

# UTOPIA

a challenging step toward social justice

ANNUAL

REPORT

2018



# CONTENTS

**02 FOREWORD**

**03 ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGURES**

**04 UTOPIA: AN OVERVIEW**

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**06 THE DIVERSE NATURE OF OUR PROGRAMS**

08 COMMUNITY SERVICE

09 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

10 YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

11 CHILD DEVELOPMENT

12 ADVOCACY

**13 VALUES AND GUIDLINES**

---

**14 SPOTLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

15 ANBAR CONCEPT, A WOMEN  
EMPOWERMENT SOCIAL ENTREPRISE

16 ABJAD: FROM AN ABANDONED CINEMA  
TO A SOCIO-CULTURAL CENTRE

18 MEDIA EDUCATION : A NECESSITY  
IN THE NEW ERA

20 PEACE-BUILDING THROUGH  
COOPERATION: A TABBANEH  
COMMUNITY-LED PROJECT

---

**22 BEHIND-THE-STORIES**

22 THROUGH THE ALLEYS  
OF BARRANIYEH

24 TRIPOLI:  
THE ABANDONED JEWEL

26 WHAT'S MORE VALUABLE  
THAN A FOOD KIT?

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**28 PERSONNEL**

**30 BIGGER FAMILY: THE UTOPIANS**

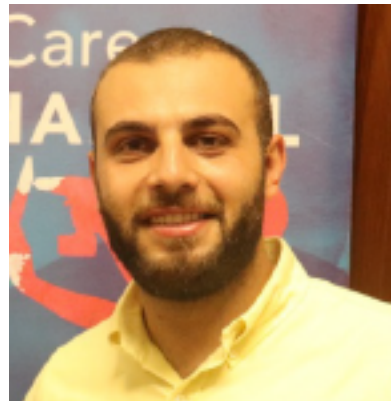
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**32 FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND ALLOCATION**

**33 STRONG AND EVOLVING PARTNERSHIPS**



# FOREWORD



DURING THE PAST FEW YEARS WE HAVE LEARNT THAT EVEN THOUGH WE ARE AN ORGANIZATION, IN A SMALL CITY, IN AN EVEN SMALLER COUNTRY WE ARE VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATE. LIVING, WORKING, AND PARTICIPATING IN THE SOCIAL DISCOURSE OF LEBANON CAN BE COMPLICATED AS OUR BORDERS ARE EASILY PERMEATED BY WAR, REFUGEES, CULTURES, AND CONFLICTS. THROUGH THE EVER CHANGING TIDE OF THE GLOBAL POLITICAL LANDSCAPE, UTOPIA HAS PREVAILED AND CONTINUED TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL AND LIFE CHANGING PROGRAMS TO OUR COMMUNITY, SERVICING

BOTH LEBANESE AND REFUGEE INDIVIDUALS AND SPARED NO EFFORT IN SOWING THE SEEDS OF PEACE, DISSEMINATING THE CULTURE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE 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.

We launched more than just a single community-based project to consolidate the values of active citizenship, counter violent extremism, and spread human security principles. This year we have seen the second year of our successful Social Entrepreneurship project "Anbar Concept", to this we have added our Carpentry Workshop "Al Mashghal" in Tabbaneh. Realizing the importance of social cohesion to mitigate the chances of future violent conflicts between neighborhoods in Baal Al Darawish we have completed another community building project which is a basketball field that aims to bring youths of opposing neighborhoods together in healthy, therapeutic competition which we believe will act as catalysts of peace-building and positive change in their community.

2018 has seen a decrease in hostilities in the Syria Civil War as the country begins to normalize. While we have hoped for an end to the Syrian civil war for many years it has posed some complications within the natural equilibrium of international funding. As funding begins to shift towards Syria directly we are left unable to provide services for the refugees who are still within our community. In the light of this shift, we started to seek new partnership with other Syrian local organizations who share the same strategic

values, goals and responsibilities as ours, hoping that 2019 will be a year of expansion topia as we predict the changing geographic and political climate. Our outreach programs will prospectively leverage us throughout the T5 region of Lebanon and into the Homs region of Syria so we can continue to work with those most vulnerable peoples of not only our Lebanese community, but our global community.

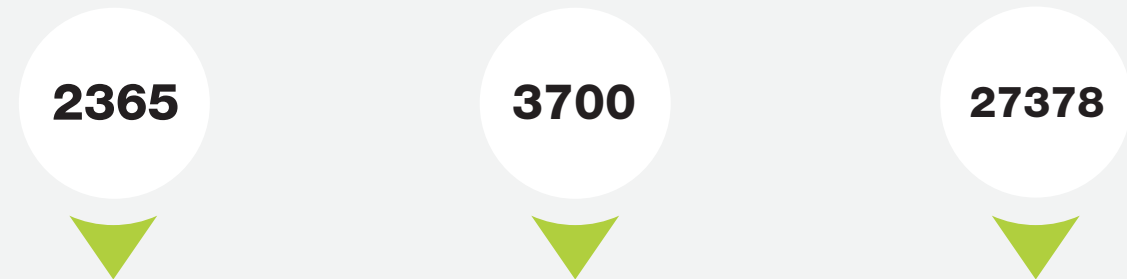
As a local organization, we draw on the relentless efforts of our staff, and on the cooperation with our volunteers and partners who are always ready to help, to be the paragon of hope, proving once again that the culture of social justice is the only path to coexistence, to a prosperous and safe future 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 dedication and commitment.

**Shafik Abdulrahman**  
Programs' Manager - UTOPIA

# ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIGURES

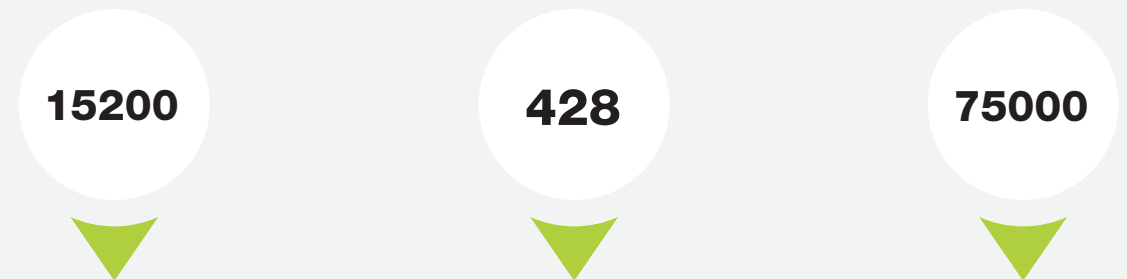
IMPROVED ACCESS TO BASIC URBAN AND PROTECTION SERVICES THROUGH WASH, RELIEF RESPONSE, AND EMPOWERMENT PROJECTS BENEFITING LEBANESE HOST COMMUNITIES AND SYRIAN REFUGEES IN NORTH LEBANON FROM TRIPOLI, MINA, TABBANEH, KOBBEH, JABAL MOHSEN, BAB AL RAMEL, AL KOURA, CHEKKA AND BECHARRE FROM 2013 TO DECEMBER 2018.



**Youth Trainings / Initiatives**  
Capacity building for youth on soft and technical skills, with follow-on activities and community support projects. Trainings included topics such as: need assessment, project design, evaluation, reporting, protection, public affairs, conflict mitigation and resolution.

**Educational & Technical Soft Skills**  
Improved access to school education, after-school support, and capacity and career building workshops.

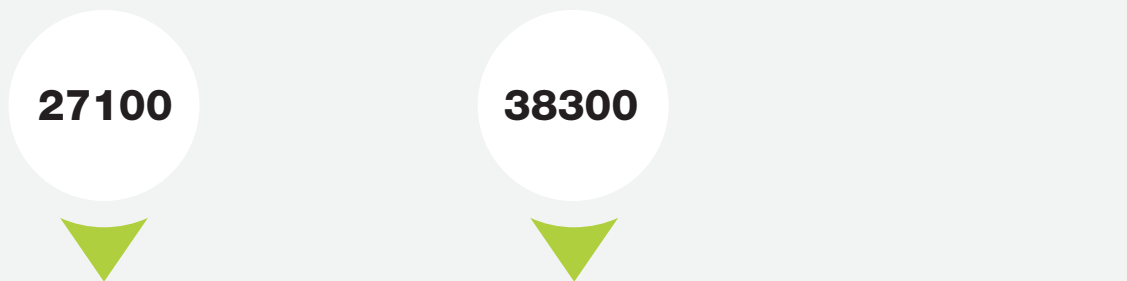
**Protection**  
Awareness sessions on rights and entitlements, protection activities, advocacy on gender equality, referrals to service providers



**Water Management**  
Improved access to water, sanitation, hygiene, implementation of storm water networks, winterization services, access to adequate sanitation

**Job Creation / Placement**  
Strengthen linkages between laborers and employers through placement of unemployed youths in jobs.

**Distribution**  
Distribution of household kits, clothes and food items, personal and infant hygiene kits.



**Infrastructure Projects**  
Enhanced living conditions of renovated neighborhoods.

**Waste Management**  
Rehabilitation of plumbing and sewing networks.

# UTOPIA:

# AN OVERVIEW



## A CHALLENGING STEP TOWARD SOCIAL JUSTICE

UTOPIA ORGANIZATION IS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL, NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ABOLISHING ALL TYPES OF SOCIAL DISCREPANCIES THROUGH SPECIALIZED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT RELY ON VOLUNTARY WORK, IN HOPES OF ACQUIRING SOCIAL JUSTICE AMONG PEOPLE WITHIN THE SAME SOCIETY REGARDLESS OF THEIR POLITICAL OR RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

### MISSION

UTOPIA Organization is a non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to abolishing all types of social discrepancies through specialized projects and programs that rely on voluntary work, in hopes of acquiring social justice among people within the same society regardless of their political or religious beliefs

### VISION

UTOPIA Organization relies on fundraising, and different funding resources that vary between international donors and local private donations to cover operational and programs implementation expenses. We constantly try to reach out to potential partners that share the same strategic values as ours. To achieve our mission, we invest in Community Services, Youth Empowerment, Women Empowerment, Child Development, and Advocacy programs



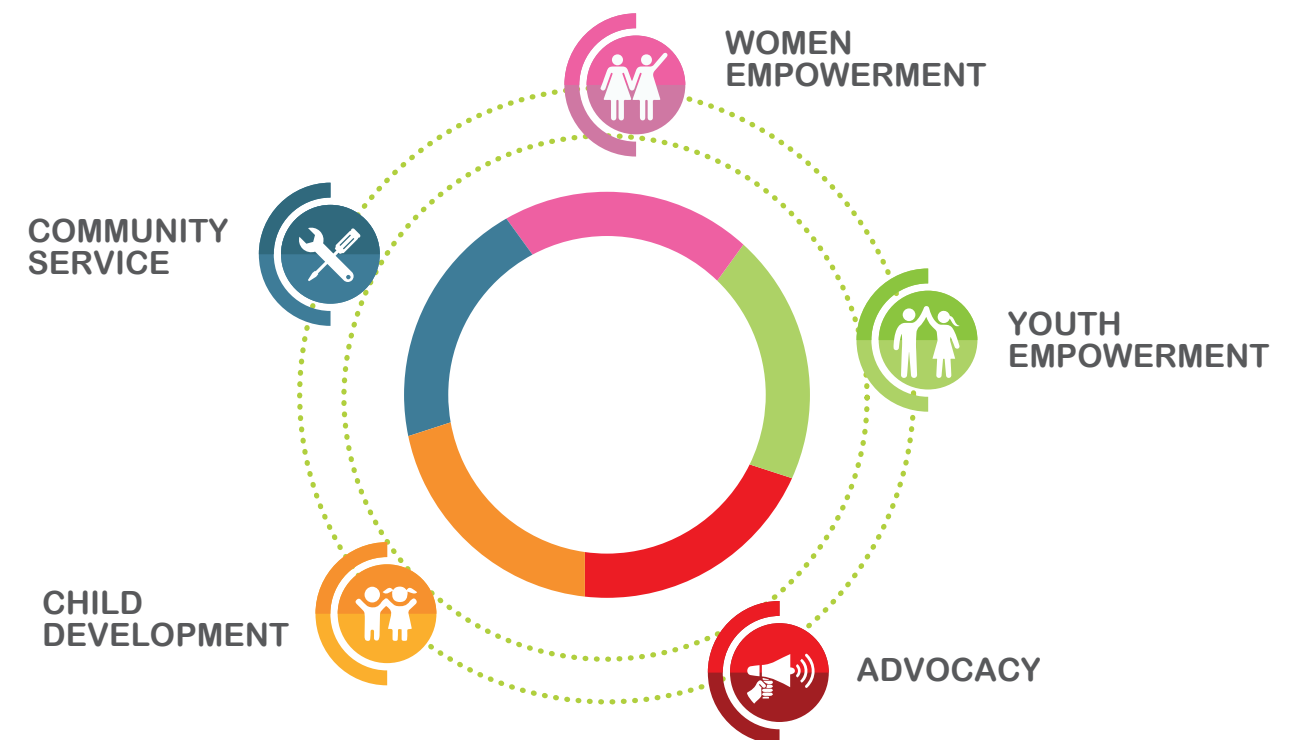
# THE DIVERSE NATURE OF OUR PROGRAMS



## COVERING 360° OF OUR COMMUNITY LIVES' ASPECTS

IN THE AIM OF REACHING THE PERFECT CITY, OUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION UTOPIA WAS FOUNDED IN 2012. ITS FIRST MAIN GOAL WAS TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCATING FOR CITIZENS' RIGHTS IN TRIPOLI AWAY FROM POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTIES.

TODAY, WITH OUR FIVE DIVERSE PILLARS, THE ORGANIZATION IS ABLE TO COVER MOST OF OUR COMMUNITY LIVES' ASPECTS.





# COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



## REHABILITATION AND BEAUTIFICATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS

Mobilizing youth and volunteers for implementation of community developmental projects such as rehabilitation and beautification works especially in the marginalized, conflict-prone areas of Bab Al Tabbaneh, Kobbah, Bab Al Ramel, Abi Samra and Zahrieh.

The projects are conducted by UTOPIA's volunteers with active participation from the local citizens and these works include cleaning works in preparation for following stages of sewage repairs, painting, graffiti and drawings and proper street lighting.

In addition to installation of garbage bins and baskets along the sidewalks with shelters that isolate them from rain and sunlight exposure, planting seedlings, building water points and installation of roofed public seats.

## RELIEF CAMPAIGNS

In light of the difficult conditions that residents in many of the marginalized areas in Tripoli are going through and the status of Syrian refugees in North Lebanon, UTOPIA organizes frequent relief campaigns for the collection of in-kind and financial to aid affected families. UTOPIA also employs its relations with the private sector to collect clothing, shoes, blankets, food, medicines and other needs of the affected families.

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



## AWARENESS-RAISING COURSES

Women empowerment is in fact a form of social justice and human development. From this standpoint, UTOPIA organizes seminars for women from disadvantaged areas in Tripoli such as Bab Al Tabbaneh and Dahr Al Megher on a variety of issues such as drugs abuse, personal and public hygiene, cancer, diabetes and mental health. This is done in cooperation with international NGOs and specialized volunteer doctors. UTOPIA also conducts frequent health services such as Electrocardiography (ECG) and child vaccination.

## VOCATIONAL TRAINING

UTOPIA also provides, women from disadvantaged areas, vocational courses on handcrafts, sewing, and other income-generating skills

This is sure to have a positive long-term impact in terms of improving living standards and reducing poverty of these women and their families.



# YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



## EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Seeking to help youth of marginalized areas to find jobs through linking them to the private sector and increase their chances of employment through conducting training and workshops to gain professional and personal skills.

## YOUTH DIALOGUE SESSIONS AND SPORTS

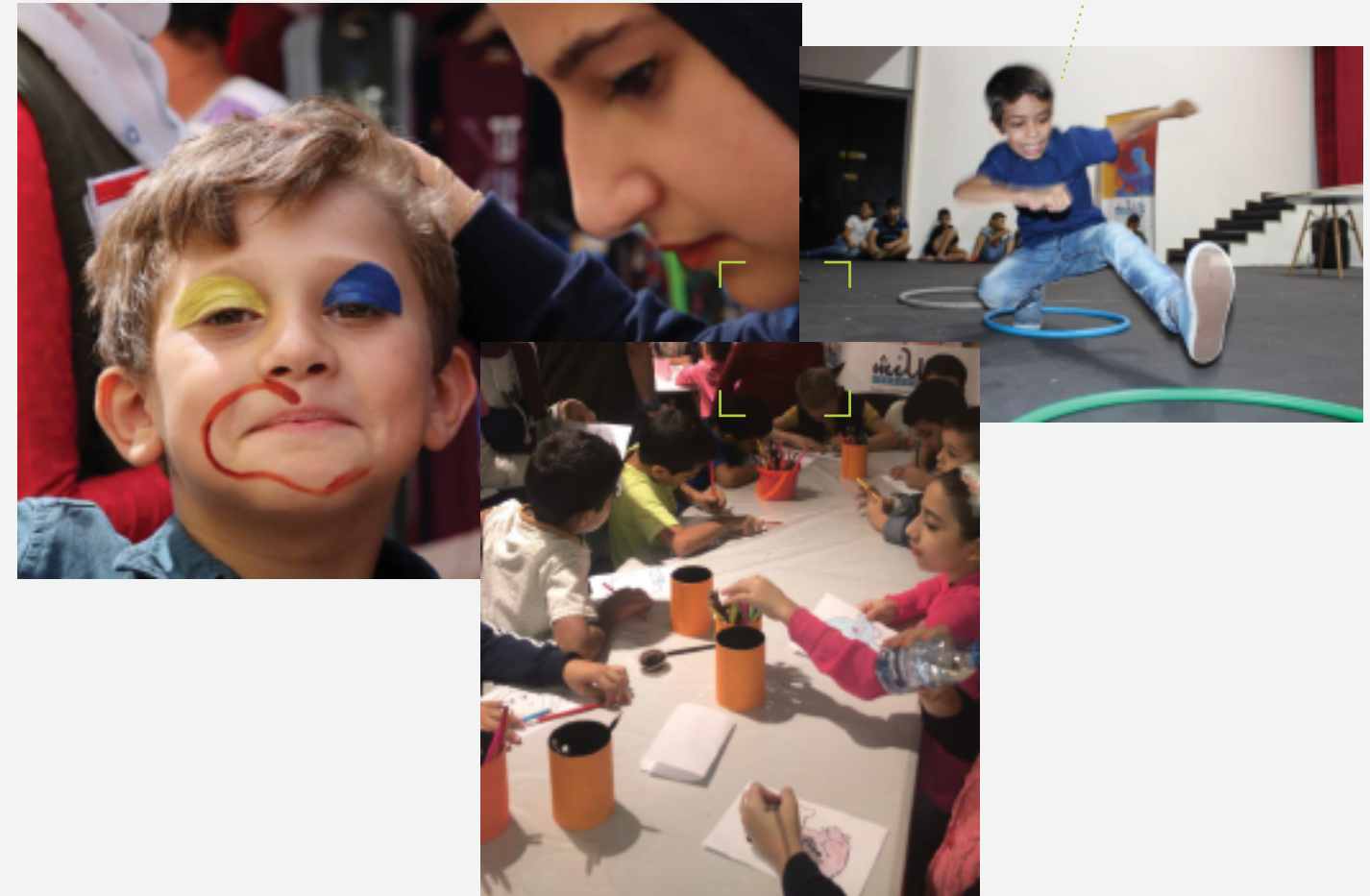
In Tripoli, there is a clear gap between youth from disadvantaged areas and the more advantaged areas. That's why it was so important to make activities aiming to strengthen the integration between the Tripolitans. UTOPIA holds dialogue sessions, where participants

from all over Tripoli can meet, share their opinions and establish a common ground for future cooperation regarding the opportunities and challenges of the city. Also, UTOPIA focuses on sports programs, and organizes football tournaments and friendly matches for the youth to empower their capabilities and help them to become catalysts of peace-building and positive change in their

## CAPACITY BUILDING

Youth receive comprehensive capacity building trainings to equip them with the necessary skills in order to solve developmental issues in their area, pave the way toward finding solutions with the concerned authorities and strive to economically and culturally develop their community. This is achieved through engaging youth in activities and workshops that provide practical work experience in volunteering and advocacy methods.

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



## HANDICRAFTS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Utopia conducts various handicraft workshop and recreational activities for Lebanese and Syrian refugee children from Bab Al Tabbaneh and Dahr Al Megher that aim to bridge gaps between children from different backgrounds and levels of living and provide a free space for expression and a therapeutic medium for Syrian children who are traumatized by the war conditions and the harsh experience displacement. Such an activity also serves to integrate them with Lebanese children.

## EDUCATION

This program incorporates English language courses and awareness camps that include social educational games and activities aimed at promoting International Human Standards among children, increasing respect for pluralism, tolerance, in addition to urging children to comprehend the results of conflicts, acquire humanitarian behavior and a culture of responsible citizenship.

# ADVOCACY PROGRAM



## MOVEMENTS

Any advocacy campaign aims to develop and run an effort to force a specific change, like improving municipality responsiveness to basic citizen needs especially in conflict-prone and marginalized communities.

The campaigning starts with a general assumption that the target decision makers need both the rationale and the encouragement to take the right action, and that is what Utopia aims for from running any campaign. It seeks stakeholder support to influence decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions, urging them to respond more effectively to the matter.

## AWARENESS

### CAMPAIGNS

Any advocacy movement should be preceded by an awareness campaign regarding the subject. It is mandatory to inform the public about the matter, its consequences and externalities in order to be able to mobilize the general opinion and to get them to take action.

Additionally, the awareness campaign aims to inform and train the public on civil rights and duties and municipal governance.

Different mediums are used for this goal, from traditional educational brochures and seminars to more creative and unusual flash mob and videos

# VALUES AND GUIDLINES

UTOPIA ORGANIZATION PROGRAMS ARE GUIDED BY A SET OF CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES THAT ARE ALSO SHARED AMONG ITS MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS:

## JUSTICE

Working towards achieving social justice among people within the same society regardless their political and religious beliefs.

## DEVELOPMENT

Basing our programs and activities on urban, community and human development as key developmental priorities.

## VOLUNTEERISM

Relying on voluntary work to implement our programs and achieve our mission of social justice and citizen equality without seeking to realize any profit.

## CITIZENSHIP

Inspiring a culture civic awareness and equal citizenship in the Lebanese society and Tripoli in particular to make the change we aim to achieve.

## EQUALITY

serving beneficiaries of our programs regardless of their religious, political, gender, and demographic affiliations.

## NEUTRALITY

Gaining trust of all our stakeholders and so we refrain from engaging in any partisan or religious dispute.





# SPOTLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



## ANBAR CONCEPT, A WOMEN EMPOWERMENT SOCIAL ENTREPRISE



The sewing mill “Anbar Al-Khiyatin” is a social enterprise, that aims at achieving the economic empowerment of women and strengthening their role in society by creating job opportunities for women in need.

This initiative, lunched in 2017, is funded by the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (managed by OCHA)

### ANBAR'S TAILORS ARE WOMEN WHO FACED SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CHALLENGING PROBLEMS.

They came from different deprived areas of Tripoli and were trained on how to use sewing machines. With their remarkable strength and determination, they were able to defeat their rough circumstances and learn a new craft that enabled them to become financially independent and capable of supporting their families.

With no time, the mill was able to offer high end products at an affordable price, and Anbar's tailors were ready to execute any custom design.

After almost one year of launching “Anbar Al-Khiyatin”. UTOPIA noticed the need of a showroom to boost the sewing mill sales. And here came: Anbar Concept store, which could be seen as an expansion of “Anbar Al-Khiyatin” sewing mill.

### TALENTS' INCUBATOR

The store has two main goals, first and as a physical point of sales, it showcases the production of “Anbar Al-Khiyatin's” tailors. This point of sale opens new markets and economically sustains our operations in the sewing mill, enabling us to recruit and benefit more women.

Second, it strikes as an incubator for all the local talented individuals in the world of fashion, embroidery and handicraft by encouraging and embracing young talents. The upper floor of this store offers to young designers an open free space, where they can create, execute and showcase their own ideas.





# ABJAD: FROM AN ABANDONED CINEMA TO A SOCIO-CULTURAL CENTRE

ABJAD, THE RENOVATED CENTER PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS “CINEMA AL ANDALOS”, IS A WELCOMING, ATTRACTIVE, AND FUNCTIONAL SPACE THAT THOUSANDS OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS, RESIDENTS AND VISITORS, FROM VULNERABLE NEIGHBORHOODS USE EACH YEAR AND BENEFITS FROM ITS SERVICES. IT AIMS TO ENHANCE RESILIENCE AND LIVING CONDITIONS FOR MEN, WOMEN, YOUTH AND CHILDREN, IN BAB EL TEBBANEH AND JABAL MOHSEN NEIGHBORHOODS.



This social-cultural center is a part of Shankal Project funded by United Nations Human Security and Japan Government; implemented by UN-Habitat, UN Women & UNICEF; in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Tripoli Municipality and UTOPIA for Social Justice.

## THE CENTER MISSION

As a safe space and the first of its kind community center, **ABJAD** is utilized for the protection, income generation and livelihood opportunities of vulnerable women and youth from both refugee and host communities in the city of Tripoli specifically Jabal Mohsen and Tebbaneh. It targets men, women, youth and children to improve their life conditions, through: life skills, vocational Training, engaging them in cultural and prevention programs based on human security principles.

## ITS PROGRAMS STIMULATE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VITALITY OF THE AREA

The Center's ability to accommodate a large number of individuals, and the presence of a cinema/ theater, a public library and a computer lab make it the ideal place for carrying out any cultural, artistic or social activities. Therefore, any organization can benefit from its open space.

Today, ABJAD is hosting tens of activities implemented by other partners, Working under and beyond “Shankal Project”. Including local and international NGOs, Networks, grassroots and individuals: Abaad, Fayhaa, Basme W Zaitune, Safadi, Rahme medical center, Shababik, Caravane, Right to Play, Oxfam, LEO Club, etc.



Before / After Renovation

## CINEMA RENOVATION

During the 60's, Cinema Al Andalos; located in Syria Street - Bab El Tebbaneh; lived its golden age. At that period, the city had 34 Cinemas, including the biggest cinema in Lebanon with a capacity of 900 seats, and going to cinema's was a habit for all Tripoli's citizens.

Unfortunately, during the civil war, most of the cinemas were destroyed and used as a base for fighters from both sides. Nowadays, Tripoli is left with only one cinema and watching movies become a privilege to few.

## CONFLICT ZONE

ABJAD is located in Syria street in Tebbeneh, this is literally the demarcation line between two conflict zone, Jabal Mohsen and Tebbene. A very sensitive point, where the social situation could be best described as being either stagnant or on the verge of exploding. It is contained, many describe it as a ghost town.

Bab El Tebbaneh is one of the poorest areas in Lebanon. In a recent report issued by the UN, Tripoli and Bab Al Tebbaneh particularly scored the highest rates in poverty, unemployment, and illiteracy, 51% of Bab Al Tebbaneh residents live below the poverty line.



The areas have suffered from negligence of the state over the last three decades causing a lack of civic engagement and an increasing tendency for youth to take part in the ongoing violent clashes.

The targeted areas are characterized by very high poverty rates. In addition to high population growth, the increased influx of rural migrants and refugees has led to the shortfall in adequate housing and provision of basic urban services.

Particularly in regard to basic urban services, claim-holders have experienced difficulties in asserting their rights and duty-bearers in fulfilling their obligations regarding such as access to water and sanitation, education and health facilities.





# MEDIA EDUCATION : A NECESSITY IN THE NEW ERA

IN CRISES AND WARS, MAINSTREAM MEDIA TURNS INTO A PRIMARY SOURCE OF INFORMATION. WITH THE NEW MEDIA TECHNOLOGY AND THE BIG TRANSFORMATION IN THE COMMUNICATION SECTOR, EVERYBODY WITH A SMARTPHONE BECAME A JOURNALIST, WHAT WE CALL "JOURNALIST CITIZEN". SO ANYONE CAN PUBLISH NEWS, IMAGES, VIDEOS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA. THIS TRANSFORMATION IN THE NATURE OF THE NEWS MEDIA AND THE WAY WE PRODUCE NEWS, PUT FORWARD MANY RISKS, INCLUDING INACCURATE NEWS AND FABRICATED IMAGES.



The goal of this project is to sensitize youth, as they are the most frequent users of social media, to the danger of relying on Facebook, WhatsApp or any other media platform as a single source of information.

Under this project, we organized a workshop targeting youth from Jabal Mohsen and Bab Tebbaneh. The training focused on how to formulate news in an objective manner and on the latest techniques used to validate the source and credibility of an image.



## MEDIA EDUCATION WORKSHOP

From here, Utopia realized the importance of media and participated in the "Media Education" project funded by the European Union and the German Foreign Ministry and implemented by the Permanent Peace Movement and Utopia organization.



## COMIC BOOK: "STORIES FROM AL FAYHAA"

### OUR CITY IS STEREOTYPED AND DEPICTED AS A WAR ZONE

Additionally, a comic book was created, whose purpose is confronting extremism through media literacy. This "Comic Book"; named "Stories from al Fayhaa"; is



a two-part fictional story taking place in the city of Tripoli, known locally as "al Fayhaa" city. The story portrayed the media as a ghost seeking to distort the image of the city. As a result, "Al Fayhaa" is stereotyped and depicted as a war zone that people are afraid to visit

The story mirrored the youth's point of view who believe that Tripoli leads the news only during the period of clashes, but all other cultural and touristic events are kept in the shadow.



Nonetheless, the events showed hidden heroes, who work constantly and succeed eventually in improving Tripoli's image and showing it as a city of life and joy



# “PEACE-BUILDING THROUGH COOPERATION” PROJECT

IOM Lebanon’s community stabilization programming in North Lebanon seeks to enhance social cohesion and stability, in order to decrease tensions between Syrians and Lebanese in many areas in Lebanon. This community-led project is a part of “Peace-building through cooperation” funded by the Government of Canada and implemented by the International Organization for Migration, in partnership with UTOPIA.

Twenty-Four key influential people from Al Darawish. They have been through a period of three months of conflict resolution mentorship. They were trained on the basics of problem-solving, teamwork, conflict resolution, and project design. These sessions were a chance to bring people together, to encourage communication, to improve the perception of one another, to address community needs and suggest collective solutions.



## ENHANCING SOCIAL COHESION AND STABILITY

Baal Al Darawish, which is one of the poorest areas in Lebanon, was chosen to implant the IOM project in. The main object of this intervention is to resuscitate the community’s dormant sense of agency and ownership in Tebbeneh while bringing together Syrian and Lebanese families to collaborate for their own advancement and alleviate the tension amongst them.



## SYRIAN-LEBANESE COMMITTEES

Two Syrian-Lebanese committees have been established, and they attended several sessions, which took place at ABJAD Socio-Cultural Centre. Each committee was formed by a

By the end of the project, two social action initiatives have been implemented, which benefit the entire community, exclude no one and require the collaboration of Syrian and Lebanese families to be sustained.

## MALE COMMUNITY-LED PROJECT

The male committee project was a basketball court in Baal Al Darawish. The aim of the court is to provide the opportunity to build constructive social relations between Lebanese and Syrian youth, by affording a safe and equipped place where they can play basketball together. Such sports activities empower youth’s capabilities and help them to become catalysts of peace-building and positive change in their community.



## FEMALE COMMUNITY-LED PROJECT

The female committee project was a workshop carpentry “Al Mashghal”, where women make handcrafts and sell them. This project aims to achieve the economic empowerment of women and strengthening their role in society by creating job opportunities for them, which protect them from exploitation.





**BEHIND-THE-STORIES**

**THROUGH THE ALLEYS OF BARRANIYEH**

FEW STROLL ALONG THESE RUMPLED ALLEYS, THIS IS AL HARRA AL BARRANIYEH...ONE OF THE POOREST DISTRICTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. TRIPOLI ACTUALLY WITNESSES A HUGE IMBALANCE BETWEEN ITS SUBURBS. AND HERE THE IMAGES CAPTURED ARE FAR FROM 2018. SILENT PATHS, LOCKED STORES AND WANDERING CATS. THIS BAFFLING MAZE EMBRACES MANY DEPRIVED FAMILIES, MOST OF THE MALES ARE UNEMPLOYED, FEW KIDS ARE CAPABLE OF ATTENDING SCHOOLS WHILE OTHERS DON'T GET THE CHANCE TO RECEIVE ANY EDUCATION.



UTOPIA dared to knock these rustic doors, where a thousand stories aches the heart. Actually, UTOPIA with ACTED and Centre de crise has implemented an urgent shelter, water and sanitation intervention that aims at improving the living conditions of Syrian refugee households and others in Barraniyeh area in Tripoli. The projects has targeted 76 houses and provided them with plumbing, electricity, carpentry work etc. As well as various repairs and installations for each house. Plus, recreational activities, protection awareness sessions, and hygiene promotion sessions has been offered to beneficiaries.

In fact, Harrat al Barraniyeh witnessed several intermittent clashes that occurred between Al Jabal And Tebbaneh, amid the Lebanese civil war in 1976 until the year 2013. Locals here, who suffer from extreme poverty, are still very welcoming and wear from ear to ear a bashful smile. Utopia embraced a number of kids living within these alleys and organized PSS sessions for them, in hopes that it would ease some of their despair and divert them from the ugly reality they face everyday. In a country badly governed, wealth became something to be ashamed of, specially once you confront such miseries. these places do not demand minor changes, they necessitate urban planning as well and psychological assistance to the people living in such doomed areas...

*NGO'S ARE DOING THEIR BEST TO MAKE A CHANGE, BUT SHOULDN'T THE GOVERNMENT TAKE ACTION AS WELL?*

**SINCE SURVIVAL IS THE BASIC INSTINCT, EVERYTHING ELSE BECOMES IRRELEVANT**





BEHIND-THE-STORIES

## TRIPOLI: THE ABANDONED JEWEL

UNFORTUNATELY, TRIPOLI HAS BEEN ENDURING A NEGATIVE REPUTATION IN RECENT YEARS WHICH HIGHLY INFLUENCED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES. SOME BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE LIVING IN OUR DEAREST TRIPOLI ARE BARBARIC AND UNCIVILIZED. WHILE IN REALITY, TRIPOLI IS STILL CALLED: "EM EL FAZIR", "THE POOR'S MOTHER", BECAUSE THERE IS STILL A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN GET A KAAKE (BAGEL) FOR LESS THAN 0.5 \$! TRIPOLI EMBRACES A VARIETY OF PEOPLE WITHIN, WE HAVE EDUCATED PEOPLE, DOCTORS, ENGINEERS, PROMINENT INFLUENCERS, ADVOCATES FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, PHOTOGRAPHERS, MUSICIANS, BLOGGERS, AS WELL AS POOR, UNEMPLOYED AND ILLITERATE PEOPLE, JUST LIKE EVERY CITY IN THE WORLD.



Since Tripoli is our main concern, and people always have misconceptions about the city, UTOPIA constantly organizes Cultural Tours to introduce Lebanese citizens as well as foreigners to the archeological, historical and gastronomical major sites in the city. Our tours unfold an inclusive rich experience that allows our tourists to explore Tripoli's rich culture, mouth-watering cuisine and wonderful people. The parades embrace sightseeing to the most recognized attractions of the city, passing by Tripoli's Citadel and Al Mansouri Great Mosque. While visiting these forgotten places, Tourists often express their astonishment and declare their admiration of the sites. When the tours end we always encounter comments like:

**I'VE NEVER THOUGHT TRIPOLI  
COMPREHENDS SUCH BEAUTIFUL HISTORICAL SITES!**

These words make us even prouder of our Tripoli and encourage us as an organization to develop these tours and keep them going.



Moreover, as part of the project "Hayda Lubnan" funded by GIZ the German Agency and under the title of "War Tourism", Utopia organized numerous tours in Tebbaneh, Jabal Mohsen and Qobbeh, to introduce people to the context and background of the violent clashes that were ceased in 2014 and to shed light upon how it affected locals living in these marginalized regions.



BEHIND-THE-STORIES

## WHAT'S MORE VALUABLE THAN A FOOD KIT?

LAST YEAR, UTOPIA'S TEAM HAS LOST THE SUPPORT OF THE GORGEOUS FAMILY OF EM ALAA AND ABOU ALAA, WHEN THEY TRAVELED. HAPPILY, THE FAMILY SUCCEEDED TO BE RESETTLED IN CANADA, AFTER SPENDING ALMOST FIVE YEARS OF REFUGE IN LEBANON.



"I can't say it was easy. We went through hard times, and we felt down sometimes. We came to Lebanon in 2012, when safety was nowhere to be found in our country. It is not lovely to be a refugee, especially in these hard times. We left our home and got displaced several times, until we got to Mallouleh, the lovely neighborhood in Tripoli. At that time, we had some savings, that were supposedly enough for us to guarantee our lives for at least a year. We gave him the money to support us in establishing a business, he was my husband's friend, he took the money and disappeared! We were exploited, just like hundreds of other refugees! By then we realized how important it is to support refugees. We believed that information and knowledge value more than a food kit in time of crisis, and this what we committed to do, by our volunteering with the protection team", explains Em Alaa.

The beautiful couple were active volunteers with Utopia for more than four years. Along with their peers, they were the eyes of the team in the field. They succeeded to refer more than 50 families from the deprived communities of Tabbaneh and Mallouleh to benefit from our Temporary Cash Assistance Projects, and more than 20 newborn child to be registered in the Nufous. Additionally, they learned how to directly get linked with service providers. They advocated for education for children amongst their communities, and empowered their peers to independently get to medical services available for them. "We are all in this together. It is our duty to support our neighbors, relatives and friends. Even in hard times, offering support is a bless. Nothing made me happier than knowing that I was a reason for a child to overcome statelessness, when I helped their parents to accomplish birth registration processes. Spending hours receiving training was not a loss of time as I've been told by some people. All the information we received were our weapon to fight ignorance, and to overcome skipppable troubles."

INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE VALUE MORE THAN A FOOD KIT IN TIME OF CRISIS



# PERSONNEL

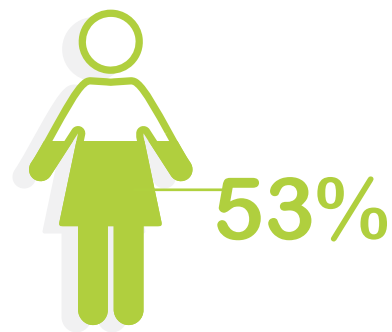
ORIGINALLY LAUNCHED BY A SMALL GROUP OF ENTHUSIASTIC SOCIAL ACTIVISTS, UTOPIA IS NOW A STRUCTURED LOCAL ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF APPROXIMATELY 19 EMPLOYEES AND MORE THAN 50 LOCAL VOLUNTEERS WHO ALL SHARE THE SAME SET OF CORE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES. YEAR AFTER YEAR WE ARE DOING OUR BEST TO ENSURE A GENDER DIVERSITY IN THE WORKFORCE, TOPPING THIS YEAR A SHARE OF 55 PERCENT FOR WOMEN.

Our successful development is driven by people: it is our staff whose dedication and expertise help to raise public awareness and advocate for citizens' rights in all over Lebanon and Tripoli in particular.

experts who serve as focal points dispersed in all the active regions of the organization. These focal points help the organization in outreach and community engagement. They are involved in all stages of our projects. They are our engine to apply the DO NO HARM approach.

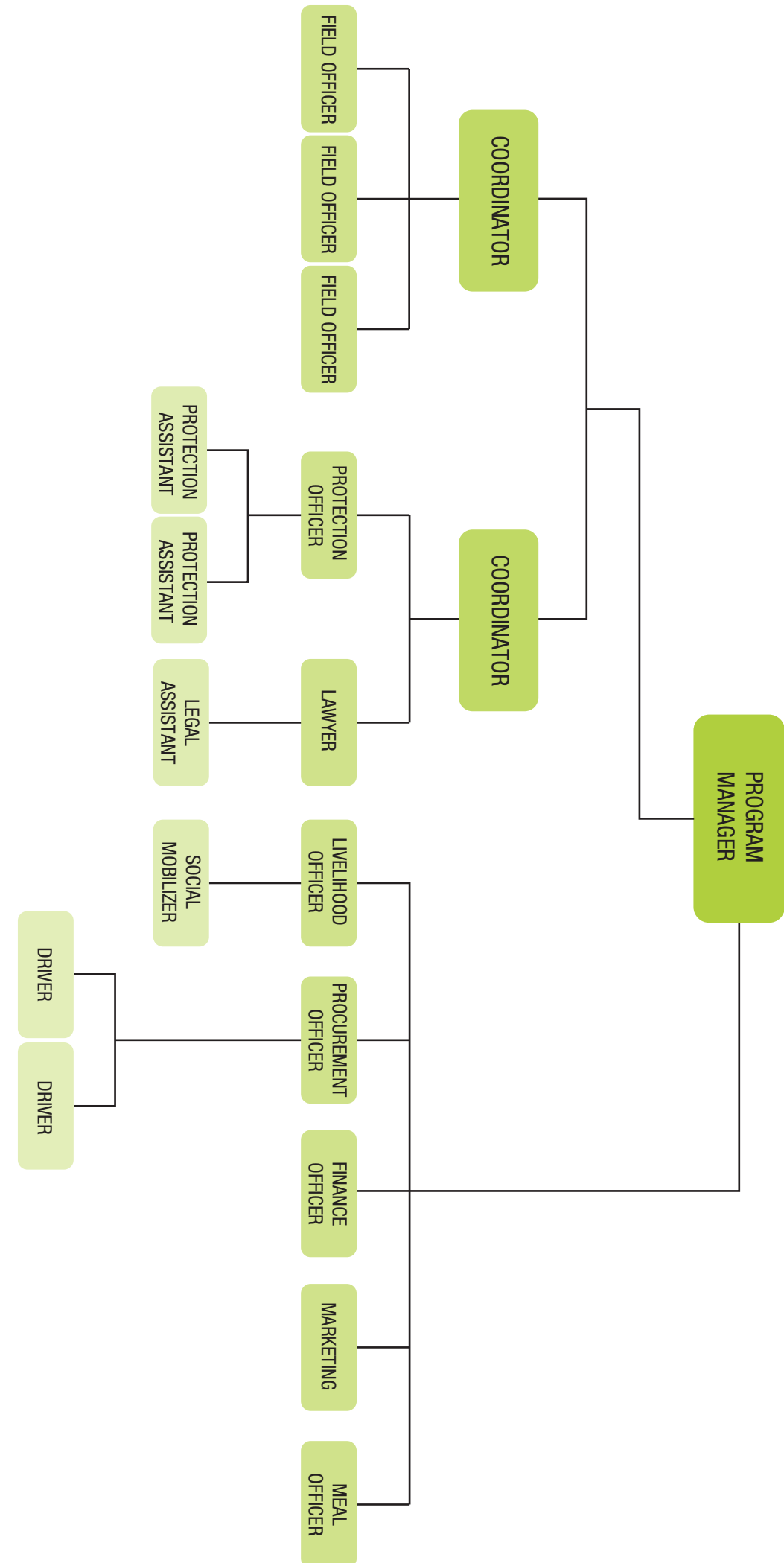
In addition to our long-term and short-term experts we have around 20 integrated

Name	Position	Dates Acted
Abdel Jawad Ahmad	Field Officer	2016
Ahmad Ibrahim	Field Officer	2013
Catherine Jabaly	Finance Officer	2018
Farah Al Badawi Najjar	Protection Assistant	2012
Ghina El Mouhammad	Social Mobilizer	2018
Habiba El Ghor	Livelihoods Officer	2016
Hanin Ibrahim	Marketing Specialist	2017
Jihan Takla	Protection Officer	2016
Joshua Alam	MEAL Officer	2018
Kazem El Ali	Procurement Officer	2014
Khaled Safadi	Field Officer	2016
Khodor Harrouk	Driver	2013
Maher Saada	Driver	2014
Nermine Al Ahmad	Lawyer	2018
Nour Jamali	Protection Assistant	2018
Rayan Abdallah	Legal Assistant	2018
Shafik Abdul Rahman	Programs Manager	2012
Suha Allouche	Coordinator	2014
Yehia Harb	Coordinator	2012



**PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE**

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





**BIGGER FAMILY:  
THE UTOPIANS**



**GIVING IS NOT JUST ABOUT  
MAKING A DONATION;  
IT IS ABOUT MAKING  
A DIFFERENCE.**

UTOPIA ORGANIZATION RELIES HEAVILY ON VOLUNTARY WORK FOR ACHIEVING ITS MISSION. UTOPIA'S VOLUNTEERS ARE THE BACKBONE OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THEY COME FROM ALL THE WALKS OF LIFE: THEY INCLUDE PROFESSIONALS AS WELL AS ENTHUSIASTIC SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS. THESE DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS HAVE TAKEN ON THE MISSION OF RAISING CIVIC AWARENESS AND IGNITING A SPIRIT OF CHANGE AMONG THE TRIPOLITAN SOCIETY.

**UTOPIA'S VOLUNTEERS**

Abdel Wahab Nahhas	Donia Rifaie	Mohamad Firas Harba	Rasha Hamad
Ahmad Halabi	Farah AlBadawi AlNajjar	Mohamad Helou	Rayan Hrayshieh
Alaa Al Jundi	Hadi Rifai	Mohannad Fattal	Razan Akkari
Amjad Al Daher	Houssam Jeblawi	Mounira Wehbe	Reina Dib
Amar Al Cheikh	Houda Moussawel	Mouna Msawwel	Rim Al Eter
Aya wehbe	Ifdal Soboh	Nada Abdallah	Ruba Habbous
Bayan Shatyla	Jana Krayem	Nisren zariaa	Samira Samarji
Dana Abdel Karim	Jana El Helweh	Nivine Zariaa	Sarah Hindi Zakaria
Dana Hobala	Kamar Al sheikh	Omar Abbas	Widad Mostapha
Diala Rifaie	Mariam Ghieh	Rami Masri	Wissam Ibrahim
Dima Abdallah	Mira Abdel Karim	Ranim Namani	

*Making a difference is drawing a smile on peoples face, and this is one goal I look forward to everyday* **RASHA HAMAD**

*Utopia gave me the opportunity to help others and to open up to societies in need of change and development. Thanks to that, I was able to develop myself and feel satisfied* **REINA DIB**

*If anyone wants to know what is the real meaning of "TEAM" Together Everyone Achieve More ...He should be with Utopia... I Love that great staff ...They are the best Friends* **NOUR JAMALI**



# FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND ALLOCATION

## INCOME SOURCES

As a non-profit organization, UTOPIA relies on donations for funding projects, operations, salaries, and other overhead costs. Donations are the only form of income sources for our organization. They derive from local and international organizations and individuals who share the same strategic vision as ours.

96% DONORS



4% INDIVIDUALS

## PROGRAMS' FUND ALLOCATION

37% SOCIAL STABILITY AND LIVELIHOOD



26% PROTECTION

20% WASH

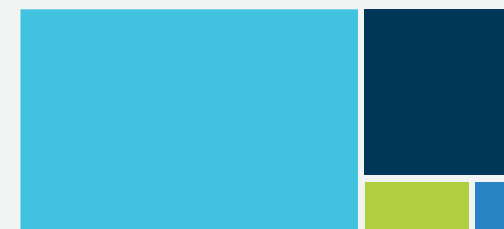
7% BASIC ASSISTANCE

6% ADVOCACY

4% EDUCATION

## FUND ALLOCATION

69% PROGRAMS



24% HR AND ADMINISTRATION

5% CAPACITY BUILDING

2% FUND RAISING

The Major part of the funds (69%) goes for financing our main programs and the fund allocation is as below:

The Social Stability and Livelihood programs, have the largest share of the funds (37%).

26% goes for Protection program which attempts to promote and provide legal and physical protection, and minimize the threat of violence.

20% goes for WASH program which mainly aims to facilitate the access to sanitation, and water supply in the poor area.

7% goes for providing Basic Assistance to respond to emergency situations.

6% goes for Advocacy Program which include awareness campaigns and movements.

4% goes for Education program which aims to improve access to school education.

# STRONG AND EVOLVING PARTNERSHIPS

TO MEET LOCAL GOALS AND ADDRESS INDIVIDUAL ISSUES, UTOPIA FOCUSES ON FORWARD PLANNING, RAPID RESPONSES IN CRISIS SITUATIONS AND EFFICIENT COOPERATION.

In the face of the current global challenges, partnerships between government, the private sector, municipalities, local and international organizations are now more crucial than ever. We are always trying to increasingly entering into a broad range of new partnerships as we seek to learn with and from our partners in order to

address the current challenges as best we can. This can only be achieved through a cycle of shared knowledge arising from short term assistance and long term approaches, leading to multiplying UTOPIA's resources and capacities.

Our donors and Implementing partners share the same strategic values as ours and a common ideal for the future of Tripoli. They further the mission of UTOPIA Organization through financial, in-kind and knowledge support.

*\*The logos below are listed according to an alphabetic order.*





UTOPIA ORGANIZATION IS AN ESTABLISHED NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND REGISTERED AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND MUNICIPALITIES UNDER THE NUMBER 1729 DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2012. ITS FINANCIAL RECORDS ARE AUDITED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

THIS ANNUAL REPORT PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE LOCAL SERVICES OF UTOPIA AS WELL AS ITS FINANCIAL DATA AND INDICATORS. IT EXPLAINS WHAT ARE OUR STRATEGIC PROGRAMS AND HOW THEY ARE IMPLEMENTED TO RESPOND TO THE GLOBAL AND LOCAL CHALLENGES. THIS AND FURTHER MORE IN-DEPTH AND REGULARLY UPDATED INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT:

**[WWW.UTOPIALEBANON.ORG](http://WWW.UTOPIALEBANON.ORG)**

*All photos and statement are published and used after getting a written or verbal consent of their owners.*

## **Main Office**

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