son speak,” a mother in Nahr el Bared said.

When his teacher noticed he had severe difficulty in speech, 5-year-old Yussuf was referred to the MH clinic in BAS center. His case was diagnosed as “lacking the vocabulary to communicate.” Instead, he used the sign language. Yussuf underwent treatment of speech and language, accompanied by music therapy. He responded positively to the treatment and within a short period, he acquired words that helped him communicate daily life needs. He is still under treatment and further developmental progress is expected.

It is challenging to provide services requiring long-term treatment in the absence of long-term funding! Yet, BAS/NISCVT Family Guidance Centers (FGC) have never stopped providing mental health (MH) support and treatment to the community since 1997. Maintaining its high-quality services, the evidence-based approach of prevention and intervention marks successful results over the years.

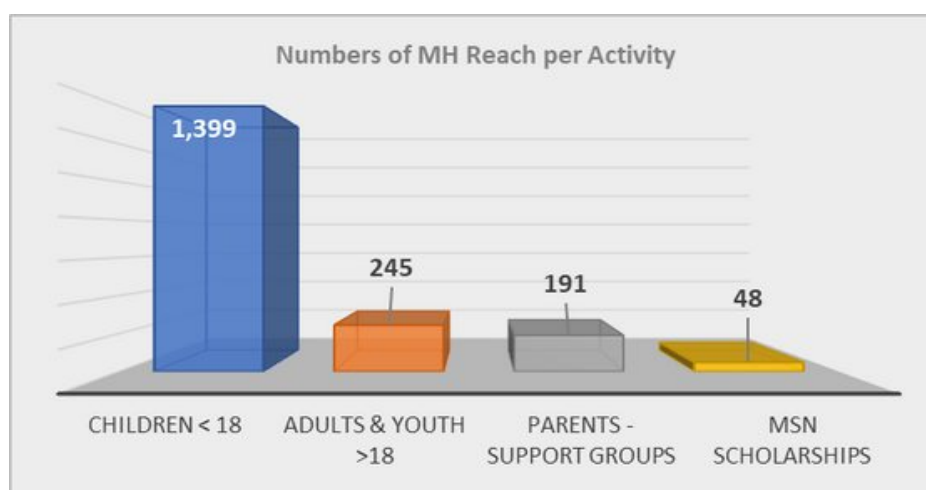
A holistic bio-psychosocial framework of analyses allows MH program to provide a wide-ranging comprehensive and responsive package of care. This is accomplished in a community-based rehabilitation approach through a multidisciplinary team of 34 specialists covering various areas of: psychiatry, psychology, speech-language therapy, psychomotor & occupational therapy, music therapy, special education and social intervention. The services include:



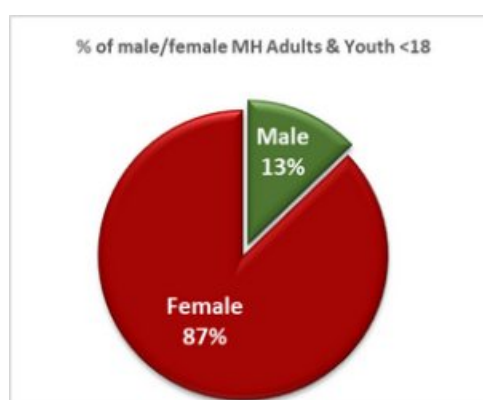
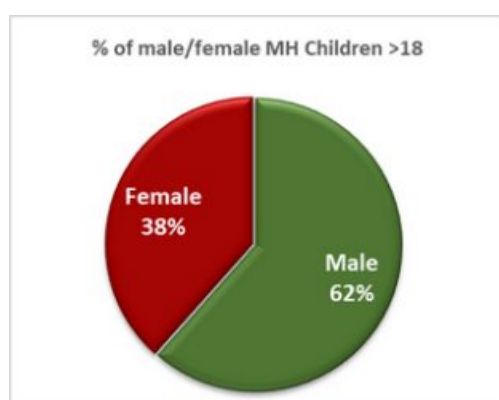
MH program addresses children Under-18 and their caregivers in the various activities. In 2023, a total of **1,835** male and female members of families, of different age groups, were reached. The table that follows show the numbers of each age-group, segregated by gender

MH Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total #
Children < 18	861	538	1,399
Beneficiaries < 18	56	380	436
Grand Total	917	918	1,835

The chart shows the number of beneficiaries per each activity



As clear in the table above, it's almost the exact number seen among the overall male and female beneficiaries. However, gender ratios vary hugely among the categories of age-groups with a higher male percentage among the children (62%) and, adversely, a higher female percentage among the adults (87%). The figures below illustrate the percentages of the beneficiaries segregated by gender according to age-groups.

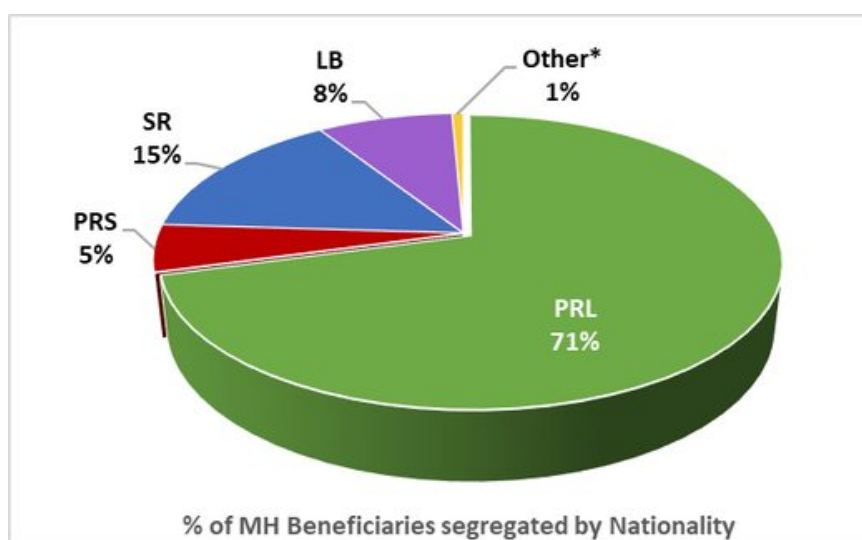


Beneficiaries of MH services are primarily the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL). However, the clinics are also accessible to other refugees and underserved nationalities living in the camps and around. Thus, the reach extends to PRS, Syrian refugees, disadvantaged Lebanese, and other migrants that are in need.

The numbers of beneficiaries of the different nationalities and the corresponding percentages are detailed in the following table and figure

MH Beneficiaries	Total #	PRL	PRS	SR	LB	Other*
Children < 18	1,399	950	60	251	131	7
Beneficiaries >18	436	348	36	23	23	6
Grand Total	1,835	1,298	96	274	154	13

**Other refers to minorities living in the camps of different nationalities*



Multiple Special Needs (MSN) Scholarships

In 2023, 48 scholarships were provided to 31 male and 17 female children living with Multiple Special Needs (MSN). The scholarships helped 41 PRL, 3 PRS, and 4 Syrian refugee children to have access to proper education that meets their individual needs. (MSN beneficiary details are included in the “Scholarship Program” section of this report.)

NISCVT operates five FGCs in the different provinces around Lebanon. Three are located in the camps, and two in the surrounding areas in Beirut and Saida cities. It is worth highlighting that due to funding constraints, many children are registered on a “waiting list” to receive mental health support and treatment from NISCVT FGCs when the budget permits.

The MH program welcomes volunteers into its FGCs. It also opens its centers to students’ internships from universities around Lebanon.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

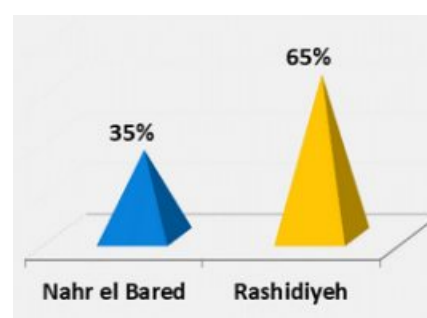
The “Strengthening community-based child protection, GBV interventions and psychosocial support in Palestinian camps and gatherings in Lebanon” project continued to be implemented at BAS centers in NBC (north) and Rashidiyeh camps (south). Working with children and caregivers along the years, the program has been recording successful results of integrating the children of the different needs in activities that increased their self-esteem and cooperation with their peers.

The PSS program constitutes the following activities:



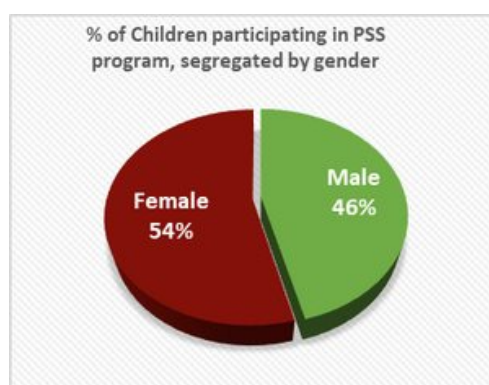
Program Reach

2,394 children and **640** parents and caregivers participated in the PSS activities in 2023 in the two locations. **65%** of the total are in the Rashidiyeh camp. The chart shows the percentage of participants in each camp/center



Children (3–18 years old):

54% of the children who participated in the PSS program are girls. The table below shows the numbers of children according to age-groups, segregated by gender. The figure illustrates these percentages.

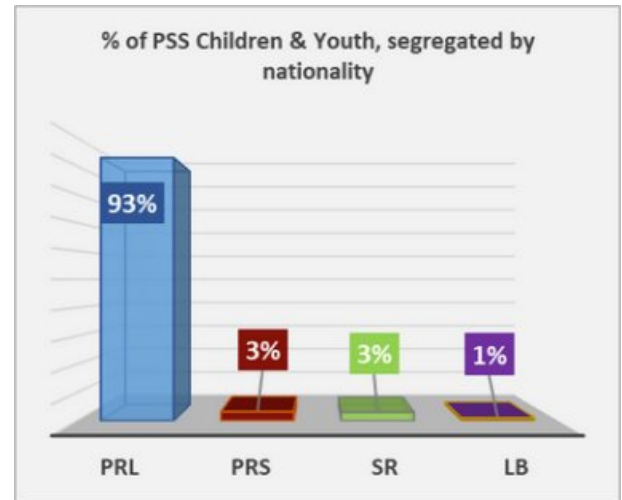


PSS Children	Male	Female	Total
3-5 yrs.	245	228	473
6-11 yrs.	566	638	1,204
12-14 yrs.	246	272	518
14-18 yrs.	43	156	199
Grand Total	1,100	1,294	2,394

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Children of the various camp residents are engaged in the same PSS activities. With the highest percentage of PRL (93%), the numbers and corresponding percentages are described in the table and the chart below.

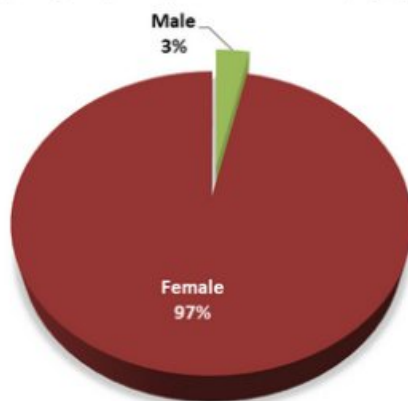
PSS Children	Total	PRL	PRS	SR	LB
3-5 yrs.	473	434	16	21	2
6-11 yrs.	1,204	1,105	34	61	4
12-14 yrs.	518	490	19	9	0
14-18 yrs.	199	188	9	2	0
Grand Total	2,394	2,217	78	93	6



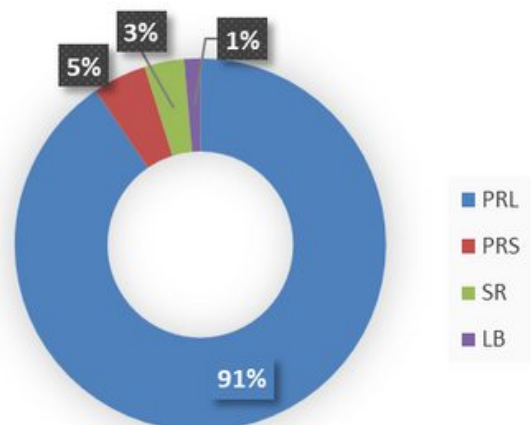
Parents and caregivers

As mentioned above, **640** parents and caregivers participated in the awareness raising sessions and other PSS activities in the two camps. The sessions tackled child protection concerns including positive parenting, and discussed children's development stages and behavioral modification methods. 21 men (fathers) were among the attendees. The figures below show the percentages of male/female and nationalities of the parents/caregivers.

% of parents/caregivers participated in PSS sessions, segregated by gender



% of PSS parent/caregivers segregated by nationality



ART & CULTURE

"And WE love life if we find a way to it ...

We open the garden gate for the jasmine to step out on the streets as a beautiful day."

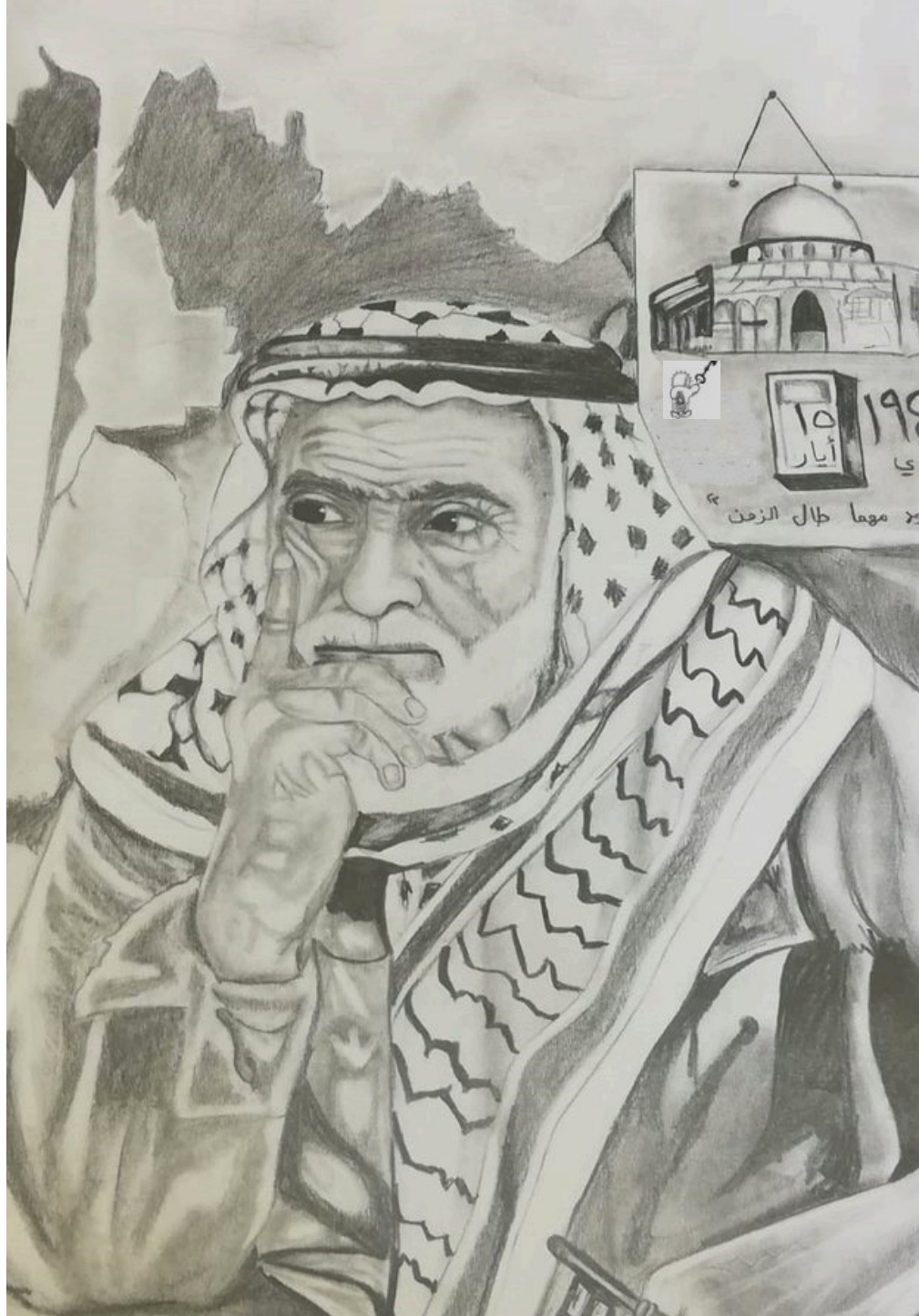
Mahmoud Darwish



It's all about the identity of a people uprooted from their land and stranded in refugee camps. Decades passed and this people insists to tell its story.

It is the story about Palestine being told in the fine stitches and lively designs of embroidery, the lines and shapes of drawings, the firm stomps of feet in Dabkeh, the honorable drum beats of the scouts, the strings of the music instruments, the tunes of the songs and the voices of children, and the exercise movements of sports.

It is the demand for the right to live in dignity, and the Right of Return to Homeland.

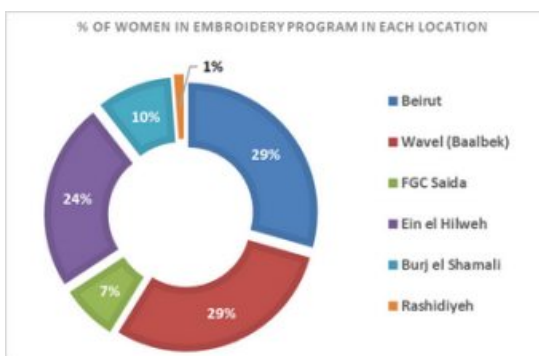


PALESTINIAN EMBROIDERY

Palestinian embroidery is in constant demand. Thanks to the hands that elegantly and passionately weave the threads in the authentic design of Palestine.

Teaching and training in embroidery emerged from two main goals: (a) Empowerment of women in the camps by providing an income generating profession they can accomplish while at home with their children; and (b) Preserving Palestinian identity and culture and protecting the heritage which is facing tremendous attempts to eliminate all what is Palestinian.

In 2023, BAS embroidery workshop continued its endeavors towards empowering women, facilitating income generating opportunities. With the support of the Italian organization, ARCI, a number of training workshops were conducted to women in the camps. “Made in Border” project graduated 50 women in Rashidiyeh and Burj el Shamali south camps.

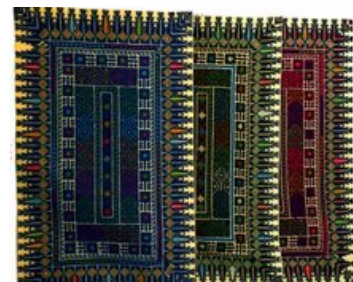


58 PRL women in different camps have taken embroidery as their permanent profession. The figure here shows the percentage of the beneficiaries in each camp.

Products of cushions, shawls, bags, bookmarks, coasters, greeting cards, traditional thobes and gowns and other items, are produced in high quality. The products are marketed locally in Lebanon and exported to USA, Norway, Germany, Italy, Japan, and more recently the Arab Gulf. In addition, BAS participates in national and international exhibitions, boosting the culture of Palestine and advocating for the Right of Return..



The embroidery workshop attracts foreigners from different countries, visiting the Palestinian community in Lebanon to show solidarity with the Palestinians.



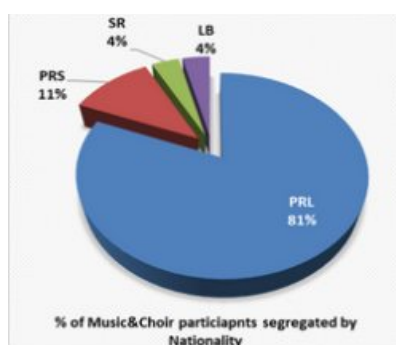
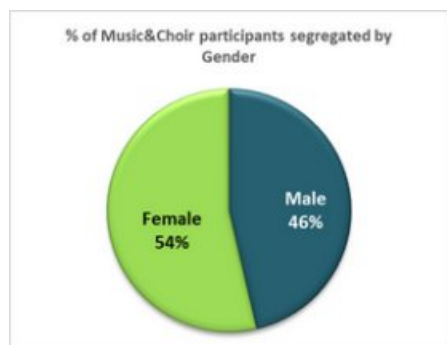
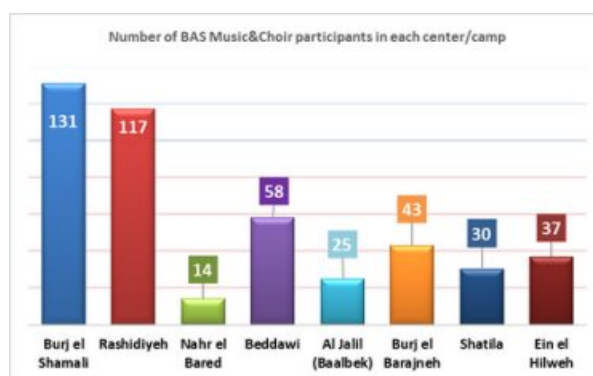
At NISCVT, music & choir program is a school, teaching young generation the harmony between Land and life. It is a tool to help children and youth in the refugee camps to express themselves, overcome fears and anxieties, and develop the sense of belonging to the community and the heritage.



455 children and youth, ages 7- 24, engaged in learning and playing music at BAS centers during 2023. Music programs continued to be implemented in eight camps, as indicated in the chart, where 100 of these were involved in the special music summer camp in al Jalil camp in Baalbek.

Songs and music blend all in one single melody, integrating male and female of different nationalities in a unified tune.

Of the total children and youth enrolled in the music and choir program, 54% are female, and 81% of the total are PRL.



For years in a row, the OPM Waldensian Church of Italy has been providing scholarships in music for exceling talents. The scholarships fulfill ambitions of youth to pursue professional skills at the Lebanese National Conservatoire. By the Church's support, encouragement and solidarity, the *Band Without Borders Orchestra*, formed in the southern camps, continues to develop and prosper.

Winner of 3rd place in The Palestine National Music Competition in 2021, *Al Kamandjâti Music Education Program in Shatila and Burj el Barajneh Camps* emphasizes learning to appreciate music through developing audio perception skills of sounds of nature for the learners. In November 2023, five young musicians from the camps participated in a concert tour in France and Italy. Organized by Al Kamandjâti France in collaboration with many associations, the **"Tour of Palestinian Talents from Lebanon"** aimed at supporting Gaza and raising awareness about Palestine and the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

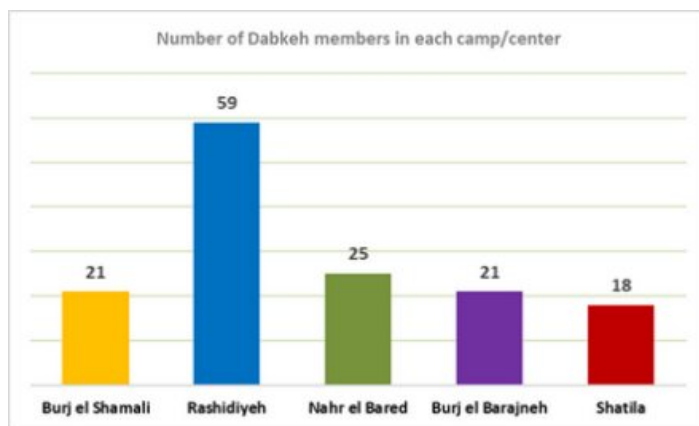
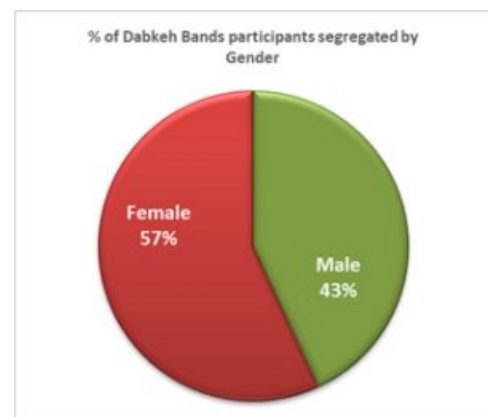


Palestinian Dabkeh

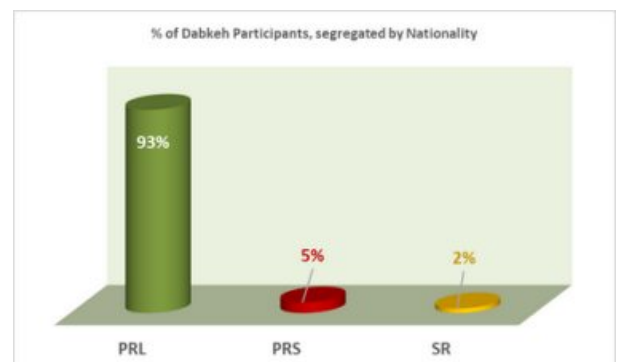
BAS adopts all what it takes to connect to Homeland and to teach high values of freedom and unity. Hence, the traditional folklore dance of Dabkeh not only brings images of Palestine's culture, but also develops leadership, cooperation, teamwork, and expression skills.

144 dancers (57% female) formed the Palestinian folklore dance groups in 2023. They jointly performed the Dabkeh on the special Palestinian occasions celebrating life, and confirming their Right of Return.

The figure below illustrates the percentages of male and female Dabkeh participants, and the chart shows the distribution among the centers.



With slight differences in the steps, Dabkeh is common among the peoples in the region. No matter what the nationality is, the children in the camp join hand in hand in the organized beats of the feet.



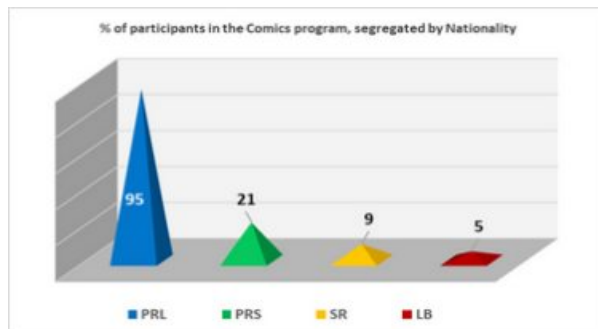
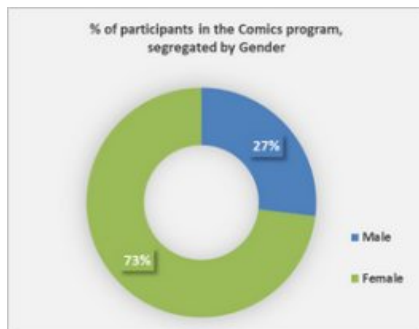
The structured art of Comics is another space that BAS centers provide for children, youth and adults to express themselves, unlock their creativity, and feel appreciated. Comics supports the individual's mental health, provides psychosocial support, and teaches messages necessary to both, the individual and the community.



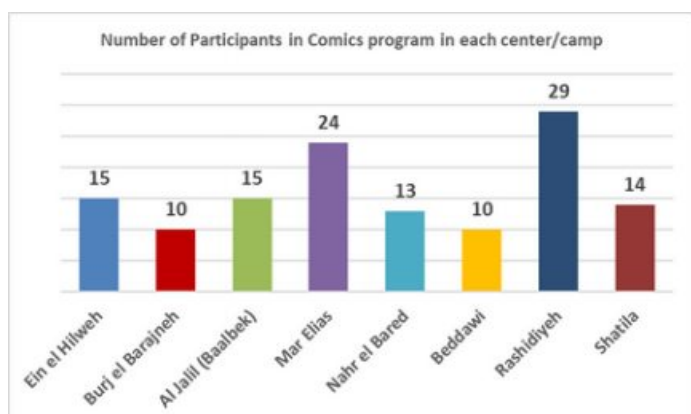
Young children, adolescents, adults, specifically mothers, are targeted in this art activity. All individuals have learned something, and want to say many things!



130 participants (73% female) used comics drawings to express their emotions, identify their problems, and propose ways to solve those problems. The figures below show the description of the beneficiaries.



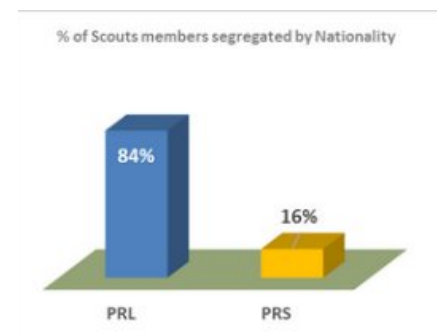
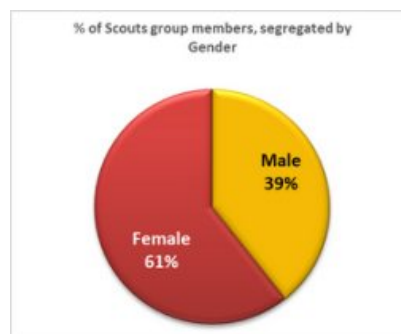
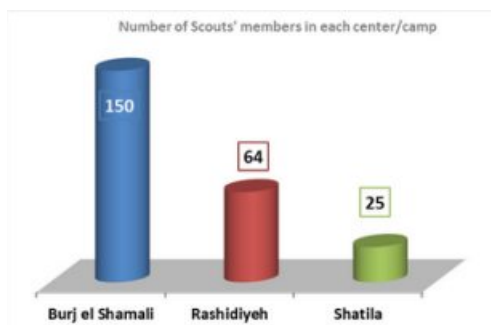
Affected by the loss of youth by the Death Boats in 2022, the participants emphasized human rights through drawings. Palestine and the Right of Return issues were on top of the stories they developed through the art of Comics. The program is implemented in 8 camps around the country.



In line with the mission to educate and empower, the scouts principles are key to teach discipline, respect, and honor. BAS upbrings generations on the values of the scouts' honor oath, pledging to fulfill the duty to God and country; to help other people at all times; to maintain good health: physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight. Scout activities include indoor learning sessions as well as exploration voyages to nature.



Scout groups are active in three locations: Shatila in Beirut, Burj el Shamali and Rashidiyeh camps in the south. The chart shows distribution of the **239** children and adolescents (61% female) in the locations. These 8-17 years old groups were committed to the scouts' activities during 2023. The figures that follow illustrate the percentages of gender and nationalities.

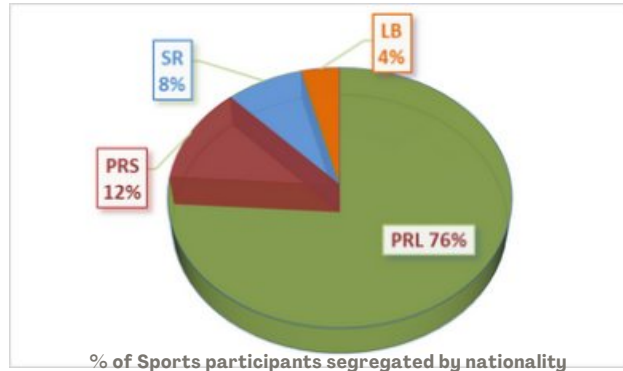
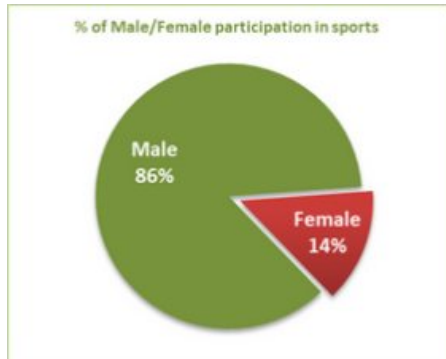


Scouts activities include vital participation in national events and commemoration of martyrs, for the sake of their sponsored children. Street performance and marches in the camps aim at engaging the community in highlighting the special national occasions and spreading positive vibes in the environment.



On an individual level, physical exercise releases stress and discharges negative energy. On the group level, it reinforces collaboration and team spirit. NISCVT utilizes sports activities to reinforce physical and mental health, promote gender equality, and build healthy peaceful communities.

323 children, youth and adults were involved in different sports activities in 2023. Of the total, 76% are PRL, whereas the female participation formed 14% only, as shown in the figures below. Ages of the participants range from 7 to 40. The open age limit to 40 years is found in NBC.



Despite the relatively low percentage of female participation in sports, it is a success that girls' football teams are growing in the camps. 15 girls in Burj el Barajneh (Beirut) and 30 in Nahr el Bared (north) camps have broken the typical gender discrimination by seeking skillful football playing; the latter considered a boys' game!



Girls in Nahr el Bared also play table tennis, or ping pong. Organized teams compete in games to enrich their skills.

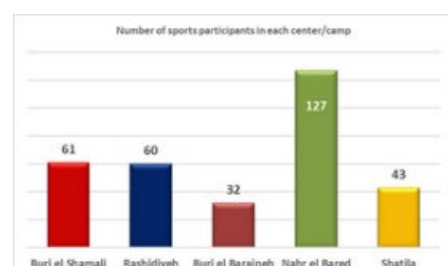


In addition to football and table tennis, children and youth engage in playing chess games. Other youth engage in running exercises and race tournaments.



Although all BAS centers provide sports activities for the youth, this total number refers to those participating regularly in structured teams. Mostly teams of football, these skill-focused trainings are found in the following centers/camps:

Special tournaments held on national occasions. The tournaments integrated Palestinian and Lebanese teams in friendly games.



The deteriorating socioeconomic situation falls heavy on the people, especially those living in the camps. With the challenging circumstances, increased inflation, and limited resources, NISCVT was able to distribute 16,085 portions of various humanitarian needs, including 2,445 cash for medicine support. The reach occurred on several rounds to the most needy people in the camps and gatherings. Many thanks and sincere gratitude to BAS friends and supporters who always extend their generous aid to the Palestinian refugees and the people in Lebanon.



6,263
Food Parcels & Vouchers



4,910
Hygiene & Baby Essential Kits



2,445
Cash Medical Support



511
Children Clothing



1,801
Children's Gifts & Stationery



155
**Women-specific vitamins &
Hygiene kits**

Donors, Partners & Friends

NISCVT expresses its thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers and donors, institutions and individuals, who supported the delivery of quality services and support to the refugees and underserved communities in all the camps and gatherings on the Lebanese territories.



From Bahrain:

- Awal Women Society



From Belgium:

- Action Development Parrainages Mondiaux (ASBL)



From Switzerland:

- Verein Die Unterst (PalCH)



From France:

- Association Franco Palestinienne Solidarité (AFPS)
- Conseil International De La Musique



From Malaysia:

- A. Abdul Rahim



From Germany:

- Fluchtlingsskinder im Libanon
- Catholic Church of Stuttgart



From Lebanon:

- American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA)
- Welfare Association



From the United Kingdom:

- Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)



From Finland:

- Finnish Psychologists for Social Responsibilities (FiPRS)
- Finnish Arab Friendship Society (FAFS)
- Global Social Work



From Spain:

- Associacio Catalana
- Farmamundi
- Taller d'Art Cultura i Creacio



From Norway:

- The Palestine Committee of Norway
- Forum for Culture & International Cooperation
- Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC)
- Norwegian Embassy in Beirut
- Jessheim Videregaende Skole



From Italy:

- Associazione di amiciziaitalo palestinese
- Cooperazione Odontoiatrica Internazionale
- Un Ponte Per
- Terre des Hommes Italia
- ULAIA Arte Sud Onlus
- Waldensian Church of Italy
- Arci Empolese Valdelsa
- Prima Materia Italy
- Not To Forget Sabra and Shatila Committee



From Japan:

- Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP)
- Japanese Committee for the Children of Palestine (JCCP) / Tokutei Hieiri Katsudou
- Risho Kosei-Kai, Lay-Buddhist (RKK)



From the United States of America:

- Empowerment and Advancement of Palestinians (LEAP)
- United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)
- WESPAC Foundation



- United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East --UNRWA
- United Nations Development Programme --UNDP
- United Nations Children's Fund --UNICEF
- World Health Organization -- WHO



All Friends and Individual Supporters in Lebanon and around the World