

MINI BASMA

Annual activities report
July 2014 - June 2015

BELIEVE

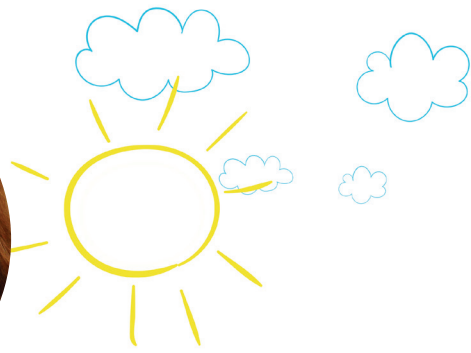
ACCOMPANY

BE UNITED



SESOBEL

Fonded in 1976



Dear Friends, Dear Sesobelians,
Dear "SESOBEL" Family,

All these salutations are designated to those who care about SESOBEL's work and its children. Therefore, they are also designated to you, dear readers! This annual report is made for you, as a panorama of our 2014-2015 achievements! These pages will summarize what has inspired us this year!

"Let us not forego the ideal of fraternal love" is the theme that we chose to follow as children and adults!

For a long time now, Lebanon has lost its title of the "Little Switzerland" of the Middle East. A country weakened by internal conflicts, the absence of a president, the paralysis of constitutional institutions, exterior meddling, unstable security within the state, economic and demographic inflation, and so on.

Lebanon "holds on" thanks to families and associations. At SESOBEL, we continue to accompany our handicapped children, and to support their families while trying to bring a wellness of being each day. This year, we have welcomed 986 children; each was able to receive the proper treatment that corresponds to his "journey in life". However, we strive to go even farther and welcome more children and families!

The new Autism Center project is growing day by day. Special events specifically organized for the construction of the Autism center punctuated our year, like the fund raising dinner held in Dubai and various other fund raising activities. Thanks to the wonderful commitment of numerous people, donators, and fund raisers activities, this dream is becoming a reality! Soon, we will be able to reorganize our existing quarters, and have more space for programs.

The "CATS", (Centre d'Accueil et de Thérapie Spécialisée: Specialized Therapy and Reception Service) at Daora will open its doors to families next October and will facilitate access for new families. Another innovation, this time on the scientific spectrum, was the first symposium : A better seating for a better life, which gathered experts, medical professionals, and paramedics with the objective to share knowledge and experience!

We also had the pleasure of receiving visitors from the loyal "Partage Nantes" group whose support, both emotional and sponsorship, always adds to our success.

Welcoming everyone, regardless of their social or religious background, is an integral part of our identity at SESOBEL. Everyone has his special place and role to hold... irreplaceable because unique!

SESOBEL realizes that its success is the result of a union of forces. We need everyone's energy, charisma, skills, and commitment to continue growing!

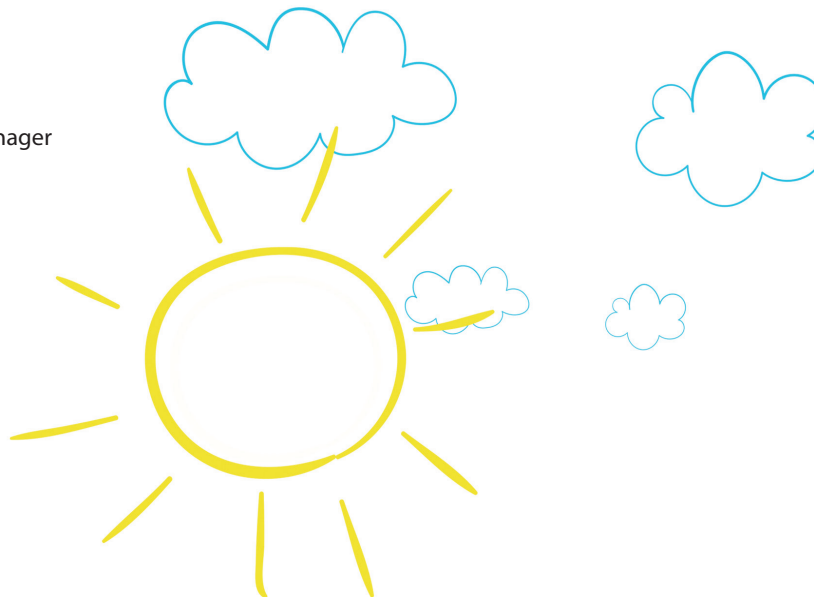
Keeping hope with love for this country, creating projects and completing them are the keys to making our children's dreams come true. It's their joy and smiles that encourage all those around them!

Through these lines, I wish to thank Seit El Beit (the Virgin Mary) from the bottom of my heart for Her constant and loving presence. Without whom nothing could have been achieved. I would also like to thank you all, our loyal friends who work daily supporting us. Yvonne, who with boldness and faith founded our association. Our contributors, friends, team members, counselors, Board of Directors, General Assembly and Ethics Committee and most of all, our disabled children and youth as well as their families, for their trust in our endeavors and our mission.

Each day, let us fly beyond obstacles! May the smiles of our children reach you. May you be able to hear their bursts of laughter through these pages, and may we be able to continue our precious collaboration for the beginning of the year which precedes SESOBEL's 40th Anniversary.

THANK YOU!

Fadia Safi
President, General Manager



To Believe

SESOBEL is an outpouring of Love

What love are we talking about?

Every day, SESOBEL receives children between the ages of 0 to 16 years in its educational programs – but also youth and adults up to the age of 54 years in the VRP (Vocational Rehabilitation Program). SESOBEL's mission is to take care of disabled children and to guide them in all the personal dimensions of their lives: care, education, leisure, life skills, as well as their human and spiritual development. SESOBEL's specialty is planning an individualized "life course" for each child with the tight collaboration of his family. The objective is to avoid segmenting the child's life, and to give him the opportunity to develop in a harmonious way!

We believe that:

- *People are much more than they appear to be—each possessing a mystery that shall only be revealed by acts of faith and trust.*
- *Each disabled person is a human being, a child of God.*
- *Everyone is entitled to live in dignity and love.*
- *All that we have received as Gifts are meant to be used for the support of one another.*
- *Obstacles are part of life. It is up to us to overcome them.*
- *Life is everlasting; everyone is called to grow and reach his potential.*
- *We are called to live as one large family, at the heart of which the weakest have their place.*
- *Love's strength triumphs over death and all its aspects.*

This is why we believe that everyone's life, no matter how severely disabled, is worth being lived as a celebration, because Love is enduring and because you are my brother.



Four «I»s for a Child

«I» for Intuition : From one war to another...

At the beginning, it was the audacity of one woman, Yvonne Chami. In 1976, she returned to Lebanon, just as the civil war had started in the country. A nurse for six years in Vietnam, she is sensitive to a troubling reality that was not being given any priority. Children becoming disabled while we could have done something to prevent it! Others die from the lack of care and families falling apart. It is while working in pediatrics at a hospital in Beirut when Yvonne started serving children with disabilities, from birth to their death. By watching over them and caring for them "like brothers", she allowed them to retrieve their human dignity. The fragile children of God became messengers of the power of life and love to those they met.

“]” for Initiative: The start...

To build a program Yvonne needed to leave the hospital, to gain independence and put her beliefs into action. At first, a few months were spent using one space at her friend's house in Achrafieh, then with Fadia Safi and others, she moved to Antelias where a program for the prevention and awareness on disability began, in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross. We continued to grow in a little office at the Saint-Elie convent for the Antonines, and then in Yvonne's apartment...

The next move was to Zouk, where the children were welcomed in the parish house of Notre-Dame-du-Secours. This location, however, was not easily accessible. After that, it was the Visitation Convent in Aintoura, then the convent of the Greek-Catholics in Bikfaya in 1984. Finally in 1986 we settled our group in Ain El-Rihani. Our encounter with Jean Vanier, a prominent philosopher and humanitarian who believed that the disabled are teachers, rather than burdens bestowed upon families, inspired Yvonne's advocacy for the rights of all disabled people and their dignity as human beings. At the time the notion of being handicapped was completely taboo and parents used to keep their children hidden from the eyes of the public.

“]” for Institution:

To build we need energy, conviction, loyal associates, and a lot of faith! Yvonne had all of these! Three years after SESOBEL's formal creation in 1980, SESOBEL began a program of rehabilitative treatment in physiotherapy – held in Furn El-Chebbak. Uniting people of goodwill to create a strong core is essential, but nothing could have been done without our local and foreign partners. The first batch of technical support was offered to us by Germans. The Irish initiated us to the Gait Lab technology. In addition, we collaborate with universities, especially Saint Joseph University that created the psychometric specialization upon our request – and sends us on average ninety interns per year. As for

the Lebanese University, they have developed the Ergotherapy (occupational therapy). However, we also need to set our methods, means and work procedures. The Know-How as much as the acquired technicity have allowed SESOBEL to become a model and information source for many other programs and NGOs.

“]” for Innovation:

Global approach of the child; interdisciplinary work.

In order to elaborate an individualized plan adapted to each child's needs, we need the regular collaboration of their family. What happens at home is essential, because it allows us to better evaluate the difficulties, and to measure the areas where our assistance can improve the home environment.

To improve the child's quality of life, we work in team to find satisfying solutions. Interdisciplinary efforts in 2010 have led to the creation of our neuro-alimentary clinic and cinematography of “deglutition” (swallowing). We have also created the visual clinic which the collaboration of ergo therapists in order to allow the children who have neuro-visual disabilities to read and write.

Since 2003, we are also a training center for Lebanon and the entire Arab world. We welcome health professionals from Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. At SESOBEL, they can benefit from internships given directly by us or by the specialists we invite.

Pioneers in Lebanon for a number of technical innovations, we make sure not to forget our mission: “The child is at the center of everything, technicality without any values is useless!”



A Love that transcends everything

A global approach

FOR THE HARMONIOUS DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD



An individualized «Life course» A global approach

We often say that Lebanon is a “Mosaic.” As a country fractured by conflicts and the migration of its population, the situation is not the best, and yet “welcoming” – the first adjective we use whenever we want to describe this country and its inhabitants.

SESOBEL is not an exception. This year we welcomed 986 children. For each one of them, disregarding their religious or social background, we want a focused, individualized “Life plan”. In order to build this plan and adapt it to the child’s needs, we need the interaction of the family! Nothing can be done without the families’ consent and their participation, as without it, all our efforts would be bound to failure! The family is fundamental and we absolutely wish to keep the children within their personal framework because that is where they draw the strength that will help them grow! The reason why our mission does not stop with the disabled children, but also concerns the family: father, mother, and siblings. Each should be aware of the importance of this cause. Therefore, while taking action, we thrive to spread SESOBEL’s values and philosophy to the society on a larger scale.

The “Life course” is not a question of organizing and interdisciplinary routines, the “Life Course” is also about love, lots of given and received love! When Ghada Kmeid (a pedagogic head unit) talks to us about her “Chouchous” – poly-handicapped children – she really considers them as her children. Because they cannot express themselves clearly, loving them is even more necessary. “We need to really love the children. Love allows us to discover people and know what they want without them having to ask”.

Activities at SESOBEL



Back to school



Independance Day



Mask Day / Sainte Barbe



Christmas

Outings for change of scenery !

Life at SESOBEL is not restricted to maintaining SESOBEL's premises. On the contrary, we aspire for our children to live like other children of their age. For this reason, we have exceptional partners who open their doors for us and offer the chance for the children to watch a new movie, explore the urban world and its different jobs, or to have fun in a sports center for kids.



Children and Sports: Daily and in competition

"All for sports and sports for all!" says Joelle Ouba enthusiastically. As our only sports teacher, she has the chance to know almost all the children and to give them the opportunity to play and let out their steam! Sports are not only for those who are healthy: "I try to adapt all the sports so that there are not any restrictions. Whatever the class or the handicap, it is possible to have the children participate." Objective: Take pleasure and discover the joy of teamwork. "Beyond the healthy aspect of it, sports are very important for self-esteem, and a better integration in society. Children can then play with their brothers and sisters more easily." Sports open the door to new possibilities, "This gives them a chance to be more like you and me".

Being present at the team meetings is fundamental to Joelle who can then identify targeted objectives for the children – and translate them into sports. Learning straight lines becomes then more concrete! "Sports are also about learning to win and to lose, to deal with impatience, just as much as so many situations they might face in life". To sum up, sports are a school of life!

"Some even memorize the days of the week thanks to sports, and when they miss sports because it is a holiday, it is a huge disappointment for them!" The children are always very excited and anxiously wait for sports time. A high moral commitment is needed to modernize the stock of ideas in terms of adapted games. Joelle has said that "Research on the internet and training at USJ have allowed me to complement my knowledge, because unfortunately, training in specialized physical education does not exist in Lebanon".



Three Medals for SESOBEL !

Daily sports have enabled some of the children to reach the Special Olympics competitions! In October, our swimming team participated at the MENA regional games in Egypt and won the first and the third place! First participation and first place went to Elissa in the breast stroke competition; third place for Sara in the crawl (a past medal winner as well!) As for the Basketball team, they played a great game and won third place! Hany competed in the 5 kms cycling and won second place!



Our two swimmers will make a trip to Los Angeles in July 2015 for the world championship! Needless to say, that all of us, young or old, are fervent supporters of the young girls who will represent the colors of SESOBEL on the American ground.

End of Year Celebration

In the late afternoon of June 10, a “Trash monster” welcomed us at the Complex of Patriarch Gregorius in Rabweh! This end of year celebration organized by Anita El Hajj and Lilliane Dargham had the environment and the protection of our planet as themes!

Inside the complex, the art works which the children had worked on for two consecutive years were graciously presented and placed. Colored paintings, trees made out of recycled items, such as tissues, plastic bottles, lids, tires, straws, paper cones were assembled with great creativity with the help of Carla Faddoul, Gisele Zouein, Jocelyne Khoueiry, Juliana Onayssi, Roula Chedid, Elie Bou Gebrayel, all the educators, the sibling group, the committed volunteer Renee Khoury and the support of the Guides Tournesol, creating a breathtaking work!

At the back of the large hall were images photographed by our photographers “our children”. The theme was nature and every shot was of a landscape, an animal, or a detail, such as a drop of dew on a leaf! The international photographer, Mr. Souheil Semaan, volunteered his time and enriched us by his know-how and lavish techniques, especially with techniques for using a camera. We thank him! During every outing, the educator Mia Bteich accompanied the children in their quest for beauty!

After that, everyone headed to the auditorium to watch the children’s show! The program began with the national anthem and patriotic pride brought the audience together!

Mr. Ghassan Sayah, representative of the Minister of the Environment, Dr Mohammed El Machnouk, and Ms. Fadia Safi, our General Manager, addressed the crowd and opened the evening. Came next, Mr. Paul Abi Rached –president of T.E.R.R.E Liban- who sang, presented, and linked the different scenes together. We thank him for using his talent to serve SESOBEL!

Several groups of the children made presentations to the crowd who were greatly impressed by the attention to detail and the dynamic atmosphere created by the combination of texts, filmed sequences, and musical sketches utilizing paper products. SESOBEL’s children’s chorus also delighted everyone thanks to songs written by Mr. Paul Abi Rached! The different displays showcased how SESOBEL initiated the project GO GREEN and on the ground applications of the awareness campaign. They also showed the children transforming the recyclable materials and composting, thanks to the method taught by Mr. Antoine Abou Moussa, coordinator of environmental projects at T.E.R.R.E Liban. Huge thanks to all!



The Spiritual counselling

One of SESOBEL's unique characteristics is its link to Anta Akhi – from their founder, but also from their spiritual counselling on how to answer the questions that blossom within the children's hearts as they grow? All children go through some problem stages as they mature, for the children of SESOBEL they must also adapt to their handicap and the consequences it presents in the future.

As a former student at SESOBEL, and now a trainer for the youth, Claire Abi Karam specifies: "The training is suggested starting 9 years old, because it is the time when we start noticing the gaze of the public and be annoyed from it. An enlightenment is needed, if not we do not have hope, we die before actually dying". This training works through approaching different questions, concrete problems, and also fears. This training aims to "listen and set values to help one live with love and peace".

Nobody accepts disability; it is a path one must take and live with. "The handicap does not erase the person who conserves his most important potentials: Love, Life, and Happiness". However, we need several keys to live this difference and develop – as Claire says – this "Art of Living". This includes discussions, sharing personal experiences, organizing role playing games and practical exercises, in order to better understand each others.

Transmitting is what Claire, Mirna and Alaa are currently doing with the children and youth by giving their testimonies and sharing their special guidance.

"For us, it is very beautiful; we give something that is very important and precious. We had the chance to be accompanied and loved, and now it is our responsibility to the next

generation of youth.

For them, it is important to see that others have lived through it, that it is possible, and that it is not utopian".

Claire, Mirna and Alaa also address the public, advising seminarians on how the disabled child and his family need special attention and how difference can be seen as richness to their lives. Schools and universities are also visited. The objective is to invoke some questions such as: "How are the young handicapped able to be happy when I have my full potential and, yet I am not happy?". Mirna said "The training has helped me free myself from my handicap and from others' judgment. Despite my limited abilities, I know that I have a very important role in my family, in society, and in my parish."

Alaa, who is Muslim, has found in this logic a sort of "comfort". "You just need to accept these values to find inner freedom, love, and serenity". Alaa also says that "by learning to be a source of joy and love, he then can build respect in relationships with strangers and family".

Yvonne Chami's challenge – and that of those committed with her – is to change the society's perception of people with disabilities, so one does not judge a person according to his limits or appearances. A striking image, given by Yvonne is that of the Roberval balance: "If I give a lot of weight to what I do not have, happiness goes away. On the contrary, if I give a lot of importance to happiness, then anxiety does not fill my life".

SESOBEL: A place where it is good to live!



The Atmosphere

SESOBEL wishes to create an atmosphere which includes "The Culture of Life." One of SESOBEL's core values is to encourage an atmosphere suitable for inner reflection. Through both organized events and the decoration of SESOBEL's premises, Dolly Ghrechy ensures that conveyed messages are coherent with our initial mission. Religious and special occasion celebrations are at the heart of life at SESOBEL. They add rhythm to the year. In her task, Dolly always tries to "Not only give life to bulletin boards, but also to people by finding words that will touch them and push them towards action". This is why the accuracy of the conveyed message is essential, because we need to transmit values, while acknowledging our staff, in order to guide them discover their life as children of God. Of course, delicacy is an utmost, as we cannot be intrusive to each and everyone's personal convictions.

The calendar contains several events, often shared with Anta Akhi. For Christmas, we were hosted at the Collège Notre-Dame de Louaize. In the program : a mass and a living crib. Like every year, Jesus was a child from the Early Stimulation Unit and Virgin Mary was an educator.

The youth from the Vocational Rehabilitation Program held the roles of the three kings

and the shepherds. As usual, the Lebanese television LBC crew, came to film the mass that was showcased on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year. What a pride for the families to see their children on television!

For the Epiphany, our spiritual day with the staff, we welcomed Patriarch Bechara Boutros El Rai. It was a very warm welcome, filled with shared moments and singing.

The celebrations of the Annunciation, Easter, and the pilgrimage to Our Lady of Lebanon at Harissa, were moments of prayers and sharing.

Activities are also planned for the staff to strengthen their bond and share friendly moments. This year, we went walking towards the Orthodox monastery of Hamatoura – where a community of hermit monks resides. In the future, the idea is to create a club for the staff, to which participation is optional, and aims to plan spiritual, leisure, sport or cultural activities. At the end of the last school year, we organized a hiking day at the "Jabal Moussa" reserve. We enjoyed walking in the middle of nature, admiring fauna and flora, but also tasting certain Lebanese specialties.

The atmosphere of life, however, is not only defined by big celebrations and occasions. Dolly makes sure to organize and propose daily animations.

We celebrate the birthdays of each staff member to show them that they matter to us. On the 19th of March, Saint Joseph's day, we wish a happy feast to all those who carry St. Joseph's name. On Mother's Day and Teacher's Day, we try not to forget anyone!

The sibling group



For more than 30 years, siblings have been an integral part of our mission and concerns. More than 45 brother and sisters between the ages of 6 and 24 participate in monthly meet-ups at SESOBEL.

During the year 2014-2015, seven meet-ups were organized, as well as, two outings and one summer camp with the theme of "ME in my Family".

Given that social interaction is part of the sibling' project, sessions for group talk have been set up with our social assistant, Mrs. Carla Njeim, during which the youngsters share their experiences.

Moreover, a session for discussion was previewed with our psychologist, Mrs. Josiane Yaacoub, during which there were reflections on this year's theme, "Let us not forego the ideal of fraternal love."

Not to forget the recreational part, the sibling's participation to indoor and outdoor activities, craft work, artistic expression workshop, nutrition, culinary and health workshops, decoration workshop, and two outings – one to Jbeil and the other to Faraya.

Since one of our objectives is to engage the siblings in the heart of SESOBEL's mission, the youngsters invested themselves to accomplish various tasks for the end of year celebration of SESOBEL.

The spiritual aspect was also approached; a discussion session with Father Charbel Chidiac and a testimony from Elie Tawk with the theme "Myself; a Disabled Child in the Midst of my Family".

To end the year, a camp was organized in August 2015 at the "Oum Allah" convent in Ajaltoun, under the theme "Just live it". With joy and enthusiasm, the siblings participated in several workshops including: Dance and body expression, movies and debates, an evening of discussions with Father Charbel, outdoor and indoor games, taekwondo, theater, painting, singing, a clowning session, a fun outing to the beach and a wonderful evening with a campfire alongside with our SESOBEL volunteers.

At the end of the camp, a mass was celebrated with the families of the siblings, followed by a buffet, discussions, and sharing. We spent these four days together, each at the service of the other, all different yet not indifferent, each looking out for the other with the objective of having a successful camp.

We believe that people are much more than they appear to be, each person possessing a mystery that shall only be revealed by acts of faith and trust.

For that reason we invest ourselves to emotionally support siblings and help them discover the art of living in harmony, believing in everyone's potential, and overcoming difficulties with hope and joy.

This way, the family can grow and enrich each other in harmony with the belief that life is worth being lived with joy, despite all its difficulties.



ACCOMPANYING

Through services provided to the children and families

Our beneficiaries in the programs

1- The family reception service	86 children
2- Early stimulation unit	33 children
3- Physical disability program	59 children and youth
4- Mental disability program	76 children and youth
5- Autism program	43 children and youth
6- Inclusive education at Jezzine's public school	20 children
7- Vocational Rehabilitation Program -Ain El-Rihani	43 youth
8- Vocational Rehabilitation Program – Kfarhouna	7 youth
9- Medical and therapeutical care/Anta Akhi youth	49 youth
10- Outpatient care service	570 children and youth



Specialized therapy and reception center at Beirut

For every new child with disability, SESOBEL provides a reception service for his family to analyze the appropriate steps for diagnosis and support. Thanks to the generous contribution of the Frem Foundation, SESOBEL has recently opened a specialized therapy and reception center in Beirut. By offering us that 12th floor in Dora and participating in its setup, they have allowed us to move the SAF (The family reception service) hence, making our services more accessible to the families. We thank them greatly!

This project started by recognizing a problem...

In order to get a proper diagnosis, several medical consultations and therapeutical educational assessments are needed. Consequently, in addition to the delays that can seem long (3 weeks to 3 months), the family needs to travel all the way to Ain El Rihani on several occasions.

Additionally, supporting people with disability or with learning challenges requires long-term counseling.

SESOBEL's location being relatively far with no public transportation available. Some families find it hard to reach, especially if they do not have a motor vehicle.

...To respond to an objective:

Responding to the problem of SESOBEL's location and making our services more accessible to a larger number of beneficiaries. This center will also be presented as non-sectarian welcoming children from all backgrounds. We are convinced that this approach will encourage families to make contact.



New

The specialized therapy and reception center will be in charge of diagnosis and external care. More precisely:

- Welcoming new families and determination of their expectations.
- Initial medical and paramedical explorations: (Physiotherapy, occupational speech therapy, psychometric, psychological) and educational assessments (specialized teachers).
- Initial social explorations.
- Global rehabilitation plan (Personalized program).
- Informing the family about their child's disability, their needs and the existing alternatives for care.
- Orienting the child or the young adult towards the most adequate program and association that will allow them to benefit from a global care: educational, medical and rehabilitative care.
- Orientation can be done towards SESOBEL's programs or towards external associations or to the external care program of SESOBEL that ensures: Tests: the walk and movement analysis, breathing (Saturimeter, EFR), rehabilitative assessment, technical counseling, realization of technical aids.

For external care, the educational follow-up and breathing tests will take place at home.

Symposium: Better Seating for a better life



SESOBEL has held this first symposium under the auspices of the Minister of Social Affairs M. Rachid Derbas. Organized by SESOBEL in partnership with the Harika and Ottobock Center, the symposium was held on May 29-30 at Saint Joseph University of Beirut. User, retailer, and manufacturer of adapted materials. This symposium wished to gather a large number of health professionals, doctors, therapists, specialized manufacturers, leaders of medical NGOs dealing with disabilities, universities for the purpose of research but also retailers and third party sellers in order to deliver first-hand information to continue improving techniques and expertise.

The symposium was an opportunity for the Harika Center, an agent of Ottobock in Lebanon to present the new CAD-CAM technology (Computer Aided Design – Computer Aided Manufacture) allowing the child's exact measurements to be entered into a computer then transmitting that data to the iodine machine which molds and tailors it precisely.

For every person positioning is fundamental, but even more for people with reduced mobility who spend their whole day sitting in a wheelchair.

The person with reduced mobility lacks position control. Their seated position is often characterized by an incorrect and unstable alignment that causes in the long term orthopedic deformities that can be painful

and irreversible, bedsores, breathing and nutrition problems.

If poorly positioned, the child will not be able to learn, because verticality allows more functionality of the upper members. The child can develop coping mechanisms to overcome poor positioning and complete his activities, but that can result in other kinds of pain, spasm and degeneration. This also affects people around him, trying to cope with none functional techniques. Carrying a heavy child is not a viable long term option, and without adaptable seating, the physically disabled child or adult cannot leave home which reduces their social relationships.

With limited financial means in the 80's, SESOBEL was working on seating with what they had available. We have worked on the positioning in a craftsman manner, arranging wooden and metal pieces till we find the expected results. Now we feel it is important to provide adapted and comfortable seats for our children with material that conforms to international standards.

In order to conform positioning to these specifications, seating has to be personalized, solid, and stable to ensure security. It should be functional, light, easy to use and comfortable. Whether crafted or purchased, it should be adapted following specific measurements.

In Lebanon, the material needed for good positioning is expensive and any financial coverage, whenever it does exist, only covers a part of the fees without taking into consideration the new standards.

This symposium which was the first of its kind in Lebanon, has raised awareness of the importance of proper positioning, but also allowed professionals to share experiences, insights, and ideas to provide a better quality of life for those with disabilities.

Interdisciplinarity at SESOBEL: Cohesion, Coherence, and Complementarity

Illnesses that are being treated at SESOBEL result in progressive disabilities that require particular adaptations and very specialized services.

Our mission be it the child at the center of its preoccupations, SESOBEL has chosen to take an interdisciplinary approach. "Interdisciplinarity is not stacking up or juxtaposing skills, but a mutual merging of skills", as said Micha Bakhos, in charge of the technical board.

The objective is to avoid segmenting the multiple approaches that the child needs and to make a group of different disciplines cooperate together. It is a global approach founded on the integration of theories and where the child is at the center.

Interdisciplinarity is not only a concept, since we are committed to apply adapted sessions to every program and child. In this objective, we devote a lot of time for preparing together in team, in order to accommodate to the child's global and individualized project and to define the operational mode. In 2003, psychometric and speech therapy were crossed to establish a sensory and nutrition workshop, as well as a motor development and communication workshop, designed for children who have the autistic spectrum disorder. Taste, touch, sounds, global and fine perception of oneself and others. Interactivity, listening and patience are also objectives that we target in our sessions.

Confrontation and shared experiences, harmonization of practices, finding the right articulation, but also complementarities without interfering on the prerogatives of other team members.

An interdisciplinary approach requires real preparation and a proactive teamwork! Reflection in collectivity needs trust, a

common vision and a management style that we have put in place.

It is expensive but it is the key to our success... At SESOBEL, different types of meetings are organized: case summaries, staff meetings, programming. These tools allow professionals to consider the child's progress and to establish a clear program, taking into consideration the child's Life Project.

The technical commissions, such as the Exchange and Development Therapy, the integrated education, the Alternative and Augmentative Communication, the neuro-nutritional clinic. Every method having convinced the technical committee, is then delegated to a specific person who will undertake further researches, train himself and inform his colleagues.

This ensures that our professionals are up to date with the new approaches for care. Working as a team creates more coherence between the support systems given to each child and reassures their families. By sharing ideas, our professionals can prepare the best intervention plans to our children.



Fundraising and outreach activities

Field day

Like every year, SESOBEL's annual field day was held at the "Mzaar Gardens" at Kfardebian. More than 2,000 persons, friends and collaborators attended on Sunday the 31th of August 2014, to share enjoyable moments together. Various intergenerational activities were planned – Inflatable games, painting competitions, clown shows, sport activities (Climbing, paintball, soap soccer, trampoline...), esthetic care (Nail polish, Henna, tattoo), horse riding, and trip in ATV. A photo corner allowed everyone to remember this sunny day. Hip-hop, musical parades, but also the famous Harley-Davidson group – participated in creating a lively atmosphere.



The money raised was given to the early stimulation unit which had welcomed 37 children aged 0 to 6 this year.

Beirut Marathon

"Run for Fun" was the slogan for the marathon on November 9! 350 persons ran for SESOBEL of which 37 were disabled children, and 40 employees.



Children either on foot or in a wheelchair participated with their educators' support. The SESOBEL fanfare led a joyful team, so much so that others from the crowd came to join our singing and dancing! This marathon ended with participation medals handed out – making everyone happy! This event is also the first we shared on Instagram!

Christmas exhibition

Thanks to the generosity of Le Royal Hotel in Dbayeh which offered us its reception hall from December 4-7, 2014 we were able to welcome 600 people to our annual Christmas exhibition. We thank Mrs. May Mikati, the ex-prime minister's wife, who supported us with her patronage. We showcased and sold products produced in our protected workshops: assorted chocolates, biscuits, and sewing products. Our guests were able to shop for holiday items and gifts, such as Christmas tablecloths, winter collection linens, Mouneh (traditional Lebanese food), our biscuit and chocolate decorated baskets – each prettier than the next – and the result of hard work at the decoration workshop.



Happy Treat

To thank the 60 participating businesses who were part of our "Happy Treat" program, we organized a ceremony on February 10, 2015. Fifteen of restaurants which were most involved received a recognition trophy. The campaign which began on the 26th of June 2014 had restaurants, cafes, nightclubs and bakeries in Lebanon asking their clients to add one dollar to their bill to support SESOBEL. Following the expression "Little streams make big rivers", we were able to collect almost \$63,000! We thank all the businesses and clients who allowed this success!



NEW AUTISM CENTER First Dubai Gala Dinner

Our dream is gradually turning into reality, since the construction of Sesobel's new Autism center is progressing!

(for details, you can visit <http://www.sesobel.org/autism>)

SESOBEL's first Gala dinner was held on February 19th, in the ballroom of Al Bustan Rotana Hotel. The proceeds were exclusively channeled to finance the new Autism center, dedicated to Sesobel's children with autism.

This fundraising evening, under the auspices of H.E Elias Bou Saab, Lebanese Minister of education, gathered around 530 guests. Ms. Gisele Khoury, the famous journalist, was the Master of Ceremony, and heartfully introduced Sesobel and its mission. Mrs. Fadia Safi explained the journey of the disabled child and his/her family. Autism awareness and concerns being on the rise, H.E. Lebanese Ambassador in the UAE, Mr. Hassan Saad spontaneously volunteered to share his conviction on the importance of supporting this project, pioneer in Lebanon and the Middle East. H.E. the Lebanese Consul General in Dubai, Mr. Sami Nmeir encouraged us and his presence was highly appreciated.

This event would have never been possible without our friend and Board member Mrs. Frida Chammas, who initiated this project and prepared its smallest details, in collaboration with the event organizer Mr Maher Khoukhagi and SESOBEL's team. Her husband Mr. Fady Chammas and their children Dana and Karim ensured the public relations, ticket sales and elaborated the dinner's visual identity.

The testimony of Elie Tawk, a child of SESOBEL since the age of two, and now employed as SESOBEL's spokesperson – was a very touching moment, it prompted a deserved standing ovation. This young man is the living proof of SESOBEL's action towards a better life.

This dinner was also an occasion to exhibit

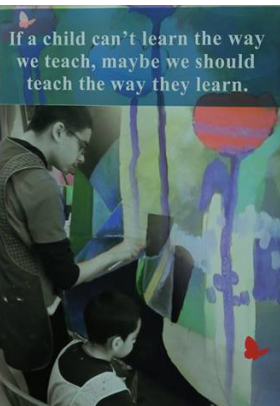
and sell 18 paintings (The Mood Collection) made by children in the Autism program. The canvas "Focused Mood" was auctioned, and many units in the new Autism center were generously sponsored by some of our guests, with the kind assistance of Mrs. Zeina Khoury.

Mrs. Rima Chammas was discreetly and elegantly essential to the success of the event.

A special thank you to the Lebanese and Arab communities in Dubai for their warm welcome, and to all those who answered "Present" to support this noble cause, and give a better life to our children with Autism.

A special thank to Marcel and Ranwa from Fluid Ltd. who contributed with a great generosity to the realization of SESOBEL's autism website (www.sesobel.org/autism). We truly appreciate their valuable collaboration and are grateful for their support and concern towards our mission.





The autism center Partners

The project of the new Autism Center would not have happened if it was not for the generous contributions of our partners, to whom SESOBEL is so grateful. Hence, we sincerely appeal to you to join their ranks and become our partners / donators.

The partnership levels

Honorary	USD 1,000,000 and above
Diamond	USD 500,000 to USD 999,999
Lead	SD 150,000 to USD 499,999
Platinum	USD 100,000 to USD 149,999
Gold	USD 50,000 to USD USD 99,999
Silver	USD 30,000 to USD 49,999
Bronze	USD 20,000 to USD 29,999

Partnership	Donator	Contribution
Honorary	- The Maronite Patriarcate of Lebanon	Rent-free land
Honorary	- Mrs. Leila Saad	Hydrotherapy unit
Diamond	- Conferenza Episcopale Italiana	Early stimulation unit
Diamond	- Bequeaths in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jean-Yves Eicheiberger - Partage	Donation
Lead	- Bequeaths In Memory of Mr. Pierre Cordahi	Donation
Lead	- Mr. Pierre Choueiry	Reception area
Lead	- MM. Direction Bank of Sharjah	Polyvalent room
Platinum	- Mr. Joseph & Mrs. Daad Ghoussoub	Resting area
Platinum	- Georges Frem & Brothers Foundation	Resting area
Platinum	- Mr. Robert Matta	Refectory & kitchen
Gold	- MM. Direction Caterpillar through Mr. Tareq Jallad	Generator
Gold	- Mr. Hady & Mrs. Lara Mouawad	Indoor play area
Gold	- Father Hady Daou	Game room
Gold	- SGBL	Donation
Silver	- Next Care	Yearly Donation for the living space program
Silver	- Mr. Chebel Bsaibes	2 Psychomotor therapy rooms
Silver	- Mr. Fadi & Mrs. Frida Chammas	2 Computer rooms
Silver	- Mrs. Vera Accaoui	Bedroom with Bathroom
Bronze	- Mrs. Fadwa Kahale	Speech therapy room
Bronze	- Mr. Samir Moawad	Physiotherapy room
Bronze	- Mr. Fares Korkmaz	Psychotherapy room
Bronze	- F.W.S. Smayra Family	TV therapy room
Bronze	- MM. Direction ESEC through Mr. Nazih Khoury	Speech therapy room
Bronze	- MM. Direction Western Union through Mr. Jean Claude Farah	Tv therapy room
Bronze	- MM. Direction OMNICOM Media through Mr. Elie Khoury	Handcraft workshop room



البطريركية المارونية



Choueiri Group



بنك الشارقة
Bank of Sharjah



ARCHITECTS



Jallad CAT



SGBL



gebara
construction & development



NextCARE
Your Health Managed with Care



OmnicomMediaGroup MENA



WESTERN UNION
moving money for better



إيمسك العالمية للمقاولات (ش.م.ع.)
SESOBEL INTERNATIONAL CONTRACTING (L.L.C.)
P.O. BOX 115777 Dubai, United Arab Emirates
Tel No: 04-888 5736, Fax No: 04-888 5737
www.sebel.com.ae

Easter Brunch

The long awaited annual Easter Brunch took place from March 24-27 at the Marina Club in Dbayeh. With some 1,200 attendees



it was a big success. We thank the four committees for their organization and networking skills. Our workshop products were beautifully displayed: Chocolate, Biscuits, Easter eggs, Maamouls, and sewn items such as towels, napkins and colorful beach bags. Wicker baskets, glass boats, rabbits, and porcelain items were filled with arrangements in a true rainbow of colors; Yellow, Orange, Fuchsia, Green, Blue, and Violet!! We also had a finely garnished delicious buffet which was appreciated by everyone.

Gala Dinner in Lebanon

A Gala dinner with more than 450 attendees was organized by SESOBEL on June 12, 2015 at the Terrasse-Casino du Liban restaurant, to support of our children's



programs. The "Lions" club participated in the entertainment of the evening along with artist Ms. Maya Nehme and dancer Raed Mourad who performed three dances.



Our offered product are growing!

Our chocolates:

11 flavors including 2 new ones!

Our Biscuits:

First started in 2007, we now offer 9 flavors!

For Christmas:

We offer Christmas Canned Fruit-cakes (Cherry and Pineapple) or Dried Fruit-cakes (Dates, Pistachio).

For Easter:

We sell our date, pistachio, or walnut flavored Maamouls, by category or mixed!

In our shops:

You will also find date-galettes, tartlets with caramelized walnuts, brownies, meringues, grilled almonds and candied oranges!

And decorated baskets : to showcase the products in the best way.

Local produce:

Thyme, goat milk cheese labneh, goat kishik, oregano, tomato sauce, pickles, honey...

Homemade Linen:

Items from our sewing workshop!



Our «3 Hearts Lodge» Auberge

Are you looking for a place to stay with comfort and family ambience?

The staff of 14 SESOBEL youth at the 3 Hearts Lodge is ready to welcome you...

Opened in 2012, the 3 Hearts Lodge is one of the "Protected" workshops of the CAT at SESOBEL. It allows our youth to receive training in a secure environment, with the objective of giving them all the skills needed to have a successful social and professional integration.

This fully operating hotel offers faultless service to honor the trust of our guests. It is also a chance for our youth to be exposed to normal work routines and to have permanent contact with clients.

Located in Ain El-Rihani - 10 minutes from Jounieh, the hostel is close to the sea and 29 Km away from Beirut's Airport.

There are also nearby touristic destinations such as Jeita Grotto, the Basilica of our Lady of Lebanon- Harissa, ski slopes of FarayaMzar.

Our hostel offers 5 comfortably decorated rooms at a reasonable price. Housekeeping is offered daily and fruits and homemade cookies are served daily in the rooms. Our kitchen team can provide meals, upon request, and a tourism program can also be organized.

From our visitors this year a group from "Foi et Lumière" Lebanon, a group of "L'Arche International" social travel group organized by Partage - Nantes Group, groups of Syrian and Algerian trainees and some international



travelers. The positive comments from our guests please us and encourage us to give even more:

« A place to visit »

We celebrated our best friend's birthday with the lovely nature kids... we had a blast... unforgettable stay... I recommend every 1 to visit it and feed his soul by appreciating life more... I will revisit it soon for sure :)

Vicky Assaf - Lebanon

Wonderful stay short or long, we loved the time being there, the professionalism of the youth was remarkable, very helpful and generous. Well furnished, and always clean.. Thank you THREE HEARTS LODGE :)

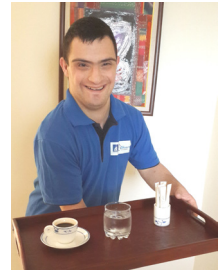
Najah Youssef - Iraq

More reviews are available on

www.Tripadvisor.com or www.booking.com

Our staff

Antonio El Weter 23 years, "It has been 16 years that I have been with SESOBEL who helped me read, write and become independent in my everyday life but, most importantly, to have a dignified life full of



joy. At 21, I felt the need to work and become productive in society like everyone else. In 2012, SESOBEL's Board offered me the chance to get a hotel management internship at a well-known hotel in Lebanon. After completing the internship, I began to work at the 3 Hearts Lodge that SESOBEL created. I love this job, it has helped me assert myself, gain self confidence in my skills and be able to meet people from different cultures, which is very enriching for me.

I work to enhance my skills in order to get a salary that will provide my needs – so I can become independent like any young person."

The continuous training center

In the interest of supporting our team, several training sessions were set up at our SESOBEL continuous training center during the year 2014–2015 with the objective of:

- Sensitizing the environment about the cause and the rights of a disabled person.
- Promoting quality of care and support for people with disabilities.
- Strengthening the intervention skills and the professional expertise of those who work with disabled people.
- Involving parents in the implementation of the child's life project for promoting his integration into the socioeconomic system.

From July 2014 to June 2015, the Continuous training center organized 24 modules for :

- 410 professionals working at SESOBEL and in socio-medical Lebanese institutions.
- 10 professionals working in social-medical Syrian institutions.
- 4 professionals collaborating with external services.
- 69 mothers.
- 10 youth at VRP.
- 36 university students.

These training modules and lessons were animated by: 15 professionals from SESOBEL, 3 international experts and 7 Lebanese experts.

The Internal Training:

- The novelties in the DSM 5 classification of the mental illnesses of the child.
- Handling wheelchairs.
- Accompanying the emotional life of people with mental disabilities.
- Introduction to relaxation for TED educators (Pervasive Developmental Disorders).
- Normal and pathological walking.
- Emergency First Aid.
- Handling sensorial disorders for people with disabilities.
- Time matters training, clear communication and win-win conflict resolution.



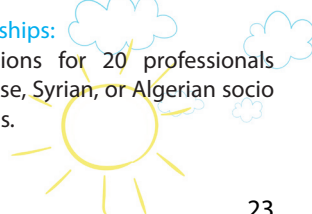
- Real Time and true leadership development matters.
- Prevention and amicable conflict management (mediation).
- Bodywork and appropriate intervention.
- Functional Math and Reading.
- Strategy, Organization and Management.
- Specialized education with integration of the basal stimulation.
- Respiratory care and support for children and youth with disabilities.
- Introduction to Psychomotricity.
- Individualized Educational Project.
- Introduction to PDD: Pervasive Developmental Disorders.
- Relaxation for parents (open group).
- Relaxation for parents (closed group).
- Manual work: Training for our children's mothers (Specialized embroidery, painting, pottery).
- Mediation: Deepening (VRP youth).
- Cerebral palsy.
- Social Marketing.

The external training :

From July 2014 to June 2015, 65 persons attended to 54 invitations, congresses, seminars, or lessons either in Lebanon or abroad.

Professional internships:

4 internship sessions for 20 professionals working in Lebanese, Syrian, or Algerian socio medical institutions.



Being United

Combining efforts towards the same objective!

The staff - Our Daily Life

To Walid Fahme, Yvonne Chami once said, a piece of wisdom which will mark his life forever : “You are not here to work but to lend your hands and legs to those who are not able to manage alone in order to live”.

Bernadette, Therese, Sara, and Graziella: Four helpers in class

Bernadette, Therese, Sara, Graziella, are four names marking the educational program, for a reason ! All the four ladies who came to SESOBEL since their early childhood are now helping the teachers in classrooms, giving back to other younger children.

“I love giving in return” said **Bernadette**. After working at the chocolate workshop, and the boutique, Bernadette found her happiness with the Children at the Early Stimulation Unit – in the white bear’s class. In that class, she helps Claudine and Diana take care of children with whom she gets along well by now. She really appreciates the young Karim, a non-verbal child, with whom she manages to communicate using gestures! “For example, I know he is still hungry when he bangs his fists together; that means “more!”

Therese who also worked at the chocolate and kitchen workshops and as a secretary found herself with the “Chouchous” (young children with multiple disabilities) because she loves kids! “With them, I feel useful, and I am able to communicate easily! This job is rewarding! “

I particularly like painting and dance activities, I communicate well with Luciana and Kevin; they are always smiling and I can understand what they need!”

Sara is also helping in the classroom, “I am pleased to work with the children! I help Roula, an educator, in the Physical Disability Program in the class of Friends of the Earth. I get along very well with Gabrielle, because

she is coquet. She does a great work and I am proud of her and all her classmates!”

Graziella likes to teach, it’s her passion! “I make the children recite their math, French, Arabic, and science lessons!” Recreational activities include painting and cooking workshops which are her favorite. “Depending on the period, we make Easter eggs or flags for Independence Day! Today, we’re learning how to make sandwiches!” Hala the educator confides “She has an infinite amount of love for her students, she always takes good initiatives, and when she is absent, the children are asking for her!”



Leila Zgheib, in charge of VRP, explained: “We have realized that certain young ladies of the VRP easily respond to children’s needs, they are efficient and are able to hold responsibility!” They are fervent in their work, but also, these young ladies participate in the recreational activities by joining to the VRP outings, receiving spiritual training at Anta Akhi, or by participating with Guides Tournesol!

Testimonies : Elias and Georgette, employees at SESOBEL!

Elias Tawk :

Elias is becoming quite famous, he is appearing on television programs and representing SESOBEL during public events but, most importantly, he is approaching people to spread SESOBEL's message. Who is he?

"The important thing is not what I have or what I can do, but what I am: A human being. Since I am able to express myself, it is essential that I talk in the name of everyone. Being a sort of spokesperson is a mission not a job."

However, since November 2014, Elias also has a "real" job at SESOBEL; welcoming visitors and representing the institution as an assistant to Daisy Daou, who is in charge of the volunteers and visitors unit. "SESOBEL and I, we grew together!" "I love SESOBEL's mission, because I have lived it and I have the means to defend it, especially thanks to the existential training I got from Anta Akhi", said Elias.

From his first program, Child by Child, in 2008 until the recent dinner in Dubai, Elias is meeting people and his work in the volunteers and visitors unit – a wonderful continuity of his journey. School and university students, the associations, and all the audience are usually surprised that he can handle the presentation session alone. Often they are astonished and do not know what to expect!

Additionally, Elias continues to see his friends at the prepress workshop once a week. There, Gina's team creates and perfects beautiful cards on all occasions. "What I like in this workshop is that I am able to translate an idea I have in my head concretely!"

He likes his "Hope Oasis", because "The love there does not exist anywhere else".



Georgette Avakian :

Georgette arrived a few years before Elie but their paths look alike. She started come to SESOBEL at the age of four for physiotherapy sessions while attending an ordinary school until her Grade 9.

The school, however, did not allow her to go through 10th grade, claiming that she would not be able to keep up with the class rhythm in writing, and that the use of her typist to write annoyed her classmates.

Deeply hurt by the answer, Georgette stayed home for 18 months until SESOBEL suggested she joined the APP program (Apprentissage Pre-professionnel/ Pre-professional learning) – actually the VRP - and she accepted. Her hobby is typing. She trained herself intensively and participated in the creation of our program. In parallel, she attended French courses with Yvonne's friend, to whom she is still grateful.

After a year and a half, Georgette got her first salary at SESOBEL. How rewarding it was to finally become "An employee like everyone else!" Yet, Georgette did not stop there; she continued her studies at a secretarial school while taking French courses at the French Cultural Institute in order to obtain her DELF (Diplôme d'Etudes en Langue Française).

"It was really a very rich experience", she said with exaltation! Next, Georgette worked at a gynecology clinic to computerize all of the patients' records while still working at SESOBEL, " Knowing the outside world was a great experience, but I can say that once you know SEOBEL, there is nothing better: work quality, atmosphere, happiness despite heavy workload, and the mutual help to each other... Everyone is present for the other and this is ideal!"

After 9 months, she decided to work only at SESOBEL for the service of the foreign sponsorship and the Hamzet Wassel edition – the SESOBEL newspaper!

"Here, the most important thing is equality in relationship between the child and the staff.. there is no difference. We should never say that this person has more skills than others".

An employee and mother of a child at SESOBEL

Rada Sokhn :

In 1992, Rada had just finished her studies in psychology. At that time, this profession was not yet recognized in Lebanon as a real medical skill so she joined SESOBEL as a specialized educator. First, she was in charge of a class with students having cerebral paralysis, then of children with Down syndrome, and later of the VRP. She developed her skills on a daily basis because it was not her initial specialization.

Because of her love to dance and music, Rada suggested creating an oriental dancing workshop for the girls and introduced all the youth to beautiful music! For the young adults, she created a theater workshop... it looks very authentic, we even have curtains! This was a huge success and with time, Rada gave acting sessions to almost 15 groups of children. Depending on the programs and the children, we adapt the sessions. For some, it is Chinese shadows, for others it is miming, while some play "actual" roles, alternating between dialogs and monologs... this activity requires creativity and imagination but can also reveal repressed hidden troubles, such as the abuse of disabled individuals from others. Playing the role of the person that one could have been if they were not disabled is essential, because it soothes a lot. It creates a space of freedom where everyone can live without being defined by his limited abilities.

A human being is much more than a disability or limitations! Allowing free expression of their aspirations or simply daring to ask questions that everyone asks oneself is liberating. All of this led Rada to create effective education sessions. "You have no idea how many things girls have to talk about and how they await for this session. We shouldn't lie to our youth, we should tell them things as they are." It is essential that the youth become aware of their body and develop transparency in their relations with others, so that everyone is mutually respected.



Corporal expression reaches its peak at the "Dessine un reve" (Draw a dream) show... the director Rabih Freiha brought his professionalism and the result was unanimously applauded! Rada is excited that performing and theater is now recognized as a real social value and that all children are capable of creating a show of great quality!

In Rada's life, however, there was a "before" and an "after" her son, Elia. Elia is her third child, after Perla and Bakhos. His arrival in the family changed everything in the heart of Rada. Suddenly, she no longer was the person who guided and supported the parents of SESOBEL's children, but a mother who needed to be guided and supported. Her feelings were now those of other mothers with a different, special child.

In 2011, Rada changed her job status and became an assistant to the production department. A position that is much more administrative.

"Before Elia I was in SESOBEL because the mission really convinced me, I was aware my job was special and I was proud of it." At that time "It was the weakness of these young human beings that encouraged me to persevere." "Today, my son is here, SESOBEL has supported us a lot during difficult times. Now working in direct contact with the children has become too hard, because they all have become Elia to me, nevertheless the children give me the joy of life".

Our donators, regular and loyal

Foreign sponsorship and Social Travelers

Several associations support us worldwide: Three countries over three continents! Partage and Terre de Vie in France; SESOBEL Australia and American Friends of SESOBEL in the United States. We frequently send them letters including news about the children, the projects we are doing, greeting cards and condensed versions of the annual report, so that our sponsors who believe in us are able to track our progress despite the distance.

Mirna Fares:

Mirna, who is 31 years old, has not forgotten those she calls her Godmothers! She had two French lady sponsors, one of them a special educator. "We had regular exchanges, letters, cards, drawings... they always answered back and sent me gifts. We talked especially about our lives." Mirna has her real family, in Lebanon, where she grew up as the youngest of four children. But the sponsorship gave her the chance to create friendships in another country, France: "Even though I didn't really know them, because we lived far away, I felt that these people were next to me, and were genuinely interested in me".

"Today, of course, they no longer sponsor me but I have kept all the letters and photos they sent me!"

The social travelers:

This year, we had the chance to welcome our "social travelers", from Nantes. Twelve foster parents and friends came from 14 to 21 May. They stayed at the 3 Hearts Lodge hostel. They visited the children and spent some time with them; they toured the school and some of Lebanon's touristic places.

Michel Chattelier, the social travel organizer now on his eighth trip, delivered a few words to us: "If you only knew how happy we are to be back among you. We all are going to

discover or rediscover the scope of your work with the children and their siblings. Your work deserves to be known, we are here to express our friendship, our solidarity, and continue our collaboration. I wish that these very enriching trips continue. May your country find Peace".



Yolande Baron: "With the group "Partage" in Nantes, I discovered Lebanon, and SESOBEL, for the first time. I am particularly impressed with the quality of the morning welcoming, the availability of the educators and the joy of everyone. The kids are happy to come. I saw a 4 years old boy leave his mother and jump into the arms of his educator. Impressive, touching and very convincing!

I also observed the global support systems, by visiting the workshops, listening to the participants, and recognizing how the workshops also help the families. The scholar inclusion, at the school in Jezzine was impressive and an important element for social integration and acceptance in society.

I would need a longer visit to observe all the programs, so I limit myself to my strongest impressions. And I ask myself: What strength animates all the team and "Moves Mountains"? A strong faith must, without doubt, be present: Faith in each of the youth, Faith in their future. Thank you for your welcoming and sharing."

Giving time: Our Doctors and Educators of Life

Doctors, ever since our beginning, have been committed to the work of SESOBEL. One of the pediatricans, Dr. Mansour Hojeily, tells us, "The spiritual approach, I strongly believe in it. It brings joy and respect. A country that has SESOBEL never dies, because its philosophical and religious values surpass us. The existential approach that Yvonne wanted from the start is, in my opinion, the biggest added value vis-a-vis countries like France".

Dr. Kamal Kallab:

Since 1981, Dr. Kamal Kallab has supported SESOBEL, as a specialist in child neurology and a member of the board of directors. Like others, he wants to be the guarantor of SESOBEL's spirit. "The development of a society is measured through the attention given to the people with disabilities. We cannot practice this profession without compassion for the ones in need". The idea is to "go from a pure medical vision to a multifaceted vision".

Mr. and Mrs. Elie Abi Aad: Loyal Lebanese supporters of the program "Sponsor a Child!"

"We learned about SESOBEL through public media and advertising and what attracted me the most was the sponsorship program, where you can participate every month!" said Rita Abi Aad. Twenty years ago, they began a sponsorship and they have not stopped.

"It was the day after Christmas, the 26th, our girls were young. I suggested that we become a child's Godparent and they agreed without any hesitation!" The couple has not only been loyal supporters but they have convinced their extended family to join them for a total of nine sponsorships! The tradition of helping our children continued with Carine, their eldest daughter, who was a speech therapist at SESOBEL for several years.

"When we picked up a brochure, every child had a name and we knew their story!" Joelle, their youngest, who has recently started working, participates in the monthly sponsorship as well!

"We went through critical moments" Rita says to her girls "but the day we stop our satellite,

phone, and electricity subscription, we will stop SESOBEL. We started with SESOBEL... we will continue with SESOBEL!" An unflinching allegiance!

Rita insists on this decision, a real family choice, with her husband's total assent. "It is not the little amount of money that we give that will make us poor, it can help others and we don't mind it!"

Three reasons for her attachment to SESOBEL: "When you're a mother, it is the answer...if God's grace gave us children in good health, we should think of others more".

"What I really like at SESOBEL, is Anta Akhi's presence, so continuity is possible when the parents become old and pass away."

"I love the children's signed cards; some of them make me tear up. They become personal, you feel like there is someone who means a lot to us at SESOBEL – and to whom we mean a lot!"

Stephanie Clauwaert:

Stephanie Clauwaert is French. When she was 29 years old she traveled to Lebanon to follow her husband. She wished to start a new chapter of her life in Lebanon by volunteering; something she had desired to do for so long but had always lacked the time to do.

She found SESOBEL through internet. She contacted Daisy Daou, in charge of volunteers, and unlike other institutions who answered too late or never – Daisy answered her that afternoon! The young ladies soon met, and after discussing volunteer options, Stephanie agreed to help out two to three days a week.

On Wednesday, she helped with

administrative work for Yolande Chebli and did researches about French and English associations that give sponsorships and could possibly support SESOBEL. In addition, she helped classifying and archiving materials at the medical and rehabilitation center.

Friday is the "Chouchous" (young disabled with multiple disabilities) day! with the educators Maria and Christelle, Stephanie danced with the "Chouchous". Creating small groups, the children move with the music. "Often prisoners of their wheelchairs, they cannot move a lot, but to make them participate, we hold their hand." The contact and loving atmosphere made Stephanie forget her fears concerning disability "Their

problems do not weigh me down in anyway". On Monday, Stephanie assisted the children when they went out to playgrounds, wax museums, the Burger King, attraction parks, or Lebanese restaurants.

"What has touched me is their kindness, joy for life, and will to grow. All of that in a family ambience where politeness and goodwill is among everyone".

Will Stephanie come back? "With pleasure, if the time allows me to do so, as I wish to balance a career and volunteering in the future." She is a real activist and does not see her life without commitment.

Our Support Committees

An example of commitment

Genevieve Abi Haila:

In 1999, Genevieve and five of her young friends decided that as a group they would do whatever they could to help SESOBEL's children. These six are now young women and they are all still volunteering for SESOBEL.

Genevieve is the current president of one of our support committees, the youth committee. With her 5 friends and other new members they reached 17. This committee uses its energy mainly to support the early stimulation unit, through organizing, the highly popular field day at the end of August. The event takes place in the enchanting Lebanese mountains with outdoor activities and a buffet. The young women plan all the logistics, mobilize their network and sell tickets.

This committee also assists with the Christmas exhibition and the Easter Brunch. The set-up, presentation, and operation of these events require many hours and plenty of goodwill from the committee. The committee also

suggests new products. Their suggestions give our towels, beach bags, and tablecloths a more chic, modern look.

Innovating to sell more, that is the objective! "SESOBEL has taught me many things in life, one is to help with all my heart without expecting anything in return - and never stop." Who will be taking over later? "My children are born with SESOBEL in their minds!"

"At the beginning, we needed a lot of help, and SESOBEL's employees helped out whenever it was necessary. Now, we are more independent, but we still have a lot of gratitude for their guidance. At SESOBEL, there is no difference between a volunteer and an employee". This respect and mutual support says to Genevieve that SESOBEL is a "big family"!

OUR ACTION IN NUMBERS

986
children and youth
with disability coming from
919
Families

were taken in charge
during the year 2014 - 2015



Disability categories

Physical disability 239 children (25 %)	Cerebral palsy	153
	Degenerative disease	55
	Genetic syndrome	4
	Diagnosis identification	19
	Undefined	2
	Idiopathic cause	6
Mental disability 202 children (20 %)	Chromosomal aberration	104
	Cerebral malformation	25
	Genetic syndrome	15
	Diagnosis identification	26
	Undefined	0
	Idiopathic cause	32
Pervasive development disorder (autism) 70 children (7 %)	Autism	54
	Unspecified pervasive developmental disorder	1
	Genetic syndrome	0
	Diagnosis identification	15
Other disabilities 475 children (48 %)	Learning difficulties	346
	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD)	0
	Undiagnosed disability	123
	Others	6

22,025
medical care cases
and rehabilitative
services



1,050
medical
consultations

142
Exams



30
surgeries



810
Assessments

18,536
Treatments

949
Parental
guidance
sessions

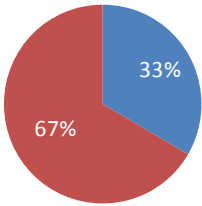
508
Technical
Aids
Assistance

*146 manufactured
technical aids
240 Adapted technical aids
103 controlled
technical aids
19 finished technical aids

Statistics

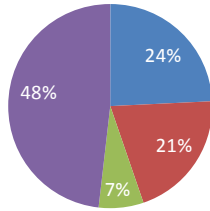
Sex

Female Male

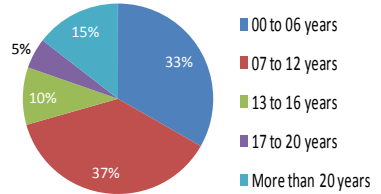


Handicap

Physical
Mental
Autism
Other

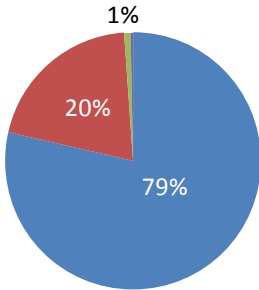


Age category

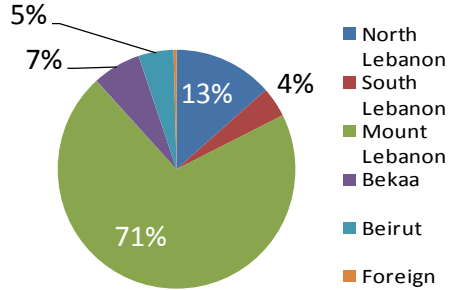


Religion

Christian
Moslem
Druze
Alawite

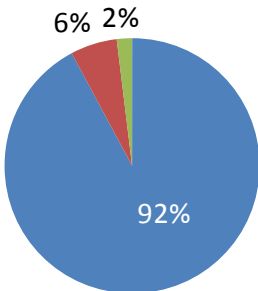


Geographic distribution



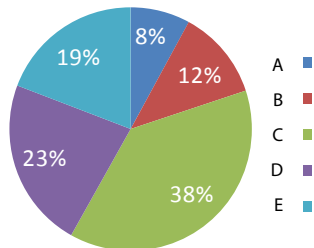
Number of children with disability in the same family

1 child
2 children
3 children



Families revenue

A 0 to 500000LL
B 500000LL to 1000000LL
C 1000000LL to 1500000LL
D 1500000LL to 2000000LL
E More than 2000000LL



Equal in EUROS

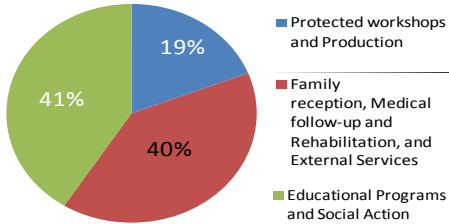
A = 0 to 274 EUR
B = 274 EUR to 548 EUR
C = 548 EUR to 822 EUR
D = 822 EUR to 1096 EUR
E = More than 1096 EUR

Resources

Our budget

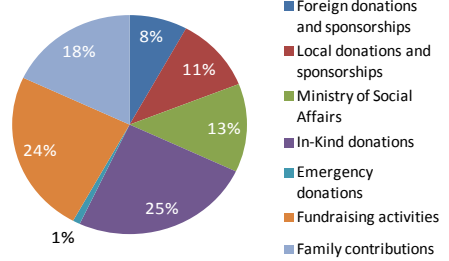
USD 7,000,000 as of 30/06/2014

Expenses



The yearly follow-up cost of one child is USD 10.977

Income



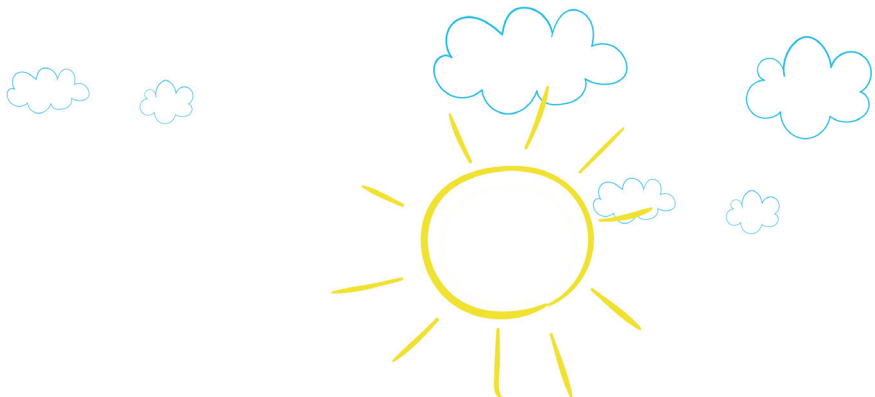
TRANSPARENCY

SESOBEL does not depend on any religious or political entity to preserve its moral and financial freedom. Additionally, more than 69% of SESOBEL's funds come from fundraising activities and private resources, which allow the association to maintain its autonomy.

For complete transparency towards its donators, SESOBEL's accounts are subject every year to the control of 2 statutory auditors designated by the general assembly and the

board of directors. Accounts are audited by the Lebanese firm "Antoine J. Haddad", and the firm "Ernst & Young" - Lebanon.

 ERNST & YOUNG



The people who make it all happen

Ms. Yvonne Chami

Founder of SESOBEL, Anta-Akhi and HVE / Handicap et Vie en Eglise (Handicap and life in church)

General Assembly

A general assembly comprising 36 members, meets every year. The assembly approves the major strategic and budgetary decisions.

Board of Directors

It comprises 11 members elected for four years. The Board meets once every two months to decide on the strategic and budgetary planning and make sure the values of SESOBEL are being respected.

Mrs. Fadia Safi, President

Mrs. Mireille Frem, Vice-president

Ms. May Khreich, Secretary

Mr. Ziad Khadij, Treasurer

Dr. Kamal Kallab, member

Dr. Mansour Hojeili, member

Mr. Selim Khoury, member

Mr. Labib Akiki, member

Dr. Selim Catafago, member

Mrs. Frida Chammas, member

Mr. Fares Korkmaz, member

General Manager

Mrs. Fadia Safi

Counselors

Mr. Chekri Khoury

Ms. Alya Warde

Mr. Christian Lujan

Dr. Ismat Ghanem

Mr. Fadi Chammas

Father Michel Sheuer

Mr. Alain Brenas

Mr. Naji Boulos

Dr. Sami Richa

Mr. Toni Kalaani

Mr. Jean-Marie Miramon

Mrs. Denise Fouge

Mr. David Hury

Mrs. Enaam Abou Jaoude

Support committees

Ladies' committee

Youth committee

Volunteers' committee

Parents' committee

Ladies' committee - Jezzine

Interns

156 interns (136 were university students and 20 were Syrian and Algerian professionals) from different disciplines.

Work team

A multidisciplinary team comprising 224 people of various specializations: specialized educators, animators, doctors, nurses, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychomotor therapists, psychologists, social workers, accountants, administrative personnel..., 28 ladies who help with seasonal work in the production workshops and 18 remunerated youth with disabilities who work at the CAT center.

Our main partners

The parents

The Ministry of Social Affairs

Third party contributors : Army, General Security Directorate, Internal Security Forces...

Partage Association, *France*

Terre de vie Association, *France*

American Friends of SESOBEL, *United States*

Liban-Canada Fonds, *Canada*

SESOBEL Group-*Australia*

Les petits frères des pauvres Association, *France*

International Cerebral Palsy Society (ICPS), *England*.

Saint Joseph University, *Lebanon*

Lebanese University, *Lebanon*

Mrs. Angele Abou Merhi, *Lebanon*

Napco Group, *Saudi Arabia* and Indevco group, *Lebanon*

French Embassy, *Lebanon*

USAID

Rehabilitation International

UNAPIEI, *Lebanon*

National commission on disability, *Lebanon*



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Written by Helene De Vulpian