



Newsletter

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Special Interest News:

- About Beit Atfal Assumoud
- Family Happiness Project
- Psychosocial Support program
- Reproductive Health and Peer Education
- Educational Program
- Kindergartens
- Vocational Training
- Remedial classes
- Dental care program
- Donations
- Annual workshops for social workers
- Meetings and visits
- Music program
- Events
- International Day for the Protection of children from abuse
- Balfour declaration
- International solidarity day with the Palestinian people
- Celebration of the 30th anniversary of CCP
- Success story

Start with a smile!!



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

About Beit Atfal Assumoud

Beit Atfal Assumoud is a nonprofit organization that aims to contribute to the development of the Palestinian community in Lebanon through services addressing the needs of the families, and through various gender-balanced projects empowering the potentials and skills of the children, youth, women and parents or guardians.

Making one person smile can change the world. Maybe not the whole world, but their world.

Contact BAS at:

Telephone: +961 1 859 076

+961 3 233 073

Fax: +961 1 859 071

Website: www.socialcare.org

P.O.Box: 135621/Chouran
Beirut 1102-2060-Lebanon

Email:

NISCVT@socialcare.org

Fb: BeitAtfalAssumoud

Family Happiness Project

On October 29th, 2016 Beit Atfal Assumoud Family organized a farewell gathering for Mrs. Eiko Minami from Campaign for the Children of Palestine -Japan at the Mar Elias center.



On November 6th, 2016 BAS Shatila Center organized an exhibition of the drawings of young people who participated in a workshop on drawing and painting for one week. Trainers came from Sweden, Brazil, and France. At the end of the workshop, they've decorated the perimeter of the center with drawings and colors.



On October 7th, 2016 120 students attended a lecture on Human rights at Bourj El Barajneh BAS center in coordination with Dawaer Foundation and the Palestine Children Relief Fund (PCRF). School bags and stationeries were distributed after the activity.



On October 11th, 2016 Handicraft class was held for 18 mothers at BAS Mar Elias center as part of their monthly meeting.



Psychosocial support Program

As part of the Psycho-social support program sponsored by MAP and UNICEF, BAS organized an entertainment trip for 210 kids from Al Rashidiyeh and Bourj El Shemali kindergartens to the amusement park in Tyre, where they spent a fun time on November 15th, 2016.



On October 23rd, 2016 The National Palestinian Scout-Somoud/ Bourj El Shemali camp branch in collaboration with the Psycho-social support program, had a field day for kids to explore Tyre marina and port area where they learned the arts of fishing by fishermen Ali Zaatar who has been working in this job for 27 years. In addition, they had a tour in the market of Sour and visited the monuments of Al Buss.



As part of the Psycho-social support project for PRS sponsored by UNICEF / MAP, 130 children from FGC/ Al Buss went to Hoops for a sport activity that included football, jumping games, and other competitive games, where children spent a great time and came back delighted on October 13th, 2016.



In collaboration with CCP from Japan, BAS Baalbeck center set up an awareness session for pregnant women about the importance of psychological support for their children. Dr. Fatima Karzoun presented the course to 40 would-be-mothers, with the presence of Mrs. Yoshiko, Mrs. Komiko and Mrs. Yuka Heya from CCP-Japan. On October 27th, 2016, the Japanese delegation followed up on the progress of remedial classes and visited "Al-Inaash kindergarten" and displaced Syrian families living in Masbah.



Throughout October and November, as part of the psychological support program sponsored by MAP and UNICEF, the Al Rashidieh center organized awareness lectures on personal hygiene, attended by 250 mothers. Participants were mothers of kindergarten's children, sponsored families, psychologically supported people, embroidery workers and vocational trainers and hairdressers. At the end of each lecture, there was a distribution of personal hygiene needs for all participants.



On October 28th, 2016 BAS Shatila center set up a closing ceremony in coordination with ULYP for the workshop about culture and heritage held by ULYP. Certificates were distributed to youth who participated from Shatila and Mar Elias centers in the presence of a number of key persons and some members from the popular committee as well as parents.



Reproductive Health and Peer Education

Peer educator Mohamad Al Masri gave a session entitled “Gender” for vocational training students on November 12th, 2016 in BAS center at Bourj El Barajneh.



Peer education coordinator Mrs. Dunia Al Fatayri and Dr. Ahmad Kassem gave a session on communication to a new group in BAS center at Shatila on November 4th, 2016.



A session about physical and emotional changes during adolescence was held at Shatila BAS center on November 11th, 2016.



On October 3rd, 2016 BAS- FGC Saida center organized a meeting for mothers to discuss several important subjects such as breast cancer awareness class given by Iftikar Hajaj who focused on the importance of the upcoming free of charge medical examination from October to December 2016. At the end of the session, participants had the chance to ask questions. 30 mothers were present at this awareness session. Then, they attended another workshop on setting up their project. Mrs. Zeinab Rabani and Mrs. Ibtissam Khalil (BAS Saida center manager) gave a talk in coordination with a local institution.

On November 2nd, 2016 Peer Educator Dunia Al Fatayri gave a lecture to 40 mothers on “how to deal with your children” at the Pregnant center in Ein El Helweh. Bags containing necessities for woman and children from BAS Saida center were distributed to the mothers, supported by CCP in the presence of Mrs. Yuka Heya and Mrs. Fatima Shehade.



As part of the reproductive health project, BAS center of Al Beddawi honored the Drops association with a certificate of appreciation for their cooperation with BAS to support youth groups and concluding 9 awareness sessions on November 16th, 2016.



250 mothers from Naher EL Bared BAS center attended seven awareness lectures about self-hygiene in October 2016 as part of the project intended to support families, children and women who are affected by the Syrian crisis in the camps and gatherings, which are funded by UNICEF/ MAP. At the end of every lecture Hygiene kits were distributed to mothers.



Educational Program

On October 18th, 2016 within Early Childhood project supported by Welfare association and UNICEF, BAS Rashidieh center organized an educational session for 112 parents presented by Dr. Anis Al Haroub from American University of Beirut about the cognitive and emotional development for children between 3 and 6 years.



On November 9th, 2016 BAS center of Rashidieh organized the first educational meeting for parents of students in remedial classes with the manager of Al Rashidieh center Mahmoud Zeidan and the teachers there, who discussed learning objectives of the program and the difficulties experienced by students and the role of parents in the educational process. There were 35 mothers present.



BAS centers of Beirut (Shatila, Bourj El Barajneh and Mar Elias) and Baalbeck with the support of CCP honored their talented and volunteer youths with a trip to Bekaa on November 13th, 2016.



Kindergartens

The children of KG2- Bourj El Barajneh BAS center went to ULYP in Al Debiye to participate in outdoor activities that included an awareness session about personal hygiene, games, dance, workshops; they watched videos and had breakfast. Outdoor activities took place on October 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th.



As part of the support project of the affected displaced women and children from Syria in the camps and gatherings sponsored by MAP and UNICEF, Nahr El Bared BAS Center organized an animation day and set up a kermis of recreational activities to 80 children in Beit Atfal Assumoud on October 25th 2016 which included competences and arts. At the end fresh fruits were distributed to the participants.



Vocational Training

Two courses of Mobile maintenance and plumbing to 40 students started on October 2016 at Naher El Bared BAS center which is funded by Norway Embassy. The period of every course is 6 months, and it will end in March 2017.

Naher El Bared BAS center launched two courses supported by Norwegian People's Aid (NPA): Graphic Design and men's hairdressing. The duration of each cycle is 4 months session which began on November 1st, 2016, and ends on February 28th, 2017.



Remedial classes

BAS center of Bourj El Barajneh supported by CCP took his children of remedial classes to Fantasy world amusement park, where they played in all the games and had good time. In addition, they had a free lunch on November 26th, 2016.



Dental Care Program

Throughout October, a lecture on Fluoride was given to mothers at BAS center of El Beddawi and throughout November, dental clinic of El Beddawi BAS center organized activities to 42 children of kindergartens prepared by Dr. Manal Abou El Hana and the nurse of the clinic untitled teeth cleaning method with useful explanations and then a toothbrush was distributed for each child to conclude with a presentation about the importance of cleaning teeth. In addition, BAS center of Bourj El Shemali organized a session to 4 years old kids under the title" recognizing special medications for teeth". The session was given by Dr. Imad Ajjawi where 27 kids attended. At BAS center of Bourj El Shemali, the dentist gave several lectures for mothers as for kids about the attention of oral health and teeth. Several lectures were given during October at Al Rashidieh Kindergartens by Dr. Jaafar Taher for its children about cleaning teeth and in November lecture were on cleaning teeth and eating beneficial and non-beneficial.



Donations

BAS center of Bourj El Shemali with the finance of the Spanish association “Associació Catalana PER LA PAU” distributed 500 portions of food to PRS families on 8th of November, 2016.



BAS center of Bourj El Shemali organized a campaign for donation of clothes and shoes from friends and colleagues in Bourj El Shemali camp on November 26th, 2016. The popular market opened to help people in difficult economic situation where dresses, coats, sweaters, and shoes were distributed. The market began promptly at 9 am; more than a hundred poor families benefited from this, and it allowed each family to get around five pieces.



On October 6th /7th /8th /10th, 2016 BAS Baalbeck Center with the support of CCP held a distribution of 700 food parcels for PRS, resident in Galilee Camp, Baalbeck.



The annual workshops for social workers



On October 13th, 2016 Both Mrs. Kirsti Palonen and Mrs. Nina Lyytinen from Finland, organized the second day of workshop, a hiking day thru the mountains of Lebanon in Sannine and Baskinta. 20 social workers of BAS participated in addition to the presence of Miss Fatima Khayzaran, coordinator of Family Happiness Project. Everyone enjoyed this wonderful day in the nature.

Again Both Mrs. Kirsti Palonen and Mrs. Nina Lyytinen from Finland organized a one week workshop at Mar Elias BAS center for stress reduction on October 11th & 15th, 2016 a workshop. 22 social workers “including the new colleagues” of BAS participated with the presence of Miss Fatima Khayzaran, coordinator of FHP and Mrs. Nina Lyytinen presented the session. They benefited from special exercises and some guidelines that can be followed in their daily lives to help them reduce their stress.

On October 14th, 2016 The Two Finnish psychologist organized a special workshop for the social workers who participated in this training in previous years. This group is advanced than others and went thru new exercises.



Meetings and visits

A delegation from CCP- Japan (Mrs. Yoshiko Tanaka, Mrs. Yuka Heya and Mrs. Komiko Taura) accompanied by Dr. Faizah Masri had a meeting in FGC Saida center on Wednesday 26 October, 2016 with the psychologist Dr. Jihane Rohayem, the director of BAS FGC Saida Mrs. Ibtissam Khalil, the psychologist Mohamad Arrabi in addition to a meeting Mrs. Bahaa Al Tayar, the director of BAS Ein El Heweh center and the dentist Ahmad Miaari.



On October 18th, 2016 Mr. OTSUKA SEIICHI , the ambassador of Japan in Lebanon and Mrs. BARADA visited BAS Baalbeck center accompanied by BAS general director Kassem Aina where they had look at remedial education project and they've studied the condition of PRS families in Lebanon, residing in Al Masbah. In addition, they met members of the popular committee of Galilee Camp.



A delegation of Comite Adior Bastir from France visited Shatila center accompanied by Mr. Kassem Aina, BAS general Director, to inspect the institution's services and activities. The delegation also visited two families of the victims of Sabra and Shatila Massacre and toured inside the camp on November 1st, 2016.



Two sponsors (Mr. Robert Marsdem and his mother Mrs. Suzan Marsdem) from London who sponsor a little girl from Shatila BAS center visited the center and checked all the girl's activities. They met the girl and her family, also visited Shatila camp to learn about the situation there on October 27th, 2016.



On October 8th, 2016 A German delegation from Fluchtlingskinder in Lebanon association represented by the president Mrs. Ingrid Rumpf and accompanied by Mrs. Lise El Abed and her husband Mr. Ahmad El Abed visited BAS Family Guidance Center in Saida in order to meet the social workers of Ein El Helweh BAS center to discuss the situation of the sponsored children. In addition, Mrs. Ingrid met the child Farah Saad Al Dine that she is sponsoring, and she brought gifts for her. Then they toured the old camp and visited Mazen and Jamal



An Italian group of volunteers from UN PONTE PER visited BAS center of Bourj El Barajneh on November 16th, 2016. The group consisted of: Riccardo Spalacci, Giorgio Lentini, Teresa Biscosi, Caterina Finetti and Paola Robino Rizet who toured inside the center, the kindergarten and the camp to get acquainted to the daily life inside the camp.



4 Nurses from University of Tromsø Norway visited BAS center of Baalbeck and distributed woolen clothes for PRS and PRL children on November 19th, 2016. In addition, they trained for 9 weeks at the El Buss center.



Music Program

A Norwegian delegation visited the Al Rashidieh center, accompanied by Mr. Peter Prague from Jessheim Senior High School in Norway. The delegation included musicians and Drama teachers; they organized musical and drama workshops with students and teachers of BAS music program, which lasted for three days from 21 till 23 October 2016. The activity concluded with a music and drama show in the presence of the parents, students and Norwegian volunteers as part of the mental health program at El Buss Family Guiding Center.



EVENTS

On October 27th, 2016 BAS organized a meeting in Mar Elias center to launch and discuss the book: [Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon \(1\) “the cost between siblings at the time of conflict”](#) released by the Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), attended by the head of LPDC committee and the former minister of education, Dr. Hassan Mnaymeh and the responsible of the popular front of Liberation of Palestine in Lebanon, Mr. Marwan Abed Al. The dialogue was controlled by BAS General Director Mr. Kassem Aina.



Nahr El Bared BAS Center set up a meeting with the President of the Lebanese Nursing Syndicate Dr. Nihad Doumit accompanied by the Union Lawyer, the Union director, Mr. Shafiq Shoab from the Lebanese- Palestinian Forum and a group of Palestinian Nurses of North Lebanon with the presence of Mr. Kassem Aina on October 20th, where Dr. Doumit talked about the Union history and goals, the options which are available for the Palestinian nurses to join the union and other their rights and duties. Then she gave the nurses a chance to speak about the challenges that faced them in the Lebanese hospitals and she answered their questions. They discussed many topics and ideas that are related directly to the Palestinian



International Day for the Protection of children from abuse

Under "Children, women and families affected by the crisis of displaced Syrians support in the Palestinian camps and gatherings project" sponsored by the UNICEF / MAP.

On the occasion of "International Day for the Protection of Children from abuse", BAS FGC of Al Buss prepared special activities which began on November 14th and ended on November 25th with a recreational trip to the city of the Games / Al Abasiya, where 180 children from refugee camp Al Buss and gatherings (Jal Sea, Al Samer River, and Al Quasimiyah) participated and they were delighted.



Balfour declaration

Balfour Declaration led to taking over of Palestine by the Zionists and the disaster of the Palestinian citizens from their land by force. On the occasion of Balfour Declaration on November 2nd, a variety of national activities (meaningful dialogue and discussion, games, contests ...) with the children of Beit Atfal Assumoud on the definition of Balfour Declaration and the negative repercussions on the Palestinian people and the region that was attended by our children and mothers. Shatila BAS center organized an activity to children of kindergarten and remedial classes which included drawing Palestinian Flag and a march beside the resting place of the martyrs in Shatila camp. In addition, Bourj El Barajneh BAS center held an activity with special needs girls, which included drawing and paintings.



International solidarity day with the Palestinian people



On October 6th, 2016 BAS's mothers, children and workers of Shatila and Bourj Barajneh participated in a protest in solidarity with the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention in front of Red Cross Hamra (ICRC), and the child Hanin Abou Al Ghouch addressed BAS's speech on that day.



Poster for the occasion



On November 29th, 2016 the International Solidarity Day with Palestinians where children invited by BAS participated from all Kindergartens children of Bourj El Barajneh BAS center with children from others kindergarten in the camp in reviving this occasion, demanding from all children around the world and demanding the United Nations for the implementation of resolution 194 which provides for the right of return to their homeland Palestine.



BAS center of Al Beddawi and Ein El Helweh organized a national competition, activity of drawing the flag of Palestine and activity of locating my town or village in Palestine on November 27th, 2016. So we do not forget and we raise our children to love Palestine.



BAS center of Naher El Bared organized a national event on the occasion of International Solidarity Day with Palestinians under the title "balloon of love" and through the embodiment of a map of Palestine and placing each child's balloon, who wrote a message of love and loyalty to his beloved homeland Palestine sticking for the right to return to Palestine with the participation of 100 children on November 27th, 2016.



Celebration of the 30th anniversary of CCP



BAS was invited by the Campaign for the Children of Palestine in Japan (CCP) to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the association and her collaboration with Beit Atfal Assumoud. BAS accepted the invitation with pleasure from 16 till 22 November 2016. Mr. Kassem Aina was accompanied by Dr. Faizah Masri coordinator of dental clinics and Mrs. Aziza Shehadi the responsible of BAS center of Baalbeck camp. First, they had a press conference in CCP residence at Tokyo city. Then, they visited Donate a Meal Fund (RKK) which sends every year gifts for Palestinian KG children where they had a meeting with the President designate of Risho Kose-Kai Mrs. Mitsuyo Niwano to discuss possibility to sponsor other project at BAS. They met with CCP board; however, two CCP board members will be visiting BAS in February 2017. In addition, they met Japanese Committee for the Children of Palestine (JCCP) who has been supporting Family Happiness Project since 1984 where some of the sponsors attended the meeting.

Mr. Kassem Aina was the guest of honor for the celebration of 30th anniversary of CCP in Tokyo and the celebration included a speech from the president of CCP board. They discussed lot of important issues about the Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria where Mrs. Aziza Shehadi presented two cases of PRS children benefiting from CCP Support. Moreover, speeches from Japanese professors from three different Universities had a speech about: 1) the situation of Palestinians in Gaza and West Bank 2) A survey about the Palestinians opinion concerning electing a new president for the Palestinian authority 3) analyzing the results of electing Mr. Trump the election results of the new president USA and its influence.

At the end, Panel in both Japanese and English from Palestinian embroidery was presented to CCP as a gift from all BAS family. Mr. Kassem Aina met with the general director of Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, Ambassador, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Mr. Tsukas Uemura. He promised to help the Palestinians in Lebanon and BAS. This visit has shown the Japanese sympathy with the Palestinian cause which is revealed by JCCP and CCP.



Success Story

This story was written on 29 August 2016 by Mrs. Amena Hussein, a sponsored child at Family Happiness project since a young age.

Finally, I did it. I became an electrical and computer engineering student at the American University of Beirut with a scholarship. Well, I am Amena Hussien and I am 18 years old Palestinian refugee in Lebanon from the Bourj Al Barajneh camp. It has been my goal since grade nine where we make official exams. During that year I grew to like two subjects that are mathematics and physics and I started searching for a major that mathematics and physics are its essence. And electrical and computer engineering was the answer. I took the official exams in grade nine for granted and thought they were easy and I would get very good without having to study, but it turned out to be wrong where I good and needed one mark for very good. For grade twelve I chose Life Science branch for not having a General Science one at my school. During that year I got many offers to complete my university studies abroad but I also refused. I learned my lesson from grade nine and put everything in studying hard and got the result I wished. I got an 84% that allowed me to get the MasterCard Foundation scholarship. During all that, I never left music and music never left me. I have been playing oud since I was 12 years at Al Kamandjati and Beit Atfal Assumoud organizations. And I even got a scholarship to study Oud at the Lebanese National Conservatory from them which I accepted.

I come on Sundays to the center to make training in Oud and I am a member of the orchestra. I participated in 3 music summer camps in Maasser El Chouf and Mar Antonios convent in inside Lebanon. These three camps were ended by 3 festivals at the American University of Beirut and I was a member of the orchestra. In addition to this, I come to the center on Wednesdays to help the beginners of Oud students to get improved.

