

ASSOCIATION NAJDEH

Popular Education Program

Activities Report January – December 2007

Introduction

Despite the difficulties and challenges that faced Association Najdeh staff and beneficiaries in 2007 due to the NBC war and its reflection on the other camps, the PEP managed to adjust its action plan providing as much qualitative services as possible. In the first half of 2007 all the groups of the PEP were stopped in NBC while in Baddawi the Tutorial groups were cancelled. Also, the armed clashes in Ein El Helweh camp that erupted at the same time led to postponing most of the activities for two months which led to canceling some groups, due to dropout, and forming new ones with new learners and students.

As for the staff, together with the volunteers, they exerted great effort providing the displaced and the hardships with emergency and psychosocial support. The PEP integrated training relating to psychosocial support in its capacity building plan and many of the staff underwent related training.

Popular Education Program

In 2007, 60 groups were carried out in all Najdeh's Popular Education Centers with 672 learners and students with 40 volunteers.

Table 1: Popular Education Program: Number of Groups & learners

Jan – Dec 2007

Popular Education Program	Beirut	Tyre	Sidon	Tripoli	Beqa'a	Total
Literacy Groups	3	2	6	6	2	19
No. of Learners	33	21	69	70	25	218
No. of Volunteers	3	0	2	2	1	8
Tutorial Groups	7	0	7	9	1	24
No. of Learners	80	0	81	85	15	261
No. of Volunteers	6	0	5	6	1	18
Summer Activities Groups	5	0	6	6	0	17
No. of Learners	63	0	66	64	0	193
No. of Volunteers	6	0	2	6	0	14
Total no. of groups	14	2	15	17	3	60
No. of Learners	176	21	216	219	40	672
Total no. of Volunteers	15	0	9	14	2	40

Planned & Actual groups & learners

The actual number for groups was 17 with 204 learners/students, while the planned groups totaled 19 with 218 learners/students. The reasons behind the difference between the planned and the actual numbers of groups and beneficiaries are explained in the table below:

Table 2: Popular Education Program: Planned & Actual Groups & learners

Jan – Dec 2007

	Planned		Actual		Notes
	Literacy				
	Groups	Learners	Groups	Learners	
Beirut	2	24	3	33	A group (2 nd level) graduates who finished 2 years didn't registered for the 3 rd level so we formed a new group (1 st level)
Tyre	3	36	2	21	The 3 rd group was formed yet due to the learners' dropout it was cancelled. The dropout was a reflection of NBC war on the other camps
Sidon	4	48	6	69	2 groups started in early 2007 were stopped as the learners were displaced due to the security problems that happened in Ein El Helweh camp in May 07 thus the program replaced them with 2 new groups with new learners
Tripoli	6	72	6	70	2 learners dropped out
Beqa'a	2	24	2	25	An additional learner joined on
Total	17	204	19	218	2 additional groups with 14 additional beneficiaries
	Tutorials				
Beirut	4	60	7	80	The need for tutorial sessions was higher and the voluntary teachers were available so we formed 3 additional tutorial groups
Sidon	2	30	7	81	Same as above
Tripoli	10	140	9	85	1 group was cancelled in Baddawi camp as students dropped out during NBC war
Beqa'a	4	60	1	15	Voluntary teachers were not available so we weren't able to form the 4 groups
Total	20	290	24	261	4 additional groups with 29 less beneficiaries
	Activities				
Beirut	4	60	5	63	The number of volunteers was higher so we added 3 additional beneficiaries and divided them into 5 groups instead of 4
Sidon	0	0	6	66	There was a need so we coordinated with the Psychosocial and the Library programs to run activities for 66 beneficiaries
Tripoli	3	50	6	64	There was a high need so we coordinated with the Psychosocial program forming more groups with less beneficiaries per group
Total	7	110	17	193	10 additional groups with 83 additional beneficiaries

1. Literacy program

During 2007 Literacy learners totaled 218 and were distributed to 19 Learner groups at Najdeh's centers in different regions.

Of those 19 groups, 9 were first level with 101 learners and 9 were second level with 105 learners while the remaining group was the third final level with 12 learners. Eight volunteers assisted the program's 11 animators.

Learners' Socioeconomic situation

The majority of the learners are single at 96%, young as 95.5% are aged between 7 to 24 and camp dwellers at 91%. Only 4.5% of the learners are females over 24 who are either married, divorced or widows. As for the learners' educational level, the majority of them at 82% are semi-illiterate, which is a higher rate than last year (52%). Almost all of the learners are from very poor background as 85% come from families earning below the minimum wage adding to this the fact that the majority at 96% comes from large-size families composed of 4 and more members reflects the impact of socio-economic situation on education.

Table 3- Popular Education: Literacy Groups: Learners' Socioeconomic situation Jan– Dec 07 No. 218

		Region					Total	
		Beirut	Tyre	Sidon	Tripoli	Beqa'a		
Learners	Number	33	21	69	70	25	218	%
Gender	Female	30	21	52	46	20	169	78%
	Male	3	0	17	24	5	49	22%
Residency	Camp	31	18	68	69	12	198	91%
	City	1	0	0	0	10	11	5%
	Suburb	1	3	1	1	3	9	4%
Age	7 - 14	33	3	53	58	15	162	74.5%
	15 - 24	0	15	14	12	5	46	21%
	25 - 34	0	2	2	0	5	9	4%
	35+	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.5%
Educational status	Illiterate	10	2	4	24	0	40	18%
	Semi-illiterate	23	19	65	46	25	178	82%
Nationality	Palestinian	27	19	66	58	17	187	85.5%
	Lebanese	3	2	1	2	4	12	5.5%
	Other	3	0	2	10	4	19	9%
Family status	Single	33	18	69	70	19	209	96%
	Married	0	2	0	0	6	8	3.5%
	Divorced/Widow	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.5%
Family Size	1 - 3	0	4	1	1	3	9	4%
	4 - 7	33	14	49	32	15	143	66%
	7+	0	3	19	37	7	66	30%
Family Income	Minimum wage	7	0	12	0	2	21	9.5%
	Above min wage	0	0	0	0	12	12	5.5%
	Below min wage	26	21	57	70	11	185	85%

Impact on Literacy Learners

The number of topics of interest that the learners worked on totaled 98 and varied between Social, Environmental, Health, National and Economic. Those 98 topics were part of the 3 Literacy levels as within each topic work is carried out at the 4 knowledge components: Language, Mathematics, Natural Science, and Social Science as follows:

Language the learners worked on 900 exercises achieving between 55% and 95% of grammar & dictations capacity, and between 60% and 95% of producing texts. They also produced 185 files, 31 booklets, 58 wall-journal, 48 posters, & 145 stories.

Mathematics the learners produced 482 questions, worked on additional 228 ready ones and solved 286 exercises (rate of understanding was 85% and solving was 75%).

Natural Science the learners' capacity of understanding Natural Science rated between 65% & 100%. The rate of those who gained good and correct knowledge varies between 70% & 100%. Learners whom their new knowledge and understanding resulted in changing of behavior and attitudes rated 80%.

Social Science the learners' capacity of understanding Social Science and its components, participating in collecting information, researching, and interacting with the group and the community rated between 50% and 100%. Learners whom their new knowledge & understanding resulted in changing of behavior and attitudes rated 90%.

Registering Literacy Graduates in Schools

In 2007, the Literacy staff facilitated the returning of 3 literacy graduates to schools as follows: 2 to UNRWA elementary schools and 1 to UNRWA vocational school.

Table 4- Popular Education: Literacy Groups: Registering Graduates at Schools Jan – Dec 2007 No. 3

Center	To UNRWA Schools	To UNRWA Vocational Training centre	Total
Tripoli	0	1	1
Beqa'a	2	0	2
Total	2	1	3

Referring

The referring reflects the Popular Education Program' coordination with Najdeh's other programs as well as other NGOs. Out of the 218 learners of Literacy 58 benefited from Najdeh and other NGOs services as follows:

Table 5: Popular Education: Literacy Groups: Referrals Jan–Dec 2007 No. 58

Center	From Literacy to			To Literacy from			Total
	Vocational Training	Counseling Centers	Other NGOs	Vocational Training	Mother & Child	Other NGOs	
Beirut	3	8	0	1	1	1	14
Sidon	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Tripoli	1	17	18	0	0	0	36
Beqa'a	2	4	0	0	0	0	6
Total	6	31	18	1	1	1	58

Curricula & Extra-curricula Activities

The animators conducted 167 activities (95 curricula & 72 extra curricula) with the learners/students of the Literacy and Tutorial groups with the participation of the volunteers. The learners & students mothers attended 123 of those 167 activities. The activities tackled educational, social, health and recreational issues and were carried out through training workshops, awareness raising workshops, group & individual meetings, celebrations, trips, visits and video screening.

Table 6- Popular Education: Curricula Activities January – December 2007

Workshops	Curricula Activities	Attendance
	Cooking (balanced meals)	Learners + Parents + Volunteers

	Hand-crafts Skills building: Reading	
	Folkdance & Theatre	Learners + Volunteers
	Drawing & Painting Computer for beginners	Learners
Awareness-raising Workshops	Domestic Violence Gender-based Violence Woman's Rights & Protection Child's Rights & Protection Child to Child violence Reproductive Health Teeth Health Typhoid Personal Hygiene Respiratory system: Asthma Diabetes Genetic Blood Disorders: Thalassaemia Adolescence Drugs Child Labor & child abuse Environment Nutrition Good Parenting Trauma & psychosocial support	Learners + Parents + Volunteers
Visits	Library UNRWA schools	Learners
	Other Popular Education program	Learners + Volunteers
	Health Centers Community members: Elderly Vocations Centers	Learners
Video-Screening	Educational	Learners
	Recreational	Learners + Parents
Trips	Cultural	Learners + Volunteers
	Entertainment	Learners + Parents + Volunteers
Celebrations	International Child's Day International Woman Day International Mother Day Land Day New Year	Learners + Parents + Volunteers

As for the extra-curricula activities they were carried out in coordination with the community members, the other programs in Najdeh and other NGOs and aims at enhancing the children's interaction with their families and community. The table below provides an example of the extra-curricula activities conducted in 2007:

Table 7- Popular Education: Extra-curricula Activities

January – December 2007

Extra-curricula Activities		Attendance
Campaigns with other NGOs	Cleaning Right to Play	Learners + volunteers

	Reading & Writing week	
Joint activities with other NGOs & community members	Folkdance performance Disabled Child Week Sketches performance Lunch / Dinner Running Race Clown performance Visits to Elderly Visits to Vocations centers & shops	Learners + parents + volunteers

Impact of the Popular Education program's Activities:

- **At the learners level**, those activities encouraged the learners to interact with the community and with each other, enhanced their self confidence, enabled the learners to explore and discover information, enhanced new concepts and behaviors (such as collective & participatory work, observation & analyzing, personal hygiene), provided a chance of meeting other children from different programs & NGOs, etc.

- **At the learners' parents level**, those activities enhanced the trust between the learners and their parents and between the parents and the literacy staff, enhanced the parents' trust in the learners' ability and skills, encouraged and motivated the parents to follow-up their children performance and be involved in it, raised the parents awareness on their children's needs and capacities.

- **At the community level**, those activities built trust in Najdeh's work and programs, enhanced the community trust in the learners' capacities and improvements, facilitated their cooperating with the learners in collecting information and gaining new knowledge, and resulted in recognition of the learners' potentials.

2. Scholastic Tutorial Program

During the first half of 2007, Scholastic Tutorial students totaled 229 and were distributed to 21 groups at Najdeh's centers however, due to the NBC war one group in Baddawi was cancelled as its 55 students dropped out while 14 students in Ein El Helweh camp dropped out. In the second half of 2007 3 new groups were formed thus the Scholastic Tutorial students who finished the tutorial classes totaled 261 and were distributed on 24 groups. The teachers were either volunteers or self-reliant and have carried out the Tutorial program's curricula and extra curricula activities.

The 261 students were tutored in Mathematics, Science, Arabic and English languages. They were also engaged in several activities tackling Human Rights, social, health, and entertainment topics as well as recreational and psychosocial activities. All was carried out in coordination with the Literacy program allowing the learners of the literacy program and the students of the tutorial classes to work and have fun together.

Table 8- Popular Education Section: Tutorial program: Classes and Learners

Jan - Dec 2007

Region	Tutorial Groups	Total Learners	Total Volunteers	Elementary Level	Intermediate Level	Hi -School Level
Beirut	7	80	6	24	12	44
Sidon	7	81	5	27	54	0
Tripoli	9	85	6	69	16	0

Beqa'a	1	15	1	0	15	0
Total	24	261	18	120	97	44

Learners' Socioeconomic situation

More than half of the 261 learners were females at 65% while the majority is camp dwellers at 95.5% and Palestinians at 95%. While the majority at 83% is aged between 7 to 16 years only 17% are aged over 17 years. The majority comes from large families at 96.5% and from poor backgrounds as 84% earning the minimum wage and below. As for their educational levels, 46% are in the Elementary level while 37% of them are in the Intermediate level and 17% are in hi-school.

Table 9. Tutorial Classes: Learners' Socioeconomic situation

Jan – Dec 2007

No. 261

		Regions				Total	
		Beirut	Sidon	Beqa'a	Tripoli		
No. of Learners		80	81	15	85	Number	%
Gender	Female	62	49	9	50	170	65%
	Male	18	32	6	35	91	35%
Residency	Camp	72	80	15	82	249	95.5%
	City	3	0	0	0	3	1%
	Suburb	5	1	0	3	9	3.5%
Age	7-10	0	27	0	55	82	31%
	11-16	36	54	15	30	135	52%
	17+	44	0	0	0	44	17%
Family status	Single	80	81	15	85	261	100%
Educational Level	Elementary	24	27	0	69	120	46%
	Intermediate	12	54	15	16	97	37%
	Secondary	44	0	0	0	44	17%
Nationality	Palestinian	78	81	15	75	249	95%
	Lebanese	2	0	0	8	10	4%
	Other	0	0	0	2	2	1%
Family Size	1 - 3	2	3	4	0	9	3.5%
	4 - 7	74	67	4	44	189	72.5%
	7+	4	11	7	41	63	24%
Family Income	Above min Wage	38	0	4	0	42	16%
	Minimum Wage	39	25	4	20	88	34%
	Below min Wage	3	56	7	65	131	50%

Impact of Scholastic Tutorial Program

The program's activities led to remarkable progress of the students at their schools, better interaction with other students as well as with the teachers, decrease of violence especially the verbal one among the students and usage of dialogue and debate as tools of conflict management, remarkable sense of self-confidence, discipline, self-expression and responsibility. The students also reflected their talents and the new skills they gained from the program's activities especially when participating at the extra-curricula activities.

Referral

Throughout the coordination of Popular Education program with Najdeh's other programs and the individual meetings carried out with the mothers as well as the home-visits 34 students out of the total 261 benefited from Najdeh and other NGOs services as follows:

Table 10: Popular Education: Tutorial program: Referrals: Jan – Dec 06 No. 34

	To Tutorial from	From Tutorial to	
Center	Social Affairs	NGOs	Total
Beirut	19	0	19
Tripoli	0	15	15
Total	19	15	34

Home-visits

The Popular Education program's animators conducted 911 home visits to the beneficiaries and their parents. The highest were in Tripoli as 510 home-visits were conducted followed by Tyre (155 home-visits) and Sidon (100 home-visits). Those home-visits aim at building trust and enhancing ties between Najdeh's staff and the beneficiaries parents, following up the beneficiaries, interacting with the beneficiaries and their families, encouraging the parents to participate at the activities run by Najdeh, as well as providing extra support to the beneficiaries and their families including referring to Najdeh's other programs.

Summer Activities

In 2007, 17 activities groups were carried out with 193 beneficiaries. In Sidon the activities were in coordination with Najdeh's Library and Psychosocial programs while in Tripoli the activities were carried out in coordination with the psychosocial program. In Tripoli and Sidon the activities focused on supporting the children through psychosocial activities to healing and overcoming the trauma of the NBC war and displacement and EHC clashes.

The activities in Beirut were carried out Cairo to Camps program (AUC-Egypt) volunteers, local volunteers and Najdeh's animators. On the other hand, all the activities in Tripoli and Sidon were conducted by 13 animators and 14 volunteers, all with advanced knowledge and skills in Psychology and drama therapy for children. More details are provided in the table below:

Table 11- Popular Education Section: Summer Activities Groups & Learners Jan- Dec 2007

Region	No. Groups	No. Children	No. Volunteers	No. Animators	Activity
Beirut	5	63	6	3	2 groups: Expression through art, 2 groups: Theatre/drama & story writing, 1 group: story reading in English & Arabic & cartoon drawing
Sidon	6	66	2	4	6 groups: Arts, entertainment & recreational
Tripoli	6	64	6	6	6 groups: Psychosocial support
Total	17	193	14	13	

Beneficiaries' Socioeconomic situation

More than half of the 193 beneficiaries were females at 61% while the majority is camp dwellers at 100% and Palestinians at 92%. The majority at 89% is aged between 6 to 14 years, 100% of the beneficiaries come from families earning the minimum and below the minimum wage and at 95% come from large families of 4 and more members. As for their

educational level, 91% are in the Elementary level while the remaining 9% are in the Intermediate level.

Table 12. Popular Education: Activities: Beneficiaries s' socioeconomic situation Jan – Dec 07 No. 193

		Regions			Total	
		Beirut	Sidon	Tripoli		
Number of Beneficiaries		63	66	64	Number	%
Gender	Female	52	43	23	118	61%
	Male	11	23	41	75	39%
Residency	Camp	63	63	64	193	100%
Age	6-14	63	53	55	171	89%
	15-24	0	13	9	22	11%
Family status	Single	63	66	64	193	100%
Educational Level	Elementary	56	55	64	175	91%
	Intermediate	7	11	0	18	9%
Nationality	Palestinian	60	66	52	178	92%
	Lebanese	0	0	4	4	2%
	Other	3	0	8	11	6%
Family Size	1 - 3	0	6	4	10	5%
	4 - 7	60	39	24	123	64%
	7+	3	21	36	60	31%
Family Income	Minimum Wage	31	0	10	41	21%
	Below min Wage	32	66	54	152	79%

Coordination

Coordination continued between the Popular Education Section and between Najdeh other programs to exchange experience, curricular and extra curricular activities as well as other NGOs as follows:

- With UNRWA schools to monitor and collect number of drop outs
- With ANERA, WHO, and 2 other local NGOs for organizing a health festival
- With Handicap International for referring learners who need psychological support
- With UNICEF to facilitate workshops on health issues for the learners' mothers
- With EPEP in the training workshop in Morocco on producing educational material on reproductive health and Aids
- With ARCPA to facilitate play performance & puppet show
- With CCFD to participate in their 3 weeks Lanten Campaign in France
- With LUHP to facilitate exchanged visits

Capacity Building

The Popular Education program's animators attended capacity building training as follows:

Table 13 – Popular Education Section: Staff Capacity Building Jan – Dec 2007

Subject	By	Duration
Workshop on fundamental educational sessions	Najdeh	6-day
Workshop on Leadership & Decision making	Najdeh	2-day
Workshop on the educational text approach	Najdeh	2-day

Workshop on carnival techniques	ARCPA	4-day
Workshop on Unifying curriculum & progressive content for the PEP	Najdeh	1-day
Workshop on Producing educational tools on RH & AIDS	EPEP	8-day
Workshop on Psychosocial Support	Najdeh	6-day
Workshop on Children problems during conflicts and wars	WSCA	4-day
Workshop on Psychological problems and woman's rights	NAMCVT	1-day
Workshop on Identifying psychological problems	RESTART	1-day
Workshop on Behavioral disorder/hyperactivity/sexual harassment	HI	3-day
Workshop on Educational contract/group educational session	Najdeh	1-day
ToT on Gender and economic empowerment	CRTD	4-day
Workshop on Counseling techniques	Najdeh	6-day
Workshop on Child's Rights & Children in armed conflicts/child soldier	HCC	2-day
Workshop on Drop out socio-economic reasons	HCC	2-day
Workshop on Paper recycling	ARCPA	3-day
Workshop on Interacting & connecting with children	Najdeh	4-day