



SEAL

**ANNUAL REPORT
2015**

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,

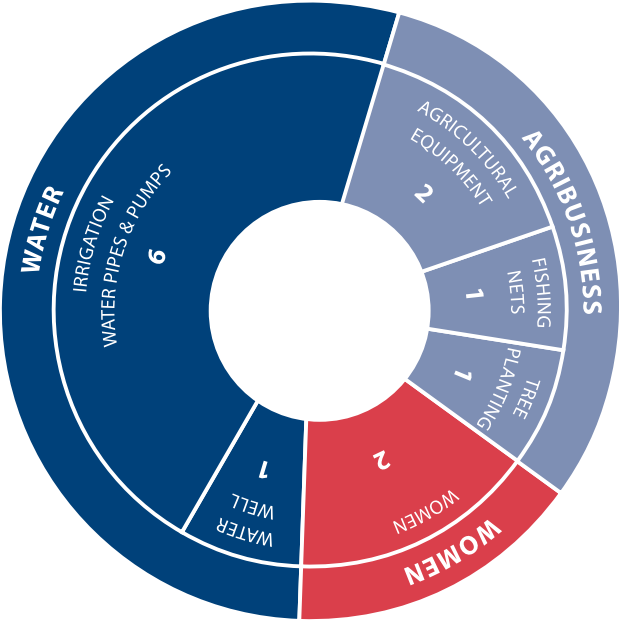
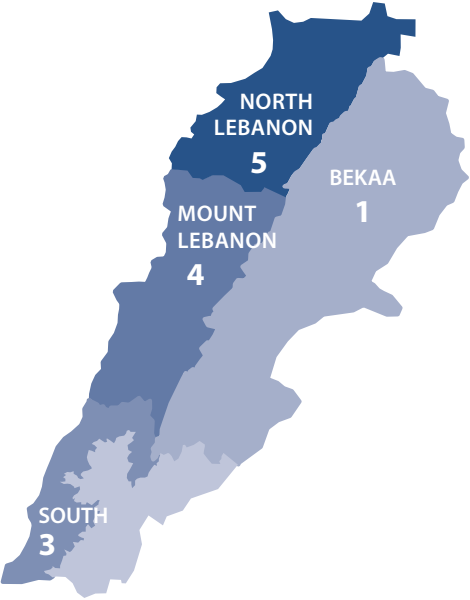
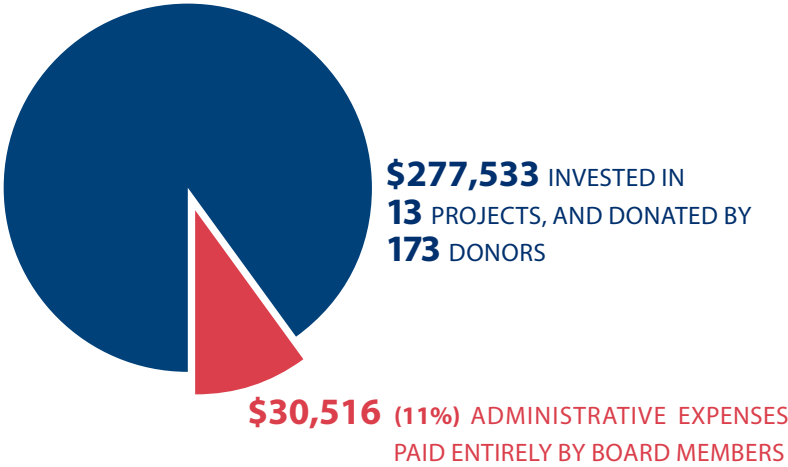


Victoria Lupton
Executive Director, SEAL

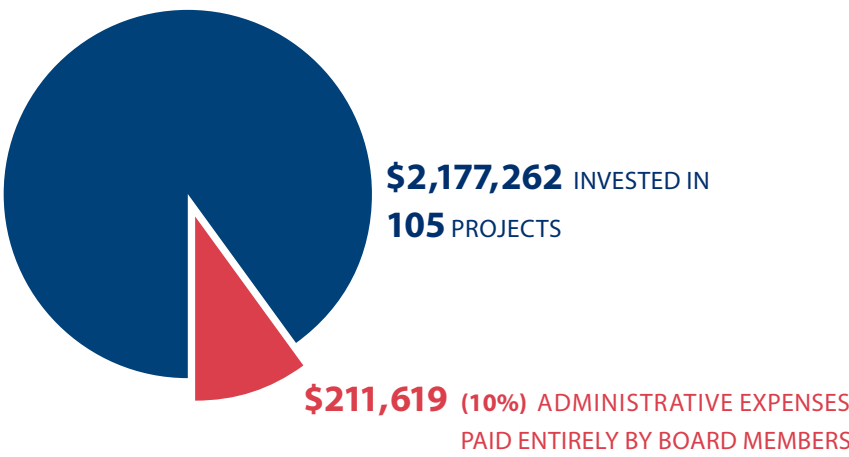
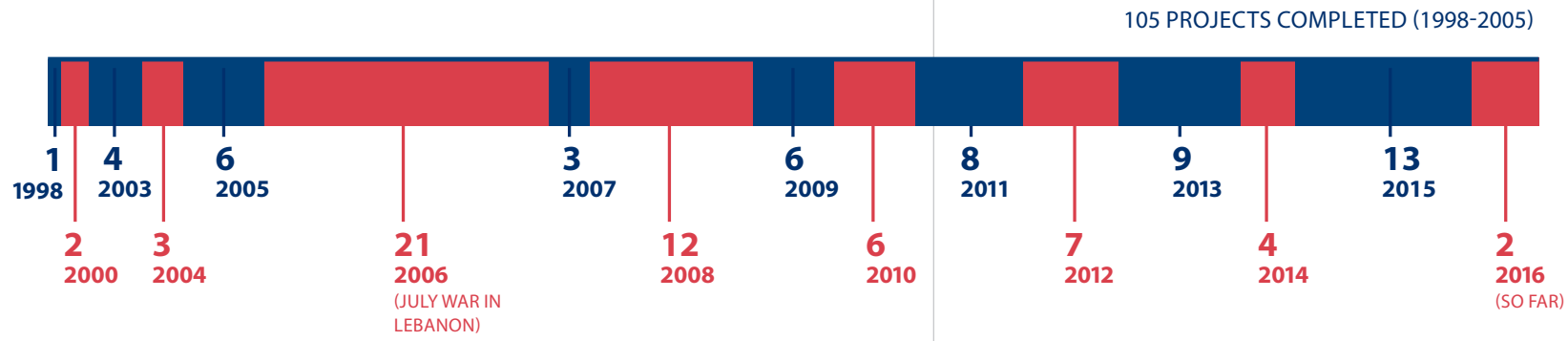


SEAL BY NUMBERS 2015

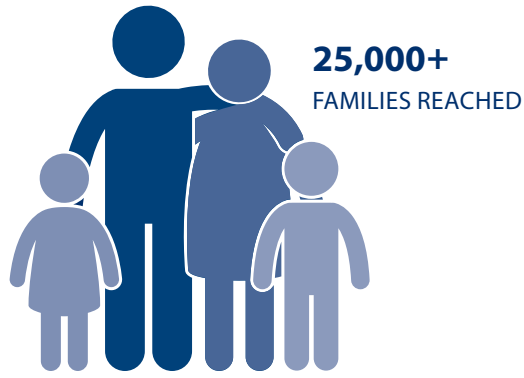
We supported 13 projects this year in a variety of industries, including agriculture, artisanal production and fishing.



SEAL BY NUMBERS SINCE INCEPTION 1997



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



SEAL PROJECTS IN 2015

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**.



- ▶ **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

SEAL PROJECTS

IN 2015 *continued*



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 Bekaakafra (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 mounneh***
- ▶ *Beneficiaries: **40 women + 20 students***



PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2016 SO FAR



SEAL has funded two new projects so far in 2016; we will be announcing further projects in the pipeline in October 2016.

AGRIBUSINESS: 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.



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 Iliya; Ghida el Zein; Najla el Zein; Toufic el Zein Galleries: Carwan Gallery; House of Today; SMO Gallery		Our parallel online auction on Paddle8 featured works by: Lamia Maria Abillama; Etel Adnan; Randa Ali Ahmad; Audree Anid; Flavie Audi Bokja; Marwan Chamaa; Tomory Dodge; Hassan Hajjaj; Ayala Hibri; Lamia Joreige; Hiba Kalache; Nadine Kanso; Nadim Karam; Rhea Karam; Mohammed Kazem; Joe Kesrouani; Majd Patou Fathallah; Rania Matar; Jamil 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 Zoghzi; Afaf Zurayk 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; Joelle Kairouz; Lara Kairouz; Sara Tayeb Khalifa; Maya Malek; Carole Marshi; Adla Massoud; Joumana Tager Special Thanks to: Mona Aboukhater; Blessing; Raphael Castoriano; FJK Dance; DJ Mayssam; Nayla Hadchiti, Creative Bridge Fund		
Thank you to all our generous supporters	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 Marshi & Carlos Ghosn Philippe Massoud NOK Foundation Fouad Sawaya Kamil M. Salame Sandy & Tony Tamer Riad Younes Anwar Zakkour Patrons (\$5,000+) Khalil Barrage Raphael Castoriano Haynes & Boone, LLP Evan Henschel Mona Husami Interaudi Bank	Ghada & Nicolas Jabbour Joelle & Wissam Kairouz Sara & Hussein Khalifa Dr. Jacques Merab Joumana Rizk Camille Saba Nadine & Nicolas Sayegh Riham Serham Joumana & Philippe Tager Joelle & Gerald Weiss Friends of Woodrow Donors (\$2,500+) Anonymous Hayat & Monir Barakat Makram Hamdan Dolly & Gilles Kacha Maria & Paul Kacha Adla & Alex Massoud Richard Petrossa Salim G. Samaha Emma & Alex Tager Supporters (\$1,000+) Rania & Jean Abouhamad Rima & Zack Alameddine Dimitrios Athanasopoulos	Gaele & Emile Bacha Andree & Camille Chebeir Cristina Enriquez-Bocobo Nila & Nazareth Festekjian Leila & George Gorra Susie Hahn & John Roy Aimee & William Maroney Samer Nsouli Nada & Christian Rizk Aida & Charbel Tagher Friends Yara & Bernard Abdo Meya & Joe Abed Aghnie & Farouk Abi Rafeh Nabil Abou-Charaf Maha Alami Charlotte Altirs Marlon Altirs Nada & Paul Anid Paul Aris Kinda & Philippe Asseily Dr. & Mrs. Fadi Attiye Borzou Azima Doris & Issa Baconi Anthony Baini	Dina Barazi Sima & Khaled Beydoun Dina Bizri Karine & Charles Boorady Nathalie & Gerald Clerk Joanne Braid Lina & Wael Chehab Katherine & Eli Curi Bob Debbas Patrick Victor Elyas Omar Fattal Maya Ghosn Nadine Ghosn Christian Grandi Morgan Grandi Michael Mina Guirguis Pia Haddad Alexandre Issa-El-Khoury Ghida & Moncef Khane Rita & Andre Jammet Lelia Kacha Sophie Kacha Yasmine Kacha Jesse Kahn Alexandre Karam Sammy Khalife	Louis E. Lataif Daniel Marshi Bardia Mesbah Raymond Nawar Amira Rajasingham Euan Rellie Christine & Nabil Rizk Tina Samii Nada & Dr. Gabriel Sara Yan Senouf Berge & Vera Setrakian Karim & Amy Si-Ahmed Samir & Hala Si-Ahmed Soraya & Samir Sidani Samar & David Syriani Sabrina Tager Cynthia & Nassim Taleb Randa & Dr. Jack Tohme Laura Wack Sasha van de Water Michele & Colin Wilhelmsen Sylviane & Bud Zehil Rita & Antoine Zihenni
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www.seal-usa.org

