



ANNUAL REPORT

2017 - 2018



EDITORIAL

As another year comes to an end, we celebrate its theme: «THE ART OF PERSEVERING WITH HOPE».

Without this incredible HOPE we could not have continued.

Deterioration of the country's economic situation, fueled by a gloomy political climate led to deviation of aid funds from international NGOs to refugees, and a significant decrease in resources. This particularly affected the associative sectors, including SESOBEL.

All associations working in the field of disability have mobilized to seek an increase in aid from the Ministry of Social Affairs known for embracing NGOs. We addressed officials, religious and public entities, deputies, ministers, and heads of the various parliamentary blocs. Parents, youth with disability, the work team, volunteers, and friends also got involved. SESOBEL held seventy-four meetings to explain the situation and asked for the Ministry's cooperation.

Over 5000 people met along the presidential palace to rally support. Additionally, two press conferences were organized to raise awareness and fund resources. However, as Pope Francis so aptly said, «Indifference is dangerous, whether innocent or not.» The struggle continues so that the charitable organizations have the necessary resources to continue their endeavor — that of allowing children with disability and their families to have the chance to live in Dignity.

At SESOBEL, considerable efforts were made to minimize operating costs and increase resources in an attempt to shake this financial depreciation.

Hope, as always, was at the center of our efforts. It manifested itself on several levels, giving us strength and courage ...

First, at the team level, where staff chose to continue working despite the reduction of wages, strikes, and insecurity ...

Then, our youth took it upon themselves to contribute to the fight along with their supportive friends and relatives ...

At the financial level :

- Christmas was made noteworthy as an exceptional family made it possible to reimburse the entire team at SESOBEL for their wages. The team exclaims in unison, "THANK YOU!". This family wishes to remain anonymous. We will remain eternally grateful to them.
- Two other donations from the same family helped cover a part of the deficit, while the other helped equip the production workshops. And, thanks to them, we are in the process of renovating our hardware and software computer systems. We thank our generous donators from the bottom of our hearts for their unfailing support of our children and youth.
- Commendable efforts by friends and associates in France, Australia, the United States, Canada, and Lebanon, were also invested to help us meet some of the needs of the programs or to help finance the construction of the new Autism Center.
- An exhibition of paintings by our children and youth with autism, organized by a member of the Board with the help of all the members of his family, incited the admiration of friends and visitors. Witnessing the children's contribution to the new Autism Center is heartwarming and encouraging.

Also, we must not forget all the Board members, our marketing team, the various support committees, our youth, volunteers, and parents, who have invested time and energy to ensure that the needs of SESOBEL are met.

If given the time, one could devote hours to showcase our beautiful youth and their actions, such as those of Elie, Charbel, Claire, Alaa, Joe, Mirna, Suzy, and Rita and many others. Thanks to our existential program, which allows for human accompaniment, each of these youth were enabled to enrich other's lives. The Christmas cards they designed helped finance SESOBEL and their comics appeared in the l'Orient-le Jour Junior to promote their cause and change the perception of disabilities into a more appreciative one.

Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the action taken by all media which allowed the general public to follow the activities of SESOBEL and its innovations.

At the administrative level :

- At the request of our foreign collaborators, a management audit was carried out, which allowed us to review our operating system. This allowed for clear and documented procedures.
- The Board members who have developed new statutes that are consistent with the development and requirements of SESOBEL's continuity.
- SESOBEL Code of Ethics was revised and updated.
- In the interests of transparency and loyalty to our children and our various donors, two accounting and auditing offices continue to audit the accounts of SESOBEL and the construction of the new Autism Center.

At the Research and Development level :

- A statistical study based on an internationally accredited questionnaire was conducted with the parents and families of SESOBEL's children to assess their satisfaction level. This questionnaire also enabled us to compare our results with those of other countries, allowing us to take necessary and corrective measures.
- A manual on "Family Guidance at the Technical and Social Level" has been updated in order for mothers to be informed of helpful home exercises.
- "Quoi savoir pour mieux orienter," an updated document to better know the associations, schools, and other specialized centers working in Lebanon in order to better orient children and their families. This study was conducted in close collaboration with the Department of Psychiatry of the USJ.
- As in every year, partnerships with different schools, universities, and training centers, are signed in Lebanon and abroad with the aim of improving the team's performance and abilities.
- The studies, research, and presentations, done by our professional team members abroad are especially noteworthy.

This is the very essence of what has been achieved this year. The report that follows is sufficiently explicit as to the action and achievements of SESOBEL; however, one may never be able to put into words the joys and sorrows experienced every day, nor the perseverance, tenacity, courage, commitment, and love of all the people who work at SESOBEL and for SESOBEL.

This year was certainly challenging, but with great thanks to our dear friends, volunteers, donators, parents, youth, and team, we have made it a successful one.

You have allowed Hope to be at the center of our cause. This is the miracle we have witnessed and continued for more than forty-two years through the intercession of our mother to all SET EL BEIT.

Fadia Safi
President and Chief Executive Officer

OUR ACTION

DURING 2017 - 2018

OUR BENEFICIARIES



1,513 children and Youth with disability

from **1,468 families**, have been covered by the various SESOBEL programs : Social, Rehabilitation, Education and Vocational.

Distributed as follows:

- * Motor disability: **289** * Intellectual disability: **337**
- * Autistic spectrum disorders: **90**
- * Other (Learning difficulties, non-criteria): **797**



OUR PROGRAMS

FAMILY RECEPTION SERVICE



198 new families

Reception and Interviews with 198 new families.



145 Children

Orientation of 145 children to appropriate structures: specialized structures, host programs and/or outpatient services of SESOBEL.



168 Children

Follow-up of 168 children: diagnosis, consultations, assessments, medical and rehabilitation care.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The core of our mission is to accompany each child in his difference and his particularity. Whatever the disability, we believe that every child is important and has value and a message of love to share.

To implement this mission, educational programs adopt a comprehensive, specialized, interdisciplinary and individualized approach, taking into account each child's pace, needs and abilities. This approach is primarily based on the sensory-motor stimulation program, the preschool and school program, the functional learning program; sports, music and artistic activities while enjoying events and outings.

Together, we build relationships with children in a climate of mutual respect, trust and love.

Children in the educational programs:

The educational programs welcome children and youth with disability aged 18 months to 20 years. Five units regroup them according to their age and needs.

- Early Stimulation: **31** children (This program supports all types of disability)
- Motor Disability: **33** Children and Youth
- Intellectual Disability: **56** Children and Youth
- Polyhandicap and severe intellectual disability: **33** Children and Youth
- Autistic spectrum disorders: **40** Children and Youth

SCHOOL INCLUSION PROGRAM

The School Inclusion Program welcomed **11** children at the Jezzine Public School in southern Lebanon: **9** children in Partial Inclusion and **2** children in Total Inclusion.

The children follow an adapted curriculum based on the school curriculum of the State, accompanied by an academic reinforcement and a re-educative speech and psychomotor approach. The overall goal is to ensure a healthy development of the child in an inclusive context by working with families, schools and the environment.

Responding to the skills of each child, the activities were varied: personal autonomy, adapted didactics, socialization, expression activities, and human & spiritual animation.

VOCATIONAL AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM - VRP



Beneficiaries

42 Youth between the ages of 20 and 54, work at the various SESOBEL workshops:

- Sewing: 3 youth
- 3Hearts Lodge: 6 youth
- Laundry: 4 youth
- Copy Center: 2 youth
- Prepress: 5 youth
- Technical aids: 3 youth
- Secretarial services: 1 youth
- Photography: 1 youth
- Educational assistant: 3 youth
- Kitchen: 1 youth
- Recycling: 12 youth
- Agriculture: 12 youth
- Packaging: 12 youth
- Land products: 9 youth
- Chocolate/ biscuits: 8 youth
- Stock : 1 youth

PS: They can work in several workshops

MEDICAL AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

services provided: 16,197 acts

 728 Assessments

 16 Surgeries

 13,659 Treatments

 854 Consultations

 269 Technical Aids Assistance

 539 Parental Guidance

 132 Medical Exams

54 physicians, 35 paramedical centers, 10 hospitals, 6 universities and 171 trainees were involved in the development and implementation of the therapeutic plan of the child.



The objectives of the units of the medical and rehabilitation program have been defined according to the needs of our children and youth with disability, while taking into consideration the singularity of each beneficiary in its multidisciplinary care.

- Medical Unit: 435 children and youth
- Physiotherapy Unit: 320 children and youth
- Respiratory Unit: 98 children and youth
- Occupational Therapy Unit: 197 children and youth
- Speech Therapy Unit: 291 children and youth
- Psychomotor Therapy Unit: 183 children and youth
- Psychology Unit: 116 children and youth
- Technical Aids Assistance Unit: 239 children and youth

Innovation



- Kick-off of Aqua Therapy
- Implementation of a combined tactile and oral protocol (PCTO) for children with sensory disorders at oral level (speech therapy, Research & Development and psychomotor therapy).
- Acquisition of WHO recommendations on WheelChair Service Training Package - WSTP (training in Jordan). The head of technical aids unit at SESOBEL received a certificate in the elementary and intermediate level in Training of Trainers (TOT)
- Setting up of parents' groups for psychological care: art therapy, therapeutic writing, therapy addressed to fathers.

SOCIAL SERVICE

Family is the main partner in the child's journey. For a better family life and for the child's well-being, SESOBEL's social intervention takes a holistic approach and aims to develop parenting skills, strengthen family autonomy, and raise awareness within the community.

Beneficiaries : 82 families of children enrolled in SESOBEL's programs.

Group intervention :

- Family guidance (185 participants): foster the development of parenting skills to maintain parents' abilities, overcome difficulties, and raise awareness of different disability issues.
- Action with the siblings (37 members): mobilize the siblings to defend their cause, act as an agent of change in the society, acknowledge their role, and live in harmony.
- Action with the parents' committee (10 members): provide support networks with parents and mobilize them to become a mutual support group and advocate for SESOBEL.



OUTPATIENT SERVICES

Our goal is to serve more people with disability and to meet their specific needs in order to ensure a better quality of life.

Beneficiaries: 1,175 children and youth

services provided: 53,208 acts

 29 Assessments

 21 consultations

 53,151 treatments

 4 medical exams

 3 Technical Aids Assistance

The outpatient services collaborated with 325 therapists of different specializations: speech therapists, psychomotor therapists, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, orthopedagogues ... distributed in all regions of Lebanon.

CONTINUOUS TRAINING CENTER

Our mission is to promote the quality of care for people with disabilities, allowing them a better integration into their family and social environment.

Action taken:

Intra-Muros: From July 2017 till June 2018, the training center organized 28 training modules divided into 69 sessions for 295 participants. The training modules were led by 8 professionals from SESOBEL, 4 foreign experts, 4 Lebanese experts, and 8 AUB groups-52 people (American University of Beirut). The modules consisted of 12 technical trainings and 3 administrative trainings.

Extra-Muros: In February 2018, SESOBEL was asked by the association «Himaya» to teach its team about disability. The training module was facilitated by 2 professionals from SESOBEL, 25 people participated and 6 hours of teaching were assured.

8 Interventions in congresses were given by 6 professionals of SESOBEL including four at the USJ and four abroad (United States, Norway, Geneva and Alexandria).



PANORAMA OF OUR ACTIVITIES



SUMMER PROGRAM

JUNE 26th - JULY 30th, 2018

A five week recreational program offered to our children a variety of recreational, cultural, and sports activities. The atmosphere was joyful and amusing. Every week, a new theme was introduced, so that the children benefit from various experiences.



BACK TO SCHOOL

The "CHANGE" and SESOBEL teams held a "BOOM" day to warmly welcome our children.



OUR YOUTH AT THE 3HEARTS LODGE

At this protected workshop, our youth engaged in 3 intensive training seminars aimed at strengthening their skills and improving the quality of their hospitality services. We thank all the faithful friends of SESOBEL who have assisted our youth, therefore supporting their professional and social integration. A big "BRAVO" to our youth who have done their work with serious professionalism during: **Easter Brunch, First Communion, Mother's Day, International Autism Awareness Day, "Les Délices d'Alice" opening, Teacher's Day...**

FOR YOUR RESERVATIONS

- EMAIL: 3heartslodge@sesobel.org
- www.sesobel.org // www.booking.com // www.tripadvisor.com

TRIBUTE



For Father's Day and during the ceremony at the Maronite Patriarchate-Bkerke, the Cardinal Mar Bechara Boutros Al-Rai gave a tribute to Mrs. Fadia Safi for dedicating forty-two years to the service of children with disability.

CHRISTMAS AT SESOBEL

The annual Christmas mass was celebrated by Monsignor Antoine Nabil Al Andari, Father Joseph Salloum, Deacon Aziz Sfeir, and the priests of the Louaize monestary, on the 21st of December 2018. The mass was held at the church of our Lady of Louaize College. The big family of SESOBEL gathered to celebrate the birth of baby Jesus in a climate of fraternity, joy, and love. We thank the famous singer Guitta Harb and organist Joseph Mrad who accompanied SESOBEL's choir.



A TYPICAL JOURNEY IN AFRICA



As in every April we celebrate Autism Awareness Month. During this themed party, our children experienced a tour of the world. This year, we have discovered Togo.

5 dancing scenes were presented showing the daily life in Africa :

«picking fruit», «hunting gazelle and wild boar», «the preparation and cooking meat», «wedding and reception traditions» and «the baby dance».

Our children engaged in this party by playing percussion instruments.

A journey filled with emotional moments, smiles, and tears of joy took place.

A DREAM CAME TRUE



**Inauguration of the Hydrotherapy Unit
28 September 2018**

Thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Layla Saad, the dream of our children with autism of having a hydrotherapy unit has become a reality. The advantages of the hydrotherapy are enormous due to the benefits of the water

We thank Mrs. Saad and all the persons who attended this inauguration: Monsignor Boulos Rouhana, Colonel Ali Al Amin, Captain Fadi Nader, the board of trustees, the general assembly, and all our trusted friends.

We also thank Mrs. Frida Chammas for her efforts in making this project possible.

Halliwick Training was held

159 children and youth benefited from the hydrotherapy unit with rehabilitation, relaxation, aquatic games, and sports.

The hydrotherapy unit is open to the public!

TRIP IN TIME



Seba Ali, a Lebanese American University student, invited SESOBEL to an interactive musical concert played by internationally acclaimed musicians (Apple Hill String quartet).

The concert was especially dedicated to the people with autism and their families. Our youth, Maroon and Walid, attended with a group from SESOBEL.

WINTER CARNIVAL AT QUEBEC



Our children at "Chouchou" program had an amusing cultural journey with "Carnival at Quebec" themed projections and animation.

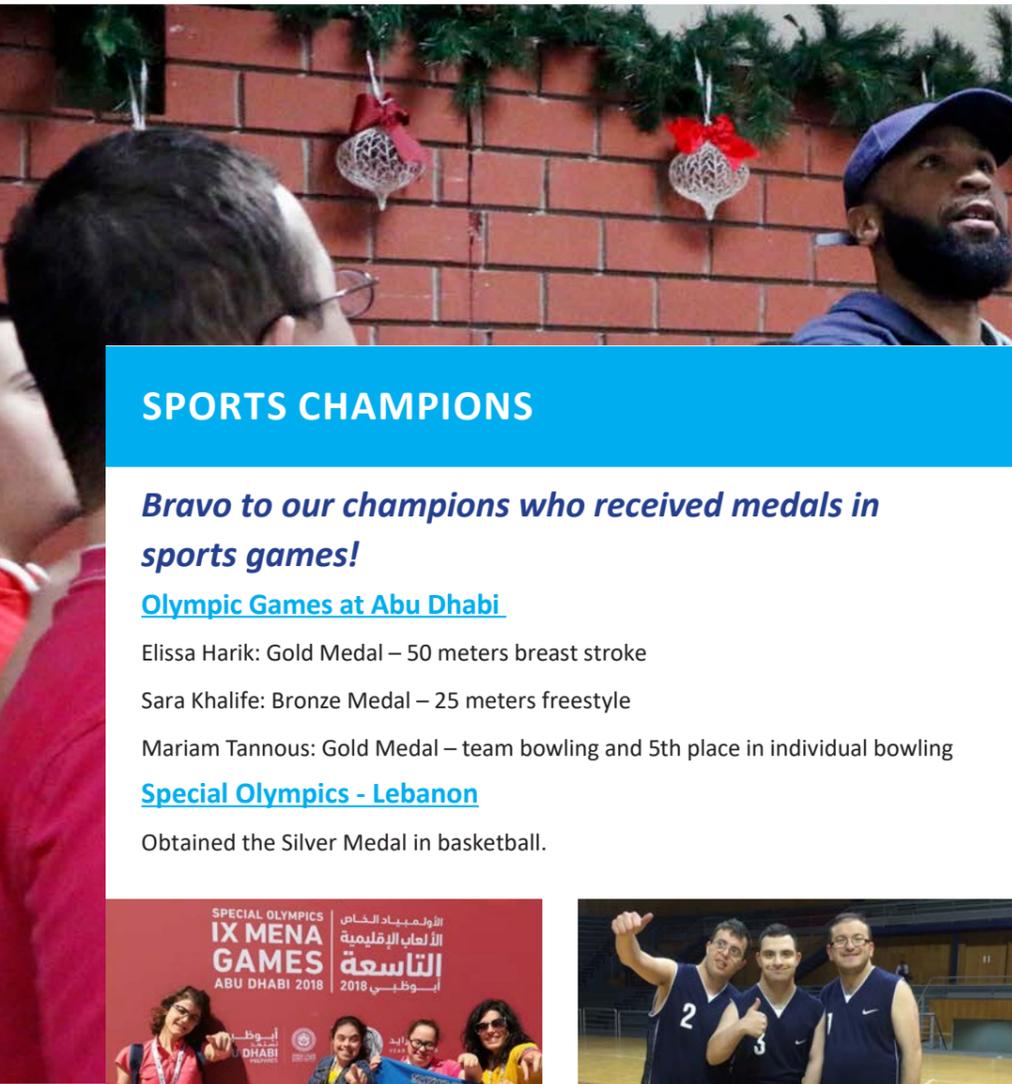
Wearing red and white, they played bowling, hockey and danced the penguin and white bear dance. They also participated in the Carnival Duchess 2018 election!

BEIRUT MARATHON



A group of 603 participants ran with 117 children and youth from SESOBEL on the 12th of November 2017. Together, we show that we can overcome disability with joy. We thank all the friends and the fabulous Proparade who contributed to the success of this event.





SPORTS CHAMPIONS

Bravo to our champions who received medals in sports games!

Olympic Games at Abu Dhabi

Elissa Harik: Gold Medal – 50 meters breast stroke

Sara Khalife: Bronze Medal – 25 meters freestyle

Mariam Tannous: Gold Medal – team bowling and 5th place in individual bowling

Special Olympics - Lebanon

Obtained the Silver Medal in basketball.



RECOGNITION FROM CMA CGM FOUNDATION

It is with great honor that Mrs. Fadia Safi, CEO of SESOBEL, received the recognition for the mission of SESOBEL from the CMA CGM Foundation in December 2017.

This prestigious distinction motivates us to persevere in our mission and action.

PAINTING EXHIBITION

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CHILDREN & YOUTH

1st place at the Festival of Arab Women

For the second consecutive year SESOBEL received the first place at the Festival of Arab Women, with the masterpiece entitled «Sailors face» Walid, a youth with autism, captivated the jury.

3rd place in poetry

The talented youth, Joe Jabr, received third place in a poetry competition organized by UNESCO.



Walid, Elio, Gregory, Kevin, Marc, Zaher, Rami, and Emmanuel, exhibited their paintings!

We thank "le Gray" hotel for hosting our children and youth with autism and their paintings.

50 paintings were displayed for purchase. The proceeds went directly to the construction of the new Autism Center.

FIRST COMMUNION

Congratulations to 15 of our children who received their First Communion on May 12, 2018 during a festive mass celebrated by Monsignor Antoine Nabil Al Andari, and Father Joseph Salloum at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral-Harissa. We thank Father Younan and his entire team, parents, and all of our friends who were celebrating with us, especially, Mrs. Neemat Aoun, wife of the army chief, General Joseph Aoun, and all the representatives of the state entities.



2ND SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL-SOCIAL SYMPOSIUM

Under the high patronage of His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Bonne, Ambassador of France in Lebanon, SESOBEL, in collaboration with LAND Association (Lebanese Association for Neuromuscular Diseases), the Lebanese Society of Pediatrics and AFM-Telethon (French Association against Myopathies) organized its second medical-social symposium on neuromuscular degenerative diseases «Cultivating Life» which was held on the 13th & 14th of October 2017, at the Salle Montaigne at the French Cultural Center - Beirut - Lebanon. This symposium was addressed to parents as well as to all health professionals, directors and presidents of NGOs, associations and universities. The medical and socio-familial aspects of neuromuscular diseases were particularly discussed. The line of conduct is to highlight the great role that experts can have in this area but also the crucial importance of the active involvement of parents.

«MY RIGHTS ARE NOT TO BE CROSSED»

With all NGOs working for people with disability, our children and youth protested on the 1st of March 2018, on the way to the Presidential Palace in Baabda demanding their rights. This protest was organized after the decision of the Council of Ministers to reduce the budget of the NGOs - which are at the service of people with disability. More than 5,000 people with disability and their families were there asking for a suspension of the decree and to implement the 220/2000 law. This Lebanese law concerns the rights of people with disability. Even though it was adopted in 2000, it has not been implemented nor applied.



SELF-FINANCING ACTIVITIES



Dinner «Moonlight Shadows»

SESOBEL organized 12 self-financing activities thanks to the efforts of all our support committees and the Marketing team.

Proceeds contributed to cover part of the running costs of our programs:

- Gala dinner
- Beirut Marathon
- Christmas Exhibitions (Le Royal and Lisa)
- Easter Brunch (The Villa and The Gathering)
- Parents Committee Brunch
- Volunteers Committee Brunch
- Cake sale
- Santa piggy banks
- Happy treat
- Piggy banks in different locations
- Summer gathering
- Quests in schools



Gala dinner



Christmas Exhibition



Brunch



Easter Brunch

«Les Délices d'Alice by SESOBEL» Thank you Alfa!

Designed in 2016 by Alfa telecom, «Les Délices d'Alice» was launched in April 2018. «Les Délices d'Alice by SESOBEL», new concept BCBG is a new brand image for SESOBEL's products in a fully-designed shop highlighting our beautiful products in charming boxes.



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN



- The founder: Mrs. Yvonne Chami
- General Assembly: 35 members
- Board of Trustees: 10 members
- President & CEO: Mrs. Fadia Safi
- Counselors: 18 persons
- Support Committees: 72 persons
- Ethics Committee: 5 members
- Trainees: 171 persons
- Volunteers: 274 persons
- Statutory Auditors: 2 cabinets
- A multidisciplinary team composed of 219 persons from different specializations: special educators, assistant educators, animators, doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychomotor therapists, psychologists, social workers, accountants, and administrative staff...
And 26 remunerated youth with disability working at the Vocational and Rehabilitation Program, VRP.

OUR MISSION

SESOBEL's mission is centered around the child with disability within and with the help of his family, without any form of political, ethnic, or religious discrimination.

The foundations of our action are based on the human, existential, and spiritual dimensions conceived and established by Yvonne Chami, our founder.

SESOBEL seeks to improve the situation of children with disability by meeting their basic needs, ensuring the unity of their families, and working closely with them.

SESOBEL works with all parts of society to help recognize the role of the child, his value, and his right to a life with dignity.

«This is why we believe that everyone's life, even with disability, is worth being lived as a celebration, because Love is enduring and because you are my brother.»
Sesobel's Creed

We Count On Your Support

Your help is vital!

It allows SESOBEL to cater to the needs of more than 1200 children and youth with disability, and preserve the unity of their families.

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For Helping
Me
GROW