

# FACING TOTAL COLLAPSE



Annual Report  
2021





# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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## Chairman's letter

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### Preventing Total Collapse

In 2021, the Lebanese crisis worsened. Financial, governance and COVID challenges brought the country to its knees. We went on meeting the urgent daily needs of those who are the most affected by the crisis.



Furthermore, we also bet on developing programs targeting male and female youth. We designed projects that restore confidence in our frustrated citizenship, provide a remedy to our polluted environment, bridge the educational and cultural gaps that our students have sustained during the pandemic, allowing us to keep pace with the digitalization.

We also renewed the members of the administrative board and brought in young energies in our various programs.

As Lebanon appears to be in a rapidly accelerating free fall, we developed projects that transform our youth dreams into realistic aspirations towards building a possible future; friends and partners responded,

We thank them very much.

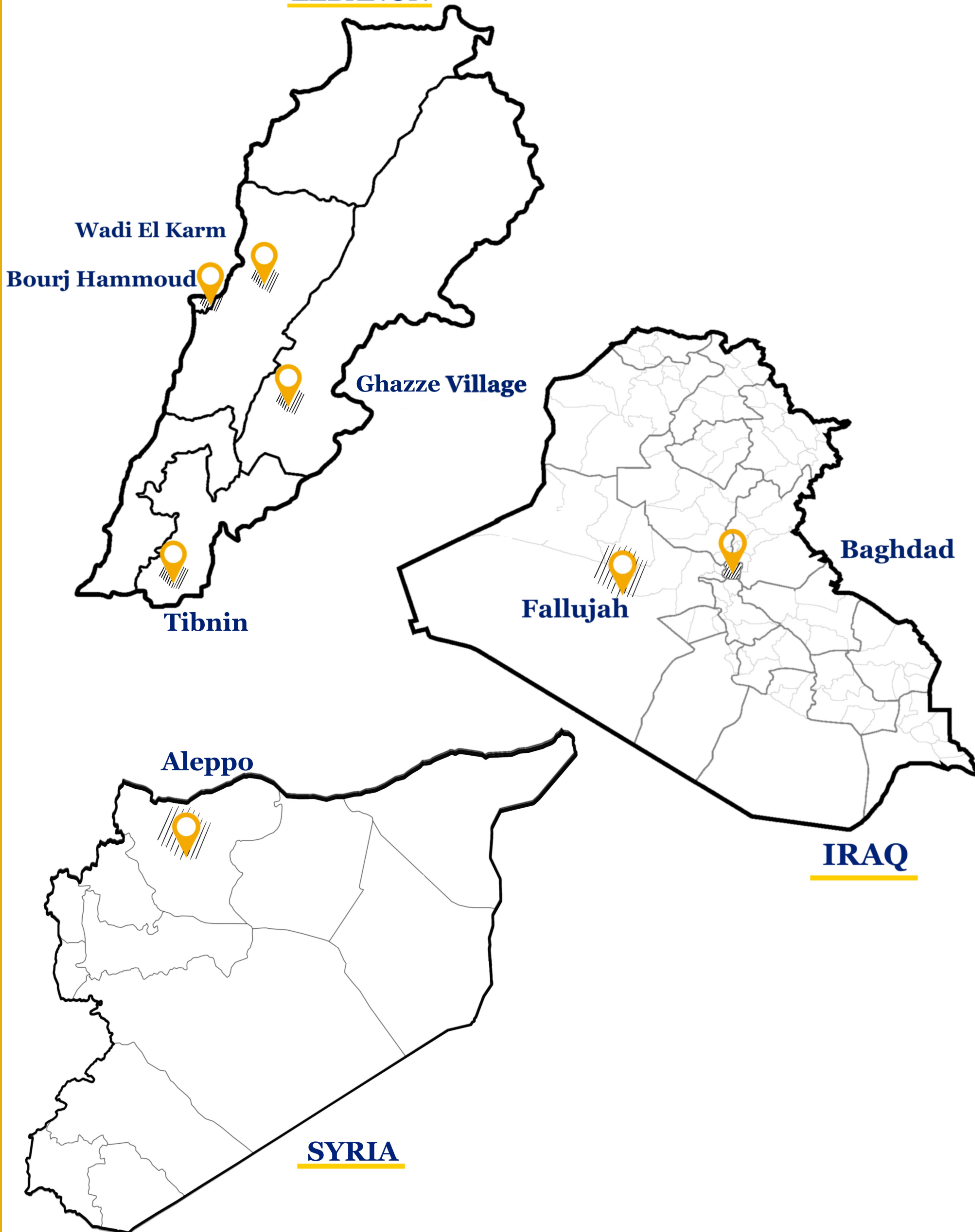
**Father Albert Abi Azar**



# Where we got involved

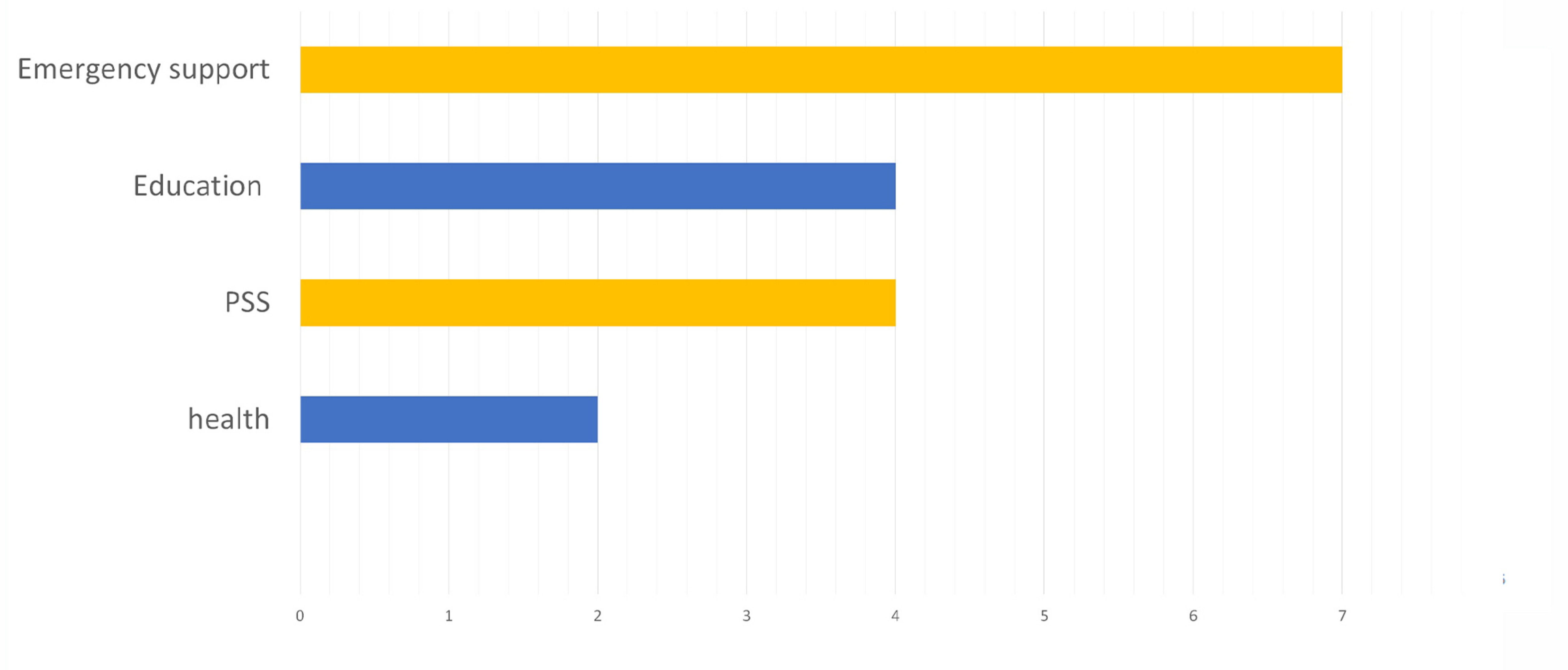
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## LEBANON

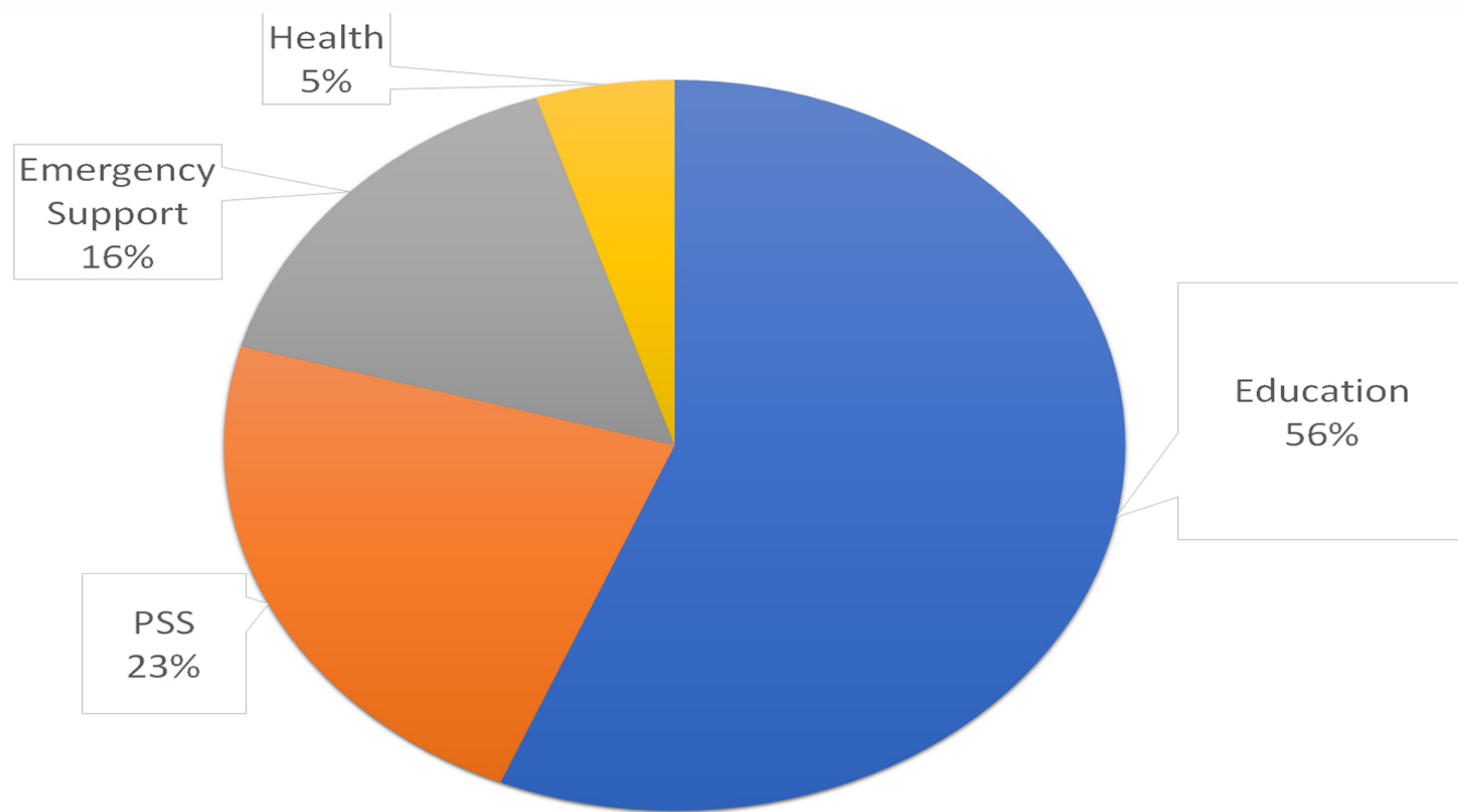




# Number of projects per sector



**Budget 1,577,493.00 USD**



## Total number of beneficiaries

**14,938**



# Insights from the field





## **A bright spot in our Child Protection Program**

I wrote Brian's volunteering story to show how breaking silence and confronting the fear of speaking out problems, applies to child protection principles.



### **“Yara's house is torn”**

Brian is the eldest child of a family of four. Born in 2004, he developed normally until war broke out in 2006. He spoke in understandable sentences, recognized his first name, and referred to himself using the 'I'. "Yara's -his friend and neighbor- house is torn" was the last intelligible sentence he uttered, after the war ended, while visiting his family and neighbor destroyed homes. After that, he lost his ability to communicate, and his pronunciation became incomprehensible. His mother resorted to ALPHA, which, when the war ended, had begun providing psychological support to children and their families. His treatment lasted for a year and a half, during which his parents persevered in carrying out all the exercises required by the psychologist.

### **"I am not afraid anymore of red"**

Brian entered school at the age of four, able to describe the "sound of a bombshell" instead of using "Christmas crackers" to escape his feelings of fear. He entered it, confessing to the psychologist that he was no longer afraid of “the red color of bloodied victims”.

### **“Don't be afraid to talk about your problems and solve them”**

Here's Brian today, a successful medical student, “ seeking to pay back to Alpha” through his volunteer work. “I can't forget ALPHA, who taught me not to fear talking about my problems. Don't be afraid, talk about your problems, face them.”

To discover the psychological and social problems experienced by children exposed to crises and wars at an early age, and resolve them as soon as they are discovered, is a fundamental principle of child protection. But this principle does not succeed without parents and social environment acknowledging the existence of the problem and the necessity of confronting it.

**Gracia Aoun - ALPHA team Tibnin, South Lebanon**



## Confronting the financial crisis with Syrian traditional cuisine.

“The relationship between Syrians and their food is a unique bond of love, that is not to be found in any of the Arab or European countries I have visited. A needy and passionate relationship makes food a principal source of inner security. Therefore, even the poorest can cook an appetizing dish with very simple ingredients”

Rasha Omran, Syrian writer



Women in our Middle eastern countries bear a great responsibility in household management. It is their duty to manage the family's income and respond to the needs of its members for food and clothing. In light of the current crisis, securing food is a major challenge for families with limited income. But children need healthy food to grow, and, like their parents, they crave for tasty food, while buying ingredients for tasty cooking recipes, like oil, meat, and various spices, has become impossible, given their exorbitant prices.

ALPHA provides multi-purpose psychosocial support activities to the mothers of the children of the Damma Educational Center, whom are mostly from Syrian origins. One of these activities is to motivate them to search for traditional recipes inherited from the traditional cuisine of the countryside of Damascus, Aleppo and Zabadani, the areas from which they were displaced.

The traditional cuisine of those rural areas depends on wheat-based products that are available in every household no matter the scarcity, which are flour, bulgur, semolina and on a locally available spice, sumac.

The mothers prepared several low-cost meals, based on the three wheat products mentioned above, which are healthy because they contain minerals and vitamins. They also used water instead of oil and animal derivatives such as ghee or butter, which are difficult to obtain in a time of economic crisis.

Mothers cooked to feed their children but also to remind themselves that resorting to their traditional cuisine recipes is a way to challenge living crises.



## “Panadol brings us together”

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### Networking to face health deficits in Iraq



Iraqi public health facilities provide free services to Iraqis as well as to refugees. Nonetheless, there is an urgent need for humanitarian interventions in the field of public health, which is primarily due to deficiencies in health institutions, the large disparity in the distribution of income and wealth, and the spread of corruption. In 2017, a medical group was established that called itself “Panadol brings us together.” It is a social network that includes 70,000 male and female doctors of all specialties and pharmacists spread all over the country. Their humanitarian interventions are grounded on mutual trust as well as on their personal and social relationships. The network’s membership is subject to strict control, as access to its site is restricted to members only, including doctors, dentists and pharmacists, after verifying their professional identity.

I joined the group in 2019, after graduating from the Faculty of Dentistry and, I am still a member. In 2020, the group role was remarkable in saving a 10-month-old child suffering from a first type atrophy of the muscles surrounding the spinal cord. The public health sector having failed in providing the treatment, the treatment was brought from Dubai, at the cost of 2.2 million US dollars collected through donations from Iraqi doctors inside and outside the country. In 2021, the group devoted itself to contain the Covid-19 epidemic and provided health and social assistance in all Iraqi governorates.

The issue of the deterioration of the Iraqi health care system and the need to its reform is the basis of ALPHA Iraq humanitarian interventions. With the aim of improving the quality of medical services in public health institutions, we entered the year 2022, hoping to consolidate the partnership between ALPHA Iraq and the "Panadol brings us together" group. We suggested building an online platform linking Iraqi doctors residing in Iraq and their peers in the diaspora to exchange information and experiences on newly implemented medical procedures and work to apply them in the public health sector.

Stay tuned !

**Dr. Salwane Hatem Ahmad - ALPHA - Iraq team**



# Donors and Partners

ألفا  
جمعية التأهيل الإنساني ومكافحة الأمية  
alpha



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