

ألفا
جمعية التاهيل الإنساني ومكافحة الأمية
alpha

2022
ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENT

Chairman's Letter 03

2022 at a Glance 04-06

Highlights 07-11

Accomplishments 12-14

Narratives 15-20

Donors & Partners 21



INVESTING IN HUMAN CAPITAL

To say the least, 2022 was a tough year ...

However, for ALPHA, the best moment of 2022 was when we witnessed, through our beneficiaries' testimonies, the extent to which our projects are contributing to developing and supporting the human capital as a national asset.

Aside their relevance as a response to the pressing needs, our interventions are particularly raising the importance of investing in sustainable development, which is crucial to overcome the current crisis within a foreseeable future.

The education and protection programs we are implementing in two public schools in South Lebanon in the villages of Tibnin and Kabrikha, are strengthening the beneficiaries' academic competencies as well as their faith and hope for a better future, notwithstanding the general deterioration in the public educational system in Lebanon.

The Agri-youth project we are setting up in Wadi el Karm village in Mount Lebanon is stimulating the youth participants to actively explore and use the available natural resources in a sustainable way. The multi-dimensional environmental education they are receiving is strengthening their motivation and skills in creating sustainable solutions.

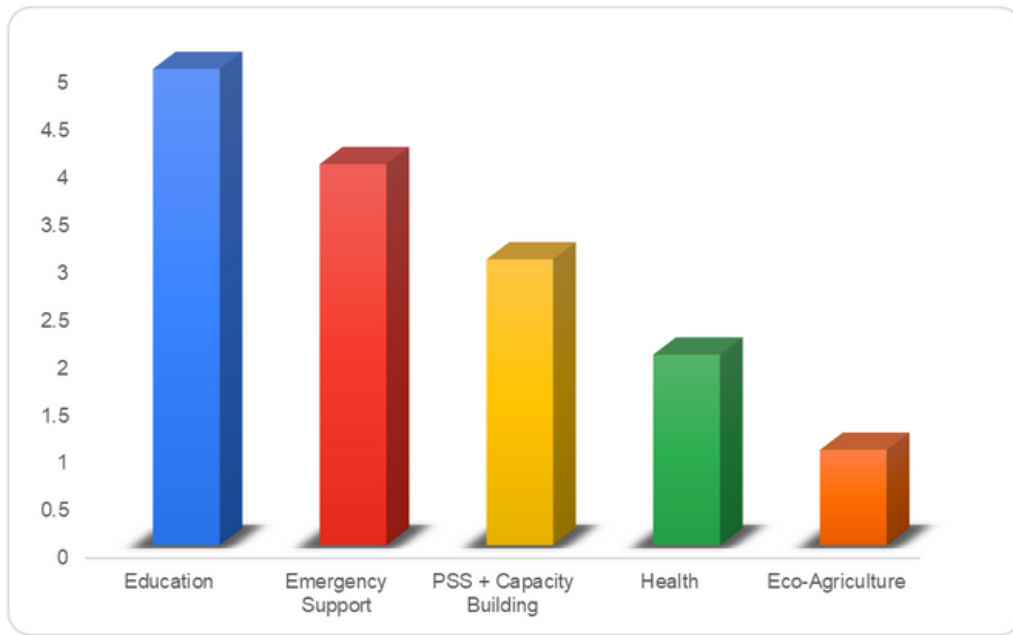
In the dire circumstances prevailing today in Lebanon, investing resources to further education in public schools and youth-led environmental interventions is critical for the development of the national human capital, and therefore it is key to Lebanon's future.

And for this, we are immensely grateful to our donors and partners.

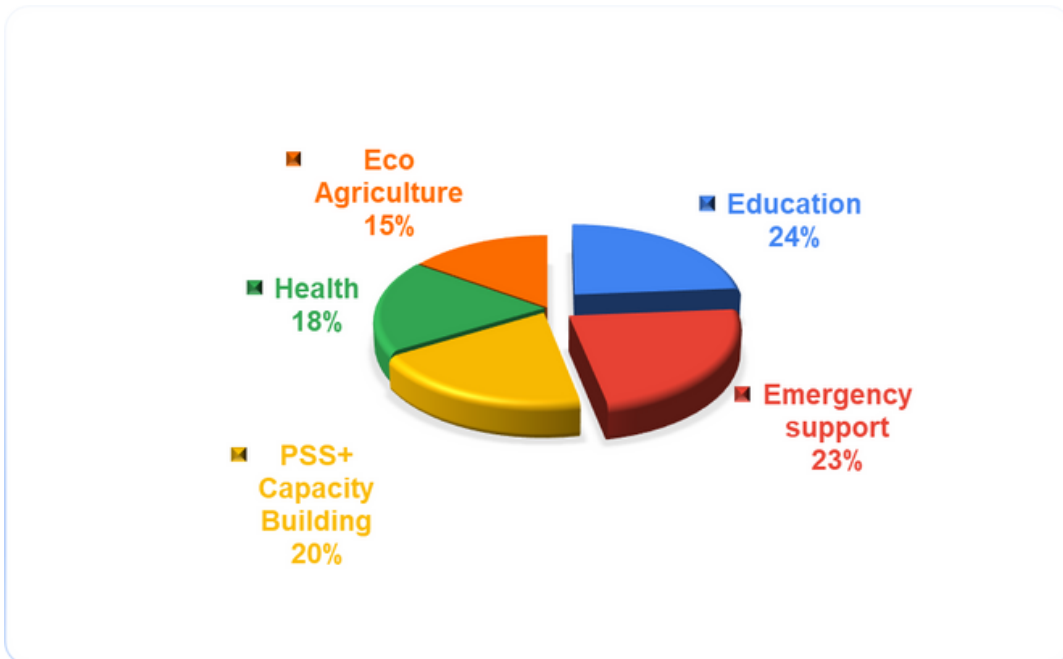
Father Albert Abi Azar
Chairman

2022
AT A GLANCE

Project Per Sector



Budget Per Sector



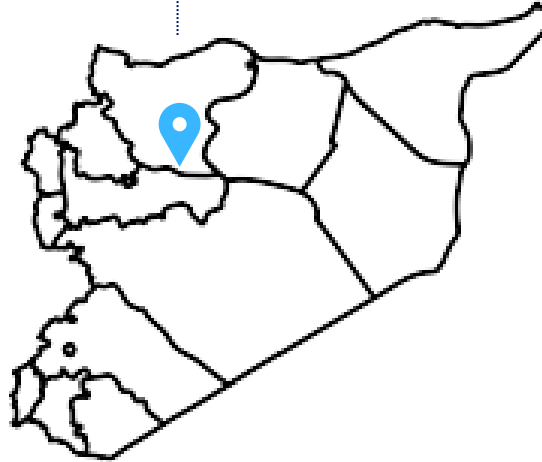
\$ 1,553,896.71

**Total Number of Beneficiaries
21,018**

Areas of Intervention

SYRIA

 Aleppo



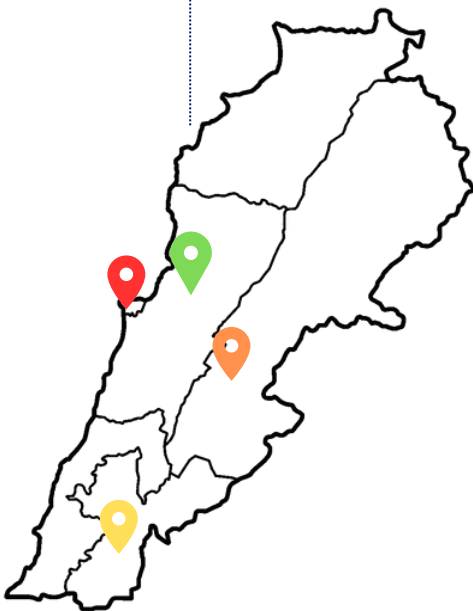
LEBANON

 Burj Hammoud

 Wadi Al Karm

 Ghazze

 Tebnin



IRAQ

 Baghdad

 Fallujah



HIGHLIGHTS

.....→ Wadi El Karm - Mount Lebanon

Start of the Agri-Youth project

ALPHA began to implement the Agri-youth project that was launched in November 2021 in partnership with the CCFD Terre solidaire and the support of the Agence Francaise de Development (AFD) and the Fondation de France (FDF). The project's objectives are to establish a rural youth center accessible on a yearly basis to approximately 2000 youth and children living in urban slums, to have fun and be educated on environmental issues.

The center to be is located on a 7000 m2 plot, in the village of Wadi el Karm, Metn, Mount Lebanon. The plot offers 2000 m2 of uncultivated agricultural land suitable for eco-agriculture; 3500 m2 of scrubland partly suitable for a hiking path designed to serve biodiversity observation, and partly for camping ; a destroyed chicken farm suitable for a youth hostel after refurbishment.

Taking into account environmental, eco-agricultural, food security and bio-diversity issues, the project is offering capacity building sessions in social entrepreneurship to 15 young adults, men and women aged 18 to 24 years, inhabitants of the neighborhoods affected by the August 4, 2020 Beirut harbor blast, who committed to learning how to manage the center once it is operational



-----> **Tibnin - South Lebanon**

Public Schools' Improvements

ALPHA began to carry out a project aiming at improving education and protection in Tibnin and Kabrikha villages public schools (South Lebanon). Designed as a pilot project, it aims at serving as a model for public schools nationwide.

Financed by the Bundesministerium für Zusammenarbeit (BMZ) and implemented in partnership with Kinder Note Hilfe (KNH) this project meets 4 sustainable development goals: SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). It is also part of the child protection convention, article 19 (protection from violence), 22 (the rights of refugee children), 29 (educational goals) and 31 (rest, play, culture and the arts).

Educational and protection activities take equally into account the needs of the schools, the children, the students' families, the teachers and the surrounding hosting and refugee communities, i.e. 3000 individuals.



.....→ Continuous Learnings

A step forward in Case Management

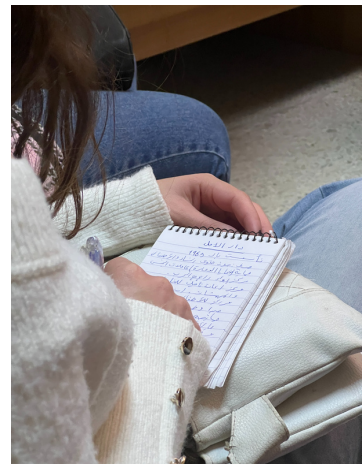
Committed to follow up on professional developments, field teams have taken a step forward and have improved their interventional capacities.

Remotely trained by ALPHA via 44 zoom sessions, 5 Syrian Physiotherapists, 5 Syrian Psychologists and 5 Syrian Social workers, made a step ahead on direct observation. Benefiting 2130 Syrian IDPs currently living in Aleppo, they learned how to watch interactions, processes, and behaviors as they occur during physiotherapy sessions organized for the relief and healing of war-wounded children.

Supervised by ALPHA's head of the capacity building department, 5 educators and 4 social workers intervening in Damma educational center, Beqaa Lebanon, developed their active Psychosocial interventions. For the benefit of 300 students and their families (total 2110 Syrian refugees), they learned to compare the efficacy of long-term intervention with that of punctual intervention and its effect on children and their family's wellbeing.

Pillar of ALPHA work in child protection since 2006, ALPHA's team in Tibnin- south Lebanon, is composed of 7 social workers, 10 teachers, 10 educators, 3 psychotherapists and 4 project managers. All team members expanded their multidisciplinary teamwork processes and procedures, for their own benefit and that of their 3000 annual beneficiaries.

Opening 3 internship sessions per year to 12 social work students per session, allowed our own capacity building trainers to improve their professional coaching capabilities.



.....> Alpha Iraq

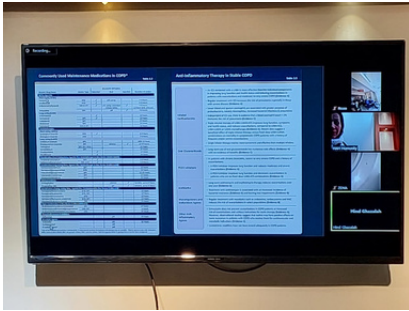
Free medical webinars



Breaking down the geographical, financial, and cultural barriers that inhibit collaboration between Iraqi doctors living in Iraq and their peers abroad, the ALPHA Iraq medical team called native Iraqi practitioners across the world to contribute, on voluntary bases, to an interactive platform for medical knowledge exchange.



Since March 2022, The Hippocrates platform for medical webinars is allowing medical knowledge sharing between local Iraqi healthcare actors and native Iraqi healthcare actors living abroad. This platform is a win-win situation for both parties. Local Iraqi doctors are benefiting from advice on how to improve the provision of care and streamline processes and are informed about new patient care strategies and patient safety.



For Iraqi medicals living abroad, it is an opportunity to connect with the reality of the Iraqi health environment, assess the strength and weaknesses of the Iraqi public healthcare system, collaborate to find feasible solutions for pressing educational issues, and encourage ongoing learning and professional improvement. Total beneficiaries in 2022: 200 health professionals.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

.....> **Realizing Academic - Humanitarian Partnership**

Convinced that combining the complementary strengths of the academic and the humanitarian sector is beneficial in terms of knowledge exchange, ALPHA started in 2022 a collaboration with three Lebanese universities on impactful issues of specific interest to both parties.



Lebanese University interns discussing field work observation

.....> **Lebanese University - Social work field practice**

In partnership with the Lebanese University social work department, ALPHA established a field work training program targeting social worker students, bachelor and master's degrees. In conformity with the university requisites, ALPHA's trainings are designed to enable social worker students to put their theoretical knowledge into practice. Trainees are invited to bring their contribution in the various domains of activities implemented by ALPHA. While doing so, they benefit from technical and coping advice.

+ AMPLIFYING THE OUTSIDE TO THE INSIDE

+ Green Spaces in the Interphase, in the Immediate area, should reflect or emphasize the Site Context, and the forest should grow into the building to prevent Site Islanding.



Extract from AUB NCC sustainable landscape maintenance manual

.....> **AUB-NCC - Knowledge sharing on biodiversity**

In the framework of the Agri-Youth project, ALPHA concluded a partnership with the American University Nature Conservation Center (AUB-NCC) on biodiversity conservation. AUB-NCC students drafted the Agri-Youth project sustainable landscape maintenance manual.



Ms. Lena Bonja
Alba professor mapping the site

.....> **ALPHA-ALBA - Collaboration on marketing issues**

With the Académie Libanaise des Beaux Arts (ALBA) Graphic and Advertising department. ALPHA is collaborating on the Agri-Youth project's visual identity and marketing strategy.



Agri-Youth referents training with Buzuruna Juzuruna

.....> Coordinating with professional associations

To achieve the objectives of the Agri-Youth project

ALPHA established a partnership with Buzuruna Juzuruna, an association specialized in ecological agriculture. Buzuruna Juzuruna is providing trainings in eco-farming.

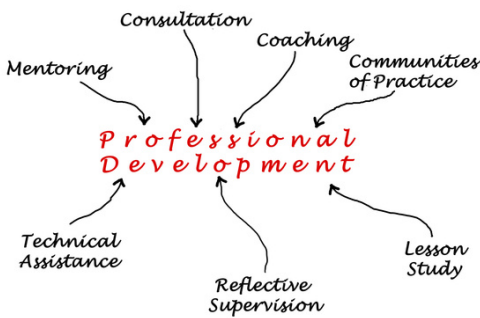


Eedama trainings

Eedama, an association specialized in youth social entrepreneurship is providing fundamental trainings in project management

.....> Meeting professional development goals

As the demand for professionals is growing in all the geographical areas where we intervene, while students or professional active trainees are facing hard time due to the current crisis, our trainings are helping them identify what they want their career to look like in the short- and long-term, and what steps they need to take to get where they want.



.....> Prioritizing common ground

As the current Lebanese crisis is putting the Lebanese people in a very critical economic and financial situation, aid provision has created tensions between hosting and refugee communities. ALPHA maintained equity in the allocation and distribution of aid and focused on common concerns shared by each of the two parties.

.....> Enlarging ALPHA's network

ALPHA put efforts in building trust among private donors and succeeded in raising their interest.



NARRATIVES



Elie Al Kareh
Agri-Youth project director

.....→ **Fulfilling the promise**

Starting the Agri-Youth project felt like facing an unsurmountable wall. Standing before us was a mountain of issues plaguing the whole country and infesting the minds of each and every one of us.

I felt the project responsibility heavy on my shoulders.

We couldn't see or plan significantly ahead, all we had was the team's faith in ourselves and our hard work and the resources given to us by our donors, to make sure that we can deliver a ray of hope to our beneficiaries and the community as a whole.

The Agri-youth project is not only about leisure and environmental awareness, but also about national human capital. The project lays the groundwork for a network of important infrastructures, critical to the upcoming generation. A place where anyone can be rooted and benefit from basic resources for their professional work and their well-being, such as electricity and internet as well as peace, quiet and connectedness.

And who better to carry this project than the generation suffering from the compounded crises itself: with their trainings and internships running well, the 15 young women and men engaged in the project who seized the opportunity to stay rooted in their country - and we look forward to fulfilling our promise and being able to continue supporting this mission into the future.

Elie Al Kareh
Project Director
Alpha Association / Agri-Youth Project



.....> **The power of caring**

In 2006, ALPHA established a center in Tibnin, -South Lebanon- and started a protection program targeting children and their families affected by the war. To address child protection issues in a conservative society, the Tibnin team decided to create a system that combines protection with child education and involves the children's families through social support and awareness sessions.

Proved conclusive, this experience was repeated in 2012 with Syrian refugees' families and their children.

When I joined ALPHA in 2018, I learned a lot from ALPHA's Tibnin team members. They convinced me that education, protection and social support are three indissociable components if we want to meet a child's wellbeing. I also was, and still am, impressed by their negotiation skills. And this, not only to break conservative taboos, or serve equally Lebanese and Syrian children and families, or apply child right principles, but to keep peace and harmony between hosting and refugee communities in a very politically sensitive Lebanese region.

In 2022, during a visit to Tibnin I asked ALPHA-Tibnin director Salma Fawaz, how she feels in the current situation.

“Today we are in survival mode”, she said. “Lebanese people are convinced that the Syrians are *taking their bread*, they refuse to let their children mingle with Syrian children in schools. The Syrians are suffering from this situation and are expressing their hostility. In this context, it is difficult to talk about child rights, equally. Without choosing to continuously remind all our beneficiaries that everybody just wants his child to be loved and cared for, our ability to carry on our programs gets taken away. Caring about how the community feels towards our non-discriminatory services has never been more critical to our acceptance. However, because we show equal empathy in our support, people are accepting the way we work”.

As long as the Lebanese crisis will remain unsolved, the power of caring fueled with empathy and fairness will be the only means for ALPHA-Tibnin to carry out successfully its combined vision of child education and protection.

Marie-Claude Souaid

ALPHA head of communication and strategic development



Yara Abi Abboud
Social Worker
intern

-----> **Yara's green mindset**

Yara is one of 12 social worker students who did an internship with me at ALPHA. Her internship included, among other tasks, a project presentation. She searched ALPHA's programs and chose the Agri-Youth project.

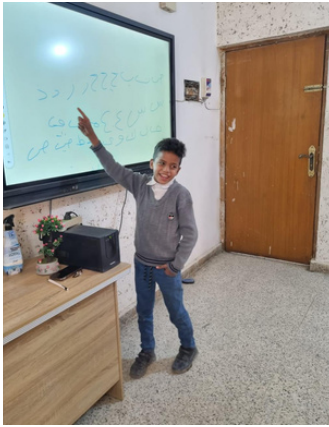
She successfully completed all the steps required for her presentation: she gathered information with the project team, made a colorful power point presentation, put together a booklet and targeted an audience totally ignorant about the project. Her university teachers can grasp how she successfully applied the communication skills she learned through her university years.

In addition to showing her ability to follow and apply my "technical" advice, the conclusion of her presentation revealed her as a future green social worker.

"We just discussed about a small window to a new world, full of needs" she said ." Our priority as social workers is to meet urgent needs, but we have also to acquire new habits of consumption, preservation and reuse of items, so the Eco gestures become at the heart of our daily routine. There are several ways to meet urgent needs, protecting our environment is one of them".

The foundation of social work interventions associated with environmental issues and other crises is understood as green social work (GSW). I did not talk with her about GSW's theoretical framework. Yara's own green mind supports the understanding of the urgent need for social work interventions to address environmental and sustainability issues.

Janine Naufal
Director and Trainer- ALPHA social workers program



Sajjad explaining Maths to his classmates

.....> **knowledge before work**

Sajjad is a nine-year-old boy who lives with his parents and two sisters in Al-Sayydiah neighborhood- Baghdad. Due to a physical disability, his father is unemployed. To feed her family, his mother bakes bread at home to be sold on the market

She entrusted Sajjad with this task after he failed repeatedly in elementary school. She did not want to take him out of school, but she needed a “male to sell bread on the streets instead of his older sisters”. So, she convinced herself that he was “not fit for learning”.

Sajjad’s father is illiterate, so he wants his son to study. He registered Sajjad in the neighborhood public school as “free learner”. Iraqi children who fail repeatedly in elementary school can register as “free learners” and fend for themselves to catch up with the school program.

The father is desperate; who will help his son?

On September 2022, ALPHA-Iraq collected information about working children living in Al-Sayydiah neighborhood who are registered as "free learners". Sajjad’s father enrolled him in the educational program created by Alpha-Iraq to support working children and help their families avoid illiteracy and its social consequences.

The program includes classroom courses at ALPHA’s center on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, homework follow-up via WhatsApp, and weekly home visits to provide parents with instructions.

Maryam, the center teacher doesn’t stop praising Sajjad: "he arrives at the center before me” she says, “When I arrive, I see him sitting on the doorstep with his bright smile. He is not only good at mathematics; he is able to explain it to his classmates. He will pass the exams and go back to school; I am sure of that”.

Sajjad’s mother is grateful to Maryam, for she found in her dedication a “great hope for Sajjad’s future”.

Sajjad is still selling bread in the streets, but only in his spare time as he wants to become a "schoolteacher, because knowledge comes before work."

Zeina Hatem
Alpha Iraq



Geoffroy Coutansais
DCC volunteer

.....> **Testimony of a French volunteer in Lebanon**

I joined ALPHA as a volunteer a little over a year ago in order to participate in the Agri-Youth team, the environmental project spearheaded by the NGO.

Sent by the Catholic Delegation for Cooperation, I brought my skills as a communication officer, benefiting in return from a unique experience that puts me closer to the Lebanese reality.

Within ALPHA's communication department, I've been contributing to the elaboration of a specific strategic vision for Agri-jeunesse. I report, from my external point of view, on its evolution and the meaning it has for the fifteen young referents I regularly accompany in the implementation of the project.

My mission gave me the opportunity to follow all the training courses given to the group of young people by the various Agri-Youth partners. I discovered the environmental and agricultural issues that the country is going through, while at the same time experiencing an immersion in the Lebanese society, in which I have long had an interest.

Alongside these "future social entrepreneurs", I've been able to better understand the causes and consequences of the local situation and, above all, the role that the youth plays in the initiatives that are being set up to help them and to help the country overcome the current crisis.

Geoffroy Coutansais

Donors & Partners



Association Libanais pour la Promotion Humaine et l'Alphabétisation
(ALPHA)

P.O. Box: 16 - 5441

Beirut, Lebanon

Soma Building, 1st Floor

Pierre Gemayel Street, Ain el Remmaneh

Beirut, Lebanon Tel/Fax: +961 (0)1 281319

Mobile: +961 (0)3 726768

info@alpha-association.info