



SEAL's mission is to assist low-income individuals in Lebanon to increase their incomes and develop successful businesses, thereby creating jobs and lifting the standard of living for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Facts:

- › Non-profit organization, founded in NY by a group of Lebanese-Americans interested in taking action against the severe social and economic problems facing post-war Lebanon
- › Assistance provided irrespective of background, religion, political affiliation or geographic location
- › Tax deductible donations
- › Operating expenses entirely covered by SEAL's officers
- › 100% of contributions used directly to sponsor SEAL projects

Social and Economic Action for Lebanon

2006: the year in review

SEAL concludes its most successful year to date with a total of \$476,000 raised.

This could not have been done without the support of our donors, who showed tremendous solidarity following this summer's tragic events in Lebanon, as well as our volunteers for their relentless efforts.

The 34-day war resulted in an overwhelming humanitarian crisis and SEAL wanted to help. We initiated our fundraising drive by obtaining the New York Attorney General's approval for amending SEAL's charter and therefore added humanitarian relief to our existing mission.

On September 25th, 2006, we held a cocktail fundraiser at the French Institute in New York City. It allowed us to reach out to people from all over the world very much concerned and saddened by the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon. The funds raised at the event – and in its aftermath – were sent to various Lebanese non-profit organizations, which include:

- **Aid Lebanon** – Funding of a mobile water treatment unit designed to solve the water distribution and sanitation difficulties caused by the most recent war, for the regions of Nabatiyeh, Tyre, Marjayoun and Bint Jbeil.
- **American University of Beirut (AUB)** – Boosting of the agricultural sector through the funding of a mobile rural development unit ("Rural Bus") manned by engineers responsible for training farmers, as well as connecting them to the Ministry of Agriculture so that they can market and sell their products.
- **Association Arc-en-Ciel** – SEAL allocated funds to help the organization respond to the needs of civilians facing extreme poverty in Taanayel.
- **Association pour le Développement Rural (ADR)** – Contribution to a low-income housing project for the fishermen of Tyre (80 families overall). The recent ecological disaster, with 25,000 tons of oil leaked into the sea has aggravated the extreme poverty of these families.
- **Association pour la Protection de L'Enfant de la Guerre (APEG)** (an NGO focusing on children's psychological recovery after war traumas) – APEG's team, which includes psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and speech therapists provides invaluable assistance to distressed civilians. SEAL provided funding to ensure the continuity of mental health services in APEG's centers in Southern Lebanon.
- **Caritas Lebanon** – Hoping to fight child labor, SEAL helped Caritas send 135 children from the most deprived families in both Bint Jbeil and Marjeyoun back to school. SEAL also contributed to the rehabilitation of the youth center, a second home for children and teenagers of the various religious communities.
- **Lebanese Red Cross** – SEAL donated funds for two blood-bank centrifuges.
- **S.O.S Villages** – Purchased a well water filter for the SOS Children's Village of Ksarnaba-Bekaa, which is home to 80 orphans.

In the first half of 2006, SEAL also funded a number of economic initiatives, some of which have been delayed due to the current crisis:

- Trade fairs across Lebanon, enabling female entrepreneurs to sell their products (in partnership with [Al-Majmoua](#)).
- Endorsement of computer training sessions in the Batroun area, on board the Saradar Foundation's Mobile Computer School (in partnership with [Saradar Foundation](#)).
- Purchase of equipment/machinery for individuals working in agro-tourism in Southern Lebanon (in partnership with [ADR](#)).
- Funding of two glass-blowing workshops in the context of the Arts and Crafts Center located in the old city of Jbeil-Byblos (in partnership with [Friends of Byblos](#)).
- Purchase of computers and students desks for a public school in Kfarshima (in partnership with "Our Lady of Grace").
- Business education in southern Lebanon at two public schools in Marjayoun and Hasbaya (in partnership with [Injaz Lebanon](#)).
- Purchase of Braille writing machines for blind students in Baabda (in partnership with the [Lebanese School for the Blind and Deaf](#)).
- Creation of four "bed and breakfasts" in the Hermel area (in partnership with [MADA Association](#)).
- Purchase of projectors for Beirut's Monot Theatre, to encourage its long-standing dual cultural and economic impact (in partnership with [Université St-Joseph](#)).
- Endorsement of career-orientation workshops aimed at encouraging teenagers from lower-income backgrounds to pursue their education (in partnership with [Assabil](#)).
- Vocational intensive summer training sessions in income-generating activities, such as catering or management of touristic accommodations, for women living in impoverished rural areas, in Maad, Jbeil (in partnership with ALDEC – Association Libanaise pour le Développement et la Culture/Al-Tilal).

SEAL is monitoring all of the above projects. Regular updates will be posted on our website: www.seal-usa.org.

In addition, SEAL has spent significant time following up on past projects which include: the purchase of agricultural feeds/fertilizers in Hasroun; information technology training sessions for disabled citizens in the Bekaa Valley; and the funding of bottling machinery for the country's first fully-accredited organic olive oil production press in Saida.

We are proud to communicate the timely completion of these initiatives and the significant impact your financial contributions have made on the lives of the people involved, their families and their communities.

On a different note, we are redesigning our identity to highlight the leap SEAL has made in the last couple of years. Our new logo is simple and confident, and speaks to the combined efforts that form our organization. Most of all, it gives meaning to our brand promise: achieving social and economic action in Lebanon. Please look out for our newly redesigned website which will be launched in early February.

We thank you once again for your support. For many, this summer's war has resulted in a catastrophic economic situation. Funds are needed more than ever, and we hope that you will continue encouraging our efforts in 2007 so together we can help make a real difference for many in Lebanon.

On behalf of everyone at SEAL, I would like to send you our best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year!

Adla Massoud, President

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