



*Joint Christian Committee for
Social Services in Lebanon*



Annual Report 2010

It is our pleasure to present the DSPR / JCC Lebanon Annual Report 2010

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Message from the Chairman

We are living in a rapidly changing world. Technology is advancing bringing progress to various fields yet we suffer from a cultural lag. The issue of justice equality and stability are still not addressed properly.

The world is in turmoil. Oppression, injustice, grief and double standards are rampant in all regions and countries and especially in the Middle East.

The Palestinian issue is an unsolved problem dating back to 1948. People who were once owners of a land and citizens of a country find themselves homeless living as refugees outside their homes and country. They grieve for their homeland and long to return .The “Right of Return” is sacred to them.

Religious teachings of morals, ethics, values and basics of human relations, necessitate fairness and just treatment. These are the guidelines, we at JCC, try to follow in our work.

We are but a very small and humble example of what should be done. We strive to provide an incentive for those we serve to remain strong and productive members of their communities. We try to alleviate some of their pain, suffering and oppression and pave the way towards justice and peace in societies.

We work and advocate for world opinion to be more vocal and stand for what is right. We hope the coming days will become brighter. The past is gone. Much of it was bitter and especially for the Palestinians. Yet, we have to keep our faith and convictions in our mission and work to attain our vision of fair causes.

We must try to be an example in our dedication and commitment to fair and just causes, so we can all look forward to living in a better future.

Edward Asmar

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ASMAR', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Acknowledgements

The JCC with its board, staff and beneficiaries extends its sincere gratitude to our partners who continue to support our work with the Palestinian refugees and the needy of the local community. As needs increase, our programs have to be expanded, but our mission of empowerment with knowledge and skills leading to self reliance continues to be our focus.

The visits of our partners are always greatly appreciated as it gives us a chance to show them our programs and benefit from their feedback. For many, their visit to the narrow, dark and humid alleys of the camps allows them to witness closely the injustice and suffering that the refugees endure in their daily lives. The JCC with the support of our partners is trying to make a difference- no matter how slight.

Our warm and sincere thanks go to DS PR partners who have supported our work for many years and continue to do so

Global Ministries of Netherlands- Kerkinacti with its special support for JCC

Norwegian Church AID

Global Ministries-United Church of Christ and Disciples

BibleLands

National Council of Churches of Australia (ACT for peace)

Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)

General Board of Global Ministries- the United Methodist Church-USA

Christian world Service – New Zealand

Church World Service- USA

Church of Scotland

United Churches of Canada – Kairos

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Church of Sweden

Bread for the World

Finn Church Aid

Our appreciation goes to supporters of special projects

- The World Vision who continue to support our joint project for slow learners.
- The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) who continue to support tracing the whereabouts of our vocationally trained graduates.
- The NPA who are evaluating our Vocational Programs along with other trainers.
- The International Labor Organization for supporting our joint project of an Employment Office for the Palestinian Refugees.
- The United Church of Christ and Disciples for their support of a special computer program.
- The Canadian Embassy for their support of an agricultural activity for refugee children in the South of Lebanon.

We are grateful to friends who help the JCC School doors remain open despite all the challenges it faces.

The Lebanese Women's Cultural Society – California

Dar-el Handasah - Beirut

Mrs. Mimi Badran Farsoun - Beirut

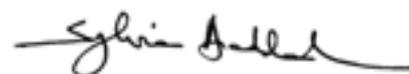
Mrs. Rula Haddad Norregaard - USA

Many thanks to the local NGOs whose cooperation has enhanced our programs

- ~ The Ecumenical Popular Education Program
- ~ The Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts –AlJana
- ~ Najdeh Association
- ~ The Family Planning Association
- ~ Beit Atfal Assumoud
- ~ Women's Humanitarian Organization
- ~ Palestinian women's Union
- ~ Popular Aid for Relief and Development
- ~ Hariri Foundation - Health Department
- ~ The Right to Play
- ~ Ghoubairi Municipality

With Sincerest Wishes to all and May we all continue to cooperate in helping each other to serve those who need us

Thank you
Sylvia Haddad - JCC Director



JCC Annual Report - 2010

Introduction

The JCC is part of the Department of Service for Palestine Refugees (DSPR), a regional organization with offices in five regions - Jordan, Galilee, West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon with a coordinating office in Jerusalem. The JCC began its work in 1950 and obtained its official status in 1961 under a Ministry of Interior decree number 264/AD. The work which began with relief quickly changed its focus to education and vocational training. Schools and vocational training centers – opened in or near refugee camps - began teaching many skills including fashion design, sewing, embroidery, carpentry, metal work, shoe making, leather repair, and electronics. Hundreds of families owed and still owe their livelihood to what they learned at JCC.

Today, work at JCC has become more confined in scope but still has many programs which are carried out within the framework of the four main goals chosen from the common strategic plan the DSPR has set for all regions.

All programs aim at contributing to improved human rights conditions, improved community life, empowerment of women and youth, development of potentials for self-realization and an increased community involvement to attain better income generation capacities.

Programs are also in place to gain world recognition for the plight of the Palestinians, advocate for their rights and support the right of return.

To achieve the above mentioned objectives, the JCC carries out a variety of educational programs at all levels. It also offers market relevant vocational skills and numerous community activities. All programs are implemented in our own Centers which have become Community Centers as well, providing space for workshops, trainings, lectures and conferences.

Mission

The JCC believes in empowering Palestinians regardless of age or gender with knowledge and skills leading to self-reliance and creating in him/her a provider for the family and community while at the same time preserving the Palestinian identity, heritage and culture. The JCC, through its member churches, aims to help Palestinians regain their status as a community seeking to discontinue their social, economic and civic marginalization within the Lebanese context.

Vision

- To help the youth build their capacities through education and vocational training enabling them to lead a dignified life for themselves, their families and their communities.
- To undertake sustainable community development programs with the grass roots in order to enable and empower refugee men and women rather than serve them.
- To make the Palestinian struggle central to the Christian Churches locally and worldwide.
- To restore harmonious relations between the Palestinian and the Lebanese communities.
- To help preserve the Palestinian identity, heritage and culture and to uphold the all important “Right to Return”.

Introduction to the Centers

Sabra Center

The Sabra Center is in Beirut and is located in the Sabra-Shatilla camp. The ground floor of the center is used for a kindergarten program. The first floor is divided into two sections: the electronics and computer program, a tutoring program, a literacy program and the program for the elderly. The second section is dedicated to the numerous activities for children and frequent lectures and workshops.



Sidon Center

To the South of Beirut, JCC has a spacious center in the city of Sidon - accessible to the highest populated refugee camp in Lebanon, a smaller nearby camp and other refugee communities in the area. It has been running a beauty skills and a secretarial program for many years. Recently, its excellent location has prompted other organizations to cooperate with us in running workshops dealing with a variety of subjects and especially those dealing with human rights. An employment service to help Palestinians find jobs has recently been introduced.



Tyre Farm

The JCC farm is accessible to three camps in the south of Lebanon. Since most first generation refugees were farmers in Palestine, the JCC launched a program to teach their children the agriculture profession. The Tyre Farm runs short courses in agriculture open to both genders and all ages. School children, scouts, photography students and other groups routinely visit the farm.

Courses in flower arrangement and soap making are offered at various times. The farm also provides a recreational outlet for many groups and families who feel stifled in the overcrowded camps.



Dbayeh Camp

A library/community center is thriving in the Dbayeh camp, north of Beirut. It is the hub of the camp attracting many children and youth who gather in this center during their free time to read and borrow books and to participate in different activities including storytelling, educational games, singing, dancing and acting.

The library is frequently used for lectures and workshops given to the community and are well attended especially by the women.



A program which deals with learning disabilities, literacy and English classes for adults is offered at a nearby location. A sports program for the youth has recently been introduced. A group of young men and women have been well trained through a series of workshops and seminars to become leaders in their camp. They work as a JCC team and along with UNRWA and other organizations - have become the defenders and advocates of their camp.

JCC School

The JCC School is situated in the heart of Beirut and is accessible to two camps. It is the last survivor of 15 similar schools established in 1951 to educate the Palestinian refugees and the needy in the local community. It is a small school occupying the first two floors of an old historic building with a playground for sports and activities.



All programs implemented in these centers are guided by the four main general DSPR goals:

- To improve Human Rights conditions for the Palestinian refugees and the needy and contribute to their living in harmony with their communities.
- To enable refugee women, youth and the needy of the community to develop their potential, advance their self-realization, increase their community involvement and learn income generation capacities.
- To gain world recognition and support for “The Right to Return”, and advocate for an independent state.
- To enhance the DSPR organizational operation, and financial sustainability.

Goal One: To improve human rights conditions

The JCC is convinced that education in all its forms is the best way to attain the first goal of improving human rights conditions that will in turn contribute to an improved personal, family and community life.

Educational Programs

Four programs focus on formal education:

The JCC School

This is a regular school with classes running from the nursery level until the 9th grade at the end of which students sit for a government exam known as the Brevet. Their success in this exam allows them the choice of regular schooling or vocational training. Classrooms are small with an occupancy rate of 12-14 students per class. This allows for individualized attention, care and encouragement that few get in their homes. The curriculum is the traditional core syllabus with computers, sports, and art program that encourage all talents. Special days are celebrated with plays or trips to educational sites. The number of students this year was 145.



The Sabra Nursery and Kindergarten

Everybody in the Sabra - Shatilla camp knows the JCC Kindergarten. Situated in their midst, it has served them for more than 50 years. The preschoolers, who studied here long ago, are now the parents and grandparents of the children currently attending the school.

The kindergarten is on the ground floor of a residential building in the heart of the Sabra area. Three rooms are colorfully decorated with a variety of educational materials. Children aged three to six are lead through a three-year cycle that encourages them to explore, investigate, experiment and enjoy learning in Arabic and English.



Three teachers and two assistants work on developing the curriculum where art and games (using a large collection of instructional materials) are used to aid the children in learning.

A variety of activities are carried out throughout the year including:

- Puppet, shows with educational themes.
- Planting seeds and caring for them.
- Films about animals.
- Trips to the zoo.
- Learning about the benefits of dairy products.
- Making cards and presents for Mothers' Day.
- Celebrating birthdays.
- Learning to make dough.
- Field trips.

Tutoring Program

Despite the reputation the Palestinians have for seeking an education, the rate of failing and/or dropping out of school is increasing. One reason is that UNRWA schools have become severely overcrowded with teachers unable to cope with such a high number of students in each class. Moreover, students rarely find homework assistance at home or even a space to study. As a result, one out of three children aged 10 and above is leaving school at the elementary or intermediate level. The younger dropouts (11 years) are mostly boys while girls tend to drop out of school at puberty.

The dropout rates for boys increase at the age of 15 especially among those who fail in their intermediate exams.

In an effort to keep children in school, the JCC is assisting students with their homework and providing the needed support. We have repeatedly seen the importance of providing students of all ages with a tutoring program. The improved school report cards and the increasing applicants to this program are an indication of the success of this program.

Tutoring is offered in two centers:

Sabra Center

At the beginning of every scholastic year, many parents of elementary and intermediate level students show up to register their children in this program. Numbers increase as the year advances. Very few parents can help their children with their lessons and thus having a service they can afford is a great relief.

On the second floor of this center, 30 to 40 children gather daily to do their homework. One qualified teacher with two assistants look over assignments and follow up on the progress of their students in their schools.



Dbayeh Center

The program in Dbayeh began in 2007 as a joint effort between World Vision and JCC. Initially it was known as the “slow learners” program, but the name quickly changed to “Study Station”. The program still provides tutors, a social worker, a speech therapist, a psychologist and a program coordinator. The progress of our 30 students is closely monitored and contact is maintained with their schools. Most of the students have achieved much success and thus the program continues.



The Literacy Program

Initially, the introduction of this program was difficult. Very few admitted their illiteracy and even fewer – especially amongst the youth – were willing to put the time and perseverance needed to become literate. Motivated by wanting to read the Qur’an or just even a grocery list, many women realized the importance of being literate. Begun in 2007, the program has slowly gained momentum especially that we are sending our instructors to the special training programs on the latest methods of teaching literacy offered by the Ecumenical Popular Education Program (EPEP). The methods followed teach literacy in a fast and appealing way.

This program is run in two centers:

Sabra Center

The course began with 15 women of different ages gathering around two large tables in a bright and sunny room. Surrounded with blackboards and instructional materials, the women work hard two mornings a week. Three women were unable to continue for personal reasons. Simple math was added to the course to give the women an increased edge to their newfound skill.



Dbayeh Center

Although most illiterate people in the camp do not admit to this handicap, five women accepted our invitation to partake in this program. They meet three times a week and work hard on their alphabets, letters and sentences. They often tell us how their lives have improved after learning to read.

“Learning to read and write has changed my daughter’s life,” says a mother of a 22 year old. “She is now self-confident and happy.”

Short Educational Programs

Computer Program

Computers have become an essential part of life. In 1997 the JCC offered two computer courses which ran for nine months each. One was part of the secretarial program and the second was maintaining computers. Currently, other computer classes are running. These classes are being offered in two of our centers.

Sidon Center



The center offers a four month condensed course in different computer skills and levels. Once the student passes the different levels, he or she must sit for a standardized test which if passed successfully will entitle the student to an "International Computer Driving License" (ICDL). This certificate comes from the UNESCO and facilitates employment opportunities.

This course was initiated with eight students in October of this year with the support of the United Church of Christ in the USA.

Dbayeh Center

The computers of the Library-Community Center of Dbayeh were kept busy as they were put to good use. Forty children and young people took introductory computer courses and were encouraged to use the internet for their school assignments.



English Language program

With the increasing demand and need for English in all walks of life, three centers are offering English courses in addition to the English requirement included in the regular programs.

Sidon Center

This center offers an advanced course in English as most of those needing the language are university students. The number varies as the students begin to improve and thus able to cope on their own. The class is usually made up of around 15 students.



Dbayeh Center

It's been a challenge for our teachers to cope with the different levels of English in this center. Twelve students attend regularly with many more planning to soon join them.

Sabra Center

Nine young people of both gender took the course.

Journalism and archiving program

A two month course for writers and reporters was offered at the Sabra Center by the Nawras Organization which specializes in this field. Twenty-two young people, of both genders, attended regularly. Many are already in the media profession or are training to be. The course included visits to the archives of the most popular newspapers such as the “Al-Safir” and “Al-Hayat”. The course also included a number of sessions on human rights.



Music program

Dbayeh Center

A choir made up of many beautiful voices at the camp was born in the Dbayeh center. The group often meets to practice, train their voices, play various instruments and put on theatrical scenes. Around 52 children are included in the program.

At Christmas, all the community gathered in the camp church to hear the choir perform a dazzling number of songs.



Educational Community Programs and Activities

Tyre Farm

Agriculture for children

A new idea for agricultural training has been put to the test this year. This program was initiated with two objectives in mind. The first and main objective is to introduce young people at an early age to agriculture and the numerous future work opportunities. The second objective is to give the students of the UNRWA schools, for whom this project is tailored, an afternoon activity that will give them joy and benefit simultaneously.

The project funded by the “Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives” began in October and will continue to the mid of 2011. Its apparent success to date is an encouragement for future continuity.

A number of UNRWA schools serving the refugees in the camps of South Lebanon were contacted and 30 students aged 12-14 of both genders attended this program. For five afternoons per week, the students learned about the soil, its components, saw its particles under the microscope and planted small pots with seeds nurturing them as they grew. At the end of this course, the students were given certificates and some planting utensils as a present.



Workshops

A workshop to discuss corruption in the camp was held on the grounds of the farm. With the El-Soumoud” organization leading the discussions, participants discussed how this corruption is leading many children to drop out of schools.

Organized by “Terre Des Hommes”, another workshop - made up of 18 participants - was held to discuss the behavior of children and especially those living in the very difficult conditions in the camps. For two days the women poured out their hearts and explored various solutions to the problems they were facing with their children.



Activities

An important and additional main objective of the farm is to provide schools and youth clubs with a space that will bring them close to nature and teach them about the environment. As a result, numerous children and youth groups visit the farm throughout the year. The farm also provides residents of the overcrowded camps with a space to celebrate their special days as a community. Among those days is the important but sad day of “The Nakbeh” remembered on May 14. A large group of all ages and from all the southern camps gathered on the farm to remember the day they lost their country. The older generation told their stories as the younger ones listened. They sang and danced their

traditional songs and dances. They later feasted on Palestinian food. It was an emotional day filled with feelings of loss and hopes of return.

Never will they give up their right to return-UN resolution 194

Clowns without Borders

We strongly believe that laughter is an essential part of life and so were very glad to host the Spanish troupe “Clowns without Borders”. This is the second year this troupe comes to Lebanon. Their visit to the refugee camps brings joy and laughter to a population who are in desperate need of both. They stay and perform at the farm and are then escorted to schools and village centers.



Sabra Center

Capacity training

The teachers of all programs at the Sabra Center have undergone intensive training sessions throughout this year. This was done through lecture sessions and workshops conducted at our center in coordination with other NGOs. Teachers also attended workshops held outside the center or at universities.

Themes of the trainings

- How to deal with children of different ages
- Learning through playing
- Educational games to fit all ages and stages
- The role of teachers and the role of mothers in a child’s life during the different growth stages
- Children’s rights to a safe and happy childhood
- Psychological problems of children - the effects and how to handle them.
- Alerting young people to the disadvantages and the dangers of dropping out of schools. Effect of family abuse on children and on youth
- Alerting children and youth to unsolicited sex advances
- Aids and other venereal diseases

Activities

- Took the participants of all the different programs on trips to educational sites
- Wrote letters to the prisoners in the Palestinian jails
- Kept Palestinian heritage alive through drawing, storytelling, songs and decorating with Flags.
- Participated by manning a decorated booth in an exhibition held at a public garden in Commemoration of May 14, the day Palestine was lost. Beneficiaries of all our programs participated.



Dbayeh Library and community center

Established in 2008, the library is now equipped with more than 1000 books in addition to computers, educational games, instructional and visual aids to help in lectures and workshops. The library has become the center for many activities especially music, dancing, and drama. The library is open to all the children in the camp with at least forty children who have subscribed and attend regularly. They especially enjoy the story reading hour where they listen and discuss books. The “Assabil” organization for libraries in Lebanon, provide us with this service. The adults are also invited and encouraged to join especially when there are lectures, workshops or special programs.



Lectures, Trainings, Workshops

- Understanding adolescents
- Punishing without hurting
- Hygienic disposal of garbage for a clean environment
- Training the library staff
- Learning disabilities in children
- Training teachers to handle such disabilities
- Music training with two volunteers culminating in the recording of a CD-6 children
- First Aid training
- Making puppets for performances
- Handcrafts made from recycled materials



Activities

Learning old heritage songs

Planting 130 trees

Easter Egg Hunt 90 children

Environment day-cleaning the streets and gutters-children of the camp

Football training (in agreement with “Paces” organization)

A three-day carnival was held in the summer which was attended by residents of the Dbayeh camp and other camps as well as the community. Organized by volunteers, the carnival included music, plays, games, handicrafts, food and competitions for young and old.

A special community activity

During the summer, fourteen young people from the French organization “Fondation D’auteuille” aged 16 to 18, accompanied by four of their teachers, came to Lebanon as volunteers to spend three weeks working in Dbayeh camp.

Joined by another 14 youngsters from Dbayeh camp, the group launched themselves into beautifying one of the streets in the camp. The exterior of 50 houses were painted and potted plants were placed around them. Two young men from the JCC led the group. It took a lot of work and effort under a very hot sun and during a very hot summer. But the effort was worthwhile.

The French guests stayed in the Dbayeh camp and as Palestinian tradition dictates, the youngsters became the guests of honor with residents vying to entertain them during the evenings with all kinds of fun activities. Both sides greatly benefited from the exposure to different cultures.



Sidon

Workshops

The Lebanese Society for Democratic Elections held a two-day workshop under the title of “Monitoring Elections.” The purpose was to train young people to monitor the upcoming municipality elections across the country. Twenty nine young people joined in the discussions focusing on the laws and mechanisms governing elections and trained in being objective observers and reporters.

A three-day workshop was carried out by the Palestinian Human Rights Organization (PHRO) on The Rights of Women. Discussions centered on the discriminatory civil laws which affect the lives of women and their role in education, in politics and in society. Another major topic discussed was the effect of women abuse on the family and society as a major deterring factor. The 29 participants represented seven active local NGOs who strongly felt that there is a need to form committees and work for change.



Goal two: Enabling the refugees and the needy of the community to develop their potential and their income generation capacities.

The JCC continues to strongly believe, as had its founding fathers, in empowering women and youth with vocations and skills needed in the labor market or which allows them to establish their own businesses.

The main vocations offered currently at the different JCC centers are: Hairdressing, Barber Skills, Beauty and Personal Grooming, Secretarial Skills, Electronics, Computer Maintenance, Basic Computer Skills, Electricity Installation and Basics of Agriculture.

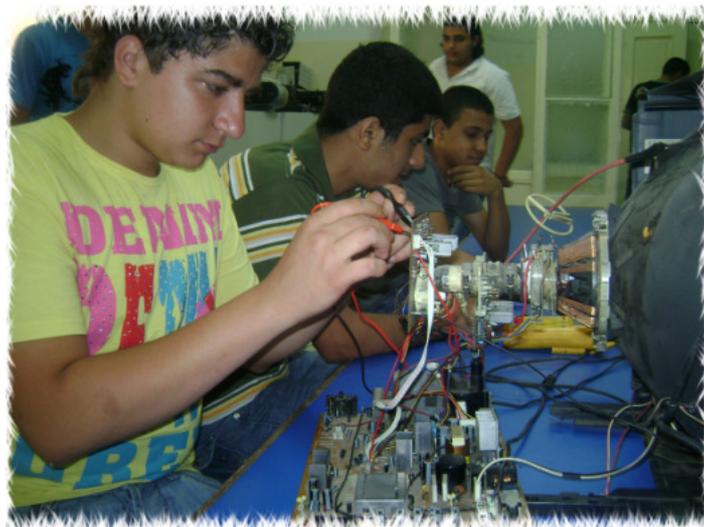
Electronics and Computer Program

The Electronic and Computer Center is part of the Sabra Center and is located on its second floor. The Center hosts many activities (including lectures) and its location to the camp allows our students and their parents - to take part in them.

The Electronics Course

JCC was one of the pioneers in the teaching of electronics. Begun in the early 60s, the program involved three years of training and had strict acceptance requirements. Its graduates were instrumental in setting up many television stations in Lebanon and in the Arab world. Many factors have since affected this program and have reduced it to a one year course. As a direct result of the deteriorating education in the schools serving the refugees, we had to alter our curriculum and forgo some of our acceptance requirements. The course is now given as a one year program with a second year as an option depending on the ability, interest and the economic condition of the students.

The two teachers running this program keep abreast of all new electronic equipment in the market and add new sessions as needed. Those include repairing mobiles phones, installing satellite dishes, receivers and satellite cables. Twelve young men took this course and all were able to find entry level jobs in their field.



The Computer course

This is a nine month course focusing on assembling and maintaining computers. Classes include different window operations and electronic and electricity skills. Ten students took this course.

Electricity installation

Although electricity and its installation has been an essential part of the electronics course since its introduction, the idea of its being a separate course came about after we saw a need to quickly give a skill to students who refused to continue their schooling and who were unable to continue a full electronics program. Electricity installation was a good solution and a marketable skill. Our success last year with 15 boys (who had dropped out of school) encouraged us to do the same this year. Nine students completed this 6-month course.



Agricultural Training Program

Teaching farming as a vocation continues to be the main objective of the Tyre Farm. As it is easily accessible to three camps and a number of Palestinian gatherings, we are convinced that more people will join our Introduction to Agriculture course. This will lead to various specializations in this rich field of opportunities.

This year we ran one session of training for 16 young women and one course of flower arrangement.



Secretarial Training Program

This is a nine month course with an intense program consisting of various computer skills including word processing in English and Arabic, accounting, business English, filing and office management. The conditions of selection require the student to have a high school degree, but sometimes this rule has to be bent if the applicant proves able and motivated. Most young women find employment as soon as they end the course but some prefer to further their studies and especially improve their English. Seven young women graduated this year and seven others have registered.

Personal grooming skills

Hairdressing

In Sabra Center this course is given twice a year and is a very popular course. Usually the room is a hub of activity with its full capacity being between 13- 15 women. The course includes the latest techniques in hair coloring, cutting, styling, straightening, and curling in addition to scalp care. Twenty-one women took this course this year.

Beauty skills

In Sabra Center the essentials of facial skin care and the latest in makeup techniques is a separate course which is offered three times a year. Usually, an average of 6 -8 women take this course in which they also learn the care and grooming of hands and feet. Other lessons include the technique of drawing designs on nails and using Henna on the body. Twenty five women took this course.



Hairdressing and Beauty skills

In Sidon Center, the Hairdressing and Beauty skills course is given over nine months. During the last month and as per our agreement with a number of beauty parlors, our students are allowed to practice on their clients. This allows them exposure to the professional world and also shows future employers their abilities. Thus many are employed before they finish the course. Ten women took this course.

Barber Skills

In Sabra Center the young men wanting to acquire barbering skills as a vocation is increasing spurring us to design a six month course for them. Although some of the boys are too young and should be at school, we do accept them as we realize that they are under pressure to start producing an income for their needy parents. They learn scalp care, cutting, styling, coloring, highlighting and shaving. Twenty two young men took this course.

In Sidon Center the same instructor conducts the course. The center has traditionally catered the women's courses (sewing classes and grooming), so a barber course for men is a novelty. Six students took this course.



Fashion with scarves



This popular two-week course has attracted many fashionably conscious women to sign up and learn how to wear their head scarves with a special flare. Fourteen women joined.

Trainings

Putting theory into practice is an essential part of learning. As part of their training, students are expected to participate in activities outside the classroom.

Sabra

- An agreement with a home for the elderly allows our students to look after the women's grooming needs. This activity has proved to be of double benefit. It gives the elderly women the beauty care they need and a much needed young company. (This activity tends to create a lasting friendship between the two generations as students keep visiting the Home long after they graduated).
- The Center welcomes women from the community and for a small fee, grooms their hair. This provides the trainees with a great experience in dealing with the public.
- Regular field trips to beauty establishments are regularly scheduled. This gives our students an opportunity to keep abreast of all the new products and techniques of the trade. Documentaries and films on the beauty industry are shown on a regular basis.

Sabra and Sidon

- An agreement with an orphanage for boys gives the students of the barber classes a great chance to practice before they seek employment or work on their own.

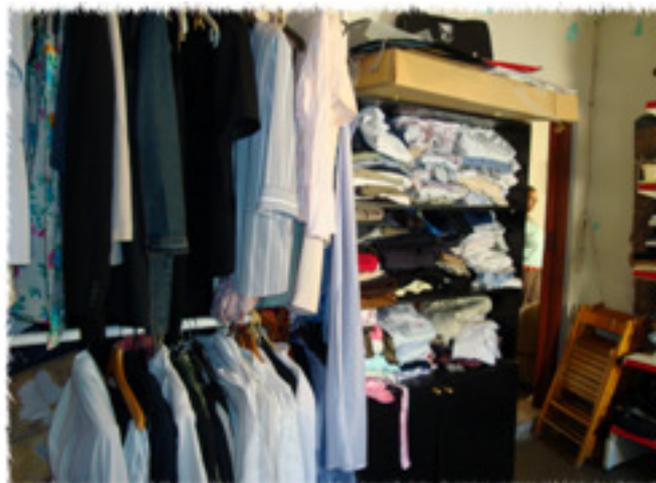
Other Community Programs

Program for the elderly

In the Sabra Center, the program for the elderly continues. Once a week around 18-20 women gather to enjoy each other's company and participate in the different activities planned for them. Activities include art, lectures, exercises, trips and picnics. This program is carried out in coordination with the "Women's Humanitarian Organization".

Thrift Shop

In Dbayeh camp, the need to help people with their medical care increases every day. This motivated us to start a small income generating project of selling old clothes, toys and household items. A woman in the camp runs this project in her house. The sale of second hand and refurbished items has provided many camp residents with needed medicine or paid for medical exams.



Contribute to attaining human rights conditions through Education

Program	Activities	Center	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Formal Education	Regular schooling	JCC School	145	9 months
	Nursery and Kindergarten	Sabra	72	9 months
	After school Tutoring	Sabra -Dbayeh	70	9 months
	Literacy	Sabra -Dbayeh	20	8 months
Educational support programs	ICDL Computer Program	Sidon	8	4 months
	Basic computer for children	Dbay eh	40	3 months
	English	Sabra-Dbay eh- Sidon	36	6-9 months
	Archiving	Sabra	22	2 months
	Music	Dbay eh	52	Ongoing
Short Education programs	Agriculture for children	Tyre farm	30	3 months
	Workshops on a variety big variety of topics dealing with behavior of children, abuse in families, education problems, rights of women, health issues and even corruption in camps	Tyre farm, Sidon, Sabra	132	2-4days/ workshop
	Capacity training of teachers	JCC School, Sabra, Dbayeh	24	3-6 day sessions
	Commemorating the Nakba Day - May 14	Sabra (Public garden)	Community	2 days
	Library and community center.	Dbay eh	40 subscribers	Continuous
	Lectures	Dbayeh, Sabra	Community	Continuous
Educational training and community programs				

Developing potential for income generation through vocational training

Program	Activity	Center	No. of Beneficiaries	Duration
Vocational Training	Electronics	Electronic Center	12	9 months
	Computer maintenance	Electronic Center	10	9 months
	Electronic Installation	Electronic Center	9	6 months
	Agriculture	Tyre Farm	27	4 months
	Secretarial	Sidon	31	9 months
	Hairdressing	Sabra and Sidon	35	9 months
	Beauty Skills	Sabra and Sidon	35	3 months
	Barber Skills	Sabra and Sidon	28	6 months

Goal 3: Gain world support for the plight of the Palestinians, advocate for their rights and support their right of return.

To gain world support, it is imperative to tell the story of a lost country, of uprooted people, of refugees living in camps, of the despair of the old and the misery of the young. It is important for the world to know that the occupation of Palestine - the ancestral lands of the refugees – continues. As we speak, another people are living comfortably in the refugee's homes and villages in occupied Palestine, while the refugees themselves are struggling to survive the day to day drudgery of living in a Lebanese camp. Here they remain waiting for a solution to their plight...

Advocacy: Raising awareness

The JCC has been telling the story for many years and continues to do so at every opportunity. It is mostly through visitors and especially those representing churches and church related organizations that the story is being told. Visits from media representatives are always welcome – as they help us tell our story. Volunteers are also a great asset as they witness firsthand the injustice which has befallen the Palestinian people.

Visitors

It is always good to receive students from local universities and from universities abroad who are interested in the Palestinian issue and who want to expand their knowledge.

Fourth year students in Social Work at the Lebanese University visit us each year to meet some of our beneficiaries, learn about their problems and understand the nature of our work. This year, they visited our Sabra Center.

The JCC assisted in three projects that focused on the Palestinian issue:

Mrs. Davies, a teacher from the United States, was seeking



information for a book she was writing about Palestinian refugee children intended for US schools. The JCC put at her disposal all its projects that deal with children. She interviewed and photographed children of different ages.

Mrs. Gillian Bailey, a teacher from New Zealand, with son Ringomar and daughter Lucy, visited us to film a documentary on Palestinian lives in their homeland and in the country of refuge. They had visited the DSPR regions and culminated their visit in Lebanon where they spent two days with the JCC at the Sabra- Shatilla camp and the Dbayeh camp filming and documenting. They were greatly aided by the staff who offered every service possible. We know that they succeeded in their efforts and that the films reached a wide audience.



A university student, Sireen Haddad, majoring in photography at a local university had chosen for her final project, photographing Palestinian couples who had fled their country in 1948. She asked our help in meeting such couples as she had had very little contact with Palestinians. The JCC was only too happy to help out. This task brought her closer to a people she knew little about. Her family also got involved. Her project was presented to classmates who learned about the plight of Palestinians living amongst them.

From the *United Church of Christ in the USA* came Dr. Peter Makari accompanied once by a group from the churches and once by the Rev. Geoffrey Black and the Rev. Cally Rogers Witte Whittier. They visited the Sabra-Shatilla center and witnessed the sad and difficult lives of the refugees as they walked in the narrow and dark alleys of the camp. At a later date Dr. Makari accompanied Susan Sanders on a similar visit where we were able to add the Dbayeh camp to their visit.



A short visit from two of our partners was enjoyed and appreciated. The first was from Anya Wunch from *Bread for the World* with whom discussions are always enlightening and fruitful. The second was from Dale Hildebrand whom we knew from Siros, Canada who, despite changing jobs, did not forget the JCC.

From Britain came the trustees of the *Bible Lands* organization. They visited the Dbayeh camp and met some of its residents. They were familiarized with DSPR and especially with the work of JCC.



A group, from the *Federation of the Swiss Protestant Churches* visited us in our Sabra-Shatilla Center. We took them on a walk around the camp to witness for themselves the hardship endured by its residents.



Volunteers

A young bride from Australia whose husband came to Lebanon to teach at a university, asked to help out in our work. Her offer was quickly taken up and she found herself an art teacher for all the classes in the JCC School.

Mrs. Mona Bahnan, retired from her teaching career has offered her expertise in helping the JCC uplift its English standards. She is currently working to improve the teaching abilities of teachers at the JCC School and also gives English classes at the Dbayeh camp.



Advocacy: An instrument for Change

The JCC is a staunch believer in human rights and participates in any action that helps bring badly needed changes to the Palestinian refugee life. All meetings called for by the “Lebanese Palestinian Dialogue Committee” are attended and its recommendations applied.

We partook in the “March for Palestinian Civil, Social and Economic rights in Lebanon” on June 27, 2010 when crowds traveled from all over Lebanon to assemble in the midst of Beirut and demand these rights.

We visited along with a delegation from the “Palestinian Human Rights Organization,” the President of the Republic as part of an effort to lobby the leadership of the country to consider giving civil rights to the Palestinian refugees.

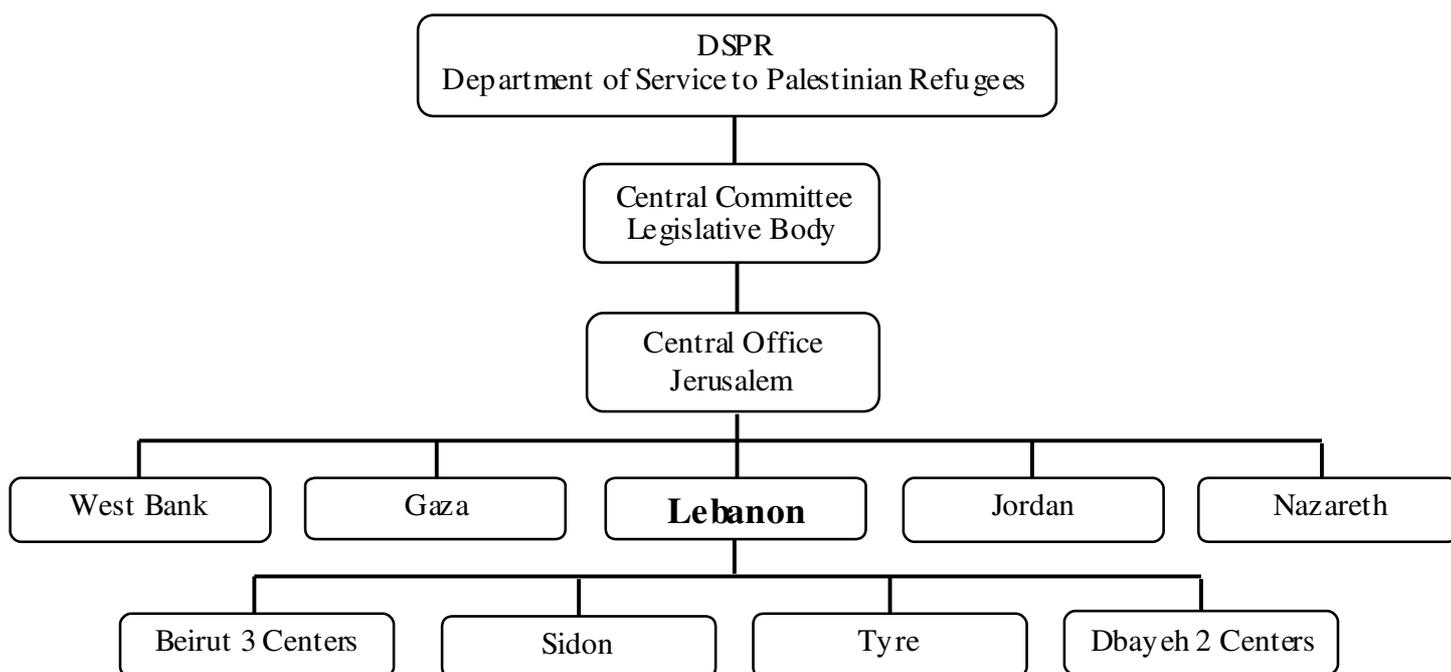
The Dbayeh committee is diligent in its request to improve the UNRWA services in their camp and especially the educational services. They are asking for their rights to have a school in their camp as is the case in other camps. Letters and visits to the UNRWA headquarters are part of their campaign.

Goal 4: Enhance the DSPR organizational operation and financial sustainability

We are happy to be part of DSPR, a regional ecumenical organization which has served the Palestinian people and cause since 1950. All at DSPR are anxious to insure the unity, efficiency and most importantly the sustainability of this organization.

The DSPR rules and regulations are always studied and updated when necessary. Strategic plans are in place with continuous monitoring and evaluation practices applied. The financial system is functional and unified. With the help of our partners, we hope to stay as a strong unified organization guided by our Christian beliefs and convictions and serving for as long as we are needed.

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