

**THE NATIONAL INSTITUTION OF SOCIAL CARE
AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING
“BEIT ATFAL ASSOMOUD”**

Al-Buss, 16/11/2008

Dearest Mrs. Ingrid,
Dear friends,

Subject: Annual report of our work in Al-Buss center

***View of Al-Buss camp:**

El-buss camp is considered the smallest camp in Tyre area.

- The population in the camp is: 10,000 (UNRWA statistics 2003-2004)
- 4 UNRWA schools provides elementary and intermediate education (the pupils who are taking part in this schools are from El-buss camp and the gathering around Tyre).
- Health services: UNRWA clinic/ private dispensary/ Lebanese Official hospital/ Palestinian Red Crescent clinic.
- Many Palestinian organizations are working in the camp and provide services.

***Living condition of camps:**

Inside the camps the living conditions are getting more difficult. People struggle for the daily bread after the increase in prices which concerning all local and imported. There is no work for most of the people especially those is working in the second agriculture sector, in winter work becomes even more scarce.

We are aware that this difficult economic crises is worldwide, the increasing poverty and the political problems creates of more problems and increases criminal behaviour.

*** Al-Buss Center:**

On first of November 2007 we started our work in el-buss camp. On the 13th. of August 2008 we celebrated the opening day of this center. The sponsor of this celebration was the Norwegian ambassador. It was a simple celebration but very interesting.

Al-Buss center now consists of three buildings and a playground, each part consists of three rooms, kitchen and two toilets. We had built an extra hall which we use for training, celebrations and meetings.

The number of workers in the center is 5, (two social workers and I/ one is a kindergarten teacher and one cleaning woman).

***The center implements the following programs:**

*** Family Happiness Project:**

- The project takes care of: 26 families (fatherless 21 families / hardship cases 5) and the number of children is: 56
- These families live in different places inside and outside the camp: 13 families live inside the camp\ one in Tyr\ 5 in Jal al-Bahar\ 4 in an industrial area and 4 in Al-Qasmyyah camp.

*** The Family Guidance Centre:**

The Family Guidance Centre in Al-Buss camp was established in November 2007 and provides mental health treatments for the Palestinians in the camps and the gathering in Tyr area. This is considered the main program in this centre.

- The team of the Family Guidance Centre:

- Dr. Rabih Al-Chammay: psychiatrist.
- Dolly Costa: psychotherapist.
- Tarik Feghali: speech therapist. .

They work with children, adolescents and their parents.

- Working days are:

The team of the family Guidance Centre had to add more hours on their schedule due to of the increasing number of cases in need for this service.

- Psychiatrist: Three days per week, (Tuesday/ Wednesday & Saturday).
- Psychotherapist: four days per week, (Tuesday/ Wednesday/ Friday & Saturday).
- Speech therapist: Three days per week, (Tuesday/ Friday & Saturday).

The program consists of two activities: treatment & therapy, and awareness raising for mothers / kindergarten teachers/ youth / social workers through training and workshops.

- Raising Awareness:

- We have finished three **sessions** with the mothers; every session included 5 lectures about mental health, children with learning difficulties, drugs, children's depression and adolescents. The mothers who joined these sessions were from Burj Al-Shamali, Al-Buss and Ar-Rachidyieh.

- We have finished **9 workshops** with the youth, concerning sexual abuse, violence against children/ drugs/ speech and language difficulties.

The youth who join these sessions are from Burj Al-Shamali, Al-Buss and Ar-Rachidyieh and Ein El-Helweh

- We have finished **2 workshops** with the kindergarten teachers, about stress management and communication skills.

The teachers who joined these workshops were from Beit Atfal Assomoud and the Palestinian Women's Union.

- Our plan for the coming month:

On November and December, we put a new plan for training for **two groups**, (the kindergarten's teachers and social workers).

Each group will join **three workshops** about sexual abuse/ mental disturbances speech and language difficulties / how to discover it as a problem, and how to deal with these cases/ children normal development.

- Treatment and therapy:

First, a psychiatrist should see all the patients for evaluation and referral to the right professional. Some cases would need his treatment; or transferred to the psychotherapist or the speech therapist in the centre depending on their situation while some would need to be followed by the whole team.

The patients come from Burj el-Shemali/ al-Buss/ Rashidieh and the surrounding gatherings.

- UNRWA clinics have to refer the children to our centre to get consultation through a special program to cover the mental problems among children ages from 0 till 3 years.
- The Early Intervention Units also has to refer the children to get an evaluation about their mental and physical health because this one is working with disable children, their ages from 0 till 6 year.

We have a waiting list for the patient because they are a lot. Every Saturday, the team of FGC have a regular meeting for work evaluation and planning.

The patients who come to the centre suffer from: learning difficulties/ bed wetting/ repeated failed/ difficulties of understanding/ strong fear/ depression/ difficulties in sleeping/ lack concentration/ speech and language difficulties/ sexual abuse.

*** Educational and recreational activities:**

Every Friday we organize activities for the children and teenagers, ages from 6 to 18 years old. The number of children who participate are 50.

A team of volunteers work with the kids.

Number of volunteers is 7, (2 boys and 5 girls). They get training in the centre and out with Beit Atfal Assomoud and reproductive health project.

In summer we made activities for 50 children for 16 days

***Summer camp:**

This year we had to work with 4 German volunteers from the group that worked el-buss and Rashidieh. The duration of these activities was 21 days. Number of children who joined was 45 children.

Kindergarten:

This year we opened only one class for the children age group 3 and 4 years. Number of children is 12. One teacher works with them.

We are planning to start a class for children with special needs.

Finally I would like to thank you for your help and support to our families inside the camps who are suffering from various problems and still have the hope to return back to our home land.

All of my best wishes for all of you
Yours KHAWLA