

## Social Development

“ Together we can provide a sound community  
for our children. We raise them life is ahead of them. ”



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### • The “Our Neighborhood” Project

The Safadi Foundation has launched “Our Neighborhood” (Haratuna) Project for the rehabilitation of the Old City of Tripoli, which has long suffered from increasing poverty, unemployment and illiteracy, threatening the city’s cultural and historical heritage.

The project includes three areas of intervention:

- beautifying and improving inhabited space, with an emphasis on archaeological sites;
- empowering marginalized social groups, and particularly women and children; and
- carrying out development activities that are based on the participation of young volunteers and strengthening their capacities.

During 2004, the initial phase of project implementation began in the Tarbi’a district, with the following activities carried out:

- a field study on the educational situation, in order to identify educational difficulties and school dropout rates;
- beautifying buildings, painting them and addressing concerns related to cleanliness and street lighting, with an emphasis on archaeological sites, in cooperation with the Municipality of Tripoli; and
- training a group of young volunteers and neighborhood residents in carrying out recreational activities for children, particularly drawing and music.

Approximately 220 families from the Tarbi’a district are benefiting from the project.

### • Small and Medium Loans

As part of the socio-economic development program carried out by the Italian association ICU, with funding from the European Union, the Safadi Foundation participated in promoting the program’s activities in all parts of North Lebanon, in order to achieve two principal goals:

- informing the public about the conditions and mechanisms of loans provided by the project; and
- assisting the process of submitting loan applications and following them up with the concerned association.

A number of meetings were held for this purpose, gathering 124 people distributed by region as follows:

Region	Number of applications
Batroun	45
Akkar	49
Menieh	18
Dinnieh	12
Total	124



Following these meetings, 40 loan applications were submitted, distributed by region as follows:

Region	Number of applications
Batroun	18
Akkar	16
Menieh	1
Dinnieh	5
Total	40

Proposed projects for loans were diverse, representing commerce, agriculture, industry and services.

- **Suitable Technology for People with Special Needs**

In cooperation with Friends in Need Association, the Safadi Foundation established an IT hall containing special computers for deaf-mute education. During 2004, a group of individuals attended a training course held for this purpose.

- **Coordination and Partnership with Civil Society Organizations**

The Safadi Foundation cooperates annually with a number of civil society organizations and local institutions through joint development projects that meet urgent needs.

