



rehabilitation • integration • prevention
إعادة تأهيل • اندماج • وقاية

OUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

Oum el Nour's Annual Report

20
22

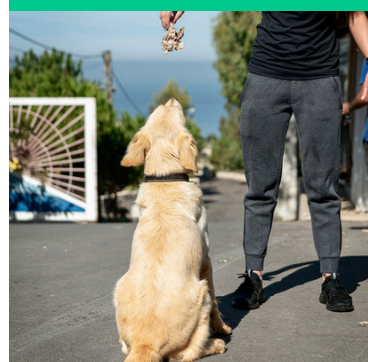


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A WORD FROM OUR GENERAL DIRECTOR



"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

The past year was, once again, dominated by the complex crises in our country, causing growing distress across the Lebanese community. Today, we find ourselves at a critical point, navigating an uncertain future, facing growing need for our services.

Despite the many intertwined challenges and financial austerity, we are proud of all the work our team accomplished in 2022. From efforts to prevent and raise awareness of the risks of substances and addiction in schools and institutions, to our rehabilitation and follow-up programs, we continued to work with people and communities to achieve sustainable change in tackling substance use and addiction. With collective action, this change transcended regions and borders as we built new partnerships in Beirut, renovated the reception center in the North, and provided an in-house training to our colleagues from Mother of Light (Liberia).

Once again, I would like to extend my gratitude to Oum el Nour's family. We take pride in having you on our side. Our achievements were only made possible by the team's perseverance and dedication to our cause, and by the overwhelming generosity and trust of our donors.

Despite the hardships we are enduring, I strongly believe in our team's commitment and expertise, and our supporters' compassion, to pursue Oum el Nour's mission and stay at the forefront of fighting addiction.

FATHER ANTOINE ABI AZAR

GENERAL DIRECTOR

About Us

Oum El Nour is an independent NGO that was founded in 1989. It aims to gradually decrease the addiction rates in Lebanon and raise awareness about the various factors leading to substance abuse, as this has become an extensive problem with destructive consequences on individuals, families, and society, especially in difficult times. Today, Oum El Nour gives those suffering from substance use disorder the chance to gain back control over their life.

A place to reconnect.

Oum El Nour started as an initiative but grew into a home for those who need sheltering, fostering, and understanding. A place away from noise, pressure, and judgment. A place to recover, to look back and learn, and to reconnect with oneself before reconnecting with others.

Oum el Nour's services are provided free of charge, without discrimination, and in full confidentiality.

Our Philosophy

Mission

Oum el Nour is committed to serving individuals through helping them overcome their substance use disorder, in order to attain a healthy society characterized by sustainable growth.

Vision

Oum el Nour aims at gradually decreasing addiction rates in Lebanon and increasing awareness of the various factors leading to such, as substance abuse has become an extensive problem with destructive causes and consequences for individuals, families, and society.

Our Board of Directors

Mgr Guy-Paul Noujaim - Honorary President & Co-Founder

Gabriel Debbané - President & Co-Founder

Hani Zgheib - Vice President

Francois Abi Nakhoul

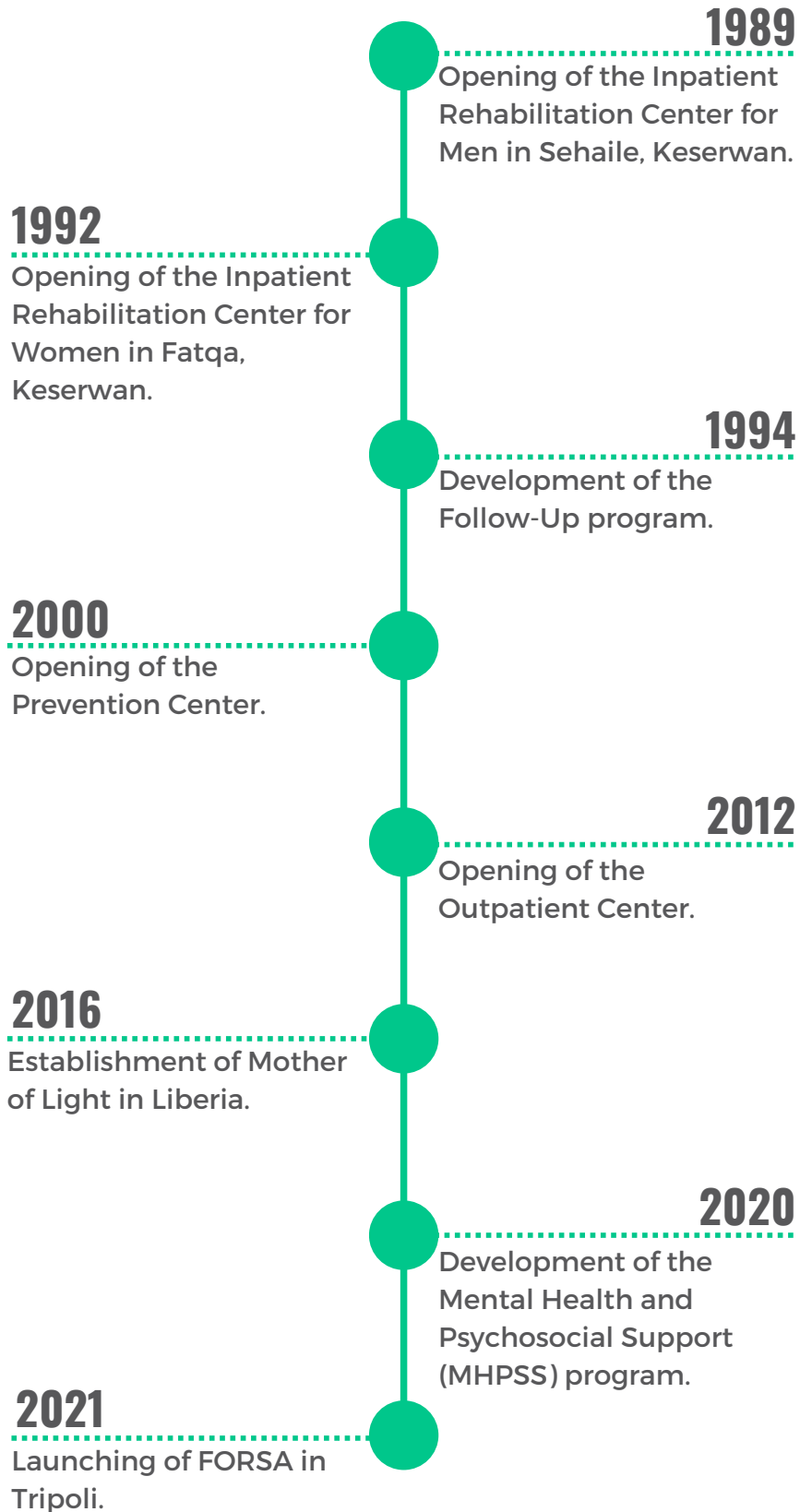
Najla Chahda

Joe Miskaoui

Bachir Murr

Charles Noujaim

OUR MILESTONES



THE RECEPTION

The starting point for the path to recovery

In a year that was heavily influenced by the continuing complex humanitarian and economic crisis, we are proud of the work our team at the Reception Center has achieved to adapt to the rapidly changing challenges of our country. Through their collective knowledge and experience, the team members were able to perform the required assessments and provide the needed encouragement to the patients seeking our assistance. The motivation to undergo rehabilitation plays a crucial role in assisting substance users to engage in the rehabilitation program, initiate their path to recovery, and maintain long-term abstinence.

KEY FIGURES

514 individuals sought help from our Reception Center in 2022.

The profiling of these individuals allows the team at Oum el Nour to have a deeper understanding of a person's demographic, legal, occupational, social, psychological characteristics, and their history of substance use.

Statistical data can be used to better inform program development on both prevention and treatment levels.

THE GENDER GAP

The majority of those seeking help were males (87.7%). This gender gap calls for acknowledging the social



stigma around women and substance use in particular. In fact, the team at Oum el Nour recognizes the importance of tackling the stereotyping and labeling of women in addiction, by working on developing and tailoring its program to break the stigma and encourage women to seek treatment.

AN ALARMING REALITY

16% of those seeking help belonged to the 19-23 age category (youth) and 44% of them belonged to the 24-33 age category (young adults). These numbers highlight the alarming reality of the impact substances have on what should be the most productive years of someone's life. The Prevention team at Oum el Nour continues to work closely with institutions to raise awareness about substance use and prevention among children, adolescents, and youth.

DECREASED PRODUCTIVITY

Substance use has always been linked to decreased productivity, a reality reflected in the unemployment status of most of the individuals who sought help in

2022 (73%). In fact, the Reception team assessed that 92% of the individuals received used to work in the past. With increased dependence on substances comes a decreased motivation to perform daily tasks.

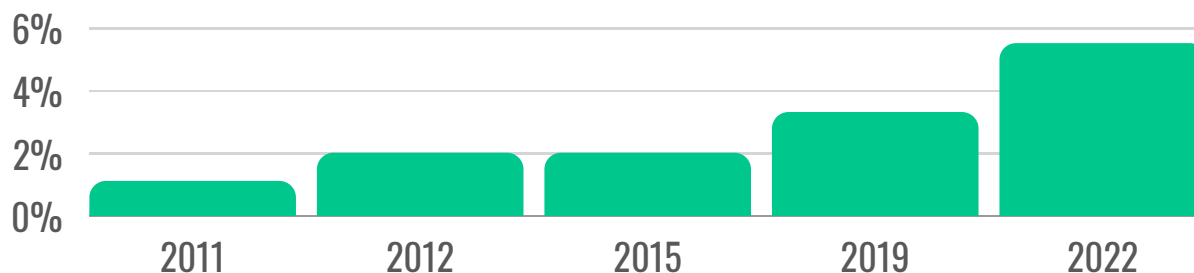
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION

The Reception Center welcomed individuals mostly residing in Mount Lebanon (45%), Beirut (23%), and the North (18%), with the remaining scattered across the South, the Bekaa, Nabatieh, and Baalbek.

AN ASCENDING CURVE

The majority of those who sought help were Lebanese (85.9%) and Syrian (5.5%). Previous reports show that there has been a significant increase in the percentage of Syrians seeking treatment for substance use in Lebanon.

In 2011, only 1.1% were Syrians. In 2012, the percentage of Syrians seeking treatment doubled to reach 2%, which remained steady in 2015. In 2019, it increased to 3.3%, and eventually reached 5.5% in 2022.



Proportion of Syrians seeking treatment between 2011 and 2022

KEY FIGURES

RECEPTION CENTER

20
22

514

INDIVIDUALS



45%

MOUNT LEBANON

12%



88%

23%

BEIRUT

16%

NORTH LEBANON

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

73%

UNEMPLOYED

AGE GROUPS

19-23

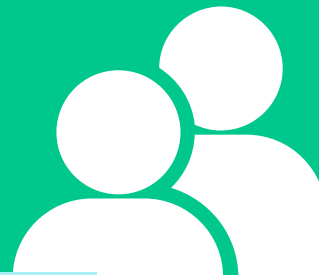
16%

29-33

22%

24-28

22%



THE REHABILITATION

A journey of healing

For over 30 years, Oum el Nour has been fighting substance use and providing rehabilitation services in both its inpatient and outpatient centers. We aim to tackle the underlying psychological, social, or other causes of substance use and addiction to bring lasting change to the lives of those who are seeking a drug-free lifestyle. Based on our therapeutic community approach, our team of professionals walks alongside patients on their journey of healing, helping them understand their past and working together to build a new future in total abstinence. At Oum el Nour, we also focus on empowering men and women to explore and

strengthen their economic potential for a successful professional reintegration in society.

INPATIENT REHABILITATION

The treatment provides structure and discipline over a period of 15 months, divided into 4 stages, while addressing the social, psychological, medical, educational, legal, and spiritual dimensions of the residents. In 2022, 83% of the patients admitted were men.

OUTPATIENT REHABILITATION

The outpatient rehabilitation aims at treating substance users who have not yet reached the stage of addiction. In 2022, the majority of the admissions were men (86%).



THE FOLLOW-UP

A sustained recovery

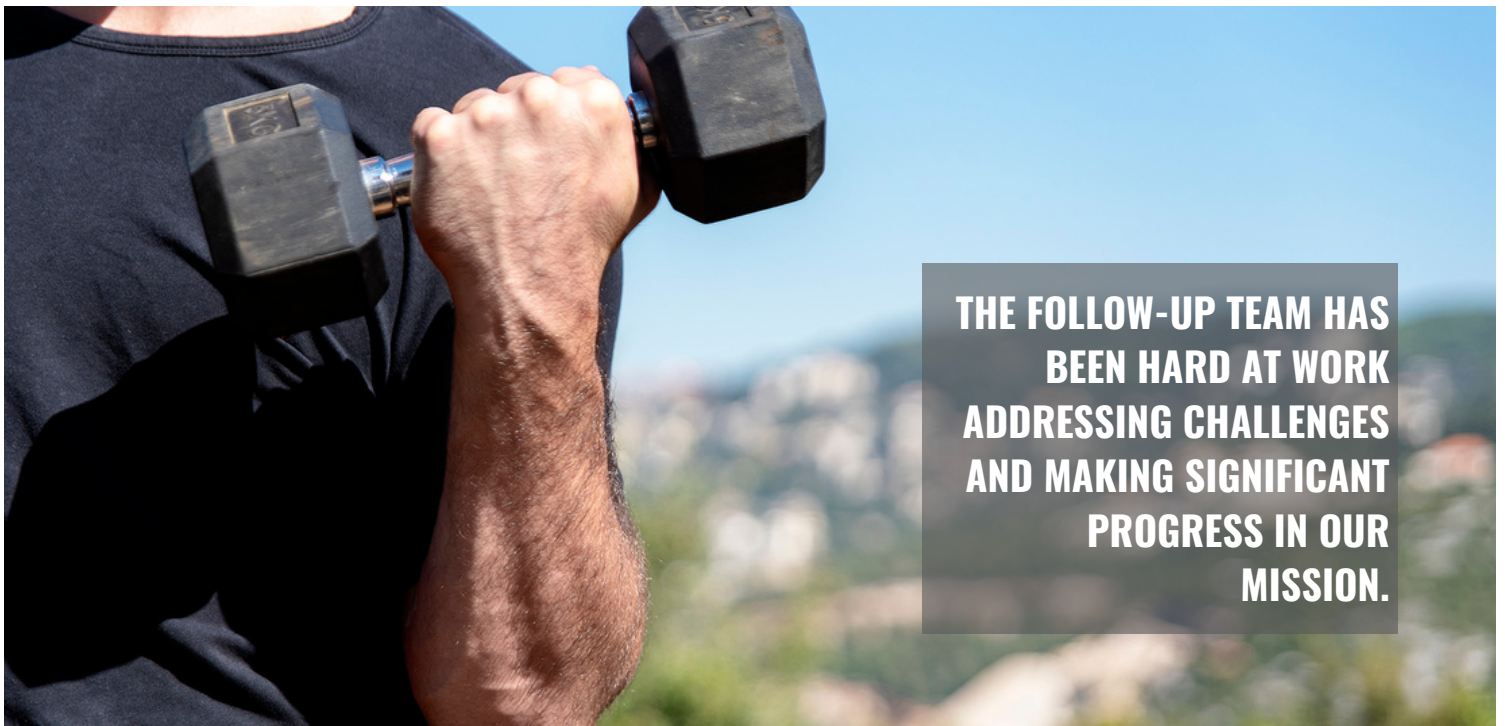
REBUILDING THE TEAM

One of the primary challenges we faced in 2022 was rebuilding the follow-up team with the most qualified professionals. We searched for individuals who possessed the right expertise and passion for our cause. One of our former center directors, with 30 years of experience, joined the team as an esteemed educator. His extensive background in the field of education brings invaluable insights and a commitment to providing quality learning experiences. We are also privileged to have a former center director with 3 decades of experience, bringing a wealth of knowledge and compassion to her

role as a social worker. Our team is also proud to have a psychologist specializing in Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (CBT); her expertise has played a pivotal role in our efforts to introduce CBT to our center. The initial results have been highly promising, demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Throughout 2022, we prioritized the enhancement of our program to meet the evolving needs of our beneficiaries in the post-pandemic era. We conducted thorough meetings, engaging our dedicated team to ensure a comprehensive and relevant approach.



**THE FOLLOW-UP TEAM HAS
BEEN HARD AT WORK
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES
AND MAKING SIGNIFICANT
PROGRESS IN OUR
MISSION.**

THE PREVENTION

Awareness | MHPSS

At Oum el Nour, we believe that education and awareness are key in helping children, young adults, and adults understand the repercussions of substance use and addiction. This is crucial for helping them from forming negative coping mechanisms through substance use, in addition to positive mental health, which is a strong contributor to prevention. Parents and teachers also need to be aware about the harmful effects considering they have a critical role in preventing it. The team continues to empower individuals with knowledge and skills, using a multifaceted approach to promote development of people of all ages.

PREVENTION

In 2022, the prevention team provided 499 awareness sessions to 9,274 students in **schools**, 194 individuals in youth and parish **groups**, 320 **refugees**, and 546 **adults**.

MENTAL HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (MHPSS)



TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS
2674



TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
270



OVERCOMING FUNDING CHALLENGES

Despite the financial challenges in 2022, the **fundraising department** was able to consistently raise funds to sustain the organization's operations. Cash and in-kind donations were received from a large number of donors, ranging from individuals to corporations, both at the national and international level (including Côte d'Ivoire, France and the USA).



In 2022, around **500 donation boxes** were distributed and deposited in different locations and stores around the country.

PARTNERSHIPS

Oum el Nour maintains formal partnerships with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to support its substance use prevention and rehabilitation services.

Ministry of Public Health

In 2022, the MoPH contribution to our services increased from 1 billion LBP to 4 billion LBP.

Ministry of Social Affairs

The MoSA continues to support our activities. The Ministry covers a portion of the costs for the primary prevention activities, the outpatient treatment, the activities at the reception and follow-up centers, and the parents' program, which supports the parents of our residents in inpatient treatment.

Memorandum of Understanding with Beirut for Social Development

, with the objective of implementing activities and programs relating to substance use and preventive projects in the city of Beirut and in both the Mount Lebanon and Beqaa governorates.

Agreement with the Municipality of Beirut

, through which a building was placed at the disposal of Oum el Nour to open a reception, prevention and outpatient rehabilitation center in the city of Beirut.

Renewal of the Cooperation Agreement with Caritas Lebanon.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

TWO EXHIBITIONS were held with part of the profits being donated to Oum el Nour:

November 2022

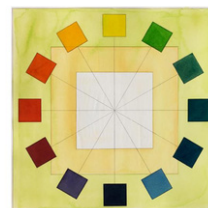
Exhibition by **Lorraine Ouaiss** at the Jacques Ouaiss Gallery.

December 2022

An Ever-Changing Stream at the Mina Image Center.

is part of our collective exhibition cycle
Lorraine Ouaiss presents 3 artists

Opening November 24 2022, from 5 pm,
Jacques Ouaiss Gallery



An Ever-Changing Stream
Laura Jolanda Brummer
مجرى دائم التحول
لورا جولاندا برومر

December 1, 2022 - February 4, 2023
From 2:30 to 7:30 pm
الافتتاح: 1 كانون الثاني 2023 - 4 شباط 2023
من 2:30 مساءً إلى 7:30 مساءً



FASHION FOR A CAUSE

Customized T-shirts were sold for the benefit of Oum el Nour in collaboration with @outlaws.leb on Instagram. Three art in collaboration with @outlaws.leb on Instagram. Three art designs made by the residents of Oum el Nour during their rehabilitation program were available to choose from.



LE NOEL DES ASSOCIATIONS: WE PARTICIPATED FOR THE 4TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR WITH OUR OWN BOOTH.

FORSA

Oum el Nour in Tripoli, with Al Manhaj

During 2022, renovations started for the Reception Center of Forsa, the joint project between our organization, Oum el Nour, and Al Manhaj Charitable Association in North Lebanon.

Thanks to the generosity of the Lebanese Military's Directorate of Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC), and the Netherlands Embassy in Lebanon, the renovations and equipment of the center facilities were made possible.

The Reception Center, located at the Abou Ali Roundabout in Tripoli, North of Lebanon, is set to open at the beginning of 2023.



MOTHER OF LIGHT

Oum el Nour in Liberia

In 2022, Oum el Nour in Liberia, working with government ministries and other international, national, and local partners, carried out its plans and provided several activities as part of the prevention program: We-Connect Cycle 3, Drugs through the Eyes of Kids, and the Community Outreach Program. The team also took part in the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and the International Day for Mental Health. The renovations of the inpatient rehabilitation center in Grand Bassa County were completed, creating enough space to accommodate 54 patients for the program. Oum el Nour Lebanon welcomed 4

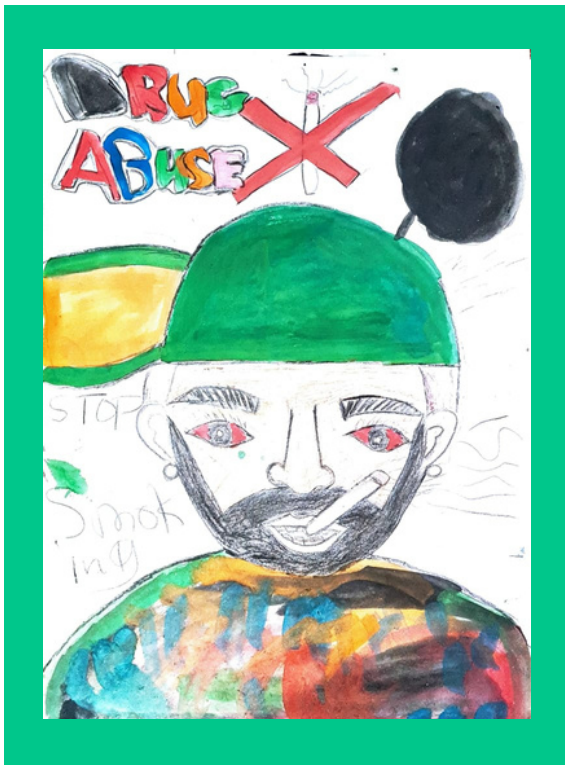
team members from the Ministry of Health in Liberia to undergo a 4-month training on the therapeutic community program.

PREVENTION PROGRAMS

WE-CONNECT

In 2022, the We-Connect Cycle 3 was launched for a cohort of **19 young people** who were recruited and trained. They received a certificate of completion at the end of the program. Furthermore, participants were mentored to serve as **ambassadors** in their various communities in order to raise awareness and spread the word on the prevention of drug and substance abuse.





DRUGS THROUGH THE EYES OF KIDS (DTEK) is a prevention program that highlights how kids perceive the impact of drugs and substance use disorder on families, children, and society through **art**,

while focusing on mitigating the involvement of youths and adolescents in drugs. In 2022, **64 youths and children** met, discussed, and painted together how they perceive addiction in their schools and communities.

The **COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM** aims to reach communities around Monrovia to raise awareness and to encourage people struggling with substance use to seek treatment at the rehabilitation center set to open in 2023. The idea extended to a larger audience, with volunteers reaching more than **500 individuals** in their homes and workplaces to introduce the activities of Mother of Light and to highlight the importance of referring friends and community members with substance use disorder to the reception center.



INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

June 26 marks the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Every year, it is observed all over the world with a focus on raising awareness of the major problem that drugs represent to societies. As part of their prevention efforts, the Mother of Light prevention team provided 4 schools with awareness sessions, reaching more than 100 students.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

On October 10, the mental health unit at the Ministry of Health (MoH) celebrates the World Mental Health day with its partners. The partnership between the MoH and Mother of Light meant that the team participated and contributed to the activities prepared: community awareness, 1K Walk, Radio talk shows etc. It was important to seize the opportunity to raise awareness about the correlation between substance use and mental health.



INPATIENT REHABILITATION

Architectural Plans and Designs

The Government of Liberia had already offered Mother of Light a 30-acre land for the center. In 2022, the survey plan, the mapping of the land, the as-built drawings, the conceptual plan, and the electrical and mechanical plans were completed, in line with therapeutic community program requirements, including the landscape as part of the treatment process.



Renovation Works

The World Lebanese Culture Union (WLCU) is a key sponsor in the establishment of our organization in Liberia. It upheld its commitment to fund the renovations of the 8 initial units of the inpatient rehabilitation center. Under the supervision of the organization, work was executed by a Liberian work force: 2 men's dormitories, 2 women's dormitories, 1 staff dormitory, 1 canteen, 1 administration office, and 1 vocational unit were renovated to welcome up to 54 residents in the rehabilitation program.



Therapeutic Community Training

A psychiatrist and two staff members from the Ministry of Health in Liberia, with one of the volunteers from Mother of Light, traveled to Lebanon to participate in a training about the therapeutic community program at Oum el Nour, and understand the detoxification process. The aim was to have a trained professional team running the operations of the center in Liberia. They worked on integrating the program upon their

return to Liberia. Meanwhile, the reception center started receiving patients and following up with those who were interested

Site Visits

With the center opening in 2023, the organization reached out to government officials, ambassadors, local and international NGOs, potential sponsors, and partners to visit the center and introduce them to the program: Honorable VP Jewel H Taylor, Honorable Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jalah, Lebanese Ambassador Henry Kastom, German Ambassador Dr. Jakob Haselhuber, Indian Ambassador Mr. Shri Pradip Kumar Yday, President of the Chamber of Commerce Cllr. Natu Oswald Twehto, Apostle Dr. Chibuzor Chinyere, UNIDO, MSFF, SOS, and the Oum el Nour Liberia board members.





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Oum el Nour acknowledges the support of all our local and international donors and supporters who stand by our side in our commitment to raise awareness and support individuals to help them overcome their substance use disorder.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram @oumelnour
Visit www.oumelnour.org

TO SUPPORT OUR WORK AND DONATE TO OUR PROGRAMS

LEBANON

For fresh USD transfer
Name: OUM EL NOUR
Beneficiary Bank name: Banque BEMO Sal
Bank Address: Beirut - Lebanon
IBAN: LB79 0093 0000 0035 0438 0366 1USD
Currency Code: USD
Account Number: 8900291176
Beneficiary Bank swift code: EUMOLBBE

FRANCE

The « Association Oum el Nour France » is a French association governed by the law of 1 July 1901 and registered under number 638470K.

Reference:
Mrs. Hiam Demeulenaere
135, Route de La Reine
92100 Boulogne
Tel: 0146057570-0664754605
Email: hdemeul@yahoo.com

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Drug Free Lebanon is a 501(c)(3) representing Oum el Nour in the USA.

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