



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

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Building in times of dramatic crisis increase

Since 2019, Lebanon and neighboring countries have experienced a significant increase in crises. In response to this challenging situation, the ALPHA executive team has been compelled to intensify efforts in project management procedures.

In 2023, every head of department and project director dedicated additional efforts to enhance the abilities of field teams in working towards common organizational objectives. Emphasis was particularly placed on empowering field staff to feel secure in taking initiatives and devising solutions to address challenges. This proactive approach reflects ALPHA's commitment to adaptability and responsiveness amid the evolving crisis conditions.

Following October 7th, it has become undeniably clear that we are trapped in an unceasing cycle of violence. This has left many of us experiencing adverse effects on our mental health.

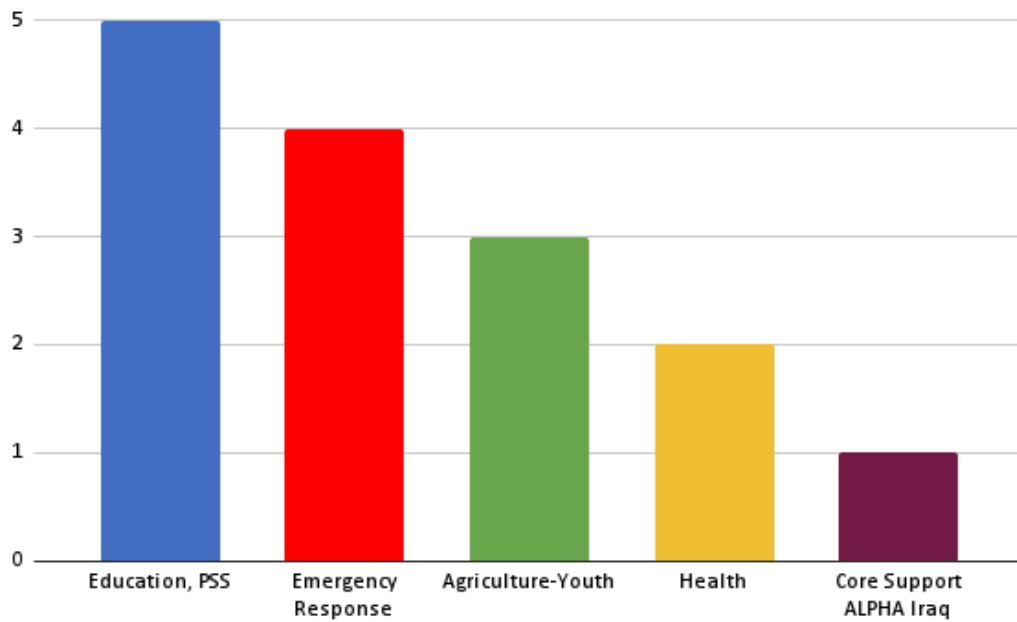
However, despite these challenges, if we are to persist in our humanitarian mission, the only viable option is to persevere in developing our programs and administrative capabilities for a better tomorrow.

We learn to build in time of crisis.

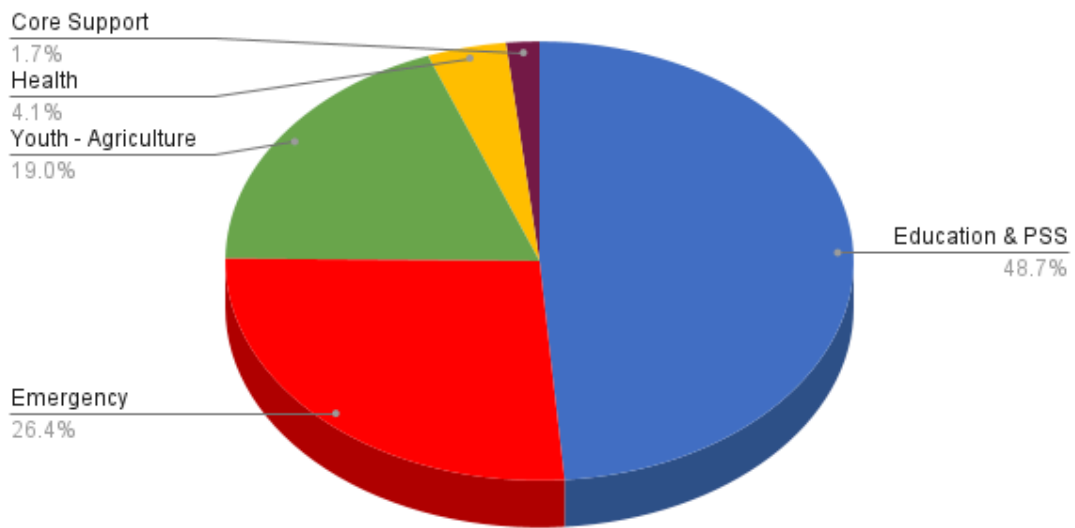
Father Albert Abi Azar
ALPHA President

2023
AT A GLANCE

Project Per Sector



Budget Per Sector



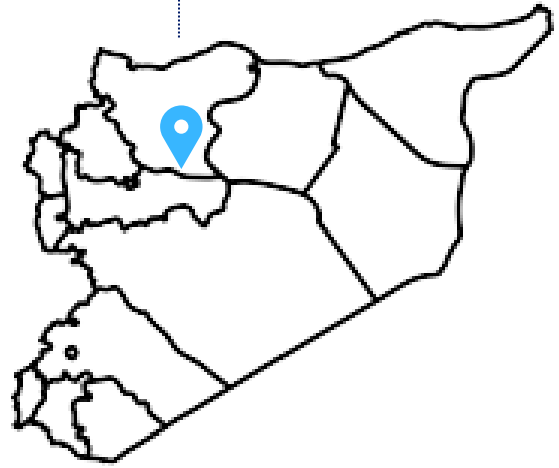
\$ 1,527,711.48

**Total Number of Beneficiaries
16,860**








Areas of Intervention

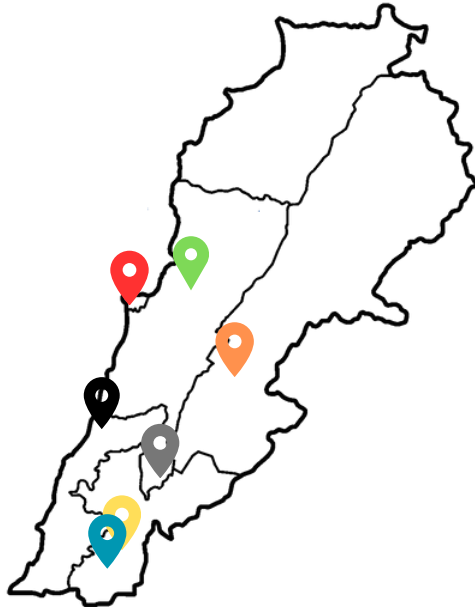
SYRIA

 Aleppo



LEBANON

-  Burj Hammoud (Beirut)
-  Wadi Al Karm (Mount Lebanon)
-  Ghazze (Bekaa)
-  Tibnin (South Lebanon)
-  Bint Jbeil District (South Lebanon)
-  Nabatieh (South Lebanon)
-  Saida (South Lebanon)



IRAQ

 Baghdad City



HIGHLIGHTS

Agri Youth Project



Know and Grow



In 2023, the Agri-Youth center, soon to be established, was “baptized” by the Agri-Youth team. *ع-ريشة Know and Grow*. The Arabic script pronounced *A-Richeh* is a symbolic composition, a homonym of "feather" and "vineyard".

A-Richeh encapsulates an invitation to know and grow as effortlessly as a feather, while also resonating with the term "vineyard," reflecting the essence of Wadi el Karm, meaning the vineyard valley—the very location of the village where the Agri-Youth project is situated.

Labeling is a significant step; the center belongs to the Agri-Youth team!

Speeding up

The center is meant to open in spring 2024. So, in 2023, adapting to the changing circumstances in Lebanon was a priority for the Agri-Youth team, keen to fulfill the promise.

This was translated by an overlap of several activities and tasks.

Work was being done on site to complete the center’s construction, iterate on the planting of the garden and its objective , and finish the team’s training. Community outreach had also to begin. The team started participating in community events, linking up with other organizations in Burj Hamoud and welcoming several groups of children with environmental and Eco agriculture related activities.

The center’s construction is nearing its end, and the team is putting its final touches on the center’s operation plan, all in order to be ready for the center's opening in Spring 2024!

Dirasa program



The UNICEF Dirasa program is specifically designed to facilitate the transition of Lebanese and non-Lebanese out-of-school children, aged 8 to 12, from non-formal education programs to formal education.

The program comprises 24 weekly teaching sessions, including 6 Arabic language classes, 6 English language classes, 6 mathematics classes, 2 sports classes, 3 art classes, and 1 Psychosocial Support (PSS) session.

In order to execute this program effectively, UNICEF has opted to allocate additional resources to support "Free Private Schools," which are non-profit elementary schools established by legally recognized associations or religious bodies. These schools are predominantly financed by the Ministry of Education. For students enrolled in the Dirasa program, UNICEF covers tuition fees, amounting to approximately \$35 for registration per student per year, as well as \$10 per student for medical insurance. Additionally, UNICEF distributes school furniture and hygiene kits to further support the educational environment. To implement this impactful project, UNICEF has chosen to collaborate with local NGOs, including ALPHA, highlighting the importance of partnerships with community organizations in achieving the program's goals.

Academic year 2022-2023 - ALPHA's fulfilled assignments

During the academic year 2022-2023, the ALPHA team in southern Lebanon, operating under the name "ALPHA Tibnin," assumed responsibility for implementing the Dirasa program across three schools situated in Kfarremane, Sarafand, and Saida; southern Lebanese governorate.

Community engagement and outreach

ALPHA's social workers played a crucial role during their visits to children's homes, actively engaging in the registration process. They gathered pertinent information, ensuring that the children met the necessary project conditions. Additionally, these social workers closely monitored school retention, actively identifying and enrolling children with special needs or disabilities (CWD). They facilitated access for the parents of these children to specialized services. Beyond enrollment and support for children with special needs, ALPHA's social workers took on the responsibility of enhancing caregivers' engagement. This was achieved through raising awareness on children's rights, providing information on health awareness, and addressing psychosocial well-being.

ALPHA took a comprehensive approach in targeted schools, overseeing the distribution of learning supplies and actively engaging in the design and implementation of extra-curricular activities, including Psychosocial Support (PSS) sessions. The organization also played a key role in establishing parent's associations, fostering community engagement and collaboration. Additionally, ALPHA facilitated a referral mechanism to cross-sectoral services, ensuring students and families had access to comprehensive support beyond academics






Teachers' recruitment and educational supervision

ALPHA has also been responsible for selecting teachers already employed in the chosen schools based on the following criteria: the teacher must possess an educational certificate authorizing them to teach, or they must have a minimum of 5 years of educational experience. For sports teachers, a degree in physical education is required. The selected teachers underwent training facilitated by the World Learning Association, with ALPHA monitoring these sessions and providing an educational supervisor or classroom observer.

In 2023, a total of 328 Out-of-School Children benefited from the Dirasa program in the three targeted schools. Among them, 98% were non-Lebanese, 2% were Lebanese, 42% were boys, and 57% were girls. Additionally, 22 children with disabilities were included in the program. The impact extended to 1,091 caregivers who also participated in the initiative.

UNICEF has renewed its partnership with ALPHA for the academic year 2023-2024. Under this collaboration, ALPHA has been tasked to extend its interventions to five localities within the southern Lebanese governorate.

Academic Year 2023-2024 - ALPHA's Areas of Intervention

-  Bint Jbeil District
-  Nabatieh
-  Saida
-  Marjoyoun
-  Tyre



Overcoming challenges after October 7th

Choosing schools

For the academic year 2023-2024, UNICEF has tasked ALPHA with the implementation of the Dirasa program activities in 15 schools, a significant expansion from the initial 3 schools. This broader initiative covers a vast region spanning 929.6 km². Despite the increased management loads, ALPHA has accepted the assignment.

The October 7th war erupted at the start of the academic school year, leading to the abandonment or destruction of schools situated in border villages. Consequently, families residing in these areas have been displaced, adding an additional layer of challenge to the implementation of the Dirasa program in the affected regions

ALPHA strategically selected 11 schools situated in less targeted areas, prioritizing proximity to children's residences. In adherence to program guidelines, it was a requirement that a child's home be at least 2 km away from the school to qualify for UNICEF to cover transport costs. However, it was stipulated that the number of children benefiting from this coverage should not exceed between 20% to 30% of the total number of children enrolled in the school

Convincing parents' and children

For the academic year 2023-2024, a total of 1,267 children are registered under the Dirasa program across the 11 selected schools. Notably, 98% of these children are Syrian refugees, and 10% of them are engaged in work, primarily boys. Convincing these working children to reintegrate into schools and persuading their parents to send them to school presented challenges. However, ALPHA's social workers successfully advocated a compromise, suggesting that the children attend school in the morning and assist their parents in the afternoon. Furthermore, the social workers emphasized the long-term benefits of education, ultimately persuading both children and parents about the significant advantages that come with better education.

Taking displacement into account

In the aftermath of October 7, ALPHA has prioritized supporting both Lebanese and non-Lebanese families, encompassing both displaced and hosting communities' children, irrespective of their enrollment status in the Dirasa program. To ensure fairness, distributions now include stationery and hygiene kits, provided by the Dirasa program, for all students attending the 11 schools. Additionally, ALPHA extends support by providing winter clothes and cash assistance to internally displaced families, emphasizing a holistic and inclusive approach to aid those affected by the aftermath of the events

Coping with adverse mental health effects

The escalation of war intensity brought heightened anxiety among ALPHA Tibnin team members, particularly those who experienced the 2006 war lasting 34 days and covering South Lebanon governorate. Despite this, the team actively engaged with the community, participating in collective actions that ultimately restored a sense of self-efficacy.

Consequently, the ALPHA southern Lebanese team is now recognized by UNICEF as the "most effective team for applying Dirasa in Southern Lebanon governorate schools." This acknowledgment highlights the team's resilience and efficiency, positioning them as a notable example within the humanitarian community.

Improving quality education in public schools



Complying with the objectives of SDG 4 (quality learning), SDG 5 (equal treatment regardless of gender), SDG 10 (decreased social inequalities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child, specifically Articles 19 (protection from violence), 22 (the rights of refugee children), 29 (educational goals), and 31 (rest, play, culture, and the arts), ALPHA started implementing during the academic year 2021-2022 an educational project in Tebnine and Kabrikha public schools in southern Lebanon. This initiative equally considers the needs of the schools, the children, the students' families, the teachers, and the surrounding communities.

Overcoming unfavorable circumstances

The difficulties encountered during the project's execution for the academic year 2022-2023 were a reflection of the political, security, and economic situation. In February 2023, we experienced an earthquake, followed by a teacher's strike, and then the October 7th war; all of this interrupted classes, sport, computer literacy, and cultural activities and, above all, provoked a high level of general anxiety.

Nonetheless, our team was able to provide constant aid and counseling to the students, their families, the teachers, and the school principals in order to execute the project's activities and achieve the majority of the project's goals.

Carrying activities out

Looking back at the academic year 2022-2023, we can quantify the following with pride.

Computer literacy lessons developed children's logical skills, drawing and handcraft lessons promoted free expression, sports lessons instilled a sense of teamwork, mixed-gender participation encouraged inclusivity, reducing boys' aggression. Summer activities fostered social belonging. Teachers received training on classroom management, parents maintained regular contact with the psychologist, and principals were supported in their duties.

In the current situation, the robustness of this project lies in the psycho-social support we offer, bolstering children's resilience to navigate adverse experiences, aiding families and teachers in managing stress and meeting pedagogical demands.

Protecting is already enhancing quality learning.

Early Childhood Education program



A multifaceted wise investment for a brighter horizon

In 2023, the ALPHA Early Childhood Education program (ECE) primarily focused on Syrian refugee children facing barriers to accessing public school kindergartens. Supported by Kinder Not Hilfe Germany, this program is managed by an experienced and multi-disciplinary team. Alongside its imperative nature, which should not be overlooked for the advancement and inclusion of refugee children, the ALPHA ECE program also serves as a multifaceted and wise investment in response to the current financial crises, the shortage of early childhood career training and job opportunities in the southern Lebanese villages, and the needs of the hosting communities.

It includes children's transportation and a snack, thereby supporting small businesses such as bakeries and bus owners. Classroom rents constitute supplementary income for local women heading households. By employing young women from the village, it provides them with an opportunity to build a career working with children in preschool. Parental guidance supports caregivers in cultivating a child's strengths. Placing the child at the center of its concerns and spilling over into its environment, the program ensures that no generation is lost and guarantees that no stakeholder from the community is left behind.

ALPHA strong will to achieve ECE goals

This program is currently interrupted by the October 7th war; nonetheless the ALPHA team persists. We continue to offer online lessons and provide psychological support for ALPHA kindergarten students and their families.

Timely emergency responses



Syria earthquake

On February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck southern Turkey, significantly impacting the Syrian city of Aleppo. ALPHA has had a local team of volunteers in Aleppo, remotely managed by the executive team in Beirut since 2014. In response to ALPHA's request, partners including Caritas Luxembourg, Fondation de France (FDF), Secours Catholique Caritas France (SCCF), and the Comité Catholique Contre la Faim dans le Monde – Terre solidaire (CCFD) promptly responded. With the donations collected from our partners, we provided cash distributions to 430 families and delivered food baskets and hygiene kits to 687 families. Additionally, we installed water tanks in 25 schools, rehabilitated bathrooms and showers in 5 shelters housing 1,296 individuals and offered psychosocial support to 712 children. All project activities were implemented between February 2023 and April 2023.

Forced displacements

The armed conflict on October 7, 2023, has led to the displacement of 75% of the inhabitants of the southern Lebanese villages located on the 'front line,' right on the borders between Israel and Lebanon. With the aim of mitigating socio-economic displacement harms on internally displaced populations (IDPs), ALPHA has designed a humanitarian plan and sent a request to its partners. FDF, Kinder not Hilfe Germany and Luxembourg (KNH) responded promptly. This plan includes cash distribution to already displaced families, either towards Beirut or to families relocated in the 'second line' southern villages. Additionally, there is storage of hygiene kits, food baskets, blankets, and mattresses in anticipation of massive displacements towards Beirut or the Bekaa Valley. The first implementation occurred in December 2023, where we distributed cash assistance to 100 IDP families, allowing them to have a pleasant Christmas. This assistance targeted specific groups: 10 women heads of households, 10 elderly individuals aged 75-85, widowers with poor income, 10 small business owners; 2 bakers, 4 mechanics, and 4 grocery store owners who have lost their businesses due to destruction, 10 tobacco and olive farmers whose lands were damaged, and 10 public servants facing income constraints, including soldiers, policemen, and teachers finding it challenging to relocate their families to Beirut. By prioritizing these categories, we aimed to distribute assistance fairly and address the immediate needs of IDPs from the lower middle class, continually impoverished since 2019 by successive crises. This program will continue in 2024.

Social aids

Impoverished populations urgently require support to cover essential expenses such as medicines, hospital costs, rent, electricity, or internet bills. Thanks to our private donors and institutional donors who endorse it, ALPHA manages to establish an emergency fund for social assistance every year. In 2023, this fund was mainly utilized to contribute to hospital costs, including expenses related to a serious road accident, medical treatment for a two-year-old child with meningitis, and cancer treatment.



In 2023, ALPHA Iraq demonstrated a comprehensive commitment to education, healthcare, and community development, channeling efforts into various impactful initiatives.

Education Support for Bread Street Sellers. The Al Saydiya neighborhood in Baghdad witnessed dedicated homework support for 12 elementary school students. Among them, three were regular attendees, while nine, including three street vendors supporting their families by selling bread, participated as free listeners. After 40 sessions spanning six months, the majority of students succeeded in their exams. To ensure the success of street sellers' children and their seamless reintegration into a regular course, the Iraqi team took measures to secure them a satisfactory daily number of bread customers.

Health awareness sessions were conducted in two public schools in Baghdad city-Alpha Iraq. The medical team, comprising MDs from the dentistry department of Ibn Zuhr governmental hospital, provided a 2-hour dental hygiene session to 50 female students aged 15-16 at a public school. Following the session, the students were given hygiene kits containing dental and mouth sterilization products.

Additionally, the medical team, including MDs from Ibn Zuhr Hospital's virus department, visited an elementary public school with 600 students to ensure protection against the spread of viruses. After a thorough inspection, the school administration received 100 hygiene kits, cleaning materials for one year, and electrical safety tools.

Medical lectures were organized on the ALPHA Iraq Hippocrates platform for medical webinars, catering to the education of Ibn Zuhr Hospital medical staff and other participants. The sessions included two lectures on Chronic Obstructive Airway Disease (COPD) with Dr. Hind al Ghazali from Boston, USA, as the lecturer. The audience comprised 37 MDs from Ibn Zuhr Hospital. Additionally, there were four lectures on conservative dentistry with a total attendance of 637 dentists. The lectures were conducted by Dr. Ahmad Saad and Dr. Khaled Jammal, both esteemed professors in the field of dentistry.

ALPHA Iraq conducted a workshop for the medical doctors (MDs) at Ibn Zuhr Hospital to raise awareness about the significance of patients' medical files as crucial documents aiding in medical decision-making and promoting shared responsibility with the patients. Following the informative session, ALPHA Iraq generously donated 2500 medical files to be utilized by the hospital practitioners in their medical practices. This initiative aims to enhance the efficiency of patient care and improve the overall healthcare process at Ibn Zuhr Hospital.

Trainings - ALPHA Iraq provided a two-day workshop on CV writing for university students and recent graduates. The Iraqi team also participated in a workshop on green skills in collaboration with Green Gold, an Iraqi agricultural social enterprise dedicated to enhancing bio-agriculture practices in Iraq.

Donations - ALPHA Iraq allocated \$6,000 from private donations to support 75 underprivileged IDP families from Jurf al-Sakhar. Each family received \$85. Despite the liberation of Jurf al-Sakhar from ISIS in late October 2014, many residents are still unable to return due to ongoing security precautions. The cash distribution aims to assist these families in coping with their challenging circumstances

Collaborations - ALPHA Iraq has collaborated with the Iraqi Ministry of Youth and Sport to expand our homework support program, enabling us to reach more than 12 students annually. The Ministry generously provided a classroom in the Sayydiah neighborhood, accommodating 25 children. Additionally, the Iraqi team is actively working to promote sports as a means of fostering social inclusion. As part of this collaboration, the Ministry has granted ALPHA Iraq free access to a football field located in the al Sayydiah neighborhood.

ALPHA Iraq is collaborating with physician unions and newly established governmental university hospitals to expand the Hippocrates platform's medical lectures. In partnership with Green Gold, our focus is on enhancing organic agricultural products in Iraq. Additionally, we are working alongside the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research to develop an online scientific journal under the ALPHA Iraq initiative.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

External communication efforts

Tailoring Instagram Reels and Captions. Reaching a noteworthy milestone of 936 followers on Instagram and 1.1k followers on Facebook. Furthermore, we observed a significant uptick in engagement on our Instagram Reels compared to the previous year, with data indicating a substantial increase in audience interaction, reaching over 1084 individuals

<https://www.instagram.com/alpha.association>. <https://www.facebook.com/alphaassociationngo/>

Fostering synergy between Academic research and ALPHA's work on Education.

As of now, ALPHA has become an active member of the Consultative Advisory Group for Education Research in Conflict and Protracted Crisis (ERICC). This research program, led by the Center for Lebanese Studies Beirut/Cambridge, is a part of a multi-country study spanning Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Myanmar, South Sudan, Bangladesh, and Nigeria.

[Centre for Lebanese Studies Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)



Actualizing our Education and Prevention Manual. Catherine Daubrege , ALPHA child protection advisor, actualized a manual for educators, parents, teachers, facilitators, and social workers previously issued in 2007. Available on ALPHA website in March 2024.

Helping influence Public Policies. In collaboration with SCOPE, ALPHA conducted research focused on their project aimed at enhancing the quality of education in public schools. This study explores strategies to partner with local communities to address immediate and critical education needs, thereby strengthening public schools. Supervised and financially supported by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, the research introduces a "synergetic model in education." The findings of this study are slated to be presented to the Lebanese parliament in 2024



Developing Media Channels. As of now, the ALPHA YouTube channel boasts a total of 39 videos. Among them, 14 videos are related to the Agri-Youth project, highlighting its various aspects. Additionally, there is 1 video dedicated to the social worker trainee program, another 1 focusing on Child Rights Advocacy workshops, and an additional video showcasing child rights games designed by the southern Lebanese team.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzc_I4bDwCTn9IN5AMe7mkw

Renewing the website. It's exciting to hear about ALPHA's initiative to renew the content and design of its website to attract more visitors. Collaborating with Lebanese artist and filmmaker, Leen Aoun, has evidently been a fruitful experience. Her creative touch and commitment to excellence have guided every step of the process, ensuring that the new website is not only visually appealing but also rich in content.

www.alpha-association.info

Child rights workshops



In 2022, ALPHA initiated a child rights workshop at Damma School for Syrian refugee children, with an initial attendance of 5 girls aged 14-15. In 2023, the workshop expanded to include 5 boys and 11 girls, all aged 12-14. The selection of topics by both girls and boys led us to consider a gender-based approach.

Girls predominantly focused on subjects related to personal issues, with exceptions. Topics included Right to Identity documents, Right to Personal Privacy, Right to Learn for Refugees, Child Marriage, Applying Child Rights, Smoking among children, Parental Responsibility, Parental Neglect, Teachers Discrimination in classrooms, Education Problems in Lebanon, and the Right of the child to be Listened to. Boys selected topics directly associated with human rights issues, including Child Trafficking, Verbal and Physical Violence, Electronic Harassment, Protection from Harmful Works, and Sexual Harassment.

Reinforcing their leadership role ingrained by culture, boys seized the opportunity to talk about "taboo" topics. Girls used the advocacy activity as a platform to express themselves and address family-related issues from the perspective of women and girls, discussing their rights rather than societal expectations. These workshops not only introduced students to advocacy but also served as a safe space for them to express their concerns.

This impactful activity will persist in 2024.

Acknowledgment of social workers' expertise



On September 7th, 2023, ALPHA hosted a group of Lebanese and Jordanian social workers in Wadi el Karm to introduce the Agri-Youth project. Participants were encouraged to redesign the project by incorporating social work practices. They were confident in their professional identity and adept at recognizing and addressing complex elements. Additionally, they demonstrated the ability to quickly assess the importance of relevant factors. ALPHA is convinced that the skills of social workers are an expertise to be taken into account. In many local NGOs, social workers are utilized in program coordination but are underused in leadership. However, there is an opportunity to enhance the NGO's effectiveness by leveraging social work expertise.

NARRATIVES



Salma Fawaz
Head of ALPHA Tibnin team

Till when?

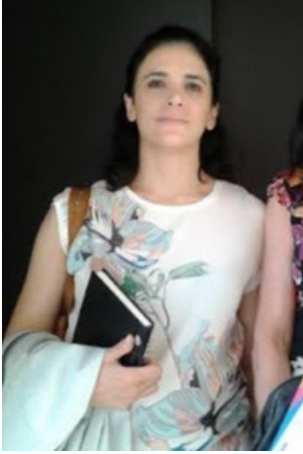
The events of October 7, 2023, intensified the hardships faced by the Lebanese, as well as Syrian and Palestinian refugees who, over the years, had been forcibly relocated to Lebanon from their homeland. They endured unjust displacement, transforming into individuals seeking solace amidst adversity. Post-October 7, 2023, the ravages of war evolved into a relentless force of destruction and displacement, sparing no one.

As members of the Alpha team in southern Lebanon, we grapple with fear induced by missile sounds, the obliteration of our Kindergartens, the displacement of students and their families, and the departure of some colleagues to presumably safer locations. This upheaval brings forth economic, social, and familial consequences.

It is true that Alpha thrives on adapting to diverse circumstances and unwavering commitment to work. It is true that our systematic management capabilities have advanced, and we devised a proactive relief plan post-October 7 events. It is true that we enjoy the recognition and appreciation received from our donors and our beneficiaries.

However, the fundamental question lingers unanswered:
How long will this suffering persist?

Salma Fawaz
Head of Alpha Tibnin team



Marie Nemnom
Proposal Development,
MEAL, and Reporting Officer

“After bread, education is the first need of the people”

Georges Danton French Minister of Justice (1792-1794)

Since ALPHA’s inception in 1993, education has been at the core of its mission with the aim of fostering the protection, rights, and well-being of vulnerable children in a holistic approach that addresses their needs at various levels. Consequently, we ensure that children’s educational, social, psychological, emotional, and physical needs are well understood by all stakeholders, and that our interventions are adequately designed and implemented to foster active participation.

ALPHA’s educational projects, conducted by its experienced and multi-disciplinary team, support and empower children, their families, educators, and communities in creating a better future and ensuring that no generation is lost.

Amid the crises, conflicts, displacements, and insecurity that plague many areas of the Middle East region, education should always remain the shielded place where a child can take refuge and receive nurture for his mind, soul, and heart.

ALPHA will continue forging partnerships for the promotion of education, but it will also keep responding to emergency needs and expanding its reach to contribute to the development of the integrality of men.

Marie Nemnom
Proposal Development, MEAL, and Reporting Officer



Elie Al Kareh
Agri-Youth project director

In War more than in Peace

The year 2023 began under seemingly normal circumstances, and little did we anticipate that its conclusion would be marked by the outbreak of hostilities in border villages and the subsequent environmental disaster resulting from the destruction of olive groves, tobacco fields, and forests.

Fortunately, the Agri-Youth project's location in Wadi el Karm, Mount Lebanon, has, for the time being, remained sheltered from the 7th of October war. However, this does not render us immune to the impact of the conflict, especially when considering the challenges faced by our colleagues in South Lebanon. If anything, it has reinforced our conviction that our work in safeguarding the environment we depend on is critical, particularly during times of armed conflict when the very notion of environmental governance is at risk of collapsing.

The conservation of our environment and the sustainability of our methods of living are fundamental aspects of our livelihood. We recognize that the key to preserving it lies in the hands of our youth. The ability of young adults to adapt, innovate, make mistakes, and learn from them, forms the core of any new endeavor we undertake. This dynamic is essential not only for our survival but also for our future prosperity.

As we navigate these challenging times, we remain steadfast in our commitment to environmental protection and sustainable practices, knowing that our efforts today contribute to a better tomorrow.

Elie ElKareh
Agri-Youth Project Director



Lauraine Gerges
ALPHA- Agri-Youth team member

Switching to the core team

I embarked on my Agri-Youth Project journey on February 12, 2022. Joining a cohort of 15 young individuals, I became part of an agricultural-educational-recreational initiative crafted by ALPHA. This project serves as a haven for underprivileged suburban children and a cost-effective camping solution for scouting teams facing financial constraints. What initially seemed unrelated to my role as an Arabic language teacher soon revealed a profound connection that resonated with a part of my identity.

My commitment deepened as I became one of the "six kernel members," a select group among the 15 youths entrusted and trained to oversee the youth center post-implementation. This responsibility not only broadened my knowledge in environmental and agricultural matters, but also enhanced my connection with the project. Witnessing my interests expand and experiences evolve, I made the decision to enroll in an agricultural college.

Today, I proudly contribute to an active and efficient team, one that confronts challenges and strives to achieve its objectives. As a member of the "6th nucleus," we aspire to see our journey through, realizing the goals we set out to achieve.

The rewards we anticipate are the fruits of our unwavering efforts.

Lauraine Gerges
ALPHA- Agri-Youth team member



Zeina Hatem
ALPHA Iraq President

In Iraqi society, women are a force for change

The conflicts experienced in Iraq have resulted in numerous challenges, including an increase in widows, divorces, female-headed households, and underage marriages. While it is frequently reported that these conflicts have left Iraqi women “vulnerable to poverty, food insecurity, domestic violence, and abuse”, does this necessitate the perception that women must be merely viewed as victims who require empowerment?

I Thoroughly agree with the importance of empowering women but strongly reject the portrayal of women solely as victims.

As an Iraqi woman, I can affirm that women in Iraq are not merely victims. To progress, we must recognize and empower their inherent strengths, such as their remarkable presence in various aspects of life and their resilience in facing adversity.

If we aspire to move forward, we must acknowledge and amplify what they have always possessed: their significant role as agents of change. It is imperative to empower their innate force for transformation, encouraging and supporting their enduring commitment to stand resilient against the storms they face.

Zeina Hatem
ALPHA Iraq President



Evelyn Maalouf
Communication & Visibility officer

A Year of Growth

When I assumed the position of Communication Officer in November 2022, the multifaceted nature of ALPHA's initiatives in education, protection, development, and sustainable environmental projects demanded a strategic approach to communication. Yet, this challenge has become a stepping stone, providing opportunities for me to learn.

2023 was for me a year of growth.

On a professional level, I have sharpened my photography and videography skills to highlight ALPHA's activities, promote ALPHA's social impact, and widen ALPHA's audience on social media.

On a personal level, my involvement with the Agri-Youth project has been a transformative experience. Witnessing and capturing team advancement through my lens, observing the synergy that evolved within the team, and noticing their efforts to succeed in their roles, have been enlightening. As I continue to visually capture its development, this experience has significantly contributed to my motivation to pursue a master's degree in project engineering. I am eager to better understand the holistic aspect of project management and enhance my skills in driving successful project outcomes.

Evelyn Maalouf
Communication & Visibility Officer

Donors & Partners



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