



**HABILITATION PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR  
PREPARED BY NAHLA GHANDOUR  
2022-2023**

Beirut 1/9/2023

**ECONOMICAL & SOCIAL BACKGROUND IN LEBANON**

By the end of summer 2019, the Lebanese government declared it's inability to pay the trillion of loans Lebanon is debited to other countries and international agencies.

Inflation started and is still ongoing to the date of this report. The value of our currency/\$ was 1\$=1,500.00 Lebanese Lira. Now at this date 1\$= 85,000.00 L.L.

This resulted in the drop of the value of the staff salaries. Then the Foundation had to decrease the salaries by around 48%, due to the decrease in the number of donors supporting the Foundation and the inflation, on count that the salaries will be paid in dollars.

Since the start of the Syrian war, 2011, international organizations and governments shifted their support to emergency help to the victims of war in Syria. Thus, resulted in a decline in attention to Lebanon and the support of projects targeting Palestinian Refugee.

These factors had their dire consequences on our center. Several changes happened:

1. The cancellation of the Drama Therapy, Dance Movement Therapy Activities with the cut in the branches of medical care we provided. Family Medical Doctor resigned, and at the end of this year, in July 2023, the orthopedic Surgeon resigned. The children are left only with Dental Care, which is support by a British NGO.
2. The remaining therapist started working part time, this led to a little decrease in the number of children enrolled and intervened with this year.
3. Closing the Occupational Therapy Workshop for designing and manufacturing of Postural Support System (positions of the body).
4. Stopping the annual publication for a booklet in Arabic for Parents. These booklets' aim is to increase the knowledge of the families in their children's disability and all areas of intervention.

## OVERVIEW OF THE WORK DURING 2022-2023

57 children with disabilities (15 females, 42 males) registered at the beginning of the year. 12% of the children had Communication Problems & Learning Difficulties, 30% had Cerebral Palsy, 3% had Genetic Diseases, 49% had Autism and 5% had Developmental Delay.

We opened on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September, 2022, and closed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July, 2023. Work was adjusted to all the changes and working with children continued in the same determination.

A total of 9,309 sessions were conducted, distributed as follows:

1. **Special Education**, 3465 sessions (for three groups, one consists of children with Autism)
2. **Speech Therapy**, 1930 session
3. **Physical Therapy**, 1918 session
4. **Occupational Therapy**, 1996 session
5. **Dental Care**, 30 sessions for 22 CwD (8 females, 14 males), 7 children underwent dental surgery at the hospital
6. **Orthopedic Care**, 8 sessions for 9 CwD (4 Females, 5 Males)
7. **Family intervention**: 10 **Home visits**, 65 **counselling** sessions for 23 families ( 19 mothers, 14 fathers, 2 grandmothers , 4 siblings), 18 sessions of **Education & awareness** (9 contact hours), 7 **Support Group** Meetings

Family Intervention is a main program in our center. It intervenes with the families in several activities, education and awareness workshops, Parent Support Group at meet once every month, training of the parents in caring techniques for the children at home (this is the parent's contribution to the development of their children, and preventing body deformities resulting from their disability). The Training starts in January of every year and ends in July. Providing families with postural support systems at home (which stopped for reasons mentioned above), and psychological intervention for members of the family to decrease levels of depression, anxiety and stress.

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

Funds that we receive comes mainly from international NGOs. The aftermath of COVID-19 was the global inflation. The funding agencies, already scarce, decreased the amount of support. Which means, more need for financial coverage for service fees of the children. This year, we could secure only 60% of the budget. Emergency steps had to be taken to try to find support for the remaining 40%.

Here, comes the contributions of individuals, national & international, which is of great value to sustain our existence.

Aside from covering parts of the cost-of-service fees, contributions from individuals, also help when there is delay in transfer of money from International Agencies, thus delay in staff cashing their salaries. The contributions collected from these generous individuals; help cover the salaries during these periods. When the transfer arrives, from INGO, the special account allocated for our center gets back the loans. This money also is a safety block for continuous maintenance of the center, in the communication costs (internet, social media, ....), in support

for transportation of the staff. The rise in the cost of all merchandize, which includes Petrol, makes it very difficult for staff financially, specifically that the Foundation does not support staff transportation.

All contributions lower the deficit in budget we have seen during the COVID years. It is worth giving a view of what I am talking about. The list of salaries goes as follows, around 6 staff members collect around 200\$ per month, around 4 ranges from 500\$ to 300\$/month, 4 have a salary of between 700\$ to 900\$/months. This late category have to commute b their cars. Most of the others live mainly in the camp. The cost of petrol/week is 60\$, which means 360\$/month. This is only for petrol.

In general, we cash very little, and have to buy all our needs in the value of the dollar. They say we are one of the most expensive in the world. The discrepancy is dazzling!