

Aleimar

Insieme ai bambini del mondo

A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR LEBANESE CHILDREN



1. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

TITLE:

A Bright Future for Lebanese Children

Organization:

Aleimar ODV

Local partner:

The Sisters Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesians of Don Bosco (Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice e Salesiane di Don Bosco).

Representative of the project in Italy:

Ilaria Ventura – Project Office Responsible

Miriam Rossi and Laura Cagliani – Aleimar Country Responsible

RECIPIENTS:

Direct Recipients:

- 282 children attending the kindergarten inside Don Bosco Institute
- 623 students attending the primary school of the Institute
- 202 students attending the middle and high school inside Don Bosco Institute

Indirect Recipients:

- The community of Hadath Baaldek and of 12 bordering villages, which include 1110 families whose sons and daughters attend Don Bosco Institute.

TOTAL BUDGET:

2.147.105,52

2. CONTEXT AND NEEDS ANALYSIS

For almost two years Lebanon has been hit by multiple crises, which had been linked among them, and by an economic and financial crisis that has been followed by the Covid-19 pandemics and the explosion of Beirut Harbour on 4th August 2020. World Bank, in the investigation *The Spring 2021 Lebanon Economic Monitor* (LEM), classifies this current Lebanese crisis in the top three position in the world for gravity among all the crises that have happened since the mid-nineteen century. Lebanese GDP has in fact collapsed from 55 billion US Dollars in 2018 to about 33 billion in 2020, with a decrease by 40% of per capita GDP. This serious economic situation, combined with new taxes introduced by the Government on goods like gasoline, tobacco and on services like telecommunications, have been one of the main reasons of the demonstrations and of the revolts that have crossed the Country since 2019.

The social impact of the crisis, which is still worrying and urgent, is causing really negative effects not only on the Lebanese population, but also on a great number of refugees in the Country. UNHCR, the UN Agency for Refugees, has estimated the presence of 1.5 million Syrian refugees in 2021, who can be added to 15.800 refugees that come from Ethiopia, Iraq and Sudan. Lebanon is still the Country with the widest number of refugees per capita in the world. World Bank estimated in 2021 that more than the half of the population of Lebanon lives below the poverty line.

In this context we can focus on Baalbeck District, in Baalbeck Hermel, the North-East Governorship of the Country. The area in which the project is located is the semi-rural Village of Hadath Baalbek, a place where in 1974 an important educational institute was born. It collects students from almost twelve bordering villages of the suburbs. The Institute was founded by the Sisters Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesian of Don Bosco and over the years it has become a reference point for the territory, providing education in particular for the poorest children, boys and girls, without distinction of sex, ethnicity, language or religion. The Institute is made up of three buildings: a kindergarten that shelters 283 children, an elementary school with 623 students and a middle and high school that counts 202 students, whose building construction began in 2019 and its conclusion is still in progress.

Since the end of 2019, with the beginning of people's turmoil and the arrival of a great number of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, a lot of families started not paying school taxes because they had to face an always higher inflation rate and cost of living. Moreover, the primary school was previously almost free, but it no longer receives all the governmental grants that covered a great portion of all the costs of the Institute. Don Bosco School, because of high losses, has been forced to stop the construction of the building destined to high school students, which began two years before.

Beyond the need of the Institute to cover school taxes, it is also not independent from an energetic point of view. The Institute is not able to obtain the necessary quantity of diesel oil in order to guarantee an adequate electric supply. This problem of course worsens the effective development of the lessons because in the Country electricity is distributed with interruptions and it is often suspended.

3. AIM AND OUTCOMES OF THE PROJECT

General Objective:

The project wants to guarantee a quality, equal and inclusive education for 1107 students in Baalbeck District and in particular in the village of Hadath Baalbeck.

Specific Objectives:

1. Guaranteeing school attendance of 1110 students that study in Don Bosco Institute of Hadat Baalbek, that come from families in a vulnerable situation;
2. Assuring an adequate environment for the education and the growth of 202 students that attend the middle and high school in Don Bosco Institute;
3. Improving the educational activity developed inside the Institute, promoting its energetic independence from the national electric supply.

4. RECIPIENTS:

Direct Recipients:

- 282 children attending the kindergarten inside Don Bosco Institute
- 623 students attending the primary school of the Institute
- 202 students attending the middle and high school inside Don Bosco Institute

Indirect Recipients:

- The community of Hadath Baaldek and of 12 bordering villages, which include 1110 families whose sons and daughters attend Don Bosco Institute.

5. ACTIONS

The activities of the project are the following:

- 1.1. The coverage of the school taxes with the purpose of guaranteeing the school attendance of all the students of Don Bosco Institute that come from vulnerable families of the Village of Haadath Baalbeck and of 12 bordering villages;
- 1.2. The expansion of the building destined to the students of the middle and high school of Hasath Baalbeck, improving the school environment;
- 1.3. The promotion of the energetic independence of Don Bosco Institute through the installation of 9 solar panels.

6. BUDGET

COSTS	USD
Cost Items	
School Taxes (kindergarten)	654.522 UDS
School Taxes (elementary school)	454.780 USD
School Taxes (middle school)	602.970 USD
Expansion of the building destined to middle and high school students	45.000 USD
Installation of 9 solar panels	42.192,00 USD
Methane supply for six months	21.600 USD
Local school staff and construction workers	95.994,50 USD
Italian Coordinator	230.047,02
TOTAL	2.147.105,52

7. SUSTAINABILITY

Social and Institutional Sustainability: the project wants to support the most vulnerable families of Hadath Baaldek and the communities of the 12 bordering villages through the promotion of human and social capital thanks to the improvement of the school services provided by Don Bosco Institute. The entire community will benefit from the positive effects of the investment developed in the educational field. The local partner, the Sisters called Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesians of Don Bosco, are a reliable partner because they have been working on the field for more than forty years. Thanks to their presence on the field, they have a great knowledge about all the needs of the territory in which the project is situated and of the recipients of the project. Moreover, Don Bosco Institute is recognized by the Government and this will facilitate the collaboration with local and national public institutions.

Economic Sustainability: the progression and the development of the intervention will be guaranteed by Aleimar thanks to its experience in Lebanon since 2007 through the collaboration with its local partners and thanks to grants from public and private donors. Furthermore, the activities of the project will allow to promote the energetic independence of the Institute through renewable sources, decreasing the costs destined to the electric supply.

Technik sustainability: the activities of expansion of the school building will be carried out by a local company with previous experience. This factor will facilitate the resolution of possible problems, respecting all the governmental and local authorizations.

8. MONITORING

Aleimar conducts once a year a monitoring visit on the field of the project thanks to the volunteers of the Association. The local representatives, the Sisters Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and Salesians of Don Bosco, will send constant updates on the evolution of the activities of expansion of the school, of the installation of the solar panels and on the general trend of the school activities.