

Association Najdeh
Social Affairs Program
Activities Report January – December 2007

Introduction

In May 2007 armed clashes erupted in Nahr El Bared camp between the Lebanese Army and a terrorist group leading to displacement of its Palestinian refugees and some Lebanese families. The staff of the Social Affairs program joint their efforts with the staff of Najdeh's other programs assisting the IDPs with emergency and relief assistance. The IDPs included the program's beneficiaries (sponsored children, students, patients and hardships). Most of the university and vocational training students from NBC who are studying in Beirut were not able to return back to the north and forced to stay in Beirut for a long time. The Social Affairs program provided some of those students with in-kind and cash assistance during their forced stay in Beirut.

As for the five sponsored children from NBC they all took refuge at Baddawi camp and were followed and assisted by the program's staff. As for the patients from NBC they took refuge at the other camps in different regions and were followed in the different regions by the program's staff there to provide them with all assistance needed.

Planned & Actual Activities

The plan was to provide 339 assistances while the actual reached 381 for 373 hardships. In total, 1225 different kind of assistance was provided with the lowest in Tripoli that was the main focus of the Emergency program.

The 1225 assistance is divided as follows:

- 381 educational, medical and sponsorship assistances
- 128 medical assistance secured through the PHF
- 716 different kind of urgent assistance for hardships from all regions excluding the North were provided by the efforts of the staff.

Table 1: Social Affairs: Number of assistance by kind & region **Jan-Dec 2007** **No.**
1225

Type of assistance	Beirut	Sidon	Tyre	Tripoli	Beqa'a	Total
In-Kind (urgent)	182	8	140	0	113	443
Cash assistance (urgent)	154	17	34	0	68	273
Total Additional Assistance	336	25	174	0	181	716
Medical assistance PHF	24	43	34	12	15	128
Educational Scholarship	114	82	45	40	48	329
Medical assistance	6	4	3	2	4	19
Sponsorship	3	12	7	5	6	33
Total Assistance	123	98	56	47	58	381
General Total	483	166	263	59	254	1225

The majority of the assistance was educational with 329 cases at 86%. Of those, 184 cases were for university students, while it was 88 cases in 2006, which reflects the Najdeh's plan to increase its support for University students. Besides, 110 assistances were given to vocational training students, and only 35 school students were provided with scholastic assistance during 2007. In addition, the staff secured a total of 716 assistances from sources other than Najdeh in all regions. The units varied between food rations (266), exemption of Najdeh's KG & VT fees (48), cash assistance (273), cloth (72), and stationary (19) including school bags for KGs children, in-kind (37) including toys, baby diapers, food rations and 1 medical assistance was provided for a patient in Tyre region.

Table 2: Social Affairs: Assistance by type & region

Jan-Dec 2007

N = 381

Assistance		Region					Actual	Planned
		Beirut	Sidon	Tyre	Tripoli	Beqa'a		
Educational Scholarship	School	10	9	0	2	14	35	26
	Vocational Training	10	47	23	17	13	110	94
	University	94	26	22	21	21	184	176
Total		114	82	45	40	48	329	296
Health	Surgery	6	4	3	2	4	19	10
Self-Help	Sponsorship	3	12	7	5	6	33	33
General Total		123	98	55	47	58	381	339

Regionally, and according to table 3, the highest number of extra units secured by the staff efforts was in Beirut, where a total of 336 types of assistance were distributed.

Table 3: Social Affairs: Local Support Secured by staff by types & region Jan-Dec 2007 N = 716

Type of Support	Beirut	Sidon	Tyre	Beqa'a	Total
Food rations	131	0	70	65	266
Partial Exemption of Fees	0	0	24	24	48
Cash Assistance	154	17	34	68	273
Clothing	14	8	26	24	72
Stationary	0	0	19	0	19
Medical Assistance	0	0	1	0	1
Baby diapers & toys	37	0	0	0	37
Total	336	25	174	181	716

The Palestinian Health Fund

During 2007, 155 cases were referred to the Palestinian Health Fund, through Najdeh. Of those, 128 cases benefited from the fund. Of the 128 cases, 24 received monthly medical assistance and 104 received one-time medical assistance for operations while 26 cases were not applicable because they didn't match the fund's conditions.

Table 4: Social Affairs: Assistance through the Palestinian Health Fund Jan-Dec 2007 N =155

	Beirut	Tyre	Tripoli	Beqa'a	Sidon	Total
Monthly Medical Sponsorship	6	6	0	2	10	24
One-time Medical Assistance	18	28	12	13	33	104

Total	24	34	12	15	43	128
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Referral to Najdeh's other Programs.

During the reporting period, a total of 218 beneficiaries were referred by the SA program to Najdeh's other programs. The highest number of referral was to the Mother & Child Program including its summer activities that reached 114 beneficiaries, 30 beneficiaries were referred to the Popular Education program including its Tutorial classes and 74 were referred to the Vocational Training program.

Table 5: Social Affairs: Referrals to Najdeh's other programs Jan-Dec 07 N = 218

Centre	Najdeh's Programs			Total
	Vocational Training	Popular Education	Mother & Child	
Beirut	19	0	12	31
Sidon	14	5	41	60
Tyre	9	0	4	13
Tripoli	0	0	0	0
Beqa'a	32	25	57	114
Total	74	30	114	218

Beneficiaries Social Background

A total of 373 families benefited from the Social Affairs program. Of those, 97% were Palestinian, and 78% were camps residents. Concerning the social situation of the parents, 18% of the fathers and 3% of the mothers are deceased. Chronically ill parents marked a decrease among mothers from 43% in 2006 to 36% in 2007, and decreased among fathers from 49% to 45%. In addition, 2% of the mothers and 3% of the fathers are disabled.

Table 6: Social Affairs: Family Social Background Jan – Dec. 2007 N = 373

		Number		%	
		2006 (N= 268)	2007 (N= 373)	2006	2007
Fathers	Deceased	69	67	26%	18%
	Chronically ill	83	138	31%	37%
	Disabled	21	16	8%	4%
	Healthy	95	152	35%	41%
Present Fathers (N= 306)	Working regularly	100	148	50%	48%
	Working irregularly	69	102	35%	33.5%
	Unemployed	29	56	15%	18.5%
Mothers	Deceased	14	13	5%	3%
	Chronically ill	109	129	41%	35%
	Disabled	5	7	2%	2%
	Healthy	140	224	52%	60%
Present Mothers (N= 360)	Working regularly	23	43	9%	12%
	Working irregularly	23	27	9%	7.5%
	Unemployed	208	290	82%	80.5%
Family Size	9+ members	41	84	15%	23%
	5-8 members	150	187	56%	50%
	1-4 members	77	102	29%	27%
Families without other means of support		161	265	60%	71%
Families assisted by several sources		107	109	40%	29%

Regarding the parents job profile the proportion of working mothers on regular bases increased from 9% in 2006 to 12% in 2007, whereas it decreased among fathers from 50% to 48%. As for unemployment, it increased among fathers from 15% to 18% and decreased among mothers from 81% to 80%.

At the family level, big sized families increased from 15% to 23%, the medium sized families decreased from 56% to 50% and the small sized families stayed almost the same at 27%. Concerning their economic situation, the rate of families that didn't receive any financial support was 60% and increased to 71%, while families supported by relatives or other organizations rated 29%, while it was 40% last year.

As for children, a total of 1649 children belong to the 373 families. Of those, 82 children are chronically ill and 36 are disabled. 402 children are below 14 years old, 419 are between 14-18 years old and 828 are above the age of 18. Concerning their education, 334 children were at the university level, 233 at the secondary level, 212 at vocational institutions, 412 at the intermediate level, and 325 were at elementary level of education. On the other hand, 25 children are illiterate or semi-illiterate. Also, 31 children are below 3 years old and 67 are at KGs. Of the 1649 children, 464 are working with 170 of them working on regular bases and 140 working on irregular bases.