

Information and Communication Technology

“The entire world is open to me and the future is bright: I have more options and my opportunities for success have grown.”

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• Eradicating IT Illiteracy

Since 1999, the Safadi Foundation has carried out a training program on the use of computers and the internet, based on a 10-week curriculum of 3 hours a week of instruction.

To ensure that the program reaches the widest possible number of beneficiaries in all regions, the Foundation has established 3 types of training centers:

1. Fixed Training Centers

The network of fixed training centers established by the Foundation comprises 16 facilities located throughout North Lebanon and the city of Jbeil, in Mount Lebanon.

During 2004, a total of 4,705 people benefited from training courses offered by fixed centers, distributed as follows:

Caza	Location	Number of beneficiaries
Tripoli	Abi Samra	459
	Moharram	213
	Zahirieh	445
	Qibbeh	552
	El Mina	405
Menieh/Dinnieh	El Minieh	207
	Bakhoun	255
Bsharre	Bsharre	48
Akkar	Kobayyet	171
	Halba	446
Zghorta	Rachiine	419
	Meryata	94
Batroun	Chekka	151
	Batroun	176
Koura	Kfarakka	252
Jbeil	Jbeil	412
Total		4,705

The total number of beneficiaries at fixed training centers over the last five years has reached 22,000 people.

2. Summer Training Centers

The Safadi Foundation carries out intensive summer training courses in remote villages, in cooperation with local organizations such as municipalities and civil associations. In 2004, a training course in Seer/Dinnieh saw 48 people take part, with the total number of beneficiaries of intensive summer training courses rising to approximately 1,000 people.

3. Mobile Training Center

The mobile computer training bus began operating at the end of summer 2004. The first training session took place in Koura-Ajd Abreen town, with 81 participants.



● **Bridging the Digital Gap in Public Schools**

This program is part of the protocol of cooperation between the Safadi Foundation and UNESCO concluded at the end of 2004. The program aims at supporting public schools through equipping them with computer laboratories to train students in IT. The Foundation administered this project and carried out the following activities:

- * rehabilitating used computer equipment
- * selecting schools to benefit from the program based on specific criteria resulting from a field survey covering 450 public schools
- * distributing computer equipment to selected schools, which resulted in:
 - training 25 young volunteers in computer rehabilitation technology
 - rehabilitating 300 computers and equipping them with suitable programs
 - distributing 300 computers to 43 public schools, distributed as follows:

Caza	Number of schools	Number of computers distributed	%
Tripoli	15	117	39
Menieh/Dinnieh	10	73	23
Zghorta	6	36	12
Batroun	5	29	9
Koura	7	45	15
Total	43	300	100



● **IT Marketing of Rural Tourism in Lebanon**

As part of an initiative by Digital Opportunity Trust, Sisco Systems and the Young Men’s Christian Association, the Foundation cooperated with a group of partners in carrying out an IT project to market rural tourism in Lebanon, in five areas:

- Kfar Zebian
- Niha
- Old Sidon
- Hasbaya
- Hasroun

This project develops marketing skills of the artisan and tourist sector through IT technology. IT training centers were set up in the targeted areas; they included computers and related equipment, and the internet. Approximately 100 young people and owners of rural tourism goods and facilities (hotels, restaurants, crafts) received training.

● **IT for Vocational Institutes and Union Bodies**

In cooperation with the North Lebanon Bar Association, the Safadi Foundation established an IT center at the association towards the end of 2003. It consists of 20 computers and related equipment; 120 lawyers have received training in computers and the internet.

In addition, the Foundation has equipped other civil associations with IT centers, such as the Deir Ammar Vocational Institute and the Municipality of Tripoli.

