

Sports



Sports

The Foundation considers sports a fundamental source for the development of human and social capital. Sports strengthen the spirit of cooperation and fairness. Based on this belief, the Foundation is working to establish a society with a vibrant and active sports life that enjoys qualified human resources, active sports institutions, and high standard sports infrastructure with all the necessary equipment available.

Objectives

- To develop professional sporting clubs and enhance their capacities
- To support North Lebanon based committees of Lebanese sporting federations
- To encourage the establishment of neighborhood sporting clubs
- To stimulate the participation of children and young adults in sporting activities in order to discourage negative social behavior

Programs and Projects

Organizing and sponsoring sports tournaments and competitions

The Safadi Foundation sponsored a group of sporting tournaments through 2007:

- Annual Tennis Tournament at Naji Beach
- Third annual mini-football tournament for companies
- Third annual veteran's volleyball tournament
- Annual Qalamoun swimming tournament



The Safadi Foundation provides the following types of support to clubs:

- Sports equipment and facilities
- Uniforms and other sports-related items
- Travel expenses for athletes to enable them to take part in international competitions

The Safadi Foundation conducted a campaign in 2007 to distribute footballs in North Lebanon in cooperation with Mercy Corps and Nike. 1,100 footballs were donated to neighborhood clubs in the North; 3,900 footballs to public schools for boys in the North; 724 footballs to public high schools in the North; and 270 footballs were donated to official vocational schools in the North:

1. Distribution of footballs to neighborhood clubs in North Lebanon

Caza	Number of clubs	Number of footballs
Tripoli	39	468
Akkar	43	344
Minieh – Dinnieh	7	84
Bsharri	5	30
Koura	12	72
Batroun	17	102
Total	123	1,100

2. Distribution of footballs to public schools for boys in North Lebanon

Caza	Number of schools	Number of footballs
Tripoli	36	864
Akkar	132	1,764
Minieh – Dinnieh	62	820
Bsharri	4	32
Koura	19	224
Batroun	20	196
Total	273	3,900



3. Distribution of footballs to public high schools in North Lebanon

Caza	Number of schools	Number of footballs
Tripoli	10	240
Akkar	15	300
Minieh – Dinnieh	4	56
Bsharri	1	12
Koura	6	76
Batroun	3	40
Total	39	724

4. Distribution of footballs to vocational schools in North Lebanon

Caza	Number of clubs	Number of footballs
Tripoli	Tripoli Vocational Institute (5 branches)	72
Akkar	7	94
Minieh – Dinnieh	2	40
Koura	2	32
Batroun	2	32
Total	18	270

The total number of footballs distributed in North Lebanon in 2007 was 5,994.



Open Fun Football Schools

In 2007, the Safadi Foundation launched its "Open Fun Football Schools (OFFS)" project in Tripoli in cooperation with the Danish Cross-Cultures Project Association. The project aims at developing football skills in young people and teaching the principles of equality and sportsmanship, volunteering, and encouraging the supporting parents.

This new program has been implemented in other European countries and the Middle East. Trainers were given a special backpack containing all the necessary sports equipment as part of an effort to assist them in carrying out their duties which is to find safe places in local neighborhoods to train children and youth in football. Open fun football schools is for children of all ages, and helps them feel that they are able to play at any time and at any place, according to the rules of mutual respect, irrespective of one's color, religion, ability, gender, size or social background.



Summer Camp for Underprivileged Neighborhoods in Tripoli, in Cooperation with Mercy Corps

Based on a joint vision of the need to build human capacities for marginalized groups, the Safadi Foundation and Mercy Corps launched the Summer Soccer Camps for underprivileged neighborhoods. The project was part of an initiative to limit the negative socio-psychological impacts of the July 2006 War in Lebanon and the recent conflict in Nahr al-Bared. The project aims at directing children and young people toward healthy sports activities that help them avoid negative social behavior, strengthening sportsmanship and cooperation among young people from underprivileged neighborhoods, and keeping them away from the influences of conflict and destruction.

The camp was held on six fields in lower-income regions of Tripoli, with 180 children from the neighborhoods participating (between ages of 8-14). The six locations were Qibbeh (Hikmeh Club), El Mina (Municipal stadium), Abi Samra (Tripoli municipal stadium), Moharram (Moharram municipal stadium), Bab Al-Tebbaneh (Darwish stadium), and Bab Al-Hadid (Mawadeh club stadium), under the supervision of specialized trainers. All the sporting equipment, uniforms for participants and trainers and footballs were distributed to children taking part in the project.



Summer Camp for Underprivileged Neighborhoods in North Lebanon

Based on the success of the soccer camps in Tripoli, the Safadi Foundation and Mercy Corps organized a Regional Soccer Camp Program over a one-month period in the regions of Beddawi, Minnieh, Mankoubeen, Deir Ammar, Wadi Nahleh and Qalamoun. Around 800 children and youth (ages 8-14) from North Lebanon took part in the camp, which concluded with a large regional championship tournament at the Tripoli Municipal Stadium. During the camp, the trainers presented both lectures and practical training on the rules of soccer and the tasks of players; participating children and trainers received complete sporting uniforms and all necessary equipment as a part of the project.

