

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTH



The Foundation perceives social work as a part of an integrated development strategy. Health care and vocational training are critical building blocks in capacity-building and increasing productivity, which in turn result in improved standards of living.

Goals

Our goals in this sector include:

- Improving standards of living;
- Alleviating poverty;
- Empowering women in the economic, social and cultural spheres;
- Protecting children and securing their access to education and health services;
- Assisting in integrating the disabled into society and working to ensure their access to basic services; and
- Partnering with civil society to achieve health and social goals.

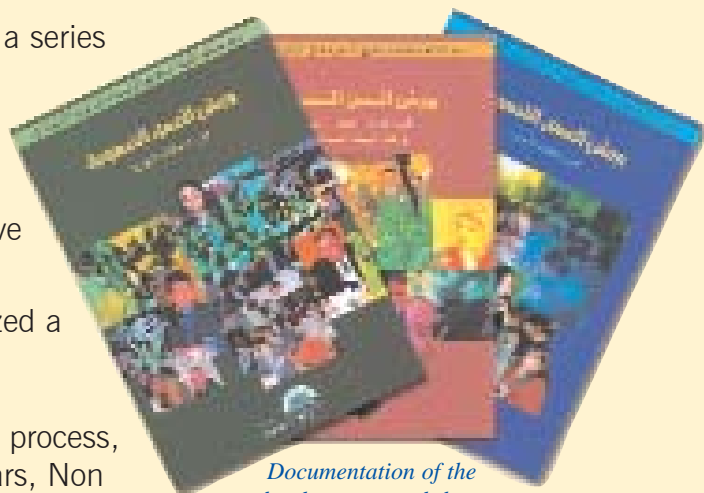
*Guaranteed health
= Creative minds*

Achievements

1. Field research and social studies

The Foundation has undertaken a series of field studies in order to better understand issues affecting poor neighborhoods in Tripoli, and to propose targeted development programs to improve the lives of their inhabitants.

The Foundation has also organized a series of regional development workshops attended by key stakeholders in the development process, including municipalities, mukhtars, Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs).



*Documentation of the
development workshops*

These workshops led to the development of practical proposals in the economic, social, cultural, educational, and environmental development fields. Three publications detailing the workshop proceedings have been distributed to local figures and political leaders.

2. Capacity building for community development stakeholders

As part of a cooperation agreement between the Foundation and the Economic and Social Committee of Western Asia (ESCWA), two workshops were held to prepare specialized trainers in local community development. Over 40 people benefited from the training program, a number of whom were selected to carry out development projects in Tripoli and North Lebanon.



Local community development stakeholders who received training from the Foundation and ESCWA

3. Eradicating child labor

The Safadi Foundation is a participant in a project to eradicate child labor being carried out by the Ministries of Social Affairs and Education, and UNICEF. The project comprises courses in vocational training that cover the following specializations:

- Automobile mechanic
- Sanitary installations
- Tiling
- Electrical work

158 trainees between the ages of 12 and 18 have benefited from the courses and the Safadi Foundation provided them with work equipment and tools.



Vocational trainees receive their work equipment from the Safadi Foundation

4. Empowering women

In cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs Development Services Center-Bab al-Tabbaneh- the Safadi Foundation has carried out training courses in developing such handicraft skills as making artificial flowers, painting on glass and material, and creating mosaics. These courses aim to support and encourage women to acquire productive artistic and artisan skills so that they can then sell their products and obtain a financial return. Forty-five women from different ages benefited from these courses during 2003.



Women train in painting and creating mosaics

5. The Center for Treating Dermatological Diseases

The Foundation's clinic started operating in October 2003. It provides diagnoses and treatment for skin diseases. Approximately 100 check-ups are carried out each week.



A check-up at the Center for Treating Dermatological Diseases

6. Civil Society Organization Partnership Program

This program is based on providing two types of support to civil society organizations:

- Setting up joint programs
- Supporting the programs and activities of NGOs (equipment, infrastructure, buildings)

The Foundation cooperates annually with at least 300 civil and local associations in various parts of North Lebanon to fund and carry out social, environmental, health and cultural projects.

7. Employment center

To help university students secure job opportunities, the Safadi Foundation has set up a special center that provides the following services:

- A website (www.job-helper.com) that helps link job seekers with firms and institutions that have vacancies. The individual's CV is entered into the website, where it is classified according to specialization, which in turn allow firms and institutions view the information directly and make the necessary contacts;
- Training job seekers;
- Preparing CVs; and
- Preparation for job interviews.



The Job Helper website

The Employment Center has received 500 job applicants since its establishment in 2001, and secured jobs for 20% of them.