

ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021

*Beyond
the "Good"*





Dear Friends,

While I was leaving my office at the end of the day, I met a lady who brought her two children with severe disability (Epilepsy, profound retardation, and serious osteoporosis...) for a medical checkup.

The Mother was happy to see me. She greeted me warmly and said, "Mrs. Safi, I am very grateful for everything that you are doing for my children." I responded, "My dear, we are only doing what we are committed to do. Pray for us; we need your prayers." She looked at me and said, "No, you don't need prayers, you should not worry because you are doing Good things; The Lord and his Mother will always be by your side."

Her faith and reassurance moved me. On my way home, I could only think of how dire our situation has become: the economic crisis, the coronavirus pandemic, Beirut port explosion and its repercussions, shortage of medical care, medicine, gasoline, water and electricity... Even the famine that threatens the citizens because of the hyperinflation didn't shake the government.

An article published in the newspaper "Le Temps" described our situation well: "... In Lebanon, the journey to hell has started... Switzerland of the Middle East sinks..."

But we refused to give up; we have faced anxiety, uncertainty, fear, and discouragement. We have overcome multiple difficulties by relying on each other only to do the "Good" for the people who count on us, our children and youth with disabilities and their families.

This "Good" is expressed by the joy of our children and youth who have received medical, social, food, and hygiene assistance. Additionally, we provided them with continuous guidance in terms of rehabilitation and special education whether online or in person when the country's situation allowed it and their parents were able to bring them in. This report clearly portrays our action this year.

However, "Good" could not be achieved without benefactors. All of this wouldn't have been possible without the willingness, compassion and continuous support of our friends, contributors, sponsors, godfathers and godmothers, donors, partners, advisors, bishops, and organizations who believed in us and gave us the means to survive.

This "Good" wouldn't have been possible without the commitment of our team, their efforts, dedication, and Love.

To all of you dear benefactors in Lebanon and abroad, we pay tribute because you enabled us to persevere... SESOBEL's mission will continue.

How beautiful is the *triumph* of the "Good"!

What a nice *gift* to Set El Beit, Our Holy Mother that you have honored by doing "Good" to her children.

What a *gratification* to our 45th anniversary that we celebrate this year with you and thanks to you!

Fadia Safi
President & CEO

Thank you !



OUR MISSION

SESOBEL takes all possible steps to implement a coherent and monitored service of assisting children with disability and to accompany their families as partners in facing life's challenges, and works equally hard with all elements of society for them to recognize the value, dignity, and respect for children with disability.

*« As through a child,
a love of two becomes a family,
through a family,
a group becomes society »*



OUR BENEFICIARIES

« You are worth fighting for »

309

**MOTOR
DISABILITY**

292

**INTELLECTUAL
DISABILITY**

86

**AUTISM
SPECTRUM
DISORDER**

922

OTHER
(Learning Difficulties,
Non-Criteria)

1,609

CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH DISABILITY

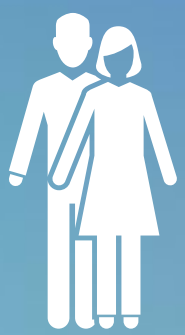
from **1,481 families**, have been covered by the various SESOBEL programs :

FAMILY RECEPTION SERVICE

SOCIAL SERVICE

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

SCHOOL INCLUSION PROGRAM



ADULT PROGRAMS

**MEDICAL AND REHABILITATION
PROGRAM**

**VOCATIONAL AND REHABILITATION
PROGRAM - VRP**

**CONTINUOUS TRAINING
CENTER / RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

FAMILY RECEPTION SERVICE

« Weaving a web of trust »



44

**NEW
FAMILIES**



45

**NEW
CHILDREN**

**DIAGNOSIS
CONSULTATIONS
ASSESSMENTS
MEDICAL CARE
REHABILITATION CARE**



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.

« For a harmonious family »

163

FAMILIES

76

FAMILY GUIDANCE

163

SOCIAL ACCOMPANIMENT

27

SIBLINGS

We mobilize the siblings to defend their cause, act as an agent of change in the society, acknowledge their role, and live in harmony.



« SESOBEL *is a happy place* »

“

PARENT TESTIMONY

“Yes, there is irregularity in the brain and we need to recheck this after a year from today” said the pediatric neurologist to us after looking at the MRI and checking my 8 month old daughter. Julia was having trouble sitting up by herself, so her pediatrician referred us to a neurologist.

One year later we went back with a new MRI, after a long observation and another checkup, the doctor explains that Julia has periventricular leukomalacia, which means that the white matter in the brain is less than normal and throughout the past year, after comparing the old and new MRIs, the condition isn't getting worse so it's not degenerative. That was it. I was waiting for more, some detailed explanation, some instructions. So I ask the doctor, “What can we do now? How can we help her?” The doctor wrote down the name and number of a psychomotor therapist and said Julia can benefit from therapy. “Your daughter is fine, Mrs. Chayeb” she added.

Of course now I know that is entirely not true. Due to PVL, Julia has general development delay and severe intellectual disability. What was the doctor thinking telling me that ‘my daughter is fine’ is still a mystery to me. I went on with life clueless of my daughter's needs and proper ways of care. I got caught up with therapists that were more like dealers each giving me advice that suits their trade until I was advised, in a whisper, to go check SESOBEL. This was whispered to me because the person giving it thought I might take this as an insult. To some people telling someone to enroll their child in a school for special needs is a big taboo. Until today, I'm not sure if that person knows she has given me and Julia the greatest gift.

A new chapter in our life started, we entered into the family of SESOBEL. We were out of the tornado into a clear and stable path. From our first meeting, Julia was greeted with the gift of dignity and this was presented before the medical care, therapy and education. We felt Julia was as precious and unique to SESOBEL as she was to us and that made all the difference. There was not a ‘person’ who worked on Julia's case but a professional team that gave our family support and experienced advice that one cannot find in their direct family members who usually are a good source of information on raising kids. They listened to our small needs and gave us specifics.

I don't have any other children, so Julia is an only child at home and I recently discovered that she's bonding so well with her friends at SESOBEL... a bond that goes beyond friendship. On one of my visits, I was surprised to see the ease of expressing her emotion to her friend despite her difficulty to communicate. I saw her walk over and give him a really long hug with her eyes closed tightly which I know means a big emotion for Julia. To her, they are a true family.

SESOBEL is a HAPPY place. Normally, each time any of us overcomes a difficulty or if you make an accomplishment you're really happy about it. Well in SESOBEL that's the core business, overcoming difficulties all day long, so imagine the amount of joy that exists here. This is the happiness you feel the minute you enter the building, you feel it in the atmosphere, in the faces, the voices, in the energy.

Is it hard having a special needs child? Yes and No.

Yes it's hard, if you do not understand your child's needs and have no support or access to the proper tools...life tools.

No it's not hard, our children are just like all other children, raising them properly needs patience, understanding and lots of love.

A MESSAGE TO SPECIAL PARENTS:

We all have our ups and downs, that said, I have 3 pieces of advice.

1. Look for the proper support to help you stand by your child and care for him.
2. Accept your child. He is a human with a soul and he deserves life. Cherish and respect this.
3. Keep your head up, you are the parents of an angel on earth.

Sabine Chayeb

Mother of Julia

”



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.

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.

33

MOTOR DISABILITY

28

EARLY STIMULATION

49

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

29

POLYHANDICAP & SEVERE
INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY

31

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER

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

SCHOOL INCLUSION

The School Inclusion Program, pioneer program in Lebanon since 2006 in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education **MEHE**, welcomed **20 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY** at the Jezzine Public School in southern Lebanon:

14

**PARTIAL
INCLUSION**

6

**TOTAL
INCLUSION**

MEDICAL AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

« *A love testimony
before any technicality* »

56

PHYSICIANS

34

PARAMEDICAL
CENTERS

10

HOSPITALS

9

UNIVERSITIES

76

TRAINEES

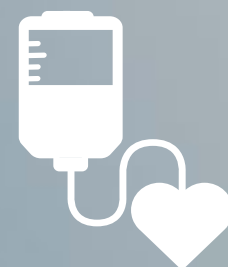
Were involved in the development and implementation of the therapeutic plan of the child.

7,101
ACTS

SERVICES PROVIDED



210 ASSESSMENTS



7 SURGERIES



6,592 TREATMENTS



37 CONSULTATIONS



159 TECHNICAL
AID ASSISTANCE



49 PARENTAL
GUIDANCE



47 MEDICAL EXAMS



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. We collaborated with **245 THERAPISTS** of different specializations distributed in all regions of Lebanon.

30,512
ACTS

SERVICES PROVIDED

1,358

**CHILDREN /
YOUTHS**

BENEFICIARIES



79 ASSESSMENTS



18 MEDICAL EXAMS



30,205 TREATMENTS



**210 TECHNICAL
AID ASSISTANCE**



VOCATIONAL AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

We provide a safe work environment, where youth can be involved in professional activities that match their capacities, in order for them to live their lives to the fullest whilst developing self-independence that guides them to a better, integrated and purposeful life.

50

YOUTHS

between the ages of 20 & 54, work at the various SESOBEL workshops.



Sewing:

2 YOUTH



Stock:

1 YOUTH



3-Hearts Lodge:

8 YOUTH



Kitchen:

3 YOUTH



Laundry:

4 YOUTH



Agriculture: 5 YOUTH



Copy Center:

2 YOUTH



Land Products:

7 YOUTH



Prepress:

5 YOUTH



Packaging:

10 YOUTH



Assistive Technology:

3 YOUTH



Chocolate / Biscuits:

10 YOUTH



Photography: 1 YOUTH



Recycling:

12 YOUTH



Educational assistant:

8 YOUTH

PS: One youth can work in several workshops.

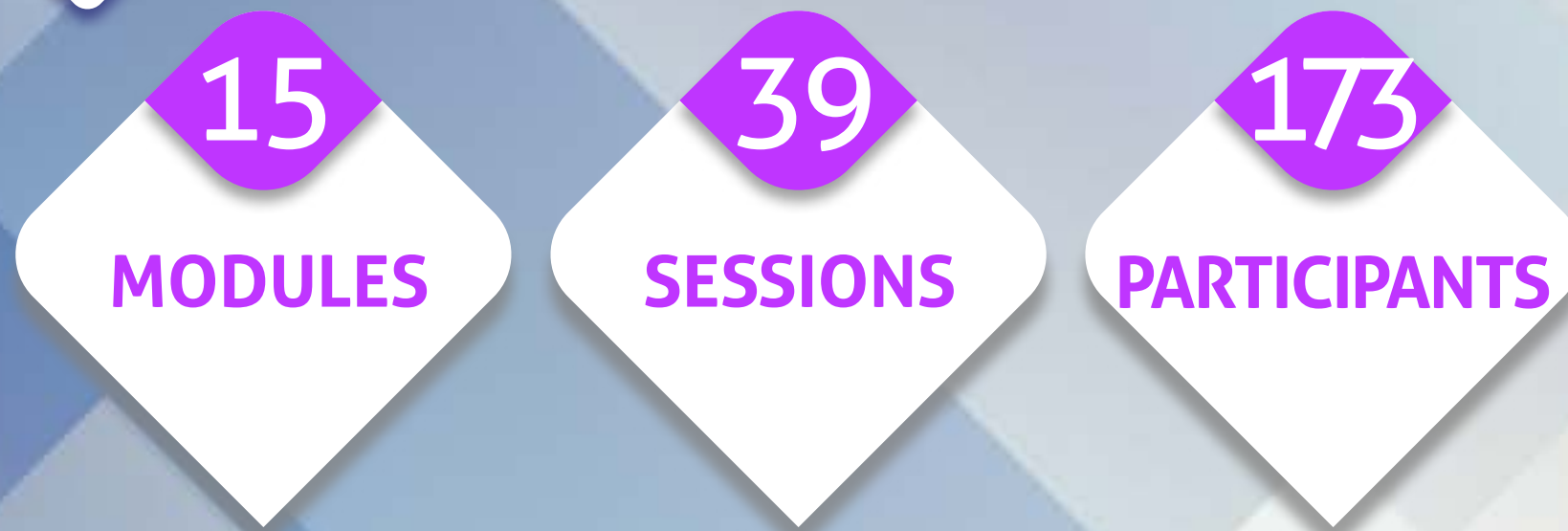


CONTINUOUS TRAINING CENTER RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Our main objective is to improve the intervention and the expertise of professionals working with children with disability.

◆ TRAINING ORGANIZED BY SESOBEL:

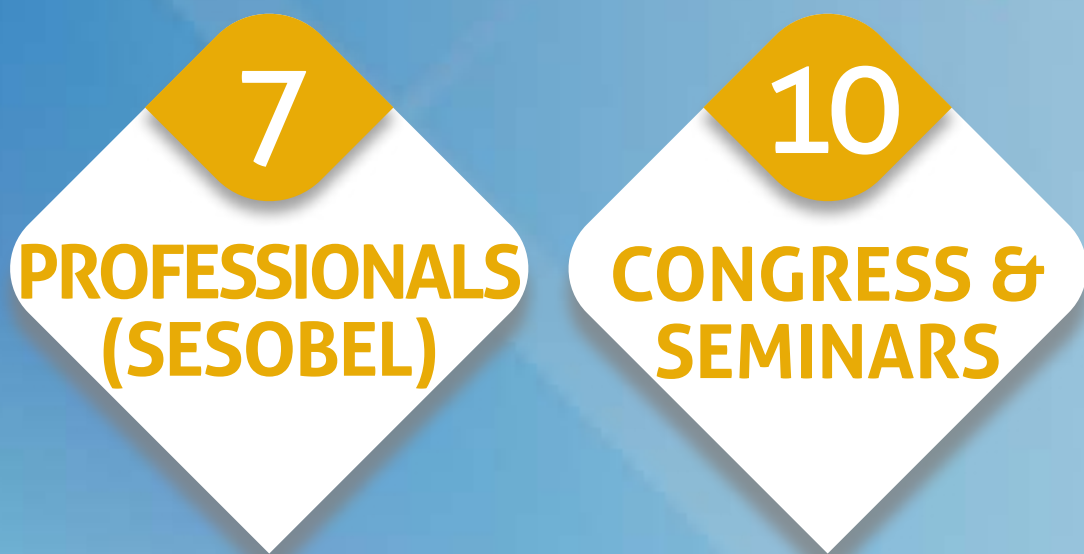
A INTRA-MUROS:



B EXTRA-MUROS:



◆ INTERVENTIONS:



◆ WEBINARS:



◆ AUDIT: (2 MISSIONS)



ACHIEVEMENTS

« Yes we can »



GRAZIELLA

Graziella, main cast in "3a Esmak" series broadcasted on MTV, Lebanon.



ELISSA

Elissa, winner of the 1st photography prize at the LAU center for Lebanese studies.



RYAN

Ryan, winner of the 3rd prize at the 14th Emirates sports championship.



INNOVATIONS

Implementation of a new Assistive Technology using a tablet, an eye tracker, and a special software.

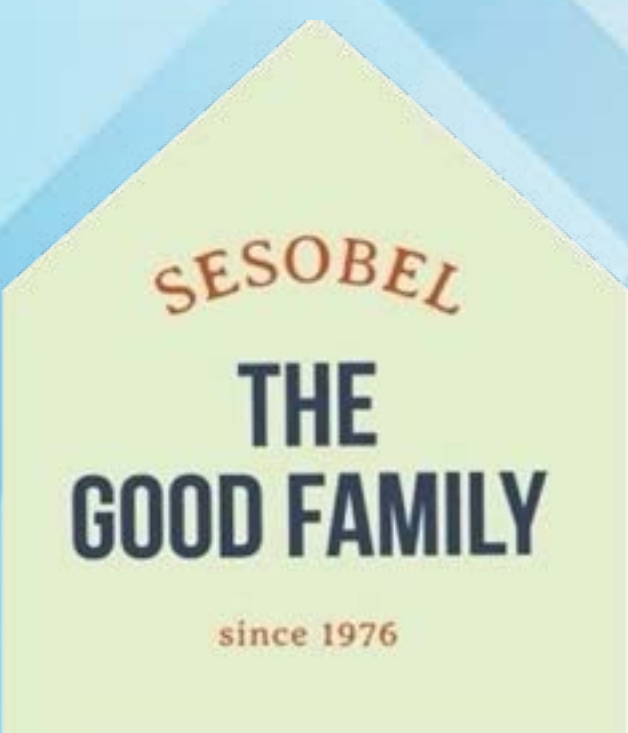
RITA

This high technology mean of communication enables Rita to have a voice, be more understood by everyone, control her environment, and be independent during daily life activities.



THE GOOD FAMILY

We are a family joined by dedication. We are a family gathered by love. We are a family united by the will to make things better. You are a part of our family for supporting us for so long and continue to do so.



SESOBEL.SHOP
NEW BRANDING

VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

« Never give up we love you all »

“

VISITORS TESTIMONY

SESOBEL is a life saver for a lot of people. They take care of everyone without return expectation. Every disabled person is a blessing from God. We learned a lot of things about the life of a disabled person and it was the best experience ever. We appreciate every member of SESO-BEL for treating our disabled sisters & brothers with so much care and I wish that the upcoming generations treat everyone the same without judging them on their appearance....

Serena Nassif & Dia-Lucy Azoury

EB8 Class – Collège des Saints Coeurs Bauchrieh

”



« I believe a vocational love is that kind of love that has no boundaries especially when it comes to obstacles »

“

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONY

With SESOBEL's young students and staff, I learned how to add love in every work I do, and to never stop dreaming. As an online Volunteer in the educational programs, and during the taught times of the Covid - 19, I have found that surpassing obstacles is actually surpassing one's own negative thoughts and believing in a better tomorrow for everyone. As much as the students need us in these hard situations we are going through, as much as we need them to be active in the society once the virus comes to an end. It's a pleasure being a part of this big community, staff, and students, where each voice is recognized and heard and no one is left behind thanks to the people who make it happen each and every day.

Gabriella Mezher
Arabic Teacher

”



OUR IMPACT

« Towards our children and their families »

1630

SESSIONS
of

RESPIRATORY
THERAPIES

600

FAMILIES
benefited from

6600
FOOD AND
HYGIENE
BATCHES

250

CHILDREN
benefited from

EMERGENCY
DONATIONS

227

FAMILIES
& CHILDREN
benefited from

MONTHLY
MEDICATION

140

CHILDREN
benefited from

CLOTHES
& SHOES

2

MONTHS
of

FOOD FOR
THE CENTER

6

LAPTOPS
for

CHILDREN

101

MEDICAL
COSTUMES
for

THE
THERAPISTS



« In response to Beirut blast »

517

FAMILIES
benefited from

1792

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

40

PSYCHOMOTOR THERAPY

651

PHYSIOTHERAPY

574

PSYCHOTHERAPY

21

HOME CARE

49

RESPIRATORY THERAPY

29

DIAPERS

175

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

153

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

94

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

4

HOME BATHROOM & ACCESSIBILITY ADAPTATION

2

CENTER BATHROOM & ACCESSIBILITY ADAPTATION

+

517

FAMILIES
benefited from

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

+

103

FAMILIES
benefited from

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

+

50

FAMILIES
benefited from

FOOD BATCHES

PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

*« All of them are touched
by our mission »*

33
MEMBERS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

MRS.
FADIA SAFI
PRESIDENT
& CEO

61
MEMBERS
SUPPORT
COMMITTEES

15
COUNSELORS

76
TRAINEES

5
MEMBERS
ETHICS
COMMITTEE

9
MEMBERS
BOARD

213
PERSONS
SKILLED
TEAM

5
MOTHERS

34
VOLUNTEERS

56
SKILLED
DOCTORS

15
SEASONAL
WORKERS

25
REMUNERATED
YOUTH

>50
PARTNERS

>1000
CLIENTS

24
THERAPISTS

« For some, it changed & enriched their life »

AMERICAN
FRIENDS OF
SESOBEL

FONDATION
LCF

LES AMIS DE
SESOBEL
FRANCE

AUSTRALIAN
FRIENDS OF
SESOBEL

SOCIAL IMPACT

« *Because of you* »

- ☆ Families are partners and are highly motivated.
- ☆ Youth are better integrated into society.
- ☆ Youth are promoting their cause and influencing others.
- ☆ Society changed the way of seeing the difference and the disability .
- ☆ The difference became the foundation of the « *living together* » in complementarity.

All of this built a community based on

Love & Acceptance

NGO PROFILE OF SESOBEL

A non-governmental organization founded in 1976
Registered at the Ministry of Interior under No. 42S.I.
State-approved under decree No. 371/89.



SESOBEL treasures its autonomy and is not affiliated to any religious nor political entity.

SESOBEL is engaged to abide by rigorous & transparent management practices: the finances of **SESOBEL** are regularly monitored by two auditing firms, the international Ernst & Young and the Cabinet Antoine Haddad-Lebanon.



Cabinet Antoine Haddad
Comptabilité et Expertise

مكتب أنطوان حداد
محاسبة وتدقيق

ERNST & YOUNG



Your
help is vital !

*Your support makes
all the difference*

It allows **SESOBEL** to cater to the needs of more than **1300 children and youth** with disability, and preserve the unity of their families.

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