



December 2021, Newsletter
The festive edition

what a year it was!



Back in learning
Helping children be children again



Earlier this fall, with the start of the new academic year, we were grateful to see the halls of our education center come back to life again as children returned to onsite learning after two long tumultuous years! Given Lebanon's worsening economic crisis, which caused a record number of children to be out of school, we did our utmost to enroll the maximum number of children. We jumped from 466 students in 2020 to 552 in 2021, roughly an 19% increase! In order to accommodate this growing number, children were divided into two shifts.

Families were desperate to see their children in learning again, mothers and children often celebrated with tears of joy and relief at the news of being accepted into the program. Children regained their essential right to education and a sense of stability amidst Lebanon's many crises.

In order to prevent children from dropping out of school and resorting to work, Tahaddi supports the family in a comprehensive way: cash assistance is given to parents in partnership with UNICEF, nutritious snacks are distributed to students during their day at the center. A special fund was also created through the support of the Principality of Monaco to meet the students' medical needs.

Our homework support program now helps 120 public school students. Due to the health crisis and frequent strikes, public schools did not regularly conduct remote education with their students. In addition, students often did not have the proper devices to keep up with the limited online assignments sent to them. Some children would have dropped out completely if Tahaddi's support program had not kept them in a daily learning routine.



Some special moments from 2021 at the Tahaddi Education Center



Clean drinking water at TEC
with the help of UNICEF



In the area of Hay el Gharbeh, water - when it is available in homes - is terribly salty. This is why families need to buy and transport two types of water: water for drinking and for cleaning/washing-up. This is an additional expense to the already very tight budget of the families. It is also a heavy burden on the children who are often assigned with the task of carrying the water.

The TEC, in its continuous efforts to offer its students potable water, has recently installed a small-scale water treatment station through support from UNICEF. It provides a reliable source of clean drinking water for the children.



Keeping Families Warm this Winter!



The hardworking women of Tahaddi's Sewing Atelier are sewing hundreds of blankets each day

With much determination and hard work, the Tahaddi Sewing Atelier seamstresses came together, to prepare over 4000 warm blankets this winter. These blankets were commissioned by our partner organization, Merath, to be distributed throughout Lebanon.

"We are so happy for the additional work, we feel joy when we come to the atelier knowing our work helps others too!", says Dalal.



Partnering with Bedayati youth
to promote COVID19 vaccine registration



Tahaddi continues to promote COVID-19 preventive measures in numerous ways by sharing vital information through social media, one-on-one and group discussions. Tahaddi is also working to promote vaccine awareness and boost registration in the community by partnering with Bedayati, a youth empowerment organization. Youth have been trained by the Tahaddi medical social worker to provide IT support to help individuals register on the Ministry of Health platform. To date, over 580 community members have been registered for vaccination.



Maryam: a lifesaving story of healing and hope



Maryam's family fled their village on the outskirts of Aleppo in northern Syria after their area fell under the control of ISIS. They came to live in Hay el Gharbeh, close to the Tahaddi Health Center. A few months ago, 16-year-old Maryam suddenly became very ill. She was rushed to the hospital where she was diagnosed with a critical heart condition that required immediate surgery.

Her father turned to Tahaddi who, through the generous donations of many partners, was able to cover the cost of this life-saving surgery and any follow-up treatment.

As Maryam recalled the day she has woken up from the operation, tears filled her eyes, "I am crying at the memory of that day and the relief I feel knowing that that pain is behind me." The operation has saved her life. Although she still gets tired when doing physical effort, she is slowly recuperating. She aspires to continue her studies. Maryam and her older sister Amina have joined an arts and crafts program for adolescent girls. They enjoy going to the Tahaddi Education Center together, and seeing their friends.



Medical donations from Tahaddi France



Hassan is one of the community members who benefits from several Tahaddi services. He has a critical cardiac condition that requires ongoing treatment. However, due to the current crisis in Lebanon, vital medications like those needed by Hassan, are often out-of-stock and or too expensive for many to afford.

Thanks to a generous donation of medication by French donors and brought to Lebanon by our friends at Tahaddi France, our team has been able to ensure he proceeds with his treatment on a regular basis. Tahaddi has also covered the cost of his surgery. His condition is now stable, and he shares that "if it weren't for Tahaddi, I could not imagine how my health would be." Hassan has become an advocate for the organization and often encourages other individuals from the community to reach out for support.

We look forward to better times ahead
in the New Year!

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