Dear Friends,

I’m delighted to introduce myself as SEAL’s newly-appointed Executive Director. It’s an exciting time to join the team, as SEAL passes the milestone of 100 completed projects and begins working towards the next 100.

I look forward to building on SEAL’s extraordinary track record and on-the-ground expertise, further developing the organization’s strategy and reach. We are proud to share with you details of our most recent projects in our 2015 Annual Report, and look ahead towards our upcoming projects.

SEAL (Social Economic Action for Lebanon) has a remarkable 19-year history of supporting underserved Lebanese communities in Lebanon. It is our belief that empowering people to create economic opportunity for themselves is the best way to make a sustainable impact on their lives and those of their families.

SEAL is able to exist because of the generosity and engagement of the Lebanese diaspora and friends of Lebanon around the world. We thank you for your continued support.

With best wishes,

Victoria Lupton
Executive Director, SEAL
SEAL BY NUMBERS 2015

We supported 13 projects this year in a variety of industries, including agriculture, artisanal production and fishing.

$277,533 INVESTED IN 13 PROJECTS, AND DONATED BY 173 DONORS

$30,516 (11%) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES PAID ENTIRELY BY BOARD MEMBERS

3,052 FAMILIES REACHED

NORTH LEBANON 5
BEKAA 1
MOUNT LEBANON 4
SOUTH 3
SEAL BY NUMBERS SINCE INCEPTION 1997

$2,177,262 INVESTED IN 105 PROJECTS

$211,619 (10%) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES PAID ENTIRELY BY BOARD MEMBERS

86% OF THE ASSETS, EQUIPMENT OR TRAINING SEAL HAS PROVIDED OVER THE YEARS IS STILL BEING USED TODAY

25,000+ FAMILIES REACHED


WATER: Pipes & Pumps
With a water deficit predicted within 15 years, Lebanon is facing a water crisis. The need to manage natural resources efficiently and strategically is becoming increasingly urgent. Since 65% of Lebanon’s water is used by agriculture, SEAL focuses on effective irrigation as a way to increase productivity for farmers, thereby reducing rural poverty while increasing the country’s food and water security.

SEAL PROJECTS IN 2015

▲ 7 water projects across Lebanon
▲ Irrigation networks constructed with pipes, water wells & pumps
▲ Increase of 5.3 million m³ of arable land
▲ Beneficiaries: almost 2000 olive, apple, fruit and vegetable farmers + families

“Without SEAL’s help, we would have had to leave our land. Because of this water, I have the commitment and the energy to work. I have the hope that I will see results.”
Boulos, a farmer from Sereel, North Lebanon, where SEAL supported the construction of a network of irrigation pipes

AGRIBUSINESS: Equipment
SEAL supported the purchase of an olive harvesting machine and dumper in Ain el Deleb, modernizing harvesting operations and increasing efficiency and oil quality for farmers in the region.

SEAL’s support of a refrigerated truck to Le Bon Lait dairy cooperative has already allowed it to transform its market access, initiate door-to-door delivery services of cheese and yogurt products to the local region, and radically reduce the cost of transportation to urban areas.

▲ Oil harvesting machine and dumper purchased for Municipality of Ain el Deleb
▲ Refrigerated truck purchased for Le Bon Lait cooperative
▲ Productivity increased by one third
▲ 100% natural dairy products
▲ Beneficiaries: 328 farmers + families

“There’s no work in this region, everyone goes to Beirut – but we wanted to work in our beloved region. If SEAL had not helped, half of this factory’s employees would be out of work. The women had no work except helping their husbands with the land. Now, their personalities have changed – they feel they are productive, important. They help their husbands with the costs of the house.”
Fouad, manager of Le Bon Lait cooperative and factory, Akkar region
AGRIBUSINESS: Fishing
With an average annual income of $3,000 to $7,400 per fisherman, Lebanese fishermen make up one of the lowest-income communities in the country. While demand for local fish is high, supply is low due to environmental, infrastructural and security issues. Overfishing is a critical contributor to the problem, with imported fish fulfilling the majority of demand. Lacking access to funding or credit, fishermen are unable to invest in expensive equipment and quality nets, and the illegal use of dynamite is still widespread.

SEAL provided high quality nets to fishermen in Al Sarafand and Chekka, with a larger mesh size and stronger material than those normally used. These nets increased the productivity of fishermen and contributed to a more sustainable fisheries sector at large.

- High quality nets with double average lifespan
- Beneficiaries: 527 fisherman

AGRIBUSINESS: Planting Trees
SEAL distributed olive trees in Kfaraaka village, North Lebanon in order to encourage agriculture in the village and encourage young people to build their attachment to the land.

- 3,500 olive trees distributed
- Beneficiaries: 350 farmers

WOMEN
SEAL supported the purchase of equipment (including chopping, peeling and vacuum machines) for St. Charbel Agricultural Cooperative in Bekaakafa (Bcharre), and Arsoun Women’s Association (Metn). The associations are established as non-profit community organizations, with all additional profits invested in the local community infrastructure.

- 2 women’s associations supported with equipment to produce mouneh
- Beneficiaries: 40 women + 20 students
SEAL has funded two new projects so far in 2016; we will be announcing further projects in the pipeline in October 2016.

**AGRBUSINESS: Equipment**
The purchase of 13 harvesters will reduce harvesting costs by 25% as laborers will no longer be obliged to pick olives by hand; it will also reduce damage caused to olive trees by shaking and beating during the harvesting process.

▶ Beneficiaries: 13 harvesters in Kferyachit, North Lebanon

**WOMEN**
The women’s cooperative of Wadi el-Taym currently uses antiquated equipment in producing zaatar baladi (local thyme), a product for which the area is renowned. SEAL will purchase a roasting machine, mixer, grinder and other equipment to reduce production costs by 20% for the 26 cooperative members.

▶ Equipment to automate production of wild thyme in Wadi el-Taym, Bekaa

“We would like to thank SEAL for bringing hope to the village. If you didn’t exist, we wouldn’t be able to work.”

Nabil, orange blossom farmer, Maghdouche

“For 10 or 15 years, all the young people left this village. SEAL has returned the spirit to the village completely.”

Jean, apple farmer, Wata Houb

**OTHER NEWS**

Over summer 2016, SEAL has completed a comprehensive evaluation of our projects executed in the past 19 years. We will be publishing a full evaluation report in the coming months to rigorously assess the impact and effectiveness of our work.

Additionally, we have recently relaunched our social media campaign. Please join us on our new Instagram account and on our Facebook and Twitter pages for regular updates on SEAL – and insights into Lebanese communities.

**LEBANON NEEDS YOU!**

We are grateful for every dollar donated to help SEAL continue its vital work in unlocking economic opportunities for underserved communities in Lebanon. We work on the ground with individuals in hard-to-reach areas that often have no other access to funding or support.

100% of SEAL’s operational and fundraising costs are covered by the Board, meaning that all monies donated will go directly to those who need it.

To give today, please click here or reserve your ticket now for our Annual Gala on October 14 at Eventi Hotel.

Please email seal-usa@seal-usa.org for more details.
Our parallel online auction on Paddle8 featured works by: Lamia Maria Abillama; Etel Adnan; Randa Ali Ahmad; Audree Anid; Flavie Audi Bodja; Marwan Chamaa; Tomory Dodge; Hassan Hajjaj; Ayla Hibri; Lamia Joreige; Hiba Kalache; Nadine Kanso; Nadim Karam; Rhea Karam; Mohammed Kazem; Joe Kesrouani; Majd Patou Fathallah; Rania Matar; Jamal Moaleb; Jean Marc Nahas; Walid Nahas; Shirin Neshat; Nicky Nodjoumi; Sylvia Poloto; Fares Rizk; Lucien Samaha; Sumayya Samaha; Samir Sayegh; Hala Shoukair; Valeska Soares; Suha Traboulsi; Rob Wynne; Ghassan Zard; Michel Zoghzobi; Anwar Zakkour

Galleries: Agial; CRG; House of Today; Jane Lombard; SMO Gallery; Taymour Grahne

Private Donor: Dr. Sami Khalife

Table Ambassadors: Rima Alameddine; Gael Bacha; Sima Beydoun / Hala Si-Ahmed; Mona Husami; Nada Rizk

Event Committee: Dina Bizri; Nayla Hadchiti; Lara Kairouz; Sara Tayeb Khalifa; Maya Malek; Joelle & Gerald Weiss

Special Thanks to: Mona Aboukhater; Blessing; Raphael Castoriano; FJK Dance; DJ Mayssam; Nayla Hadchiti; Creative Bridge Fund

2015 GALA

SEAL’s gala in 2015 took place on June 4 at Rainbow Room, New York, and celebrated Lebanese creativity with a silent auction of work donated by a group of fabulous artists and galleries.

Artists: May Amoun; Karim Chaya; Robert Debbane; Nada Debs; Leila Jureidini; Carlo Massoud; Georges Mohasseb; Cyrille Najjar; Rasha Nawam; Hania Rayess; Nayla Romanos Illya; Ghida el Zein; Najla el Zein; Toufic el Zein

Galleries: Carwan Gallery; House of Today; SMO Gallery

Benefactors ($10,000+)
Anonymous
Liz & George Altirs
Joseph & Claude Audi Charitable Foundation
Claudia & George Bitar
Carmen & Ray Debbane
Nayla Hadchiti
Lara & Habib Kairouz
Maya & Marc Malek
Carole Marashi & Carlos Ghosn
Philippe Massoud
NOK Foundation
Fouad Sawaya
Kamil M. Salame
Sandy & Tony Tamer
Riad Younes
Anwar Zakkour

Patrons ($5,000+)
Khallil Barrage
Raphael Castoriano
Haynes & Boone, LLP
Evan Henschel
Mona Husami
Interaudi Bank

Donors ($2,500+)
Anonymous
Hayat & Monir Barakat
Makram Hamdan
Dolly & Gilles Kacha
Maria & Paul Kacha
Adla & Alex Massoud
Richard Petrozza
Salim G. Samaha
Emma & Alex Tager

Supporters ($1,000+)
Rania & Jean Abouhamad
Rima & Zack Alameddine
Dimitrios Athanasopoulos
Ghada & Nicolas Jabbour
Joelle & Wissam Kairouz
Sara & Hussein Khalifa
Dr. Jacques Merab
Joumana Rizk
Camille Saba
Nadine & Nicolas Sayegh
Riham Serhaim
Joumana & Philippe Tager
Joelle & Gerald Weiss
Friends of Woodrow

Friends
Yara & Bernard Abdo
Meya & Joe Abed
Agnhie & Farouk Abi Rafeh
Nabil Abou-Charaf
Maha Alami
Charlotte Altirs
Marlon Altirs
Nada & Paul Anid
Paul Aris
Kinda & Philippe Asseily
Dr. & Mrs. Fadi Attiyeh
Borzou Azima
Doris & Issa Baconi
Anthony Baini

Gaele & Emile Bacha
Andree & Camille Chebeir
Cristina Enriquez-Bocobo
Nila & Nazareth Festekjian
Leila & George Gorra
Susie Hahn & John Roy
Aimee & William Maroney
Salma Samaha
Nada & Christian Rizk
Aida & Charbel Tagher

Dina Barazi
Sim & Khaled Beydoun
Dina Bizri
Karine & Charles Boorady
Nathalie & Gerald Clerk
Joanne Braidy
Lina & Wael Chehab
Katherine & Eli Curi
Bob Debbas
Patrick Victor Elyas
Omar Fattal
Maya Ghosn
Nadine Ghosn
Christian Grandi
Morgan Grandi
Michael Mina Guirguis
Paul Haddad
Alexandre Issa-El Khoury
Ghida & Moncef Khane
Rita & Andre Jammet
Leila Kacha
Sophie Kacha
Yasmine Kacha
Jesse Kahn
Alexandre Karam
Sammy Khalife

Thank you to all our generous supporters

STAFF & TEAM

Executive Director
Victoria Lupton
Project Coordinator
Nassif Wakim

Board of Directors
Dâna Barakat
George Bitar (President)
Habib Kairouz
Wissam Kairouz
Marc Malek
Adla Massoud
Rima Moawad

Kamil Salame
Joumana Tager
Riad Younes
Anwar Zakkour

Treasurer
Majd Maksad

Secretary
Nabil Abou-Charaf

Beirut Committee
Yasser Akkaoui
Rami Zurayk

Advisory Board
George Boutros
Raymond Debbane
Fuad Sawaya
Rami Zurayk