Brief Introduction about Insan Association

General Introduction

Insan association is a Lebanese non-profit, civil society organization, established in the year 2000 by a group of human rights activists and officially registered at the ministry of justice under the number 390/cs Beirut. It is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and does not support or oppose any government or political system and neither does necessarily support or oppose the views of its beneficiaries or other individuals whose rights it seeks to protect.

Insan association is situated in one of Beirut’s northern suburbs and serves the most underprivileged Lebanese and other families, such as, families of refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers and the non-ids living in Beirut’s north-eastern and southern suburbs, most notably in the regions of Nabaa, Bourj Hammoud, Dekwaneh, Fanar, Sin el fil, Chiah, Ghbeiry, Borj el barajneh, Haret hreik, Hay el solom, Sahraa chweifat, etc…

The different services and activities of insan association, divided between education and protection services, reach out to include individuals with different nationalities, cultures, religions and social status. In addition to the Lebanese, our beneficiaries come from different countries such as: Sudan, Iraq, India, Egypt, Jordan, Kurdish Syrians, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ghana, Bangladesh, originally Lebanese but not registered (non-ids) and others, all living in Lebanon in very poor and difficult conditions and they, along with their families and children, are deprived of most of their basic rights.

For that, insan association aims through its various programs to provide the most basic rights of its target population, most notably;

- The right to education as stipulated in article 26 of the “universal declaration of human rights” and articles 28 and 29 of the “convention on the rights of the child” and article 13 of the “international covenant on economic, social and cultural rights”

- The right to alternative care and protection, as mentioned in article 20 of the “convention on the rights of the child”.

- The right to play, have recreational activities and to participate in cultural and artistic life, as in article 31 of the “convention of the rights of the child”.

- The right of every person to liberty and security, to be free from arbitrary arrest and detention and the right to receive a fair trial and to be treated with humanity during detention, as stated in articles 9 and 10 of the “international covenant on civil and political rights”.

- The right of every child to have, without any discrimination as to race, color, sex, language, religion, national or social origin, property or birth, such measures of protection as is required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the state. The right to be registered after birth and to acquire a nationality, as in article 24 of the “international covenant on civil and political rights”.

Briefings about the programs:

1- Insan School:

An educational program that function on a normal school schedule for Kindergarten and primary classes for Migrant, Refugee and other children who are cut off from education due to many reasons being discrimination, extreme poverty or the lack of legal ID papers. The children follow the educational program over a period from one to three years according to the level of each child, the program prepares the children to be enrolled in normal schools.
2- **Integration program:**

After finishing Insan School program, Insan Association supports the student financially, morally and psycho-socially in order for them to be enrolled in regular schools in Lebanon. And after being enrolled in regular schools, Insan Association follows up the students and supports them according to their needs and helps them to evolve in their classes.

3- **Psycho-social support:**

The psycho-social program is specialized in visiting families in their homes in order to find out their psychological, health, social and economic needs and to offer the psychological and social supports and guide them in order to benefit from the services available at the specialized associations. A team composed of social workers and psychologists is responsible of this program.

In addition to that psycho-social activities are organized for the children and adults (parents) in both their neighborhoods and at the Insan Center. Animators and educators prepare and deliver the activities for the children in coordination and under the supervision of the psychologists and the social workers and psychologists deliver the activities and awareness sessions for the parents on different issues of interest to our targeted population.

4- **Insan House:**

The Association ensures a temporary shelter for children who are in extreme risk situations, and who are exposed to danger and lack of a safe familial environment to protect them. It also works in helping their families in order to ameliorate their situation, in order for their children to be able to go back to their remaining family members when the situation becomes safe for them.

5- **The Legal Counseling:**

The legal counseling program is designed to serve migrants, refugees, non-IDS or Lebanese people with a legal situation on a case-by-case basis depending on their specific and personal needs. The program can also take on legal representation in courts or other relevant authorities whenever necessary through Insan’s lawyer.

In addition to all that, Insan Association organizes social activities and events at the Insan center and invites its beneficiaries and friends as well as the families living in the same neighborhood to take part and contribute in the process of community harmonization.

The activities that are mainly organized at Insan are: conferences, cultural or social events, dinners on special occasions, etc…

**The projects of Insan Association for the year 2010 are in partnership and funded by:** AIDA - AECID, Terre des Hommes Foundation - UNICEF, Les Amis du Liban a Monaco, Swiss Embassy in Lebanon, Résonnance foundation, Direction de la Coopération Internationale Monaco, le College Protestant Francais, American Community School, les Restaurants du Coeur, College des Frères Unis, LDS Charities, Beitouna Center, Les Soeurs Franciscaines de Marie, Les Petits Frères de Jesus and All the Friends of Insan Association in Lebanon and abroad.
Insan School

General Introduction:

Insan School, in its sixth consecutive year, started operation in October 2009 and ended in August 2010, gathering under its roof forty six (46) migrant, refugee, non-ID, Lebanese and other children from more than seventeen nationalities or backgrounds.

During the Academic year 2009-2010, we have divided the students into four classes: Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class F. The Children are divided into the classes taking into consideration two main criteria: educational level and age. Different levels in different subjects might be taught in a given class depending on the needs.

Our children at the school come mostly from migrant and refugee families, hence there's a great possibility for some to leave in the near future, either to their home countries or a third resettling countries. For that we accept students who arrive later after the year had started since no other school would accept them.
Transitional Education

Insan Association started its “Insan School” program, which is a transitional education system, in the year 2004. The system was established to answer the needs of refugee, migrant, non-ID or even Lebanese children who have reached a certain age (over 5 years old) and are not ready academically or psycho-socially to be enrolled in a regular school in Lebanon. The reason behind this might be related to the circumstances of migration, the differences in the curriculum between the country of origin and Lebanon, lack of knowledge of core languages of instruction in Lebanon, racism, discrimination, financial difficulties, ignorance etc…

The main aim of the program is to prepare these children in all aspects for them to be successfully enrolled and integrated into regular schools either in Lebanon or another country they may travel to, after spending between one and three years at “Insan School”.

Based on interactivity, the techniques used in the classes at “Insan School” are supposed to answer to the needs of each and every student in a given class. The classes at “Insan School” are made up of small groups (maximum 15 students in one class), where several levels might be present, so the educators will have the time to follow up and accompany each student individually. Using audio visual and other interactive methods in teaching constitute a better motivation for the students to learn and follow in class.

Moreover, at “Insan School” special focus is made on the basic languages used at schools in Lebanon, which are Arabic and English. In addition to that students also study Math, science, computer and artistic and physical activities. The artistic and physical activities at “Insan School” are oriented in a way to act as a support to the language classes. So students would master written and oral languages through playing and having fun as well.

It is important to mention here as well, that the school year at “Insan School” extends over a period of 11 months as opposed to only 9 months in like other regular school in Lebanon, with the aim of recuperating the lost knowledge as quick as possible.

Finally, Insan School’s main concern remains to provide for each of its students the necessary tools and circumstances in order for them to be able to adapt psychologically to the educational institution, which is supposed to play the role of the student’s society that would valorize their person, identity and capacities.
The different activities that took place during the academic year 2010-2011:

In addition to the daily classes that the children follow, different activities are prepared and implemented for the “Insan School” students, with the aim of leisure, integration and psycho-social support.

1) **On 20 November, Celebration of Independence Day:**

In arts class the students prepared with their teachers, the flags and the landscapes of the different countries they come from, and decorated the school with them. And after we distributed the Lebanese flag and listened to the National Lebanese Anthem. Some students read stories and poems about Independence and Freedom.

2) **On December 4th- Halloween – St. Barbara**

A Puppet show was done by the teachers after telling the story of Barbara highlighting the humanitarian message of this story. Later students from school of ACS (a partner school) distributed sweets to all the students in an atmosphere of music and songs. All the children had prepared masks in their arts class that they wore during the event.

3) **On December 16th – Sainte Famille School (Jounieh)**

An outing was organized by Sainte Famille School for Insan students for the Christmas occasion where gifts and sweets were distributed by Santa Clause and different games were played joining our children with the Lebanese students of St. Famille school.

4) **On December 17th: Adha and Distribution of Gifts for Christmas:**

Students decorated the school and the teachers explained them the meaning of Adha. Before going home all the students received gifts for Christmas.

5) **On December 22nd: 'A musical Spectacle':**

A Piano Concert was organized by Insan Association in collaboration with “Resonance” Association, where the pianist Maryse Karam gave the Piano concert for the Children, in order to offer the chance to listen to music for those who are deprived of it.
6) **On December 23rd – Christmas party at Insan School:**

Teachers decorated the school and Insan’s Children played games, in addition Santa Clause distributed gifts for all the students.

7) **On February 19th and on March 12th**

Cultural and recreational activities animated by a group of volunteer students took place at the Insan Center for the Children of Insan School.

8) **On March 16th:**

An awareness session for all the Children at Insan School about the good care of the teeth animated by Roteract, took place at the Insan Center.

9) **On March 17th:**

Insan Organized a Spring Trip to Bakiche Kfardebian for all the children at Insan School.

10) **On March 26th:**

An Easter Spectacle and a theatre show was presented by ‘Grain de blé’ association at the Insan Center for all the children of Insan School.

11) **On June 18th:**

The End of the school year celebration took place on the 18th of June where all the children presented songs, dances and plays for their parents, teachers and friends of the Association.
Some pictures of the Different Activities of Insan School
The Summer School at Insan:

After the end of the academic year in June, Insan Association organized summer school during the months of July and August of 2010 and regular classes with activities were planned and executed, in order to prepare and enable the children for a better integration for the coming academic year.

During the summer school, the day was divided into 5 periods where the first three periods would concentrate on support classes (English, Math and Arabic) then the other two periods would revolve around different activities (Arts, sports, Theater, educational games, puppets, etc…), there is also a 20 minutes break in the middle where snacks are distributed to the children.
I. Insan House:

All through 2010, Insan House functioned regularly as a shelter for eight at very high risk children with a caretaker.

The children come back from school to Insan House at around 3:00p.m., where they have their lunch and then start studying their lessons and doing their homework with the help of a volunteer. Then they are allowed to watch some TV or play, at around 7:00p.m. the children get their dinner after which bed-time arrives at around 8:00p.m.

During the week-ends, from Saturday afternoon and until Sunday afternoon, the children are supposed to spend their time with their families; however few of them have no family to care for them so they spend the week-end with a host family.

The aim of Insan House is to serve as an emergency shelter for children with extreme vulnerability cases; hence the association assists the families to ameliorate their situation in order for it to be able to place back the children of Insan House back in their families.

II. Insan Integration Program:

In the academic year 2009-2010, eleven (11) students from different nationalities who completed the “Insan School” program, were integrated into regular schools or technical studies (depending on the age and academic level) in Lebanon.

From the eleven, nine students have been integrated in a partner school in Dekwaneh (CFU) and two in technical studies institutions. Insan Association has followed up all through the year the progress of the newly integrated students, who have completed the year with success.

In total 32 students, who have completed the Insan School program since 2006, have been integrated in the partner school in Dekwaneh (CFU). have been followed up academically and psych-socially by Insan Association and all the students have marked a good progress and success in their academic studies.
III. psycho-social and protection assistance:

Insan Association has been implementing this program in partnership with “Terre Des Hommes Foundation” with funding from ECHO and continued to implement it until August 2010 after which a new partnership was formed with Terre Des Hommes and UNICEF to continue the project for another 6 months.

Through this project Insan’s social workers and psychologists conduct home visits to refugees (mainly Iraqis) and some migrants and provide them with social and psychological assistance.

The Social workers connects with the families, assesses their needs and guide them to be able to reach and access the already available services (medical, material assistance, vocational training, etc…) in their neighborhoods.

In addition to that Insan’s Animators/Educators conduct different kinds of activities for the children and parents in their own neighborhoods.

The activities vary from Educational Activities, Physical Education, Trips, Puppets and Street Animation for children. While the activities with the parents are mainly “community Harmonization activities”, that aim to bring refugee and host communities together to enhance dialogue, mutual understanding and respect, awareness sessions and social gatherings. In addition to that Trips and outings are also planned and implemented for adults.

From January 2010 until December 2010, 701 families that constitute 2134 individuals were visited and supported by the social workers and 475 individuals (children and adults) received psychological assistance.

106 psycho-social activities for children took place in the different neighborhoods where Insan works in the different suburbs of Beirut (Dekwaneh, Zeatrieh, Nabaa, Chiah, Borj el Barajneh, etc…). In total 462 children participated in these activities, where 69 came once, 137 came twice or three times and 256 participated regularly.

6 outings or excursions for children where organized and took place during the year, where children from different nationalities were introduced to different parts of Lebanon.

Moreover, 18 awareness sessions were conducted for parents and adults discussing and dealing with various topics; most notably education, hygiene, alternatives to corporal punishment, psycho-social wellbeing, etc… these sessions were very successful and attracted the interest and participation of 121 adults from various refugee and migrant populations.
Some Pictures of the Different Activities in the Neighborhoods
IV. The Counselling Program:

Although Lebanon is not a country of refuge it is the destination for many migrants and refugees from Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. Migrants and refugees, being in a particularly exposed situation in all societies, partly due to a lack of insight in the processes at hand, are often in a desperate need of support and guidance in dealing with the government, embassies or non-governmental organisations such as the UN.

Insan Association in partnership with Amnesty International Lebanon have launched this program of migrant and refugee counselling in order to fill some of that need.

The counselling is designed to serve migrants and refugees on a case-by-case basis depending on their specific and personal needs. However, it is in general divided between informing migrants of their rights according to national and international law, giving advice on how to best access them and to give moral support.

This program serves the most vulnerable cases and who were not able to get assistance from any other party. In the year 2010, 123 individuals received legal counseling for different matters mostly having to do with legal status in Lebanon who were assisted either directly or referred and oriented. In addition direct intervention was made to assist 13 individuals and/or families who were detained and/or arrested because of illegal entry and stay for refugees, having no residency permit or work permit, etc....
V. Facts and Figures

Insan's Distribution of Expenditure for 2010

Direct Beneficiaries 77%

Running and Administrative expenses 17%

Research, visibility and publication 6%

Insan’s Distribution of Income for 2010

European Commission for Humanitarian Aid Office / Terre Des Hommes 38%

Caritas Austria 14%

Les Amis Du Liban a Monaco 9%

Les Restaurants Du Coeur 3%

Individual donations 9%

UNICEF/Terre Des Hommes 27%