



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

**Quick 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 to people, irrespective of background, religion, political affiliation or geographic location
- › Full transparency
- › Tax deductibility for donations
- › 100% of contributions used directly to sponsor projects

## Social and Economic Action for Lebanon

# 2008: the year in review

**SEAL CELEBRATED AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN 2008, WITH NOW OVER 50 PROJECTS FUNDED SINCE INCEPTION!** For this, we wish to thank our generous donors, as well as our volunteers for their relentless efforts.

This past year proved quite busy! In addition to continuing to partner with local NGOs, SEAL was able to leverage its experience and closely work with the mayors and farmers of various villages to directly fund several projects. As always, our initiatives this past year were spread across the country, and included:

- The distribution of 22,000 kg of compost to over 200 farmers in Yanouh, Jbeil (in partnership with the Mayors of Hdayni, Ain Kouna and Hay el Boustan). This project was important, due to the fact that the sharp increase in fertilizer prices resulted in lower usage, which in turn caused a notable decrease in production and associated revenues.
- Agricultural work in South Lebanon (in partnership with AUB). Workshops, analyses of soil and water, as well as the distribution of seeds, trees, and hens had a rapid and measurable impact. Farmers experienced a 10-15% production increase, enjoyed a 40-60% reduction in fertilization costs, and successfully integrated new and profitable crops such as thyme. In addition, SEAL's contribution helped with both laurel soap production and marketing.
- The purchase of pastry-making machines for mentally-disabled individuals in Ghadir, Keserwan, to help them achieve economic self-sufficiency (in partnership with Al-Younbouh). SEAL also provided Al-Younbouh with 7 computer workstations, to be used for training students.
- The distribution of 24,700 tree roots to farmers in the Chouf and Akoura regions (in partnership with the mayors of the local villages). So far, SEAL has provided over 58,000 apple, peach and cherry saplings to 1200+ farmers across Lebanon.
- Financial assistance to the agricultural coop for women in Fnaydek, North Lebanon (in partnership with MADA). SEAL's support allowed 30 women to produce "qamareddine of khokh", conduct quality control, package the goods, and sell them in supermarkets across Lebanon.
- The sponsorship of Computer and English classes aimed at fighting unemployment at over 15 public libraries throughout Lebanon (in partnership with Assabil).
- The funding of a training program for women in rural tourism in Jbeil (in partnership with ALDEC). After identifying 20 villages suitable for a "tourism" route, ALDEC selected 15 women-owned businesses and trained over 300 women to provide professional services for tourists.
- The funding of an irrigation canal in Syre/Denniyeh, North Lebanon (in partnership with the farmers of Jord Mrebbeen). In this case, two km of pipes were built to bring the water of the Ras-el-Nahr spring to over 1,000 individuals. The land is now properly irrigated, significant water is saved, and farmers have already benefited from a sharp production increase.

*continued*

## PROJECTS FUNDED *continued*

- The excavation of a water well in Aynata, in the Bekaa Valley (in partnership with the Aynata farmers). Aynata area was not cultivated due to lack of irrigation. Water was found at a depth of 70 meters, and many fields were planted last November, resulting in steady income for many families.
- The funding of an organic farm in Bnabil, Metn (in partnership with St. Michael's Monastery). The Monastery owns 600,000 sq. meters of land in Bnabil that it is looking to develop from an economic and social standpoint. SEAL's contribution to the organic chicken farm created 30 jobs.

We also followed up on the progress of the projects that were sponsored prior to 2008, and are proud to not only report their successful and timely completion, but also the fact that several of our local partners were recognized for their work and professionalism. APEG (L'association pour la Protection de l'Enfant de la Guerre), an organization helping children cope with psychological traumas which we had worked with after the 2006 war, received the prestigious "Prix des Droits de l'Homme de la République Française". As for the low-income housing project for fishermen in Tyre, which we had collaborated with ADR (Association for the Development of Rural Capacity) on, it was featured in several publications including Metropolis, Architectural Record, and Phaidon Atlas of 21st Century Architecture, and received a Design Honor Award from the Boston Society of Architects.

*Additional details about SEAL's projects, including photographs and contact information, can be found on our website.*

## EVENTS IN 2008

In June, SEAL held a Silent Art Auction at the prestigious Mark Hachem Gallery. Over 30 renowned artists participated, generously donating not only paintings, sculptures and photographs, but also jewelry and designer gowns. As in previous years, the auction drew a large number of supporters and was a big success.

Due to the current financial crisis, we opted to forego our formal annual fundraising dinner typically held in September, and hosted instead a cocktail party in the fall. The evening was highly successful and allowed SEAL to showcase its work, and share its goals for 2009.

On December 4th, SEAL was proud to be an honoree at the Lebanese Heritage Day in Brooklyn. The event was hosted by the borough's President Marty Markowitz, in the presence of the Consul General of Lebanon in New York, Mr. Antoine Azzam.

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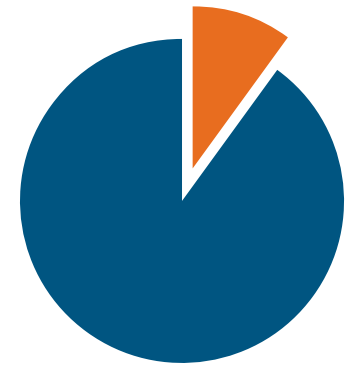
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**ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**  
paid for 100% by SEAL Officers

**CONTRIBUTIONS & FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES**  
used entirely towards funding SEAL projects

*Your commitment is vital. In this time of economic uncertainty, your support is more important than ever to ensure that our projects can continue to help entire communities.*

*We wish to stress one more time that 100% of your donations go to people in need in Lebanon, as all operational expenses are covered by SEAL officers.*

*With many projects in our pipeline for 2009, we would like to thank you in advance for continuing to support our efforts. 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*