

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
ACTION FOR LEBANON

2013

THE YEAR
IN REVIEW

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.

As we begin 2014, we want you to see the tremendous and tangible impact that your generosity and sacrifice have made throughout Lebanon. Please know that you are changing the lives of real people, now and for generations to come.

To all of you, we wish a happy, healthy and peaceful new year!



Water Pipes: Bkarsouna, North Lebanon

Thanks to our donors, we were able to purchase and install 1,400 meters of 5" water pipes. The new irrigation system, which replaced an old and inefficient one, now allows the proper irrigation of 1,500,000 m² of land for agricultural production. It is estimated that more than 50 farmers benefited from this project, which included the pipes and all necessary coupling accessories, as well as shut-off valves and adapters.

Cement Canals: Al-Labwe, Bekaa Valley

With your help, SEAL was able to fund the repair of existing cement canals that had been partially damaged for a length of 1,000 meters. The rehabilitation of these canals benefits 50 farmers and their families and ensures that precious water is no longer wasted, with a 350,000m² increase in arable land.



Cement Canals: Kferyachit, North Lebanon

Working with the local municipality, SEAL funded the construction of 320 meters of cement canals in Kferyachit, which allowed the irrigation of 200,000m² of new land for agriculture. The canals also prevent the previous overflow of water, which had been damaging existing crops such as olive, orange and avocado trees. It is estimated that 200 farmers are now benefiting from this endeavor.



Water Well : Memneh, North Lebanon

After the Cooperative Society for Rural Development had funded the drilling of a well where water was found at a depth of 71 meters, SEAL financed the pumping of the water, along with the installation of 1,000 meters of water pipes which now bring the water to an area in desperate need of irrigation. This project, started in 2012, was completed last year, resulting in a 250,000m² increase in arable land and benefiting 133 farmers who can now plant additional apple, pear, almond, chestnut, kiwi, apricot and peach trees.



Equipment for Women's Association: Baskenta, Mount Lebanon

This is the second project that SEAL has undertaken with the *Association Coopérative des Femmes de Baskenta pour la Production Agricole et Artistique*, which was identified by the YMCA as among the hundred best cooperatives in Lebanon (from a total of 1,800). SEAL sponsored the purchase of equipment for the women to increase the quantity and quality of their prepared goods production, in order to make it more marketable nationwide. The project provided a refrigerator, a tomato juicer and three gas burners.



Equipment for Women's Cooperative: Hula, South Lebanon

SEAL was able to purchase equipment necessary for the production of traditionally-prepared popular local products such as tomato paste, zaatar, sumak, kishk and dried mint. Supplies included a tomato juicer, three herb mills, two refrigerators, two stove tops, two kitchen sinks, tables, chairs, kitchen utensils, packaging material, a generator and two water tanks. Profits from the sale of the prepared goods are distributed to the fifty women members of the association.



Water Well : Kartaba, North Lebanon

This is SEAL's second water project in Kartaba, an area suffering from acute lack of irrigation. A 170-meter-deep well was excavated in an area where water had already been detected. The water, which is now able to be pumped to the surrounding villages, irrigates over 250,00m² of farmland throughout Kartaba. The cost of the project included digging, adding a 12" steel protective layer, and installing a 35HP pump and iron pipes together with the necessary electrical cables and board station.



Corn Harvester: Drayb, North Lebanon

Green corn, considered ideal as cow feed for its ability to increase milk production, keeps cows healthy and improves milk quality. In addition, the fact that it can be planted off-season allows for a more efficient use of the land, resulting in extra income for farmers. SEAL purchased a second-hand corn harvester that reaps and shreds corn to facilitate fermentation. As a result, 150 farmers now save \$15/ton on the transportation cost of the fermented corn, transport from the Bekaa generally running \$20/ton.



IT INITIATIVE: THROUGHOUT LEBANON

The objective of this IT initiative is to promote the emergence of a technology sector in Lebanon, which will ultimately lead to job creation, economic development, and investments. SEAL funded a portion of the project, which will cover the operating expenses of an IT center for two years (partnering with LIFE Lebanon and LebNet). The center's main objectives are to become a centralized access point for the diaspora to support the emerging local IT economy; to champion policy/regulatory changes and infrastructure upgrades to help make the environment more hospitable to IT start-ups; and to identify IT sub-sectors where Lebanon can become a meaningful regional or global player.



In order to honor the memory of Dr. Nabil Husami for his tremendous dedication to SEAL, we have created the "Nabil Husami Seal" which is affixed each year to projects carefully picked by his family from among our many worthy endeavors.

For the year 2013, the Nabil Husami Seal accompanies the IT initiative, which was selected for its focus on education and modernization, as well as its long-lasting and wide-reaching economic impact throughout the country.

Apple Tree Roots: Baskenta, North Lebanon

SEAL distributed 6,795 apple tree roots to 453 farmers whose single source of income is the production and sale of apples. Distributing apple trees offers farmers a profitable and continuous source of income to ensure their families' basic needs and enhance their living conditions.



Water Pipes: Deir Al Ahmar, Bekaa Valley

Following the initial phase of this project in 2012, which included the installation of 1,000 meters of water pipes originating from an artificial lake in Deir Al Ahmar, SEAL continued with the second phase: extending the pipes by an additional 2,000 meters. This resulted in the irrigation of an additional 512,000m² of land, mainly used to plant vines for winemaking.

Annual Fundraising Dinner with the talented KHALED MOUZANAR

On April 12, SEAL raised nearly \$230,000 during its annual dinner at the Metropolitan Club in NYC. The evening was a big success thanks to the generosity of its organizer, Ms. Carmen Chahine Debbane, and that of our guest of honor, award-winning composer and songwriter Khaled Mouzanar, who captivated the audience using powerful yet restrained words to explain the critical impact that music had on his life growing up in war-torn Lebanon. We also wish to sincerely thank all Sponsors and Table Presidents.

LEBANON NEEDS YOU! PLEASE CONTRIBUTE

We gratefully acknowledge the support and generosity of our donors, and the unwavering commitment and dedication of our volunteers. Without you, none of our endeavors would be possible.

As we enter 2014, social and economic action is needed more than ever. With all of SEAL's operating expenses covered by its Board Members and Officers, please know that **every single dollar that you donate is spent on projects.**

Please join us for our annual fundraising dinner this spring, or donate any time at www.seal-usa.org.



THANKS ONCE MORE TO ALL WHO DONATED SO GENEROUSLY IN 2013

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