



ANNUAL REPORT



HOLD MY HAND
FEEL MY HEART
BE MY LIGHT

4th
2022





“Life is [...] much better
when others are happy because of you.”

Pope Francis

Dear Friends of SESOBEL

*"Rivers do not drink their own water;
trees do not eat their own fruit;
the sun does not shine on itself
and flowers do not spread their fragrance for
themselves..."*

*"Life is good when you are happy; but much better
when others are happy because of you."*

— Pope Francis

In a world so often shaken by hardship, uncertainty, and pain, these words from Pope Francis resonate deeply within us. They are not just poetry; they are a mirror of our mission at SESOBEL. Like rivers that flow to nourish others, trees that bear fruit not for themselves, and flowers that bloom to bring joy beyond their stems, we believe that life finds its greatest meaning in giving.

This year was not an easy one for Lebanon. The shadows of crisis grew longer, and the burden on families raising children with disabilities became heavier. And yet, through all the darkness, a light endured. It was the light of your love, your generosity, and your belief in what we do.

"Hold my hand, feel my heart, be my light" reflects more than a slogan. It captures the very spirit of SESOBEL. Every day, we walk alongside our children, their families, and our dedicated team in a journey marked by challenge but also by extraordinary strength, grace, and joy. When you hold a child's hand at SESOBEL, you are not only offering support, you are hearing their silent pain and their hopes, feeling their struggles and their dignity, and lighting a path they could never walk alone.

And because of that shared light, your light, SESOBEL has been able to serve over 1,300 children and youth with disabilities this year. Behind every therapy session, every school day, every meal served and every wheelchair adjusted, there is a quiet, powerful act of love, an act that reflects the same spirit Pope Francis described: a life lived for others.

To all our partners, friends, donors, and volunteers: you are more than contributors; you are family. You have held our hand, felt our heart, and helped us carry the light forward. You are the rivers, the trees, the flowers, and the sun for our children and their families. Because of you, they have not only survived this year, they have grown, laughed, learned, and hoped.

As we look to the year ahead, we know the road will still be hard. But so is our determination. With your hand in ours, we will continue to walk forward with courage, with compassion, and with light, not for ourselves, but always for those who need it most.

Sincerely,

Fadia Safi

President, CEO



Building the Legacy of Dignity In Care

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

SESOBEL takes all possible steps to implement a coherent and monitored service of assisting children with moderate to severe disabilities 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, & respect for children with disabilities.



OUR BENEFICIARIES

1349 Children & Youth from **1187** Families

302 Motor Disability	189 Intellectual Disability	281 Other
100 Autism Spectrum disorder	477 Learning Difficulties	



D.A.R. Center

Diagnosis. Accompaniment. Rehabilitation.

D.A.R. supports each child in all aspects of their life. The vision of D.A.R. is to implement a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach to serve children with disabilities and neurodevelopmental disorders.

- Establishing medical diagnosis
- Accompanying the family
- Ensuring therapies

BENEFICIARIES

211 Children and youth at D.A.R. from **199** families

FROM WHICH:

94 NEW beneficiaries

89 NEW families

157 persons with a disability up to the age of 21 presenting:

- A neurological impairment
- A progressive disease
- A genetic syndrome
- A motor disorder
- A specified or unspecified neurodevelopmental disorder (NDD)

54 persons facing learning difficulties

up to the age of 21 presenting:

- A communication disorder (dysphasia)
- A coordination disorder (dyspraxia)
- A specific learning disorder
- Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

4,328 ●
**Therapies
sessions**

● **361**
**Assessments
for diagnosis**



Social Service

Family is the child's first and most essential partner in their journey. That's why our social support focuses **on the family as a whole**. We work to strengthen parenting skills, promote independence, and support healthier, more balanced family life; all for the well-being of the child.

We also empower **siblings** to take an active role in their **brother or sister's life**; not just as companions, but as future advocates and caregivers. We help them understand the cause, embrace their unique role, and grow into individuals who can carry the message of inclusion forward and care for their sibling with love and responsibility.

74 Families

66

Psycho-social Family
Guidances

15

Drama Therapy sessions

1497

Social Accompaniement

- Individual meetings
- Family requests
- Family meetings

36 Siblings

brothers & sisters

35

Psycho-social sessions

48

Drama Therapy sessions

59

Arts & Crafts sessions

59

Painting sessions

01

Summer Camp





Educational Program

The Beneficiaries:

27

Early Stimulation Unit

Motor Disability

26

33

Intellectual Disability

Complex Cases

30

29

Autism Spectrum Disorder





Child-Centered Approach

We provide personalized educational care, ensuring each child receives tailored support through individualized intervention plans, diverse learning sessions, and dedicated evaluations.

- **118** Individualized Intervention Plans -PII
- **25,899** learning sessions
- **4,254** educational materials
- **97** case summaries
- **158** annual PII evaluations

Family-Centered Approach

We actively involve families in their child's development through coaching, guidance sessions, and collaborative meetings to foster consistent support at home and in the community.

- **118** individual PII meetings
- **175** individual family coaching sessions
- **18** group parenting guidance sessions
- **7** collective integration meetings for the mission
- **8** individual parent meetings (program revision, termination, orientation, etc.)
- **8** home/hospital visits

Awareness of Specialized Education & Self-Protection

We engage parents and siblings in meaningful discussions and training sessions that enhance understanding of specialized education while promoting child protection, safety, and responsibility within the family.

- **10** topics discussed with parents
- **3** training sessions for siblings on child protection



Inclusive Educational & Human Experience

We create enriching opportunities by welcoming students, staff, and volunteers from diverse backgrounds, fostering inclusion and shared learning experiences for everyone.

- **556** students from 11 schools welcomed on premises
- **35** staff children hosted in activities at Easter & during Summer Camp
- **118** interns (7 specializations across 7 universities) hosted
- **155** volunteers hosted
- **289** scouts (from 10 branches) met our children
- **1** child included in the French High School





School Inclusion

Launched in 2006 as a pioneering initiative in Lebanon, the School Inclusion Program, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), continues to pave the way for inclusive education. This year, we supported **61 children with disabilities** into the **Jezzine Public School in South Lebanon**.

09 **Partial Inclusion**

06 **Total Inclusion**

46 **Learning Difficulties**
students enrolled in MEHE inclusive education project



Youth Achievements - *South Program*

Yes...They are ABLE

Neemtallah is a 17-year-old youth with a mild intellectual disability who is passionate about sports. His dream is to become a sports coach.

With the kind approval of the principal of Jezzine Primary School, we implemented an initiative allowing Neemtallah to design and lead sports sessions for preschool children. These sessions are pre-prepared in collaboration with our team and guided during the activities to ensure a positive and structured experience for both Neemtallah and the children.

Neemtallah has embraced this responsibility with enthusiasm. He feels proud of himself and of his ability to get the little ones moving and motivated. This experience gives him a sense of purpose and boosts his self-confidence.



Laura, 17 years old, shines through her love and care for young children.

As part of her developmental journey at SESOBEL Jezzine, Laura has taken on the role of assistant educator at a local daycare center, where she is present two hours a day from Tuesday to Thursday. This opportunity allows her to actively participate in community life and contribute meaningfully.

Her presence brings joy and warmth to the children, and she carries out her responsibilities with great commitment.

This initiative is also part of a broader strategy aimed at reinforcing the value of inclusive and community-based approaches.

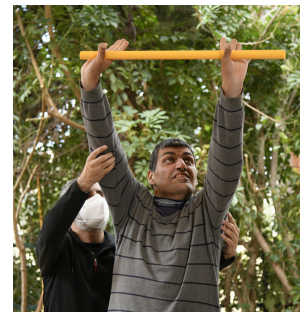


Adult Programs

We are committed to providing quality support for adults with disabilities, honoring their age, dignity, and individual needs. Our adult programs offer a rich variety of recreational, expressive, and personalized activities both individual and group-based—designed to enhance their quality of life. These programs focus on promoting overall well-being through: daily activities, leisure activities, individual and group support, medical care & rehabilitation, social support, physical well-being and sensory-emotional communication, and parental guidance and follow-up.

The Protected Workshops

The protected workshops offer a safe and supportive work environment where **45 young adults** engage in professional activities tailored to their abilities. These experiences help them build self-reliance and pave the way for stronger inclusion in society.



Center for Socialization & support

The Center for Specialized Support welcomed **16 youth and adults** aged 18 and above who live with severe motor or intellectual disabilities, as well as individuals on the autism spectrum with significant needs, excluding behavioral disorders.

The center offered a nurturing environment with activities designed to promote well-being, expression, and engagement, including: Physical wellness, Sensory and emotional communication, Music therapy, Eco-friendly environmental awareness, Creative handyman workshops, Leisure and discovery through adapted TV programs, etc.



Medical & Rehabilitation

51

Physicians

37Paramedical
Centers**11**

Hospitals

11

Universities

118

Trainees

16,855Services
Provided

Assessments

507

Therapies

15,171

Assistive Technology Aid

207

Medical Exams

157

Surgeries

6

Consultations

509

Parental Guidances

295

Outpatient Services

Our aim is to reach and support a greater number of people with disabilities across Lebanon by responding to their specific needs. To achieve this, we partnered with various specialists and established agreements with a network of 185 therapists and educators from diverse fields of expertise.

939

Children & Youth

43 874

Services Provided

Our partners:

Ministry of Health - Lebanese Army- General Security
State Security- Internal security Forces



Continuous Training Center for Research & Development

Officially Acknowledged Certification

Our core mission is to enhance the quality of care by strengthening the skills and expertise of professionals working with children with disabilities.

Trainings Organized by SESOBEL

Intra Muros	26 MODULES
	39 SESSIONS
	224 PARTICIPANTS
Interventions	13 PROFESSIONALS
	4 CONGRESS
	12 SEMINARS
Webinars	30 PROFESSIONALS
	27 WEBINARS
	1 AUDIT

Trainings for the Professionals of SESOBEL

23 MODULES FOR 39 PROFESSIONALS

11 CONGRESS & SEMINARS FOR 24 PROFESSIONALS

1 INTERSHIP IN FRANCE



Latest innovations

in enhancing care & support for children



Detecting Pain in Non-Communicative Children with Disabilities

At SESOBEL, many children with severe disabilities struggle to express pain. To address this, specialized assessment tools were used to evaluate 42 children, including those with autism. The tools helped identify silent suffering, such as two cases of chronic pain from hypertonia and dystonia, which led to medical follow-up and postural care. SESOBEL aims to expand these assessments to ensure better care for all children unable to communicate their pain.



Application of the ACT Approach

At SESOBEL, psychologists applied Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), a cognitive-behavioral method promoting self-acceptance, to 18 children with neuromuscular diseases and cerebral palsy. Though long-term results are still pending, early signs show positive progress in emotional regulation and behavior, measured through a comparative evaluation grid.



Child Protection Curriculum

In partnership with Himaya, SESOBEL implemented a tailored program to raise awareness among children and parents about children's rights, abuse, and prevention. Integrated into educational and family activities, it fosters understanding of child protection and encourages open dialogue between children and adults.



MANTIS: A Protocol to Measure Communication Progress in Children with Autism

To assess communication development in children with autism, SESOBEL's R&D and Speech Therapy teams, in partnership with Systeminence, created the MANTIS protocol. It uses filmed observations of seven children attending two weekly TED (Exchange and Development Therapy) sessions, which are analyzed over time. MANTIS offers a structured, quantitative tool to track progress, with the potential to become SESOBEL's first internally developed tool and lead to a scientific publication.



Educational Curriculums on Solar Energy

SESOBEL created two solar energy curriculums—one academic and one sensorimotor—to suit diverse learning needs and promote renewable energy awareness. This initiative integrates environmental education into cognitive and functional programs, helping children engage with sustainability from an early age.



Educational Game

In partnership with Himaya, SESOBEL developed an interactive game to raise awareness about the 12 fundamental rights of children. This engaging tool educates children in a fun, accessible way, promoting understanding and meaningful discussions on child protection.



The Research

elevate care, improve accessibility, and shape future practices

Early Detection of Infants at Risk of Cerebral Palsy

A survey of 90 professionals across Lebanon assessed practices and awareness on early detection of cerebral palsy in children under three. The findings, compiled into a scientific article for publication, lay the groundwork for early intervention programs targeting high-risk infants aged 0–3 months.

International Collaboration and Future Perspectives

SESOBEL partners with LAND, WDO, the Global LMIC CP Register, and Treat-NMD to align Lebanese registries (data collection) with other countries registries (global standards). Future efforts will expand the national network through collaborations with medical institutions, enhancing early detection, data collection, and care.

Evaluating Participation of Youth with Down Syndrome

In partnership with USEK, SESOBEL's social department is studying the participation levels of youth with Down syndrome who have received support for over ten years. The research assesses the long-term impact on social inclusion and daily life, with findings to be shared at international conferences to inform global best practices.

Arabic Translation and Validation of GMFR

SESOBEL, in partnership with CanChild, has launched a project to translate and validate the Gross Motor Function Family Report (GMFR) into Arabic, a key tool for assessing children's motor abilities at home. With ethical approval secured, translation is underway with USJ's School of Translation, and the Faculty of Medicine has funded the project with USD 480. This initiative will make the GMFR accessible to Arabic-speaking families of children with cerebral palsy.



Flash Info

Our news & latest updates



SESOBEL: Towards a Green Community

With 236 solar panels installed, SESOBEL completed a major energy autonomy project to counter power shortages impacting its 1,400 children. Launched by La Guilde in partnership with Enerfip, L'Œuvre d'Orient, Fondation de France, and the Raoul Follereau Foundation, the project began just over a year ago.



The gallery of Rights

SESOBEL, in partnership with “Association Partage”, marked the 35th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child with an art exhibition highlighting children’s views on rights and challenges. A roundtable with judges gave youth a platform to voice concerns about implementation in Lebanon. Visitors engaged with the artwork and testimonies, deepening their understanding and reinforcing SESOBEL’s advocacy commitment.



Painting workshop for siblings

Bonds of friendship, vibrant colors, stories coming to life on canvas. The painting and crafts workshop at SESOBEL has always been a magical moment where our children freely express their creativity. This year, their brothers and sisters are also exploring the magic of this workshop, art as a language of the heart, a bridge for connection and well-being.



The Motor Activity Training Program (MATP)

Our sports coach, Joelle Ouba, joined the MATP Coaches Workshop in Kuwait with nine MENA countries. The training focused on coaching athletes with severe disabilities through personalized support, empowerment, and the Train-The-Trainer (TTT) model. Special thanks to Special Olympics Lebanon for this opportunity to strengthen our coaching and athlete support.



Visual Clinic at SESOBEL

SESOBEL is one of the few centers in Lebanon offering specialized care for visual disorders in children with disabilities. Developed within the occupational therapy unit, structured evaluation protocols guide this work. This year, visual strategies were integrated into all educational programs and Individualized Intervention Plans. SESOBEL's multidisciplinary approach ensures each child receives the tools to reach their full potential.



International Wheelchair Day

On March 1st, SESOBEL celebrated International Wheelchair Day, highlighting the vital role of wheelchairs in fostering independence and inclusion. In line with the ISWP's "Unstoppable" campaign, we welcomed students from seven major universities to experience, reflect, and share their insights. The event promoted awareness, education, and advocacy for dignity, equality, and accessibility for all.



Tournesol Team

Guides du Liban Association



In 2024–2025, the Tournesol unit, composed of two teams (ages 12–17 and 18+), embraced the theme of the Association of Guides of Lebanon: “Faithful on the Path.” Guided by this spirit, the girls focused on faithfulness to their values, their homeland, and their faith through a rich program of activities.

Over the year, they held 18 meetings, 2 outings, 3 mass services, and 2 inclusive camps, while sharing 9 activities with other guide and JEM groups. These gatherings fostered friendships, inclusion, and appreciation of diversity.



The girls strengthened communication, teamwork, and solidarity skills, explored Lebanese traditions, deepened their spiritual lives, and developed physically, socially, and creatively. Their journey was marked by experiences related to Baden-Powell’s five points: physical, manual, personal, social, and spiritual development. Activities included gardening, clay work, nutrition workshops, dance, and skits, which nurtured confidence and joy.

The year’s highlights were the inclusive Easter camp and Summer camp, where they experienced sleeping in tents for the first time, an unforgettable adventure. These experiences enriched their growth as guides and strengthened their bonds with each other and their community.





Rare Diseases Awareness Month

In March, SESOBEL marked Rare Diseases Awareness Month with two key events. A conference at LAU's Chagoury School of Medicine featured leading experts like Prof. Arnold Munnich and Dr. Isabelle Desguerre, Valérie Delague, Andoni Urtizberea, and Dr. Nady El Hajj. On March 6, SESOBEL hosted a special consultation day at DAR-SESOBEL Dora, where visiting specialists worked with the team to enhance care for children with disabilities.



Animal- assisted activity

Each week, our children and youth join sessions with therapy dogs Zinga and Freud through a program with the “On Guard” association. Designed for those with behavioral challenges, the initiative supports emotional, relational, cognitive, motor, and sensory development.



Drama Therapy at SESOBEL

SESOBEL introduced drama therapy in the Autism Unit to help children express emotions and build self-awareness through theater, dramatic play, and creative expression. This therapy helps them explore, understand, and resolve emotional and psychological challenges. In partnership with “For the Art”, the program also includes siblings and parents, fostering emotional expression, family bonding, stress relief, and coping skills.



World Book Day

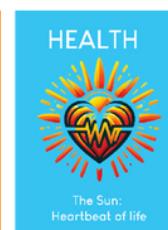
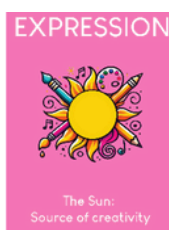
SESOBEL marked World Book Day on April 23 with “خط أحمر” by Samar Mahfouz Barraj, a story that highlights personal boundaries and self-respect. Through inclusive activities like art, role play, and sensory reading, children with disabilities and staff members’ children shared a joyful learning experience that fostered connection and understanding.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



Under One Sun, Life Blooms project

“Under One Sun, Life Blooms” is an inclusive collaborative project that aimed at fostering unity and awareness about solar protection and sustainability. The project brought together SESOBEL youth and EB9 students from a Lebanese School. Through a series of activities, including online meetings and inclusive workshops, participants engaged in research, artistic creation, practical experiences, and dance, all centered around solar energy. This collaborative effort offered a platform for inspiration and learning on solar protection and energy sustainability.





Does Good, Feels Good, Tastes good

The Good Family



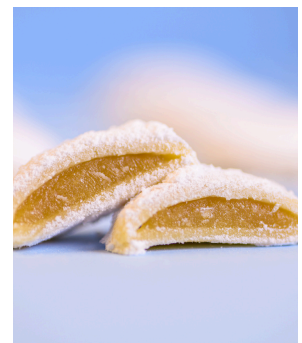
FIND OUR SHOPS:

DBAYEH
ACHRAFIEH
ZOUK MIKAEL
AIN EL RIHANI

FIND US ABROAD:

DUBAI: MIN BALADI -
FRANCE: LE DOUKANE
WORLD WIDE DELIVERY:
LEBANESE SIGNATURE

ALSO AVAILABLE ON
TOTERS



The people Inspiring Progress

1 Co-founder - President - CEO

8

Board Members

48

General Assembly

6

Board of Trustees

4

Ethics committee

16

counselors

51

Skilled Doctors

183

Volunteers

184

Skilled Team

43

Therapists

118

Trainees

9

Seasonal Workers

5

Working Mothers

22

Remunerated
youth

>50

Partners

>1000

Clients

44

Support
Committees

International Antennas

American Friends
of SESOBEL

Les Amis de
SESOBEL France

Australian Friends
of SESOBEL

To all our international and local partners and donors, whose generosity, faith, and love have been the heartbeat of SESOBEL,

Thank you for walking beside us, for believing in every child's worth, and for turning hope into a living reality year after year.



Hi, I'm Joe. I have something called **cerebral palsy**. That means my body doesn't always do what I want it to. **Walking, talking, even breathing, they take a lot of effort.**

Every day, I need therapy and school to help me get stronger. That's why my parents brought me to **SESOBEL**. It's the only place where **I feel like I truly belong**. Where people understand me. **Where I feel safe, stronger and loved.**

But lately, things have changed. I used to go to SESOBEL five days a week. Now, I can only go three. I miss it so much. I need my teachers, my friends, the games, the routine... everything that makes me feel alive.

One day, I asked my mom why some of my favorite people at SESOBEL weren't there anymore. She looked sad and said, "SESOBEL doesn't have enough money like before, and it's hard to find new people to work because the salaries are small and everything is so expensive now.

My mom also says the government doesn't help much anymore. And people outside Lebanon don't send as many donations. I don't really understand all of that...

I know she's scared. And I am too, a little.

The people at SESOBEL are doing their best. They still smile at me, play with me, help me... even though I know they're tired. Even though they don't have much to work with.

I wish I have a big jar of money to give them. I'd give it all just so me and the other kids could go back to five days a week.

So we can keep feeling safe, and loved, and hopeful, no matter what.

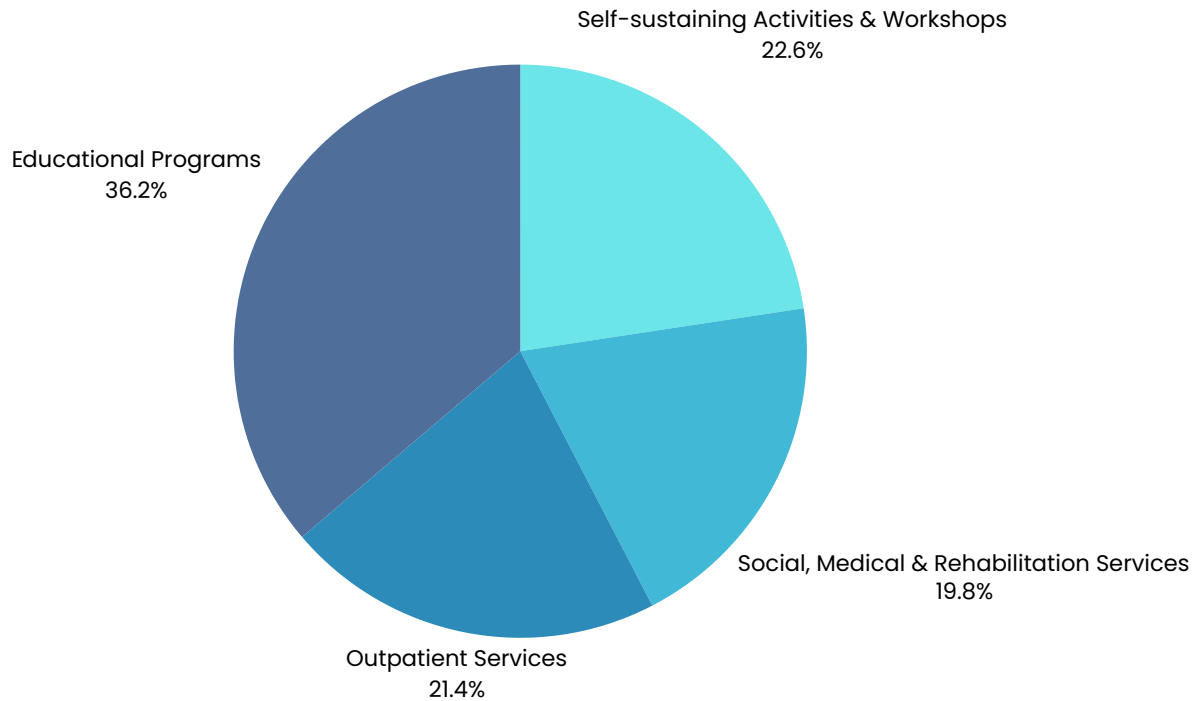
Joe's Little Voice

The Story only a child can tell



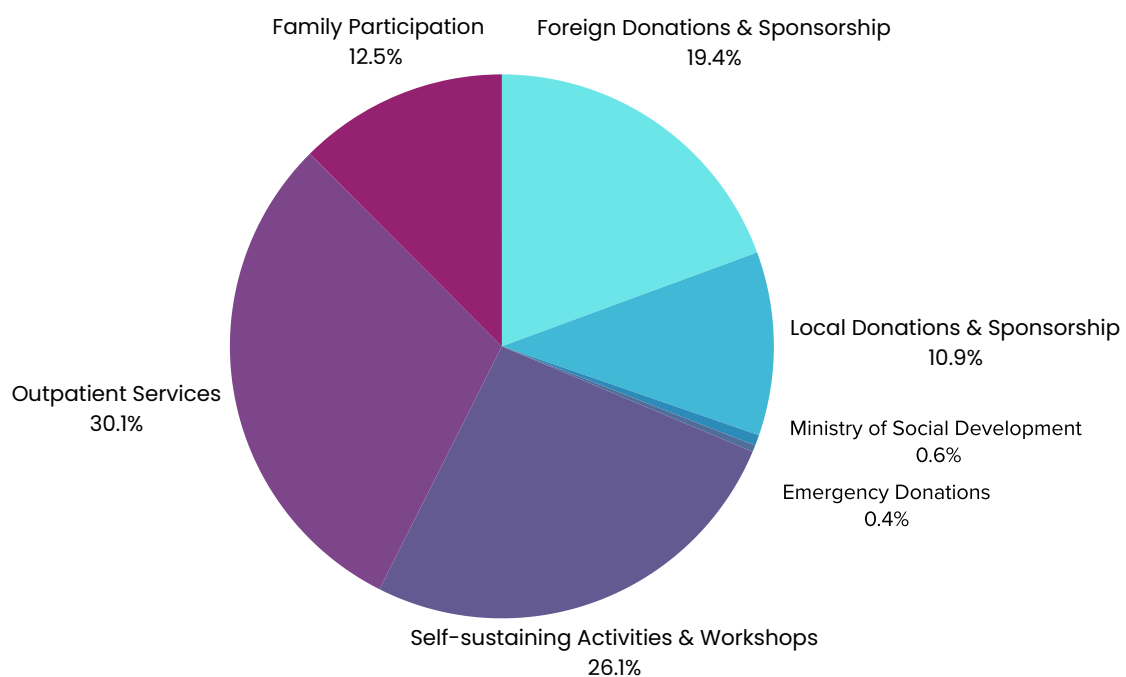
Expenditure

2024-2025



Resources

2024-2025





At **SESOBEL**, we see this truth every day:
A child with a disability cannot walk alone.
They need a **hand to hold**, a **heart that understands**, a **light to guide them**.

You can be that hand. You can be that light.

Your support **helps us** care, educate, and empower children and youth with disabilities.

Without it, **their needs remain unmet**. Their voices **unheard**.
But with you, **hope becomes real**.

Hold a hand. Feel a heart. Be a light.
Donate today and walk with us toward a brighter, more inclusive future.





Your Help is Vital

Together, we can give every child the dignity in care they deserve.

Because when you help a child, you help an entire family live in harmony despite disability.

DONATE

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VOLUNTEER

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Cabinet Antoine Haddad
Comptabilité et Expertise
مكتب أنطوان حداد
محاسبة و تدقيق



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

SESOBEL is engaged to abide by rigorous and transparent management practices: the finances of SESOBEL are regularly monitored by 2 auditing firms, the international Ernst & Young and the Cabinet Antoine Haddad in Lebanon.