



# TAHADDI NEWS

Health and Education Centers summer 2014

With the Syrian crisis and the population influx resulting from it, chaos and injustice prevail sometimes in the poor neighborhoods of Beirut. In Hay al Gharbeh, the most vulnerable ones, poor Lebanese and/or those of gypsy origin, and especially the refugees, are sometimes evicted from their dwellings quickly replaced by «buildings» constructed in haste, never completely finished. They are rented at exorbitant prices, forcing the refugees to move often, only adding to the trauma of war the pressure of losing once again their shelter.



## TAHADDI DEFENDS THE WEAKEST, AND STRUGGLES DAILY TO GIVE THEM BACK HOPE AND DIGNITY.

The last week of June, as we were registering the children for summer activities, political tensions in Beirut were acutely felt by all. Three attacks took place in 5 days.

The regional conflict, in Iraq and especially in Syria, is spilling over into Lebanon, where a third of the population is now made up of refugees! The country has been without a president for several months as religious and political groups are struggling to find a solution. In these conditions, our message of peace and reconciliation is put to the test daily.

The educational center is planning an extension of its buildings, but, in this context, the construction is experiencing difficulty. We welcome more than 100 children in a summer program who came in spite of strong regional tension which cost the lives of three people in the neighborhood. Several families had to sleep in the streets because rival clans fought each other with flaming bottles, which were falling on the dwellings!



At the medical center, however, the new consultation room and small inside courtyard were completed and are being very useful. The physicians, the social worker, the psychologist, the nurse and the director manage each day the needs of dozen of families.

At the prison, the enthusiastic songs of the women and the sharing time in several languages bring hope in difficult situations. A young Kurdish woman and her two children of 8 and 4, have been in prison for several months

for illegal stay. Tahaddi, through Samira who weekly visits the women, is able to bring some milk, goodies and games to alleviate the confinement of the children.

Our team members have been very faithful to come everyday in spite of the tension and danger on the roads. Some days, the AUB doctors were not able to reach our centers but we found replacement so that medical consultations and the social work were carried on every day for the neighborhood families.



the attack of 23 June, on the road that we take daily to reach the Tahaddi center



Thank you for your interest and support that allows Tahaddi to change lives, give hope and bring empowerment.

## ACTIVITIES

In the midst of general chaos, the youth of our educational center are setting the example:

Here they are in the midst of large-scale cleaning of the neighborhood. With their gloves, garbage bags and good humor, they rid the shanty-town neighborhood of garbage, put signs on alleyway corners (see picture) encouraging the passers-by to protect the living area they all have in common.



**ON THE PICTURES BELOW, YOU CAN SEE THE INHABITANTS OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD IN THEIR HOMES AND IN TAHADDI ACTIVITIES :**

**SEWING, COMPUTER, OUTING TO THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE OF BAALBEK AND IN A MODEL FARM. THIS IS A NEW LIFE MODEL THAT IS BEING PROPOSED, REFUSING DESPAIR AND DEPENDENCY, AND AVIDLY SEEKING KNOWLEDGE.**

