

# Ahla Fawda ANNUAL REPORT



# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Dear Friends,

The NGOs in Lebanon have been very much the active government, helping the nation to stand on its feet — helping Lebanon to survive. However we could be equally guilty if our solutions are not with long term vision on ways to preserve dignity and empower the people of our nation. Lebanon at the moment is like a sinking ship with nonstop multiple evolving crises on a weekly if not daily basis. We could either sink deep in depression, the misused "resilient" term or we can aim and look for what we can in our capacity to provide as solutions.

Adamant to **our vision**. "working together to inspire, aspire and sustain a healthy community", We have helped in the rebuilding of Beirut, in creating jobs, in providing food and shelter, in medical care and general support to the people in Lebanon. We are also working on environmental and sustainable projects community. to support our The challenges are nonstop and for us to remain loyal to our mission and our commitments we had look to at alternative measures to sustain our operation.

We continue to abide by **our mission**, **"to stand with those affected by hardship**, **providing essential support**, **empowering talents**, **and instilling positive change.** "We learned with time that there is a thin line between need and greed and hence we added to our mission "The elimination of need and greed".

In August 2021, we created a program "Give and Receive", an engaging

"circular economy" approach to waste management awarding diverse basic needs from food to clothes, medicine and other in return to home solid waste. To enhance this program we created a recycling upcycling "circular design" operation. Youth from different schools as well as beneficiaries are invited to attend weekly workshops and learn on ways of turning trash to resources. Products such as outdoor furniture, Home accessories, tote bags, planters and others that are now weekly productions. These workshops are aimed to enhance creativity in the youth, create usable practical artistic upcycled products, making them merchandise to help sustain our operation and our services. The "Give and Receive" and upcycling operation preserve the dignity and empower beneficiaries allowing us at the same time to sustain our operation.

Final products are placed for sale in different shops and we do get commissioned for special orders and design products. Our outdoor furniture has found homes in local homes and pubs. We were even invited to the Victoria & albert museum in the UK, to exhibit our products and explain about our "Circular economy, circular design, Give and receive "program.

**2023** will be the fruit of years of learning, commitment and services. An Eco hub, a centralized operation of different environmental and upcycling operations is in its early stages of implementation. We believe in our vision. We believe in making things happen.

### FOOD PROGRAM AT HAMRA BELLA



#### **OVERVIEW**

We are incredibly proud to shine a light on the activity of our distribution center, Hamra Bella.

The distribution center is the core of our ongoing humanitarian services, in line with out mission to stand by those affected by hardship by providing essential support.

Hamra Bella welcomes community members twice a week offering a variety of services from food parcels, clothes, shoes, books, toys to homeware items. To benefit from any of our services, beneficiaries are asked to register their request by phone by calling our hotline and present themselves to our distribution center by appointment.





### WHAT IS OUR FOOD PARCLE LIKE!



RICE (2kg)



SUGAR (1kg)



**SALT** (700g)



FLOUR (1kg)

LENTILS

(1kg)



Cooking Oil (1L)



tomato paste (500g)

SPAGHETTI

(500g)



CHICKPEAS (1kg)

CHEESE

(100g)



TUNA / LUNCHEON MEAT CAN



### **GIVE TO RECEIVE**

#### **OVERVIEW**

At Hamra Bella, preserving the dignity of beneficiaries is of utmost importance. In 2020, Ahla Fawda began piloting the Give and Receive initiative that fosters a spirit of exchange. In 2022 we asked beneficiaries to donate household recyclable items (6 to 8kgs) to gain access to our services.

This triple-purposed initiative raises awareness, reduces waste and provides basic necessities.







#### **MOTHERS DAY INITIATIVE**

Ahla Fawda, decided to spread joy and happiness on Mother's Day by visiting the streets and offering gifts to mothers and women. With a warm smile on their face, we approached each woman and presented them with a bar of chocolate and a specially crafted Happy Mother's Day card. The gesture was well-received, as the recipients were overjoyed and grateful for the small token of appreciation.

The sight of their cheerful faces was a heart-warming experience for Ahla Fawda and made them feel fulfilled, knowing that they had made someone's day a little brighter.





#### **PIZZA DAY IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Ahla Fawda with the support of Ajialona partnered with Godzilla, to distribute a total of **120 pizzas** 



and **480 Bob's shoes** Skechers to students at a public school in Beirut. The shoes were also donated by the non-profit organization Soles4Souls. This joint effort aims to provide basic necessities and improve the lives of students in Beirut.

#### SUPPORTING LGBTQI+ COMMUNITY

n a recent development, Ahla Fawda has partnered with HELEM to distribute 663 food parcels to support the LGBTQI+ community. This initiative is aimed at providing aid



to individuals who may face challenges in accessing basic necessities due to discrimination and social stigma.

The partnership between Ahla Fawda and HELEM demonstrates a commitment to addressing the needs of marginalized communities and promoting equality and inclusiveness. The distribution of food parcels is expected to make a significant impact in improving the lives of individuals who face discrimination on a daily basis.





#### **CISCO FRANCE**

Cisco France team into our organization was a highly CISCO successful and productive

endeavor. During their one-week stay, they provided invaluable support to our mission and initiatives.

The team was involved in various tasks such as packing food, sorting up-cycled waste, and accompanying us on distribution trips. Their assistance in these efforts was truly invaluable and made a tangible impact on the success of our mission.

Furthermore, the Cisco France team was a pleasure to work with. They were not only highly skilled and efficient, but also brought a positive and enthusiastic attitude to the workplace. Their presence was a boost to morale, and their interactions with our team were highly valued.

Overall, the experience of working with the Cisco France team was extremely positive and we are grateful for their support. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate and continue our mission together.





#### A NIGHT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Mr. & Mrs. Salibi generously offered their winery, Iris Domaine, in Bhamdoun Village, to host a sunset IRIS DOMAIN



concert by international musician and guitarist Ayman Jarjour. The event aimed to raise funds for Ahla Fawda, and was greatly appreciated by all attendees. The concert was a success, and demonstrated the kindness and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Salibi and Ayman Jarjour.

# AHLA FAWDA'S ECOHUB





The location of the site is essential for urban interaction. The fact that this parking lot is surrounded by residential and commercial facilities makes the location adequate for a social intervention in terms of waste collection and awareness!

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Our goal is to create a socio-environmental hub that offers community engagement, waste processing (recycling and upcycling) services alongside educational activities all in a curated community space designed for people. The program was created to turn around the national waste crisis and generate revenue to sustain our growing operations.

### **SPOTLIGHT**

The Ecohub complements our Food Program. The Ecohub transforms the solid waste that is collected through the 'give and receive' initiative into revenue that supports the food program.

#### **PROJECT OBJECTIVE**

The hub is aimed at creating an exemplar zero-waste community, minimizing resources and biodiversity loss, and incentivizing the restoration and renovation of urban ecosystems.

#### **PROJECT COMPONENTS**



#### A RECYCLING FACILITY

To collect, process and educate on the potential of recycling activities.



#### A COMMUNITY SPACE

A space that will represent the values of sustainability, host workshops, offer coworking spaces, meeting rooms, and a space to sell upcycled products.



#### A SUSTAINABLE GARDEN

A green space in the heart of our city to promote the restoration of urban ecosystems.

#### **ACHIEVED SDGs**



### THE IMPLEMENTATION

#### ARTNERSHIPS

ne success of the project comes down to the partnerships and relationships we have stablished to bring this project to life. Below are some of the names we are collaborating ith.

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#### WHAT IS IT ABOUT?

This initiative is more than just a workshop, it is a whole new way of looking at plastic. Plastic Positive was developed to give second life to single-use plastic bags, and plastic waste a second chance. Turning waste into creative and sustainable items, educating and inspiring the community on upcycling, and reducing waste. From bags, lamp shades, benches, pouches, to so much more.





#### **"ALLO BEIRUT" EVENT**

Ahla Fawda participated in the "Allo Beirut" event at Beit Beirut as part of the AUB Neighborhood initiative. The aim of the event was to provide outdoor food stalls and entertainment to the community. Our team was proud to contribute to this effort and support the local community.

We believe that community involvement is key to promoting growth and development, and the Allo Beirut event was a perfect opportunity for us to demonstrate this commitment.

The event was well-attended, and our team was able to connect with many members of the community. Our contribution to the outdoor food stalls received positive feedback, with many attendees praising the quality and variety of the food offerings. In addition, the entertainment provided by our team added to the festive atmosphere of the event, and helped to create a fun and enjoyable experience for all who attended.

Overall, we are thrilled to have participated in the Allo Beirut event and we look forward to continuing our involvement with the AUBNI initiative and other community events in the future. We believe that by working together, we can make a positive impact on the communities in which we operate and live.





#### **"I AM BEIRUT" BEIRUT MARATHON**

Marathon event saw a highly successful participation by Ahla Fawda.

The occasion was marked by the generosity of various supporters, including kind donors and members of the British Embassy, who came forward to show their support for the Becky's Button project.



#### **SEAL SUPPORT**

SEAL offered Ahla Fawda support through a program that includes a plastic compressor and a wood



cutter. The plastic compactor will help increase the value of waste, supporting their food program. The wood cutter will empower the community by allowing them to cut their own wood for heating.





#### SUSTAIN LEBANON

Sustain Lebanon is to assist organizations including NGOs to finance in a transparent manner viable



Projects. Such funds will empower committed entities to build up a sustainable and Productive Economy and induce social and human development.

Ahla Fawda is part of this platform that will create a funding source that will help to sustain one of our huge programs "ECOHUB".

#### **BECKY'S BUTTON**

Becky was a young British embassy employee who believed and loved Lebanon sadly her life was brutally



ended by a local taxi driver. Jane Houng, the mother of Becky, has started a foundation in her name. Part of its mission is to support vulnerable women.

We are privileged to be the chosen ambassadors for such an honorable mission.



#### **OVERVIEW**

It was good to go back to the streets with our Life Beat festival which was dedicated to the well being of the people; combining art therapy, music therapy, sports therapy, shopping therapy and traditional medicine. Over 3000 community members benefited from medical support by our partnering labs, Dr's and clinics. More than 30,000 visitors enjoyed the variety show, the food and the beautiful arts and crafts by local artisans.





#### **OBJECTIVE**

The initial purpose was to raise awareness of the pain that Lebanon is suffering from- no proper access to medical checkups or consultations. Amazing doctors and nurses were available to assist visitors in all medical arenas: vision, vital checkups



#### **PICTURE DUMP**



Follow this link to enjoy our full report on our Festival Click Here





#### **CIVIL DEFENSE IFTAR DINNER**

Ahla Fawda and young volunteers from the International College joined efforts in cooking an Iftar meal for 70 Civil Defence men and women and their families. Dinner was served at the Ras Beirut civil defense center by the team, followed by distribution of food parcels to each family.







#### DINNER FOR BLAST VICTIMS FAMILIES

In partnership with Beirut Metropolitan Rotary Club, we hosted the families at the Great Oven space in Achrafieh. It was truly an emotional humbling experience, witnessing the unity of these families and listening to the tragic stories. "They Matter", We will always remember them.



#### TRIP TO BEKAA VALLEY

The team went on a distribution trip to the Bekaa valley to Baalback For a special Ramadan distribution day



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## **HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022**

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**Imane Assaf Executive Director** 



Hoda EL Kara **Board Member** 



Sana Labelle **Board Member** 



**Ziad Daouk** 



John Rbeiz **Operations Manager** Transformation & Programs Manager



Zeina Makarem **Project Lead** 



**Camille Mayoraz Project Lead** 



**Don Wright Project Lead** (Upcycling Artist)



**Joyce Talhouk Distribution Officer** 



Rania Soubra Accounts Officer



Fadi Salaheddine Logistics

#### HAMRABELLA GOLDEN LADIES









Irene Abdullah

**Gloria Zaidan** 

Sonia Koussan



Monique Baud Marya Al Nawakil

### FINANCIALS

HUMANITARIAN	EXPENSES
Food Program	\$ 22,761.07
Family Support	\$ 2,974.21
Medical	\$ 7,785.61
Contribution to other NGOs	\$ 4,616.18
Home Repair	\$ 171.29
Chatila Camp & Nabatieh Visits	\$ 304.27
Civil Defense Iftar	\$ 398.71
Total	39,011.34 USD
CULTURE	EXPENSES
Halloween	\$ 3,892.45
Life Beat Festival Expenses	\$ 18,089.43
Beit Beirut	\$ 17,263.87
Into the Light	\$ 303.09
Total	39,548.84 USD
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ENVIRONMENTAL	EXPENSES
ENVIRONMENTAL	EXPENSES
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b> Recyclables	EXPENSES \$ 536.20

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38
6 USD
72 USD
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#### **BUDGET DISTRIBUTION**





### THANK YOU FOR EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTED & BELIEVED IN OUR MISSION.

