



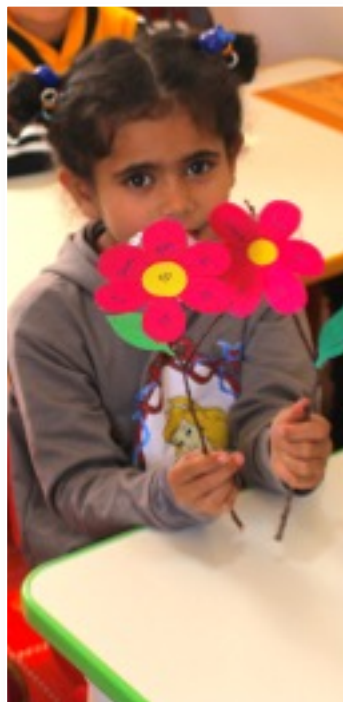
June 2018

She looked me in the eye and said, 'What is terrorism, Sir? I heard people say we are a generation promising terrorism!' I answered, "Never mind child, you are a generation to defeat terrorism. You are to spread love, laughter, and forgiveness!" And then, she smiled!



New Vision Educational Centre

OVERVIEW



To start an educational centre that is led by three main objectives: Academic accomplishment, spiritual growth, and hygienic progress, deeply challenged us! However, in this newsletter, we are humbled to share with you our success story! In 2018, 45 students joined our Educational Centre and were divided into 3 main classes: 2 KG-1 classes for the age ranges 4-6 and 7-10, and 1 Grade One class to host our last year students.

Academic Progress: The 3 teachers at our centre teach 4 main subjects: English, Arabic, Mathematics, and Science, in addition to activities that pertain to sports, cooking, and talent-uncovering. Education, at our centre, has flourished to promote the core values of integrity, equality, kindness, respect, responsibility, fairness, honesty, caring, social cohesion, and citizenship, and to go hand-in-hand with character building.

Character Building: Academic growth is greatly enriched when it seeks to build one's character as well. Using movies, games, storytelling, and activities, the children learn to share their experiences, overcome their trauma, forgive, and seek a more brilliant future.

Hygiene & Sanitation: The 3 teachers and 1 helper invested the first 2 months of the academic year in underpinning the importance of hygiene and sanitation practices, even the very basic ones, such as having a shower on a daily basis, brushing teeth twice per day, putting on clean clothes, and learning ways to limit the spread of diseases.

Discipline

Children learn to abide by the school rules. Eventually, discipline helps develop one's character.

Colours & Words

Using the most creative and motivational ways possible, our students learn the alphabets, shapes, colours, and numbers in English and Arabic!

Respecting Mother Nature

Our students spend time in the colourful nature to enjoy an atmosphere of fresh interactive learning! We teach them to respect and take care of God's creation.

Friendship and Collaboration

Students learn to team-work, collaborate, and share what they have! We have witnessed that their friendship bonds have been maximising, while their actions of bullying and derogation diminishing! Students have come to understand and implement tolerance and to refuse discrimination on any basis!



Above: Various pictures from the Educational Centre



Above: Nour having her daily meal

A Meal A Day

Based on our commitment and dedication to help our children grow in stature and maintain a proper health, New Vision asked a licensed dietician to set a monthly well-balanced meal plan for the students. The plan ensures their consumption of the adequate nutrients their bodies and immunity need to grow strong!



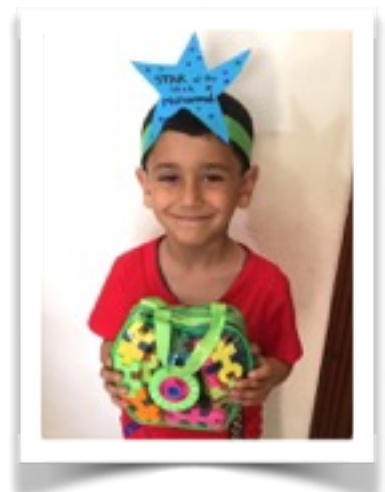
Right: The American team educating the students on flu

Hygiene and Sanitation

New Vision Educational Centre hosted an American team consisting of a doctor, nurse, and 3 volunteers, who raised the children's awareness about flu, ways people catch it, precautions to avoid spreading it, and means to help soothe its symptoms and effects! The children enjoyed the sessions, which were held in a fun, friendly, and laughter-filled atmosphere.

Story of Mohammad

Mohammad is 6 years old, but his 6 years were heavily drained by the Syrian war before he could blossom into a happy child; Mohammad's eyes witnessed the bombing, killing, destruction, and rivalry in Syria. When he came to Lebanon, he was terribly weighed down by the deep psychological scars of war; he became too attached to his mom, fearing that she might go and never come back. However, after attending our centre for a few months, his mom said, "This centre is not just a school for education, this centre has helped Mohammad laugh again and enjoy life! I can see him growing into a confident independent boy shaking off the misery of war! Thank you!!"



Right: Mohammad



Above: Rayan

Story of Rayan

It was our privilege to grant Rayan, a 6 year old Syrian refugee girl, the opportunity to seek education at our New Vision Educational Centre. Rayan and her family live under poverty line— even bread is considered a luxurious, far fetched food item to have at their humble home. The other day, in an attempt to raise awareness on the importance of gratefulness and thanksgiving, the teacher asked each of the KG1 students to lift a prayer of thanksgiving for what he/she has. To the teacher's surprise, Rayan said, "I am very thankful that we have a white board to write on!" The teacher was deeply surprised by Rayan's answer and gave her a big applause. Despite her utter lack for the tiniest survival needs, Rayan was still able to see and value the blessings she has.



Women Empowerment

HYGIENE PROJECT

Like many other Syrians, Hiba had to evacuate her own home and run for her life, seeking safety and security. Life knocked her down with one misery after the other! Her husband was kidnapped and killed by terrorist groups and her house was levelled to the ground! She was left with her 2 little daughters, too weak to face life square! Hiba benefitted from the women empowerment hygiene project. When we helped her, her tears spoke louder than any words she could utter. A basic hygiene kit might mean very little to some people, but to people with deep suffering, like Hiba, it is a survival kit which if not granted, is left hugely needed and unattainable!

At New Vision, we aim to speak to the deepest personal needs of women, help strengthen them, and show them love and care. Though we cannot promise them a better life or less pain, we know that small actions of love can do more empowerment than thousands words of sympathy!

In the first 6 months of 2018, we held a number of hygiene awareness campaigns for the women and young ladies in the Syrian camps in Bekaa Valley. For this purpose, an American team of a doctor, nurse, and 3 other volunteers came to Lebanon and shared their knowledge and life experience with these ladies. They educated them on more effective ways to limit the spread of diseases and better means to strengthen one's immunity. The ladies were enthusiastically interactive in the sessions and showed great interest in learning and adapting to better hygiene practices.



Above & Below: Pictures of Syrian women in the camps receiving education on hygiene practices





He asked,
“Are you a Hindu or a Muslim?”
I answered, “I am hungry, Sir.”



Food Security and Nutrition

FOOD PROJECT

“The conflict in Syria has exacerbated pre-existing development constraints in Lebanon, and the current level of humanitarian assistance is just keeping refugees afloat. In 2017, the funding required to provide adequate support to Syrian refugees in Lebanon was estimated at US\$ 2.035 billion. As of 13 October 2017, those needs were only 30% funded. Insufficient funding is threatening food assistance, health care and access to safe water, as well as constraining the ability to support vulnerable localities in the prevention and management of tensions between host communities and refugees.

The contents of this report, jointly issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP), demonstrate that economic vulnerability has worsened, with more than half of refugees living in extreme poverty, and that food insecurity rates are stable, but remain high.” (<https://reliefweb.int/report/lebanon/vasyr-2017-vulnerability-assessment-syrian-refugees-lebanon>) This report explains best the current situation of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The agony persists while the world organisations tend to shift its eyes away!

Following the aforementioned, we deeply believe that the role of New Vision, along with other NGOs, is to fill in the gap and help contribute to the fulfilment of people’s need for food security. New Vision helps more than 250 families, on a monthly basis, with a nutritionally-balanced food pack that ensures their well being.

Please keep in mind... “Extreme poverty somewhere is a threat to human security everywhere.” Kofi Annan



Shelter and Settlement

REPATRIATION PROJECT

While many Syrians in Lebanon dream of immigrating to the West for a fresh start, many others dream of a safe repatriation to their homeland, where they can reunite with their families, enjoy community life, and establish a new hopeful future. When we first started thinking about repatriation, the whole idea sounded far fetched. Nonetheless, with further investigations, we found that many families are ready and willing to seek the deep hope of repatriation and reunification. The first obstacle to overcome is to provide them with a roof above their head when in Syria! We started the Repatriation Project with two families. These families have packed their stuff and belongings in May 2018 and set off to Al Qusair, Syria, to supervise the process of their house rebuilding. Our goal is to help 48 more Syrian families in 2 years!



Above: Beneficiaries packing their belongings to travel back to Syria.

Below: The two families that benefitted from the repatriation project.



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