



“Let’s Have a Dream”

Tahaddi was recently blessed to be chosen as one of the 6 Lebanese NGOs to benefit from a production of the French play “Faisons un Rêve”. A Lebanese acting group scheduled the very professional play over 7 evenings and gave the entire proceeds of each play to a different NGO – including Tahaddi. Thank you to the actors and the director of the play for their excellent work!

A Busy - & Chilly - Winter

Tahaddi’s social work team recently expanded to three full-time social workers and a social work assistant, a shift that came just in time for one of Lebanon’s colder winters.

Our social workers spent October through December distributing essential winterization items to the community, including 700 warm fleece blankets (500 of which were sewn by women in the area involved in our income-generating sewing project), 250 mattresses, 56 heaters, and 15 gas bottles for cooking and heating water.

As the crisis in Syria drags on and both Syrians and neighboring Lebanese are affected financially by the instability, the situation of the families with

whom we work has become increasingly vulnerable.

One of Tahaddi’s social workers, Razane El Sabbagh, explained why the social work team spends so much effort distributing these items:

“The families, both Syrian and Lebanese, are living in poorly built structures that do not protect them from the cold.

They have no heating, beyond small portable heaters, and they struggle to afford warm blankets and clean mattresses for the freezing nights.”

Tahaddi Education Center also gave out warm winter jackets to each child enrolled in one of the educational programs. You can read about this initiative on our website [here](#).



“If I were born a man, I would have fully enjoyed my freedom...”

This January, women in Tahaddi Education Center’s Adult Arabic Literacy program were given a philosophical prompt to respond in poetic form.

The class, a mix of Syrian and Lebanese women, most of whom had never attended school, were responding to the question of “*Law Kontoo*” or “If I were...”

The results were unexpectedly honest, raw, and touching. Some of the poems have been translated below:

“If I were a mother, it would make me the happiest human being alive”

“If I went back in time, I would choose the husband I wanted.”

“If I had had money, I would not have accepted to marry someone already married, instead I would have stayed free.”

If I were a man, I would have fully enjoyed my freedom.”

This course, which is held four times a week, is funded thanks to the support of the Embassy of Switzerland, International Cooperation Division, which is funding a larger 3-year project called:

“Promotion of social cohesion of at-risk communities through improved access to education, health, and psycho-social services, with a particular focus on the Lebanese Dom and Syrian refugees.”

Disfigured in Battle & Facing an Uncertain Future: Abdel Hakim's Story

Abdel Hakim was shot in the jaw during the crisis in neighboring Syria. Despite multiple surgeries in Syria, his face remained significantly disfigured. He and his young family fled to Lebanon as the crisis continued, but despite the greater stability, their lives became increasingly difficult.

Abdel Hakim's condition meant he couldn't eat with ease: making it difficult to hold a job. He was isolated as a result of the disfigurement. He

and his wife lived in worsening debt and moved time after time when they couldn't come up with the monthly rent.

Through a big team effort we were able to successfully facilitate surgery for Abdel Hakim and support him through the process.

Tahaddi, AUB and the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) War Wounded Clinic at the Rafic al-Hariri hospital all took part in Abdel

Hakim's case. Additionally, due to the complexity of the case, multiple specialists assisted with the 6-hour surgery.

The surgery took place on January 28th, 2017 and Abdel Hakim is recovering well. Tahaddi Health Center hopes that this surgery will result in a dramatic improvement in his life quality, that he will be able to gain weight and find work, and that the family will be able to socialize again with ease.

Abdel Hakim's wife & child



The Importance of Community

"Layal's face lit up when she found out she would get to come every day and learn"

Community work is truly team work. Neighbors, students and patients from the Tahaddi centers often act as advocates for other community members; calling our attention to high-risk situations, and giving generously of their time and money to support others.

Recently two of TEC's older students came to us, asking that we visit a young girl named Layal living in very harsh conditions.

We went on a home visit and discovered that this seven-year-old was living quite in isolation in a windowless room with no running water while her elderly father – her only relative –

rummaged through garbage to find items of value to sell.

We learned that Layal was not going to school, as her father could not pay the fees requested by a neighborhood school. Our team worked with her father to arrange her enrollment at Tahaddi Education Center. Layal's face lit up when she found out she would get to come every day and learn. She came the very next day nearly an hour early, she was so excited to go to class, and she has not missed a day yet!

In another recent instance, a community member called the health team late one evening to ask for advice on how to help a

12 year old boy who had had a bad eye injury while at work. He had been taken to a number of emergency rooms, but had not been able to receive treatment.

The health team arranged for him to see an ophthalmologist, who has generously supported Tahaddi patients time and time again, the next morning

The child's eye was successfully operated on at the lowest possible cost. Neighbors spent much of the day with his family, comforting and encouraging them. It really does take a compassionate and committed 'village' to see change.

