NEWSLETTER
2017
A LOOK BACK AT 2016

“MY HUMANITY IS BOUND UP IN YOURS, FOR WE CAN ONLY BE HUMAN TOGETHER!”
DESMOND TUTU
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**FDCD TEAM**

- **Dr. Riad Jarjour**
  - President
- **Ghida El Assaad**
  - Administrative Assistant and Project Coordinator
- **Mireille Hamouche**
  - Assistant to the President
- **Charbel Abu Madi**
  - Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator
- **Radwa Salah**
  - Program Manager
- **Salam Houch**
  - Program Coordinator
- **Fadwa Ghaddar**
  - Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator
- **Rony Waked**
  - Accountant
- **Magd Rdwanian**
  - Office Director CSSD - Syria
- **Pamela Abi Nader**
  - Program Coordinator
- **Rola Harb**
  - Secretary
- **Mireille Hamouche**
  - Assistant to the President
- **Rahaf Abdo**
  - Field Coordinator CSSD - Syria
- **Anas Anjrini**
  - Project Coordinator CSSD - Syria
In this bleak context, hopes to achieve peace and stability remain far, and it is therefore impossible to assuage fears, to comfort the people, and to improve the situation at the social, economic and security levels. It only seems that we are getting one step closer to a World War Three, which takes the Middle East as a battleground, and its people as victims.

In the midst of a turbulent, not to say blazing East, the FDCD spared no effort in sowing the seeds of peace, disseminating the culture of coexistence and dialogue, and being the glimmer of hope to the youth and to the generation of war, thus urging them not to migrate, but to love, resist and stay in their hometown.

The forum launched more than a just a single initiative in its endeavor to consolidate the values of active citizenship, counter violent extremism, and eradicate exclusive discrimination. This is why the initiatives upheld the concepts and principles of human rights, which underpin their work in its entirety, whether planning, implementation, assessment or cooperation, in each targeted society, and extrapolated the true meanings of justice, equality, coexistence, tolerance and solidarity, thus instilling in the new generation the value of active citizenship, and the will to always strive for civil peace.

Based on the “open arms” policy, the forum’s activity was primarily focused on cooperating with civil society organizations in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq that disseminate the concepts of religious freedom. It has elaborated, in a joint effort with its local and regional partners, a unique declaration entitled “the Charter of Religious Freedom” which addresses urgent matters, such as the need to promote and protect religious freedoms in a moral and rightful manner, to empower people by consolidating their faith, creed, and personal culture, and innovative participation in society. Using the available tools and capacities, and in close collaboration with its partners, the forum has provided assistance to those who suffered from war, and were forced to leave their home and livelihoods, so that they could live with dignity, hold on to their land and culture and never leave their hometown. The forum, albeit small in size, draws on the relentless efforts of its staff, and on the cooperation with its volunteers and friends who are always ready to help, to be the paragon of hope, proving once again that civil peace and the culture of dialogue are the only path to coexistence, to a prosperous and safe future in the Middle East in which we are living, and where we will stay.

This is our promise to you. We will, forever, keep delivering on that promise, with love.

Dr. Riad Jarjour
President
Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue
ON FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2016, FDCD ORGANIZED AN EVENT AT THE SMALLVILLE HOTEL TO CELEBRATE THE VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES WITH THE FORUM. THE EVENT WAS ATTENDED BY LBI INITIATIVE (LEBANON A BETTER IMAGE) VOLUNTEERS, GIZ REPRESENTATIVE MS. URTE LUTZEN, UNDP’S COUNTRY DIRECTOR IN SYRIA, COLLEAGUES FROM VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND FDCD STAFF.

FDCD president Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour opened the event with a welcome speech. Program coordinators Ms. Fadwa Ghaddar & Mr. Charbel Abou Madi spoke about their experience in working with the enthusiastic LBI volunteers and FDCD’s mission and vision and future projects.

“Room 961”, a short movie which was produced and directed by LBI volunteers, was displayed. The director of the movie, Ms. Sarah Rahouly emphasized the essential role of youth in liberating the human being from society’s prejudices and restraints.

“Apeace” mobile application was also released. FDCD volunteers’ team Mr. Robert Gemayel and Mr. Hassan Hashem described the importance of such a platform in bringing peace builders together.

Following that, FDCD volunteers presented testimonies and successful experiences with FDCD workshops.
نظم منتدى التنمية والثقافة والحوار عشاءه السنوي لمجموعة لبنان صورة أفضل LBI في فندق Image بدارو في الثامن عشر من شباط 2016، بحضور رئيس المنتدى القس د. رياض جرجور الذي شدّد في كلمته على ضرورة التّعايش والتّآخي لنقل صورة أفضل عن المجتمع، لافتاً إلى أهمية ما يقوم به الفريق في هذا الاطار.

كما شارك في العشاء، كل Urte Luitzen من السيدة GIZ الممثلة جمعية صموئيل رزق، المسؤول عن برنامج الأمم المتحدة للتنمية في سورية، وفاعليات إجتماعية وفريق العمل.

في البداية تم عرض الفيلم القصير في الغرفة ( Room 961)، الذي كان يتضمن نافذة متحركة مربعة فجهاً من زرقة تُظهر فريق مجموعة لبنان صورة أفضل LBI – Lebanon A Better Image - في فندق Image، في الثاني عشر من شباط 2016، لحفل إعادة توزيع أفضل عنوان للشبل ونشر الفيلم. وشرح المخرج ساره راحولي الفكرة الهادفة من وراءه وهي تُتمحور حول التحرر من القيود التي يمكن أن تؤثر الإنسان في المجتمع، مهما كانت هذه القيود.

كما تم إطلاق تطبيق المنظمة الجديد بالاسم“Apeace” التي يمكن تحميلها على الأجهزة الإلكترونية التي تعمل بنظام ويندوز أو iOS وتم تصميمه لتمكين الشباب من إجراء تحليق في الهواء، ويتطلب التطبيق من خلال التمثيل والوضح من حيث التصميم وطريقة عمله وكيفية التحميل على الهواتف.

تخلل الحفل العديد من الشهادات حول المشاركة في نشاطات منتدى التنمية والثقافة والحوار وأبرزها من ضمنهم برنامج حل النزاعات وبناء السلام في المجتمع، فضلاً عن المشاركة بحفلات جميلة في المنظمات المختلفة.

وظّن منتدى التنمية والثقافة والحوار عشاءه السنوي لمجموعة لبنان صورة أفضل LBI – Lebanon A Better Image - في فندق Image بدارو في الثامن عشر من شباط 2016، بحضور رئيس المنتدى القس د. رياض جرجور الذي شدّد في كلمته على ضرورة التّعايش والتّآخي لنقل صورة أفضل عن المجتمع، لافتاً إلى أهمية ما يقوم به الفريق في هذا الاطار.

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في المنتصف الثاني من النهار، استقبل الشباب المشاركون في المخيم، وخصصت لهم حلقات حوار وورش عمل عن الحياد وكيفية تطبيقه في الحياة اليومية واختتم المخيم بنشاط ترفيهي على الثلج، انتقل خلاله الشباب من برمانا الى كفردبيان للإستمتاع برحلة ممتعة على قمم لبنان البيضاء.
"Running for Peace" is an athletic rally organized by Ghazieh Academic Association in Southern Lebanon. 6000 joggers from various clubs, schools and universities as well as from the Lebanese Army, the General Security and Internal Security athletes joined the event along with participants from Arab and African countries.

The event was both sponsored and attended by the Lebanese General Security Director, Major General Abbas Ibrahim and the president of the Forum for development, Culture and Dialogue Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour. Artists and media representatives were also present.
PEACE BUILDING AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

بناء السلام والحرية الدينية

PEACE BUILDING AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN SYRIA AND LEBANON IS A THREE-YEAR PROJECT WHICH AIMS AT ENABLING SYRIAN AND LEBANESE YOUTH, WOMEN AND MEDIA STAKEHOLDERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE REDUCTION OF EXTREMIST VIEWS AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE OF THE DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS «OTHER». THESE ENTITIES PLAY VITAL ROLES IN COMMUNITIES’ EVOLUTION AT ALL LEVELS AND REFLECT THEIR AWARENESS PULSE AND THEIR SOCIAL IMMUNITY.

يتواصل مشروع بناء السلام والحرية الدينية في لبنان وسوريا لثلاث سنوات، ويهدف إلى تمكين الشباب والنساء والجهات المعنية في سورية ولبنان من المشاركة في الحدّ من وجهات النظر المتطرفة ودعم القبول المجتمعي للآخرين المختلفين دينيًا. تلعب هذه المجموعات دورًا حيويًا في تطوير المجتمع على كافة المستويات وتعكس درجة الوعي والمناعة الاجتماعية فيه.
The project will support these dynamic components to invest in strategies that adopt and promote the values of religious freedom, social cohesion and diversity and confront the persecution of minorities. The program nurtures social integration, challenges extremist dogmas and prejudice through exploring and understanding the concepts of active citizenship, freedom of speech and gender equality as well as establishing collaboration channels between women, youth, media stakeholders and civil society.

The goal of the first year is to raise awareness about the importance of dialogue and to understand the positive behaviors that change conflicts in terms of the impact on religious diversity and acceptance of the other. A workshop was held at the Garden Hotel Brummana between October 26 and 31. 25 women, religious leaders and young civil society activists gathered to share experiences and received four days of training on religious freedom and active citizenship. Participants developed nonviolent communication and dialogue skills, discovered effective and applicable methods to promote active citizenship and build civil peace.

Peace building and religious freedom preserve the social fabric of our communities. The religious, cultural and ethnic structure of the Middle East region reflects a rich and unique portrayal of a harmonious and vivacious blend. The cornerstone of this 3 year program is to defy intolerance and expand the principles of non-violence that build solid bridges through youth, women and media stakeholders. Consequently, these components become positive agents of change in times of conflict, and thus safeguard our identity.

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**PEACE COUPLES**

**Mediation and Conflict Resolution Are Concepts We Often Hear About, But We May Not Realize How Important They Are in Our Daily Lives. Whether There Is a Business, Personal or Legal Dispute, a Good Mediator Will Resolve a Lot of Potential Problems, and Contribute to Society.**

Given the importance of mediation, FDCD organized "Peace Couples": a series of five training sessions on mediation and conflict resolution. The sessions took place in April – May 2016 at the Maronite Diocese of Antelias, and the covered subjects were: The Principles of Mediation, The Role of the Mediator, The Techniques of Mediation, and the final two sessions had the participants practice the mediation skills that they learned. The trainers who provided the sessions were experts from Saint Joseph University’s "Professional Center for Mediation".

As such, the participants gained basic mediation concepts and skills, which enabled them to become more comfortable with resolving conflicts they may encounter in their daily lives, especially as couples.

**ROOM 961**

**Âغرفة ٩٦١**

"Room 961" is a short movie targeting children, youth, and adults that aims to encourage them to reflect on themselves as individuals as well as partners in constructing their country.

The movie focuses on the theme of promoting peace and awareness and is aimed at preventing young people from getting entangled in religious and cultural tensions and conflicts. The movie was displayed in film festivals, schools and universities. Debates and reflective discussions followed to raise awareness among the audience.
THIRTY SEVEN YOUNG LEADERS FROM FOURTEEN COUNTRIES GATHERED IN THE SERENE MOUNTAIN VILLAGE OF DHOUR CHWEIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE & EDUCATION CAMP, IDEC 2016.

In continuation of the foundations set by the previous IWSC camps, IDEC 2016 focused on the subject of preventing violent extremism. The participants were chosen with an emphasis on being educators / trainers / youth leaders so that they may diffuse the knowledge acquired in IDEC 2016 to their audiences in their home countries.

FDCD president Rev. Dr. Riad Jarjour and First Secretary of The Swiss Embassy Mr. Nicolas Masson opened the Camp. Participants engaged in the seven day workshop, dialogue and reflection and interactive sessions. Visits were organized to several areas in Lebanon.

The camp not only provided participants with a deeper insight on violent extremism and how to counter it, but it also allowed them to put the tools they learned into practice through its multicultural aspect. Friendships were built, stereotypes were broken, and a network of youth committed to countering violent extremism and promoting peace was formed.

Cycle for Peace, Sports Spreading the Culture of Peace

The Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue organized its yearly Cycle for Peace event on May 29, 2016 to promote the culture of peace building.

This year, the event took place in the southern city of Tyr, benefiting 20 children from the Zahra refugee camp. This sporting event took place in Tyr’s Public Garden in coordination with “Sour by Bike”.

The Maronite Scouts organized games and activities for the children at the refugee camp while FDCD’s team was preparing and equipping the garden to welcome the young cyclists. When the children arrived, they were offered lunch. Then, they cycled alongside our volunteers in the garden’s courtyard. The children spent a cheerful and memorable day.
In March 2014, FDCD organized an initiative for Syrian reconciliation sponsored by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; several meetings were held in Oslo and led to the adoption of the Oslo Principles mainly stating that for any solution to be sustainable and reassuring for all components of the Syrian society, it should be based on “citizenship.”

In light of these principles and recognizing that a true solution can only come from people who become themselves the catalysts of change in their local communities, and again with the generous support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (through the Norwegian Embassy in Beirut), FDCD launched its project on the Empowerment of Syrian Civil Society Actors in the framework of its ongoing efforts to bring people together, overcome differences and foster peaceful conflict resolution means.

The project aims at spreading a culture of peace, openness and tolerance by upholding the values of Citizenship.

The first step of this project was a training workshop for 31 young participants (between 25 and 35 years old) that took place in Brumana, Lebanon aiming at increased awareness on values and concepts relevant to active citizenship, a better understanding of the positive aspect of difference and diversity and their implications, a better understanding of concepts related to conflicts, violence and peace building, a better understanding of different behaviors in conflict and violence situations, improving skills in problem solving and negotiation techniques.

This group of young Syrians was a sample of the Syrian society, and through the local initiatives they were asked to conduct after the workshop, they will be the small pebble that will cause thousand ripples, spreading a new culture and bringing new hope for a better tomorrow!
Some Personal Impressions After the Workshop:

"I couldn't believe that it was possible for me to interact with people from another region."

Youssef

"If I do nothing to improve my society it means I do not exist."

Mohammed

"I wasn't scared...I saw that I was different, but positively different."

Mays

"We all stayed in Syria, we are all suffering...but our will for life will always be stronger!!"

Nour

"I am optimistic, there is a good level of awareness in our society which we should invest and we can make a qualitative leap regardless of when the crisis ends."

Dima - First time out of Syria

"If you cannot find yourself if you do not belong anywhere...our personal development depends on our contribution to our society."

Abd Al-Majid Saeed

"I am happy...I always had ideas and thoughts, I didn't know they were common to so many people; the workshop was diverse, we had the chance to meet people from different backgrounds...it is very enriching...We all stayed in Syria, we are all suffering...but our will for life will always be stronger!!"

Ola

Youssef...ألفاظه: لم أتخيّل أنّ بإمكاني التفاعل مع أشخاص من منطقة أخرى

«أيقنت المسؤولية...إذا لم أفعل شيئاً، هذا يعني أنني لا شيء.»

Mays...ألفاظه: لم أكن خائفة...رأيت أنني مختلفة، ولكن اختلافي إيجابي

"أنا متفائلة، هناك مستوى جيد من الوعي في مجتمعي، يجب أن نستثمره ونتمكن من تحقيق تقدم مهم على الوجه الأقرب."

Dima - First time out of Syria...ألفاظه: كان تفاعلي مع المسلمين رائعاً. تمكنت من كسر النمطات، أنا لست مجرد عدد...

"أنا سعيدة...لطالما كنت أفكر أنني لم أكن أعرف أنها أيضًا أفكار أخرى، كانت اليونانية مثيرة وسعتها فرصة للفضاء لأفكار أشخاص من مختلف الثقافات. هذا أمر أعجبي. كلفني بالكتابة في ساحة الكتاب، ولكن إرادة ليكنت نفسها الأفق!»

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EMPOWERING WOMEN COUNTERING EXTREMISM

THE EMPOWERING WOMEN COUNTERING EXTREMISM (EWCE) IS AN INITIATIVE THAT IS CARRIED OUT IN COOPERATION BETWEEN FORUM FOR DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND DIALOGUE FDCD AND DANMISSION WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE DANISH-ARAB PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE AT THE DANISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

When it comes to extremism, women are affected, but rarely enabled in countering it!

#Opportunity

Sven Hughes - Global Influence

The EWCE program comes as a result of what our societies are witnessing recently by having so many terrorist groups that initiate violent attacks, destruction and collective killings of people without any respect for human dignity. Unfortunately these extremist groups made extensive usage of social media to spread the hate speech and hate crimes, moreover in luring young women and men to carry out their terrorist attacks. Women’s role is extremely vital and important not only in times of peace but also in times of war.

Despite the crucial role women can play in such circumstances, yet they see themselves marginalized in the making decision process. Women are drawn — or recruited — into vital support roles through effective social-media campaigns that promise devout jihadist husbands, a home in a true Islamic state and the opportunity to dedicate their lives to their religion and their God. This program contributes to enhance the role of women and aims for transparent dialogue, as well as countering and even defying the fear of the rising terrorist groups through effective social media.

In 2016, the program’s outcomes brought to light the mobilization of a group of 30 professionals and activists (women and men) from Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Denmark who succeeded in creating a common space for participants coming from various religious, political and social backgrounds. Participants were empowered in both the networking seminar and the training workshop with knowledge, tools, methodology and ideas, enabling them to launch online campaigns that responded to the local needs of their communities. A toolkit on preventing/countering extremism through the social media platforms has been designed and an online active network has been built to uncover, analyze and understand the different local, regional and global circumstances inducing women and youth to engage in religious dialogue to promote peace and prevent/counter violent extremism.

The EWCE helped in building the participants’ capacity concerning online preventing/countering violent extremism campaigns based on the particularities of each country.

Although we started as a training program, Empowering Women Countering Extremism (EWCE) is aiming to become a collaboration of individuals, organizations and institutions sharing one goal: to make a positive change in our communities and stand firm against violent extremism.

EWCE IS INTER-FAITH AND INTERNATIONAL. WE BELIEVE IN ACTIONS, NOT JUST WORDS. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO BUILD ON THE GOOD WORK THAT OTHERS ALREADY CARRY OUT TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES. THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO COLLABORATE, TO FORM NEW PARTNERSHIPS, AND TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE.
برنامج «تمكين المرأة» في مواجهة التطرف

تمكين المرأة في مواجهة التطرف هو مبادرة مواجهة التطرف التي تديرها منظمة التنمية والثقافة (Danmission) والحوار، وتتأ unins من مندوبية الشراكة الدنماركية العربية في وزارة الخارجية الدنماركية.

يعتبر هذا البرنامج نموذجًا لما تشهده مجتمعاتنا مؤخراً من جراء وجود عدد كبير من الجماعات الإرهابية وقيام هذه الجماعات بالعديد من أعمال العنف والقتل الجماعي والتدمير بدون أي احترام لكرامة الإنسان. ولسوء الحظ، استخدمت هذه الجماعات المتطرفة وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي استخداماً واسعاً لنشر خطاب الكراهية والتحريض ضد الآخر، علاوة على تجنيد الشابات والشبان لتنفيذ هجماتهم الإرهابية.

وبما أن دور المرأة حيوياً ومهماً للغاية ليس فقط في أوقات السلم ولكن أيضًا في أوقات الحرب يجب الأخذ في الاعتبار مدى فعالية الدور الذي يمكن أن تؤديه المرأة في هذه القضايا، إلا أننا نرى في معظم الحالات، أن النساء يتم تهميشهن في اتخاذ القرارات.

وعلاوة على ذلك، يتم إجذاب الشابات والشبان لتجنيدهم للاجتهاد على مدار حملات اجتماعية إعلامية تهدف إلى توفير فرص لأزواج جهاديين متدينين، والتوطين في دولة إسلامية حقيقية، وتوفير فرص لتكريس حياتهم في سبيل الله.

يأتي هذا البرنامج نتيجة لما تشهده مجتمعاتنا مؤخراً من جراء وجود عدد كبير من الجماعات الإرهابية وقيام هذه الجماعات بالعديد من أعمال العنف والقتل الجماعي والتدمير بدون أي احترام لكرامة الإنسان. ولسوء الحظ، استخدمت هذه الجماعات المتطرفة وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي استخداماً واسعاً لنشر خطاب الكراهية والتحريض ضد الآخر، علاوة على تجنيد الشابات والشبان لتنفيذ هجماتهم الإرهابية.

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وفي عام 2016، وذلك ضمن برنامج تمكين المرأة في مواجهة التطرف، تم تدريب مهارات 30 من المهنيين والناشطين من النساء والرجال من لبنان وسوريا ومصر والعراق وتونس والمغرب والأردن والدنمارك. كما نجح في إيجاد أرضية مشتركة للمشاركات والمشاركين من مختلف الخلفيات الدينية والسياسية والاجتماعية، وتعزيز الحوار الاجتماعي، ويشكل هذا البرنامج تحدياً في وجه الخوف المتزايد من نمو مثل هذه الجماعات الارهابية.

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FDCD EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

Since 2011, FDCD’s Emergency Relief has been responding to the crisis in Syria, working to provide people caught up in the violence with essential humanitarian aid. Since 2012, we have been working deep inside the country to reach vulnerable families.

Since the conflict began, FDCD has delivered more than $2 million worth of aid inside Syria, assisting thousands of Syrians. We are distributing food packs, clothes and hygiene supplies to communities under siege within Syria and displaced people. We are also providing livelihood programs and psychosocial support for refugees inside in Syria.

More than half of all Syrians have been forced to leave their country, while those who remain have often been displaced from their homes multiple times. The Syria crisis is entering its sixth year, and humanitarian needs are greater than ever. The effects of this crisis are severely impacting the whole of Syria.
RESILIENCE: enhancing peace-building activities to harmonize the conditions between Syrian refugees and host communities.

The violence in Syria continues to lead to more displacement, destruction and difficulty, threatening people’s lives and affecting access to food and basic services. The number of internally displaced people is increasing, and the sweeping lack of work opportunities to vulnerable women heading their household.

We at FDCD operate in livelihood strengthening by providing work opportunities to vulnerable women in charge of their household. FDCD’s program Emergency Relief focused on not only assisting the deprived host community persons who have lost their homes and their jobs, but also the internally displaced who fled their homes due to the conflict. The program targets food, WASH and Winterization.

Through the generosity of our partners, Canadian Food Grains Bank, Mennonite Central Committee, COSV, Oxfam, HEKS, Damms, Northern Homs Suburbs, and Dinary, the most critical needs are in all emergency sectors of shelter, non-food items, food, health and water/sanitation. These needs must be met in order to adequately respond to the growing needs of new internally displaced people (IDPs) in Syria.

Our operation inside Syria is difficult and dangerous. Our staff and volunteers have suffered a lot in the line of duty as they deliver aid. Indeed, with the destruction of livelihoods because of the war and the sweeping lack of work opportunities across Syria, the need to build resilience in the communities has also emerged. FDCD feels urged to contribute to alleviating the economic hardship and strengthening therefore livelihoods and one particular group suffering from the consequences of war is Syrian women. With the absence of the traditional male provider from the home (death, disappearance, jailing, in militant groups or government forces), Syrian women are becoming at increasing rates head of the household, struggling to support and protect their families. Indeed, the proportion of Syrian women heading households has dramatically increased to reach almost 33% according to the latest reports.

FDCD’s work in this area is guided by several core principles: protection, diversity, equity, access and sustainability and as such we at FDCD have taken work to promote the rights to work and develop strategies and innovations of supporting economic self-reliance among those forced to flee their homes.

We strive to empower them to build strong social, economic and cultural ties with their host communities, and to strengthen their capacity to claim their rights.

We hope that the Syria crisis will soon end, enabling us to contribute to rebuiling of lives and livelihoods that is desperately needed. We would like to thank all our donors who have contributed, however large or small their donations. We hope to continue providing support to Syrians everywhere, assisting their survival and hoping that one day they will be able to return to dignified and peace.

FDCD LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM

The opportunity to work and earn a living is one of the most effective ways people can rebuild their lives in dignity and peace.

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“A drawing and a smile” is a psychosocial support intervention through art which has benefited around 80 children from host communities and refugees in Deir Attiyeh area over a period of four days. Each group was hosted for two days, and the activities touched upon self-identification and how children see themselves, identifying others, and enhancing children’s sense of creativity and imagination through telling stories that the children themselves have created. Stories were told through shapes and colors, and then through puppets.

The second activity was about interviews with children in order to identify their problems, needs, and let them speak about issues that they do not talk about with their parents.
انطلقت مبادرة ورد لتكون نواة مجتمعية تسعى لترسيخ قيم المواطنة الفاعلة ومحاربة العنف والتمييز الاجتماعي من خلال سياسة مفهوم حقوق وواجبات مجتمعنا، فسعت الى اظهار البنية الحقيقية لمفاهيم العدالة والمساواة والتشاركية والتعايش والقبول بالاختلاف وحب التضامن لينهض جيل ورد ويكون جيلا ينشر عبير الوعي للأجيال القادمة، وبهذا تم تجسيد دور المواطنة الفاعلة من خلال ثلاثة فعاليات:

**الفعالية الأولى** في حديقة السبكي في دمشق، تم العمل مع الأطفال المتسولين لأنهم جزء لا يتجزأ من المجتمع من خلال برامج توعية عن كيفية التعامل مع العنف القائم على الأطفال وعلى الزواج المبكر ومساوئه، كلام العدوان، وأيضا تم تقديم برامج احتفالية متنوعة على وجه المطالب والشامئة والمعجمية من عمل الشارع.

**الفعالية الثانية** في م店加盟 تجاري، تم التشارك مع أطفال ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة من خلال برامج توعية تمثل شهم البيئة، وتم تقديم برامج تخطيطية متنوعة على وجه المطالب والشامئة والمعجمية من عمل الشارع.

**الفعالية الثالثة** في دار الأوبرا، وقد حضرتها شخصيات ومنظمات دولية ومجتمع اهلي. تم التنويه على واقع المرأة السورية وما عانته من جريمة تعنيف في ظل الحرب والآثار السلبية (الabus, و family dismantle-ment). أُحرِضت الانتهاكات الشخصية على واقع المرأة، وضع القانون المتعلق بالزواج المبكر، واحترام 권وق المرأة، وأيضا تم تقديم برامج في تحسين الوعي بأهمية إعادة تأهيل الإنسان بالدمج الأولي قبل إعادة التأهيل، وقدمت فيضًا من السلام بكلمة.
“HELLAT HOBB”

It is an initiative that was carried out in February 2016 to celebrate the endless love of mothers who lost their children during the war, the persistent love defying grief and sorrow, concealed wounds and cruel death. The initiative was supported by His Holiness Augustine Ephrem the 2nd. The event was attended by numerous civil society activists.

NEHNA LABAAD

“Nehna Labaad” (We support each other) initiative was conducted in August 2016 at the Karanna care center for the elderly to alleviate the pain of senior citizens facing the hardships of life and hoping to somehow relieve them from their sadness, even for one day.

The initiative was about delivering the elderly with a home-made meal prepared by women who volunteered with our team. Gifts were distributed to all the center’s guests, and artistic performances were presented to 105 elderly people who found themselves totally abandoned due to the life’s cruel circumstances, painful family conditions and a pitiless war.
“An eye on differences, another on conflict” is a documentary about life in Syria.
The documentary was filmed in Tartous with individuals from different backgrounds in Syria, both from the refugees and the host communities and who work in various domains (selling clothes, soap manufacturing, baking, handymen, etc...).

Oum Alaa, an IDP from Aleppo who lost her husband during the war, is baking and selling pastries in the streets of Latakia to support her 6 children.

Ghayth, an IDP from Ghouta who lost everything during the war, started his business over again in Latakia with his friends’ support and is offering free haircuts to IDPs.

Many activities were organized, initiating participants to design development and rehabilitation plans for the areas they live in. Two similar workshops for children followed. “Grandma Latouf”, as the kids called her, was facilitating the workshops and accompanied the children through her storytelling and interactive games. She played a great role in bringing children together and develop friendships among each other.

Activities included interactive theater, coloring, recycling, hiking and outdoor adventures.

Nahel center in Damascus organized a 3 day workshop for youth and gathered 30 participants from different backgrounds of the Syrian society, focusing on active citizenship, tolerance, and dialogue.

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“MY RIGHTS IN COLOR”

“My Rights in Color” is an animation video raising awareness on children’s rights. It was presented to children aged between 6 and 12, in Damascus suburb areas, in cooperation with several groups that provide psycho-social support for children. Coloring books were also distributed, with drawings that emphasize children’s rights.

SYRIAN WOMEN, BETWEEN CITIZENSHIP AND VIOLENCE

Wajaa’ (Pain) is a documentary that sheds light on the hardships and sufferings that Syrian women are enduring throughout the war. It illustrates the terror practiced against them discloses and the stories of women from diverse areas in the country (Lattakia, Tartous, Damascus, Homs, etc.), women who have been subject to both physical and psychological violence for the past six years. Moreover, the documentary features female Syrian activists as well as women who are in positions of influence.

Being part of Ward initiative activities which were organized by the Charitable Society for Sustainable Development, Wajaa’ was projected at the Opera House in Damascus on December 28, 2016.
WORKSHOP ON THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEER WORK

The Charitable Society for Sustainable Development organized a workshop on September 18, 2016 to emphasize the importance of volunteer work and its crucial role in the development of society.

"WE WILL COME BACK" INITIATIVE

"Raj3in" (We Will Come Back) is an initiative where a training of trainers was provided for those who directly work with women and youth, and which took place in Sayida Zaynab area, Damascus suburb. The workshop focused on meetings between the trainees with women and children on a daily basis and working with them on group activities. The training focused on subjects like children rights, non-violence, citizenship, co-existence and tolerance.

Meetings with children included interactive games, drawing and coloring, interactive theater, discussions, raising awareness on the importance of pursuing education and reintegrating children in schools. Meetings with women focused on discussions, innovative projects to develop and sustain the areas they live in, how to rightfully interact with family members, and preventing child abuse.

Women launched several development projects which would provide beneficial support to livelihood. All these are among the topics which elaborate the concept of active citizenship in interactive ways and effective methods for women and children.

لاحتياجات الأشخاص الذين يتعاملون مع الأطفال و السيدات بشكل مباشر تنتمي إلى مبادرة Raj3in (We Will Come Back)؛ التي تهتم بحقوق الأطفال و التكافؤ، و ما قد يعانيه الأطفال والنساء في المجتمع. يهدف البرنامج إلى تعزيز الوعي بأهمية المساهمة في الدعم الاجتماعي. يشمل التدريبات دورات تدريبية مكثفة تركز على تعزيز الوعي بأهمية حقوق الإنسان، و وغيرها من المواضيع المتعلقة بالأطفال و النساء.

تم تنفيذ ورشة تدريبية للمدربين، ضمن مبادرة "راجعين"، للأشخاص الذين يتعاملون مع الأطفال، و النساء بشكل مباشر. يشمل الورشة تدريبات مكثفة على حقوق الإنسان، و حقوق النساء، و كيف يمكنهم التعامل مع هذه القضايا بشكل فعال.

ورشة عمل عن أهمية العمل التطوعي

في 18 أيلول/أغسطس 2016 قامت الجمعية الخيرية للتنمية المستدامة برشة عمل تشدّد على أهمية التطوع ودور المتطوع في العمل الإنساني وكيفية التعامل مع الأمور الجريئة والتحديات المحيطة.

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سياسة "قشوية" في المصطلح الشووري، وهي كلمة تعكس التنوّع في المجتمع الشووري في منطقة سلميّة في حماة، تم تطبيقها في منطقة سلميّة في حماة. تم تجهيز المكان المخصص للمبادرة وضمان استمراره. تم تقديم عدة جلسات تعريفية تتضمن فقرات عزف وغناء تراثي، إضافة إلى فقرات تعارف بين الأشخاص الذين تتراوح أعمارهم بين 40 و 80 سنة، بلغ عددهم 121 مشاركاً.

Activities included dialogue and sharing of experiences. Films and documentaries were screened followed by discussion sessions. Medical awareness guidance courses were provided, in addition to raising awareness campaigns on citizenships, rights, duties, tolerance and diversity. In addition, psychosocial support activities for the elderly were delivered. Arts and crafts workshops were also launched.

"Kashawia" which means basket in the Syrian terminology, reflecting the diversity of Syria’s communities, is an initiative which was organized in Salamiya, Hama. A common space was prepared and equipped to host the initiative and guarantee its sustainability. Several introduction sessions took place and included live music, folklore singing. 121 participants aged between 40 and 90 were present.

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شاملت المبادرة عدة أنشطة من بينها عرض أفلام يليها جلسات نقاش وجلسات شهيرة عن مواضيع محورية. كما تم العمل على تقديم دعم تفريدي للكبار السن عن طريق الفن من أشخاص وعمرات وورشات حرفية وغيرها.

"KASHAWIA" INITIATIVE
"Ready for the challenge" is not only an initiative launched in Aleppo by networking with 16 active organizations in the governorate, but also the cornerstone of the participatory approach needed for the future. The idea emerged from the needs' assessment conducted within the society and from the group's firm conviction (200 volunteers) that only with cooperation can better results be achieved.

The first activity gathered, for three consecutive days, a significant number of volunteers alongside school students in Aleppo, which was itself, a challenge. The activity revolved around ways to overcome four key challenges: thirst of knowledge/ team work/ collective crisis/ personal concerns. They were reflected in recreational workshops and activities that attempted, as much as possible, to create a space of brotherhood and citizenship thus laying the foundations of effective communication between students and volunteers.

"A day of Joy", "day of Hope" is the second activity targeted at the new internally displaced people to Western Aleppo, who got the chance of meeting Santa Claus. The activity aimed at teaching the youth, in particular, communication and oratory skills, consolidating their self-confidence and laying the foundations of effective communication between students and volunteers.

"The Youth Village" is a societal initiative targeting all age categories from different regions in Aleppo, with the single aim of disseminating several concepts such as tolerance, active citizenship, positive approaches to difference and peace. The initiative gathered several volunteers in training sessions that revolved around the various concepts of citizenship and led to three workshops on citizenship held in four different regions during the last four months of 2016, which registered the worst security situation and life threatening conditions Aleppo has ever known.

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"NURTURING DIVERSITY AND PEACE BUILDING” CONFERENCE
ISSUES THE “CHARTER OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM” AND CALLS FOR THE REFORM OF EDUCATIONAL CURRICULA

The Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue, together with the Iraqi Amal Association and the Permanent Peace Movement in Lebanon, concluded the activities of their Regional Conference on “Nurturing Diversity and Peace Building” held at GEFINOR ROTANA Hotel in cooperation with the Mennonite Central Committee with support from Canada. The conference ended with a declaration of principles on religious freedoms, which, in spite of being non-binding, shall constitute a good basis for enhancing religious freedoms, particularly through religious speech as well as through terminologies and attitudes adopted towards the different “other”.
The following summarizes the spirit of the Charter of Religious Freedoms:

Whereas the Concept of Peace Building and Sustainability is based on the respect of religious freedoms with all its aspects, it is our duty to respect these freedoms as an ethical and legal responsibility of all parties concerned.

In order to enable individuals and groups with different ideas, beliefs or religions to nurture their own faith, belief and culture and to take an active and creative part in society.

And in light of religious freedoms including, without being limited to, the following: a) freedom to choose, or not, your religion, b) freedom of worship, and freedom to observe religious holidays, c) freedom of using the necessary resources for the practice of religious rituals and customs, d) freedom to write, issue publications, e) freedom to teach and distribute religious-related books, f) freedom to receive voluntary donations, g) freedom to appoint religious leaders, h) freedom to observe religious holidays and celebrate religious rituals.

We call for the adoption of the following principles:

1- People have the right to belief; hence, no coercion, discrimination or judgment shall be exerted to force conversion or non-conversion. And no one shall be forced to act against their conscience or prohibited from professing their belief in the public social sphere; whether secretly, openly, individually or communally.

2- The conviction of each religion or religious community that their belief is right and true shall not produce any feeling of supremacy or religious community that their belief is right and true shall not be forced or religious community that their belief is right and true shall not be forced to profess a religion different from their own.

3- A democratic state is a state where all citizens are equal in rights and duties; a democratic state has no religious quality. Religion is one of the sources providing ethical basis for its legislation and not a procedural reference.

4- Religious speech should spread religious values such as mercy, love and peace, staying away from hate as well as from any threat, scolding or blame that can be abusive to the dignity and freedom of human beings. Religious speech should avoid any language that feeds into stigmatization and exclusion from religion or from the prevailing beliefs in Fkhri and Ittah.

5- Freedom of criticism in religious affairs and institutions is a right as it prevails in scientific and cultural milieus according to the ethics, constants, and methods of science and in light of its conformity with freedom of expression as long as it doesn’t turn into insult, defamation, offense, orsed but that are not in any way in line with the concept of criticism.

6- Living in Peace away of any moral or material harm is a right for every individual and group. Hence, all forms of violence, particularly political violence exerted in the name of God or religion shall be condemned.

We consider the following as a proper approach of Religious Freedoms should be comprehensive and not limited to religious leaders or institutions; it should take into account all active parties on all social levels.

Therefore, we call, among other issues, for the following:

- Promoting the culture of peace in educational curricula through curricular and extracurricular activities given their considerable effect on forming personalities and as an approach of the practice of citizenship.

- Encouraging governments to modernize their national laws and adhere to relevant international charters and instruments, as well as to conclude bilateral and regional agreements that promote religious freedoms, contribute to the uphold of societies, and uphold regional security and peace.

- Encouraging individuals as well as governmental and non-governmental entities to conduct intellectual or research activity that would provide appropriate sources and references in conformity with local cultures and would flow into nurturing diversity and peace building.

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- Encouraging individuals as well as governmental and non-governmental entities to conduct intellectual or research activity that would provide appropriate sources and references in conformity with local cultures and would flow into nurturing diversity and peace building.
“SPOTLIGHT” IS A THREE-SCENES TARGETED COMIC PLAY STAGED 6 TIMES IN ALEPPO, BETWEEN THE 26TH OF NOVEMBER AND THE 16TH OF DECEMBER, WITH A FOCUS ON ALL THE SYRIAN FAMILIES, WHETHER AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS OR NOT.

The scenes depicted the problems weighing on the Syrian society and families. In fact, the scene “Women clinics” aimed at shedding light on gender discrimination, gender-based violence and questions pertaining to those with special needs, while “In Delay” underscores the pressure to which the displaced Syrian families are subjected, and ways to overcome all the more complex issues and reconsider traditional solutions in order to build a normal family living next to its neighbors which are different, and learning to cooperate with them. As for the third scene, “a sprinkle of salt”, it reflects the situation of the displaced, ways to nurture the spirit of tolerance and collaboration among them, with a focus on socio-ethical issues such as child labor, and the children’s right to education.

The spectators’ interaction with the scenes reflected the spirit of innovation used to raise the issues, which helped deliver the message in a smooth and humorous way. The least we can say about these plays is that they were met with tremendous success in Aleppo, in the presence of 2800 spectators coming from different intellectual backgrounds, and social categories.
BLOOD DONATION FOR THALASSEMIA PATIENTS

We aim to serve society because people who are facing hardships deserve to live in dignity. We are proud to be part of the Charitable Society for Sustainable Development’s mission and thrive to dedicate ourselves to support our fellow human beings. This hard work and commitment has earned us recognition from many organizations and local actors. As part of this mission, the blood donation campaigns for children who suffer from the Thalassemia disorder are still on the run. As such, our volunteer’s participation in this noble cause highlights the importance of giving.
ABOUT US

Founded in 2004, FDCD represents the collective vision, mission and history of the Urban Rural Mission program’s work in the MENA region. As such, the program looks back over 20 years of history of community organizing, leadership, training, spiritual reflection and response to marginalization and dehumanization.

Based in Beirut, Lebanon, with a regional outlook, the Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue (FDCD) offers workshops, conferences, and dialogue sessions to enable society to approach conflicts in a non-violent way.

OUR VISION: Our vision is to reach an enlightened Arab World, where political views, ethnicities and religions are incorporated into a richly diverse culture of peace and dialogue, respecting and promoting the human rights of all citizens.

OUR MISSION: We promote peace building, equal citizenship, and human rights in the Arab World by creating common spaces for dialogue and building the capacity of community and civil society groups to be catalysts for peace.

OUR VALUES: We respect the dignity of every human being, value the diversity of cultures in the region, encourage dialogue and understanding as a means of resolving conflict, and perceive justice as the long term foundation for peace.