

Social Development

The Safadi Foundation's social development department follows the path of local development, where the areas of intervention are comprehensive and varied (geographical space, education, the environment, community health, the economy), targeting all segments of society, and especially children, young people and women, basing our work on the concept of partnership with municipalities and civil society associations, local community participation, and volunteer work.

Goals

- Improving standards of living;
- Helping families improve their daily lives and common spaces in neighborhoods;
- Empowering women in the economic and social spheres;
- Securing children's rights in all fields and working to develop their capacities;
- Boosting frameworks of coordination and partnership with civil society associations;
- Strengthening citizenship with your people and encouraging belonging by supporting volunteer work; and
- Supporting associations and municipalities to confront special problems.



Programs and Projects

The Safadi Foundation's work in the realm of social development rests on a general strategy for intervention in old neighborhoods of Tripoli, in order to rebuild the city's quarters, empower families and improve daily life there. This intervention depends on volunteer work, in order to develop the capacities of young people and boost their participation in improving their conditions.

This strategy has been translated into three field projects:

- The "Our Neighborhood" Center in Tarbi'a
- A mobile culture and leisure center
- The Women's Academy

The “Our Neighborhood” Center in Tarbi’a

At the end of 2004, the Foundation established a pilot center for local development in Tarbi’a, a deprived neighborhood in Old Tripoli. The Center’s work consists of preparing and executing programs, in cooperation with civil society. The center’s programs operate at three basic levels:

1. Children
2. Local community
3. Local environment

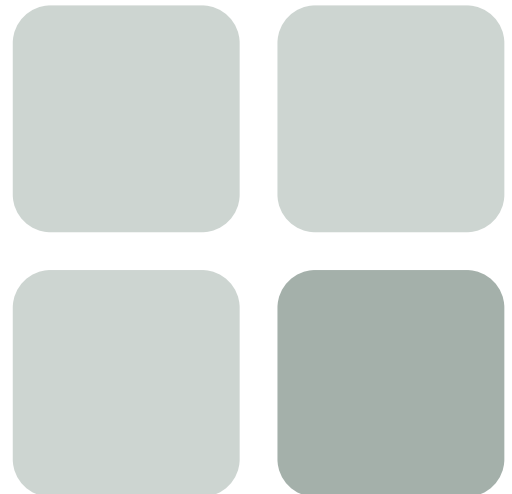


1. Children

Activities directed at children have been diverse, and have included the following educational, environmental, instructional, sporting, entertainment, and artistic components.

Component	Type of activity
Entertainment/ Art	Music training
	Training on cartoon illustration
	Designing and reselling holiday greeting cards
	Celebrating holidays and commemorating other occasions
	Handicrafts
Sports	Basketball training for young boys and girls
	Football training for young boys
Environment	Environmental awareness and training in planting
Education	Ongoing education classes in mathematics, Arabic and French dictation and recitation

Around 300 boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 17 benefited from this program, distributed as follows by region: Tarbi’a, Nahassin, Sahat al-Samak, Bab al-Hadid, Souq al-Dhahab, Souq al-Bazerkan, Qibbeh, Abi Samra, and al-Mallaha.



2. Local community

The work of the “Our Neighborhood” program is based on the concept of developing civil society and enhancing participation by individuals and groups in various issues that concern the quality of their lives. This concept has been put into practice through the following activities:

- Raising women’s awareness to enhance their participation in finding suitable solutions from which the neighborhood suffers;
- Assessing the capacities and qualifications of the residents in the neighborhood, and especially women; linking a number of women to artisans’ workshops in Tripoli; and
- Promoting the participation of the private sector in neighborhood development, through the establishment of a local committee comprising Tarbi’a merchants.

3. Local environment

The local environment is an integral part of local development. Therefore, three major activities were carried out in Tarbi’a, distributed as follows:

- Embellishing and painting building walls;
- Highlighting the location of some archaeological sites; and
- Beautifying the public space of the neighborhood by planting trees and flowers, installing street lighting, and conducting clean-up campaigns.

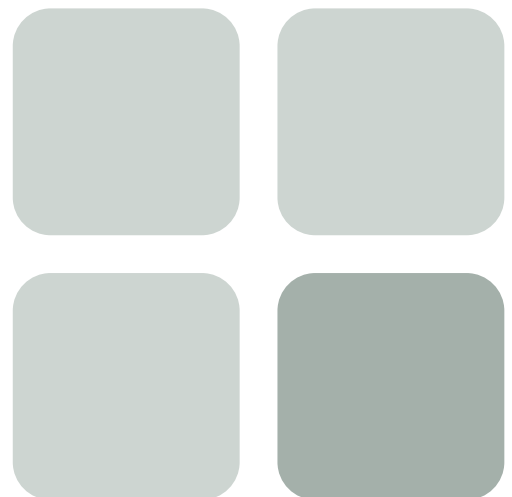


The Mobile culture and leisure center

With seed funding provided by the Council for Development and Reconstruction, this program was designed with the goal of strengthening children’s rights to education and leisure, through:

- Giving children the opportunity to learn about health, the environment, citizenship and rights; through using interactive and dynamic learning techniques; and
- Developing the creative spirit and communication skills of children; and
- Investing the energies of young people in volunteer activities that target children in old neighborhoods.

Implementation of this project began in September 2005 and the following activities were achieved:



1. Training a team of 60 volunteers on five basic activities:

- Street theater
- Neighborhood cinema
- Wall drawing
- Puppet shows
- Encouraging reading

2. Training a team of 60 volunteers on the following topics: local development, volunteer work, citizenship and communications skills, in addition to planning and programming skills for various activities.

3. Completing Phase One of the project, which covered the neighborhood of Dahr al-Mughr (in Old Tripoli), where more than 200 girls and boys took part in the following activities: wall drawing, encouraging reading, and movies in the neighborhood, in coordination with schools and associations in Dahr al-Mughr, Tabbaneh, Tarbi'a and Baddawi.



Women Empowerment Project

This project involves a specialized academy to empower women at the personal, economic and social levels. The Foundation launched this project at the end of 2005, with the financial support of the British Embassy . The three-year project will strive to empower women in old neighborhoods through training on various economic, social, personal and legal aspects.

