



To serve the Church in Lebanon and the Arab World through spiritual, social and educational development.

LSESD
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Demonstrating Christ's love and compassion through action!

"Poverty in Lebanon is different from poverty in Africa or Asia," says Rupen Das, LSESD's Director of Community Relief & Development, who is on secondment from the Canadian Baptist Ministries. "You can't simply transplant programs here to address poverty. They must be developed to fit the context."

Bringing decades of international development expertise to LSESD, Rupen is building this young ministry on a solid foundation, *targeting the real needs of some of Lebanon's most disadvantaged groups*. Substantial research, assessments and other preliminary work have been conducted and exciting new development projects will soon be implemented! These include:



PROFILES OF POVERTY: National Study Conducted!

In Lebanon, 28% of the population live below the poverty line and 8% are in extreme poverty. To better understand the dynamics of poverty in the country, LSESD conducted a study of eight poor and marginalized communities. This report is a significant contribution to the development field in Lebanon! The study was undertaken in partnership with Canadian Baptist Ministries and World Vision Lebanon, and the report will be published by LSESD's own Dar Manhal Al Hayat publishing house. Following the upcoming launch in October, *Profiles of Poverty* will be distributed to NGOs, embassies, key governmental decision makers, and others as a vital resource and advocacy tool.

"The objective was to understand the dynamics of poverty and allow the groups affected a voice [...] The hope is that this study will [...] inform and enhance efforts to address poverty in Lebanon." Excerpt from Profiles of Poverty: The Human Face of Poverty in Lebanon

We've raised 80% of publishing funds and only \$3,000 are still needed. [Contact us](#) for more info!

Vulnerable Children Project

Sadly, the sight of young people working on the streets of Beirut is common. Whether shining shoes, selling chewing gum or DVDs, or begging for change, these children and young teens most often work to contribute

to their impoverished households. In light of this issue, LSESD conducted a study of vulnerable children—funded by German Baptist Aid and the Bavarian Baptist Association — and an innovative project is currently being developed to help address the needs of street kids in Beirut! **Partners will be needed for this and other development projects - [Join us!](#)**

Community Centre in South



Marjayoun Caza is one of Lebanon's poorest regions, and in response to its great need LSESD is developing *a holistic community program* that will provide targeted support in areas such as public health, education and livelihoods. This marginalized cluster of villages has a unique context, and a detailed assessment found that construction of a community centre is necessary for effective programming. A plot of land has already been purchased! (See photo above). Our next step is to build a multi-purpose centre that will act as a platform for program activities.

Friends, we need your financial help to get construction of the centre underway!

Celebrating with Beirut Baptist School

This year too BBS' high level of education is evidenced in the high success rate in the government's official exams. BBS' Grade 9 student Abbas Zeitoun passed the BREVET Government official exam with high honors scoring 93.2/100). He is ranked the *first* in Beirut and the *second* countrywide among 70,000 students.



BBS also held its 49th graduation event celebrating 63 High School students who have successfully completed Grade 12. We congratulate them as they move on to pursue their university studies.



Pre-school too! *"The graduation for BBS KG2 students this year was a real blessing. Once more, the spirit of God got revealed in the teamwork that accompanied all the staff throughout the whole process of preparation till the graduation event itself. The students were genuine and proud, and parents were grateful and satisfied to see their 5-year olds as capable."*

In a word, the overwhelming atmosphere was a new incentive for all BBS staff to continue to believe in and hold fast to its mission ..."

Gigi Awabdeh, Pre-School Director

For Prayer Support!

What's up @ LSESD in JULY?!?!

- ◇ **SKILD Centre for "Smart Kids for Individual Learning Differences"** is holding a 7-week day camp!



- ◇ **Baptist Children and Youth Ministries (BCYM)** leaders together with a team from First Baptist Church of Atlanta held a children's camp. BCYM has two more in July: one for children 8 to 13 years of age, and the other for teenagers between the ages of 14 and 16 years.



- ◇ **Marjeyoun** team is holding basketball camps in several villages in South Lebanon.

