Section 1

About Insan

Insan Association is an independent, non profit human rights organization serving individuals, families and children from the most marginalized communities, without distinction of any kind. The majority of them are migrant workers and refugees. With a holistic approach offering psycho-social, legal and educational support as well as advocacy Insan aims to enable these communities to access their rights.
1. About us / Our Mission

Insan Association is an organization which acts to protect the rights of the most marginalised communities living in Beirut (Lebanon). Enhance the right to live without discrimination of any kind, such as race, nationality, gender, status or any religious, political or other affiliation. Most of Insan’s beneficiaries are migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers or non-IDs. The nationalities of our beneficiaries are among other: Iraqi, Egyptian, Jordanian, Syrians, Kurdish Syrian, Filipino, Ethiopian, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Sri Lankan, Sudanese, Nigerian, Ghanaian, Cameroonian, Malagasy etc... All of them are living in Lebanon in very difficult conditions. Excluded from the system, they fail to access basic rights and services. These populations are deprived of their basic rights due to severe poverty, lack of legal status, isolation and racism.

To contribute to solve these problems, Insan Association takes on a rights-based approach. Migrants and refugees in Lebanon are the first victims of the severe lack of the implementation of the principles of human rights within Lebanese legislation. Excluded from the system, these populations fail to access basic rights and services. That respect for human rights can create lasting changes in people’s lives and make them reach their full potential by diminishing the causes of poverty and injustice.

By this way, offering psycho-social, legal and educational support as well as advocacy and awareness raising, Insan aims to empower these communities to help themselves and take control of their lives. All of Insan’s programmes aim towards the integration of its beneficiaries into the Lebanese society in every possible way.

More than 200 people who benefit from our Protection Programs
With our advocacy program, we act for the
200,000 Migrants Domestic Workers who work in Lebanon

140 people benefit from the Psycho-social Assistance Program
More than 157 children are involved in our Educative Programs

Insan pays close attention to children. The organisation believes that children have a right to be free from abuses, exploitation and neglect. The children, who benefit from Insan’s services, face discrimination, insecurity and poverty – their lives can be unstable and chaotic. The organisation is therefore committed to creating a secure environment for them. Insan’s child protection policy outlines what will be done to protect all children in Insan’s care.
Holistic approach: The holistic approach is represented by the fact that the different departments at Insan complement and facilitate each other offering a variety of services reaching from education and life skills training to social, psychological and legal support. In addition Insan works with the entire family, children and parents, aiming to address and improve the general situation in the home. At the same time and to resolve durably the specific problem of the migrant domestic workers in Lebanon (that we will explain in another part), Insan launched an advocacy and awareness raising programs.

Community based approach: Insan centre is located in one of Beirut’s neighborhood’s where many of our beneficiaries live. This creates a special closeness to the target population which enables us to reach them quickly and enables them to come to the centre for help. The geographic closeness to our beneficiaries allows us to see and understand their problems better and to react more efficiently and rapidly.

Outreach approach: Insan has an outreach approach, which means we don’t expect people to come to the center but rather we go to the homes of our beneficiaries since it might be a challenge for people to go and ask for help, since they might be afraid etc. This approach allows us to reach even more people.

Individuals need assessment: Insan works on a case-by-case basis and reacts directly to the specific and personal needs of the each person.

We work towards the realisation of the following rights among other for all people:

- The right of every person to liberty and security, as stated in article 2 of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. The right to be free from arbitrary arrest and detention, 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 person to be equal before the law and to be entitled to equal protection and against any discrimination, as stated in article 7 of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”.
- 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”.
- The right to education as stipulated in article 26 of the “Universal Declaration of Human rights”, 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 child to have, without any discrimination, such measures of protection as are required by his status as a minor, on the part of his family, society and the state, as stipulated in article 24 of the “International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights”.

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- The right to alternative care and protection, as mentioned in article 20 of the “Convention on the Rights of the Child”.
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We work towards the realisation of the following rights among other for all people
1. About us / Chronology (1)

Our first efforts

A group of human rights activists working with Amnesty International in Lebanon became aware of the precarious and vulnerable situation that many refugees and migrants face in this country. The specific case of a Sudanese family touched them deeply and convinced them to take concrete actions.

From its beginnings in 1999 until the year 2003, Insan organized Summer School programs for children of refugees who had no access to education because of lack of legal papers. The summer school opened its doors for two months every summer and welcomed up to 150 children every year. This program continues until today. In addition, language courses and workshops about hygiene and health issues were organized for adults. Each year three sessions took place encompassing 15-20 adults each time.

Establishment and consolidation of our core activities

In 2004 Insan started its first regular educational program, Insan School which until today represents the heart of Insan's activities. From 2004 until today more than 400 children between the age of 4 and 17 received education at “Insan School”. From the start Insan was conscious of the fact that these children needed more than just education, which is why they and their families were supported and guided by social workers. In the last eight years Insan’s team of social workers assisted about 4000 individuals by assessing their needs and helping them to deal with the daily challenges they face.

The often very unstable environment, in which children of refugees and migrants are growing up, can in certain cases constitute a great risk for them. In 2005 Insan created “Insan House” to be able to provide these children with a temporary shelter until they can return to their families. From 2005 until 2012 Insan House served as a home for 16 children. In 2006 Insan started to follow up on the students that once intended Insan School by helping them to integrate in a regular school or vocational training center.
1. About us / Chronology (2)

2008

Extension and diversification of our programs

Psychological support and legal advice and counselling (2008-2010); In 2008 Insan created its psychological department after having realised that there is an immense need for psychological support among the beneficiaries. Between 2008 and 2012 more than 900 individuals (children and adults) received psychological assistance in form of individual or group sessions. In addition to that, Insan started giving legal advice and counselling in 2008, since the majority of beneficiaries have no legal status. So far, more than 300 individuals received legal counselling and support in regularizing their legal situation, mainly through trying to obtain legal papers. In addition to providing support for refugees detained for illegal entry or stay in Lebanon.

In 2009 activities for street children were introduced to offer an alternative to the children who spend all day in the streets of Beirut selling different items or just begging. Every year a group of 30 to 50 children benefit every day from basic education and recreational activities conducted at Insan.

In 2009 a recreational program for children from the neighbourhood was introduced. “Ludoteque” (a games library) has so far welcomed 350 children to come and play at Insan twice a week. Furthermore, in 2010 music, art and theatre classes were offered to the children at Insan School and from outside. “Insan School of Arts” for one school year provided 68 children with intensive and professional art classes in music, theatre and crafts.

2012

Forming a new pillar

Insan Association has always been engaged in raising awareness and advocating for the rights of its beneficiaries through organising conferences and awareness sessions on crucial human rights issues. Since 2010 Insan has started to expand these activities by creating an advocacy strategy and declaring advocacy as one of its three main pillars. In total around 30 conferences and awareness sessions have been organised. An advocacy campaign sensitising the public for the situation of migrant domestic workers and their children through events, brochures and posters is currently being implemented.

Towards the end of 2012- Where we stand today Insan Association proudly looks back on a history of more than 10 years working with the most underprivileged people in Lebanon. Throughout the years the programs have been adapted and extended based on the needs of our beneficiaries. Through its close contact to the communities Insan is always directly informed of the situation and problems of the people we care for. Today we can be confident in saying that we provide access to nearly all services that are demanded by our beneficiaries - if not through Insan’s own services, then through a network of partner organisations and institutions they can be referred to. This present report will show the latest evolution of Insan and its new programs launching in 2012.
Section 2

Education Programs

Insan offers several educational programs to underprivileged children, who are being neglected by society and, for a variety of reasons, are cut off from education. The children spend one to three years at “Insan School” (not officially registered as a school), Insan’s core program. After that period the aim is to integrate them into official schools or vocational training centres. We continue, thanks to our integration program, to follow former children of Insan School. For the special case of Syrian refugee children newly arrived in Lebanon due to the crisis in Syria, we launched this year additional English courses in the afternoons.
2. Education / Insan School

1/ Context

Insan School is a transitional education program, which started in the year 2004. The system was established to answer the needs of refugees, migrants, non-IDs Lebanese children. These children have reached a certain age (over three and a half years) and are not ready academically or psycho-socially to be successfully enrolled in a regular school in Lebanon or another country they may travel to. The reason behind this might be related to the circumstances of migration, 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 of their parents, etc…

2/ Objectives

The main aim of the program is to prepare these children in all aspects to be successfully enrolled and integrated into regular schools either in Lebanon or another country they may travel to. It is Insan’s main concern to provide for each of its students the necessary tools and circumstances in order to be able to adapt psychologically to the educational institution.

3 / Description of the action

After spending between one and three years at “Insan School”, children at Insan School are ready to follow the Lebanese curriculum. Based on interactivity, the techniques used in class at “Insan School” are supposed to answer the needs of each and every student in a given class. The 3 classes at “Insan School” are constituted of small groups (maximum 20 children per class), where several levels among children might be present, so the educators will have the time to follow up and accompany each student individually. The Children are dispatched into classes taking into consideration two main criteria: educational level and age. We accepted children between 3 and 13 years. Different levels in different subjects might be taught in a given class depending on the needs.

At “Insan School” special focus is made on the basic languages used at schools in Lebanon, which are Arabic and English. In addition, students will also study math, science, computer, 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. Using audio visual and other interactive methods in teaching constitute a better motivation for the students to learn and follow in class.

4/ Beneficiaries

For the academic year 2011-2012, 49 children were registered at Insan School. For 2012-2013, Insan School has 51 children. Currently, we have a waiting list of more than 100 children who are waiting for a registration in our school. They are nevertheless in precarious situation. We would like to welcome all these children who want to integrate our school. To be able to do this, we must expand our human and financial ressources.
2. Education / Summer School

1/ Context

The long summer holidays in Lebanon are a time where children from underprivileged families are often left alone with nothing to do, while their parents are working. In addition, these children are in need of additional support to be able to succeed in school, in many cases they do not receive adequate support at home.

2/ Objectives

The aim of the summer school is to use the spare time of the summer holidays to offer underprivileged children from the neighbourhood additional education and recreational opportunities. This program does not only provide them with a safe place to enjoy themselves but also with the support they will need in order to be succeed in regular school.

3/ Description of the actions

By this way 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. After the end of the academic year in June, when most school closed their doors, Insan Association organizes summer school during the months of July and August. Insan welcomed last summer 35 children.

Former pupils of Insan registered to regular schools and our pupils living in the neighborhood who will integrated regular schools were invited to join the Summer school. 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. Days were 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. Some other activities are prepared: artistic and physical workshops, puppets show, library, environmental issues awareness, concerts of our partner

4/ Beneficiaries

During the Summer school of 2012, 31 children regularly participated in all the classes and activities.

Recreational activities/Ludoteque

Twice a week, every Friday afternoon and Saturday, Insan opens its gates for the children living in the neighborhood of Nabaa. The Ludotheque offers the children recreational activities, games, a library and an alternative to being at home or in the street.

In absence of playarea in the neighborhood, the ludotheque is an alternative. Instead of staying in the street or in their confined appartments, ludotheque allows children of neighborhood to let off steam. Proposed games and activities allow to create a fraternity and solidarity spirit between these children. In this less formal space than school, they are also an easier way to communicate and to express themselves.
1/ Context

Attending a public or private school in Lebanon is often a great challenge for children of migrant workers or refugees. Public schools, already overmanned, often refused to integrate non-IDs, refugees or asylum seekers children and the fees of private schools keeps increasing. Even after attending the Insan School program, which tries to prepare its students as well as possible, the children often have difficulties following the normal Lebanese curriculum. The fact that Arabic is the second if not third language makes it difficult to keep up with Lebanese students. Furthermore most of the children do not receive needed support from home and the unstable environment is far from being ideal to study and to do homeworks. In addition, social integration is often made difficult by discrimination and racism.

2/ Objective

The integration program is the outcome of the Insan School. We find official schools for the former pupils and we follow children that have already been registered to a Lebanese school and offer them financial, moral, psycho-social and educational support to continue a successful integration in another school.

3/ Description of the actions

So, we help the families to find a school for their children and during the registration process. First of all, we encourage families to try to register their children to a public school in their neighborhood. But, if they don’t find a solution, we recommend these children to our partner school, Collège des frères Unis (C.F.U.). Children receive discounts on registration, books or uniforms. We financially help families for whom registration fees are an issue due to financial problems. We have also informal contacts with 6 other private or governmental schools in the neighborhood.

An afternoon tutoring programs takes place four days a week, to provide the students with assistance with their homework. Last academic year, 24 former Insan students followed this program. Divided by respective classes, they received help for their homework and extra-exercises to catch up their delays.

4/ Beneficiaries

In the academic year 2011-2012, 31 students from different nationalities who completed the “Insan School” program, were integrated into regular schools or technical studies in Lebanon. Among the 31 students, 8 have been integrated in a partner school and two in technical studies institutions. Since 3 years, 8 children (2 children last year) who encounter serious school problems joined the vocational trainings of the Mouvement social organization. At the end of these short trainings, the children are ready to enter the labor market with a diploma in hands. 24 former Insan students last year and 19 students this year follow this program.
2. Education / Street Children

1/ Context

Beirut’ and other Lebanese cities’ sidewalks and streets have long been workplaces for children coming from Syria. Children, identified in the assessment, are aged between 4 and 15 years old, they come from Alep in Syria. Their spoken language is not Arabic but Turkmen, one of the Turkish language spoken at the Syria/Turkey border. They have different individual stories but share a common factor: poverty. Street children in Lebanon are deprived of their right to education and have little or no access to formal education system. The majority of them are illiterate and have either never been enrolled, or have dropped out of the formal education system. For many children, school is not an option, some of them already work as beggars or chewing gum sellers. As a consequence, they are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, child labour, sexual abuse, exposure to HIV/AIDS and other STIs, and police violence. It has also a consequence on their behavior: street children often develop behaviors that interfere with their own intrapersonal and interpersonal well being, but also negatively affect later adaptation and contribution to a healthy, productive society. Moreover, girls face discrimination that keeps many of them from attending educational programs: by the age of 12 year old, they undergo forced marriage and can’t continue attending any educational program.

2/ Objectives

In view of the difficulties and great challenges that have been observed, Insan Association wishes to develop the educational program in order to increase its impact. Our general objective in this project is to contribute to the social protection of street and working children of Beirut.

3/ Description of the actions

More specifically, street children will increase knowledge and skills reducing their vulnerabilities in their community and the Lebanese society through basic education. Design of the literacy-numeracy sessions and life skills sessions, provision of literary/numeracy sessions, provision of life skills education including knowledge of proper hygiene, nutrition and other educational topics, recreational activities such as Capoeira dance, drawing… organized visits to the street children families in order to raise their awareness on the importance of education, as well as monitoring and evaluation of the activities. These activities take place at Insan centre from Monday to Friday for 2 hours in the afternoons.

Moreover, the social workers organize meetings with the parents and the community leaders to convince the parents of these children to send them to Insan. Their community is well structured but it’s quite difficult to approach the parents due to the mistrust regard Lebanese people. In the future we want provoke a better regular attendance from these children to this program.

4/ Beneficiaries

More than 50 children have participated in this program since the beginning of 2012. However, it is difficult for these children to pursue these courses diligently and by this registering attendance is hard. Moreover, the social workers organize meetings with the parents and the community leaders to convince the parents of these children to send them to Insan. Their community is well structured but it’s quite difficult to approach the parents due to the mistrust regarding the Lebanese people. In the future we want to provoke a better regular attendance from these children to this program.
2. Education / Syrian Refugees

1/ Context

120,000 Syrians including 75,000 children found refuge in Lebanon since the beginning of the crisis which affect their country. A lot of refugees arrived with insufficient financial resources to cover their basic needs. Those who could initially resort to their personal savings or help of their families need from now on more and more assistance. The Lebanese government is not able to provide all necessary help for these displaced population. Currently, Lebanese schools are already overcrowded, and if some of them accepted Syrians, the families which arrived after the registration period cannot find a school for their children. Yet, these children are already late on the Lebanese curriculum, and need special support to follow it correctly. Losing one year without educative structure can have a serious impact on their development and on the future of these children who are already vulnerable. Having limited resources, we could only welcome 50 children in the afternoon at Insan School.

2/ Objectives

Lacking of alternatives, the work of the local or international NGO is essential. Insan has also decided to join this movement by launching a new educative program for Syrian children by giving priority in registration for Syrian children at Insan School (more than 50% of the children in the morning classes of Insan School are Syrians) and by launching a new program. Insan propose to provide English lessons to Syrian children. Mastering English or French is essential to be registered in a Lebanese school and to be able to follow the Lebanese curriculum. Moreover with English, if they move abroad with their families, the children will be better prepared to join a school in a foreign country.

3/ Description of the actions

With this program, Insan proposes English lessons every days from Monday to Friday 3 hours a day. Children are divided in small classes, maximum 16 children, to further their learning. The small number of children per class allows the teachers to adapt to their pupils. We began these lessons to allow the families which arrived after the registration period to find a place for their children.

During the academic year 2012-2013 Insan developed partnerships with three Lebanese schools in the suburbs of Beirut where Syrian and Iraqi children attend. 100 children of Syrian and Iraqi backgrounds have been assisted in these schools through shadow teachings during the school year. The assistance were mainly given in the foreign languages and scientific subjects, in order for the children to be able to succeed and go on to a higher level.

4/ Beneficiaries

48 children from 7 to 14 years, divided in 3 classes follow this program.
Section 3
Protection Programs

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. Mostly concentrated in big cities like Beirut; Iraqis, Syrians, Sudanese, Ethiopians, Sri-Lankan or Philippinos are particularly exposed to poverty, racism, discrimination and isolation from Lebanese society. The integration of these populations is particularly difficult. Refugees and asylum seekers have no legal statute in Lebanon; Lebanese government is not a Geneva Refugee Conventions’ signatory and collaborate little with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Migrants and refugees find themselves in a particularly vulnerable situation in all societies, partly due to a lack of insight in the processes at hand. Likewise, migrant workers could not ask or obtain compensation or win justice in case of exploitation or any other kind of abuses. Some of them, without IDs are in more difficult situations.

They are often in desperate need of support and guidance in dealing with the government, embassies or non-governmental organisations such as the United Nations. Furthermore they require psycho-social assistance with day to day challenges they face with employers, the Lebanese society or in their own homes.
1/ Context

Insan's beneficiaries suffer from a variety of problems and find themselves in a very unstable environment. Many of them have no legal status, which makes it difficult to find a stable workplace or to receive any social services. They suffer from severe poverty, which is enforced by the low salaries they receive in most job positions they occupy.

2/ Objective

Insan's social workers provide the beneficiaries with the assistance that is necessary in order to take control of their own lives. They also offer moral support and take on the role of someone who listens to and understands them. Insan's aim is to give the support they need in order to help themselves.

3/ Description of the action

Following Insan's outreach approach, the social workers visit vulnerable individuals and families in their homes to assess their general situation and their social, economical, medical and psychological needs. Insan's beneficiaries are therefore not forced to displace themselves in order to benefit from Insan's services. Secondly, the social workers offer guidance in dealing with the different problems the beneficiaries might face. The social workers make referrals to other departments of Insan as well as external institutions and organisations offering specialised services (eg. medical) for the targeted population. In addition, different activities are provided for children and adults in their own neighborhoods and at Insan centre.

4/ Beneficiaries

Around 800 families were followed by Insan's social workers.
3. Protection / Psychological Support

1/ Context
Migrating from their own environment and countries - due to a free decision or because one has been forced to leave - always represents an immense challenge for the family or individual migrating. Migrant workers and refugees therefore face a variety of problems once they arrive in the country of destination, which often express themselves in psychological deficits. Psychological problems can also arise from the traumas and violations they might have lived through in their country of origin. Both children and adults regularly suffer from adaptation problems, anxiety, fears, distress, sleeping disorder or depression. Children particularly suffer from behavioural problems, attention deficit disorders, bed wetting and learning difficulties, which makes it particularly difficult for them to integrate and succeed in a new school system. In addition there are often significant relational problems between the child and the parents.

2/ Objective
The aim of psychological support is to give the beneficiary the opportunity and freedom to express worries, distress and fears but also dreams, future plans and expectations. The role of the psychologist is to help the beneficiary to think and talk about his/her feelings and thoughts and to understand the reason of his/her distress in order to find a way to improve his/her life conditions and psychological wellbeing through tips or advices. All techniques used aim at facilitating self expression, building a relation of trust between the beneficiary and the psychologist and strengthening the adaptation and coping skills.

3/ Description of the action
Insan’s psychologists conduct individual and group sessions with vulnerable adults and children. In addition to these sessions, psycho-social activities are organised for children and adults in both their neighborhoods and at Insan Centre. Awareness sessions and workshops are being held on different issues depending on the interests expressed by the targeted population. For instance, the topic of these awareness sessions deals with education, hygiene, alternatives to corporal punishment, psycho-social wellbeing etc. At the same time, concerning the Migrant Domestic Workers, the psychologists launched different group sessions for psychological support.

4/ Beneficiaries
The psychologist meets the individual or family in need of psychological support, after the social worker has referred them to the psychological services. On a basis of an assessment of the psychological wellbeing the psychologist decides to establish a support that can vary from individual counseling (adult or child) to family counseling or group counseling. 140 individuals received psychological therapy during 2012.

Child Protection Policy
Insan recognises that children in any society are potentially vulnerable to abuse, however we believe that children have a right to be free from abuse, exploitation and neglect. Therefore Insan promises to protect children from all type of abuse and is committed to creating a secure environment for them. The organisation’s child protection policy outlines what is being done to protect all children in Insan’s care. We build this policy in 2009 with the collaboration of Terres des Hommes. All employees, voluntaries or visitor of our organisation in contact with children must sign this policy.

Moreover, we strive to protect the most vulnerable children, involved in our different programs, with a strong collaboration with U.P.E.L. (Union pour la Protection de l’Enfance au Liban, Union for protecting childhood in Lebanon); the only association to have mandate by the government to provide judiciary protection of children. For all cases detected by our psychologist, social workers or employees of our educational programs, we inform U.P.E.L. and the Juvenile courts in Beirut or Mount Lebanon to act promptly.
3. Protection / Legal Assistance

1/ Context

A high percentage of migrant workers and even refugees live in Lebanon without any legal status. They either enter the country illegally or become illegal once they lose or give up their work (often because of abuse or exploitation by the employer). Once they lost their legal status migrant workers and refugees find themselves in an even more vulnerable situation than they are already in. They have no way to access services such as educational, social or medical services. In case of violations of their rights, legal redress is made impossible, since there is a risk to be arrested. There is also a number of Lebanese citizens that find themselves in a similar situation. Not having been registered as a child, they have no legal documents and no opportunity to access the services usually offered to Lebanese nationals.

2/ Objectives

The legal counseling program is designed to serve migrants, refugees, non-IDs or Lebanese people with legal problems on a case-by-case basis depending on their specific and personal needs. The aim is to solve their legal situation; in most cases through assisting them in obtaining legal papers and registering themselves or their children. Solving their legal issues will enable these people to integrate into the Lebanese society.

3/ Description of the action

Insan’s legal counsellors give advices on often complicated legal situations and try to mediate between the beneficiary and the involved people, often the sponsor employer. In addition, the counsellor/lawyer offers support and guidance in dealing with the authorities, embassies or international organisations such as the United Nations. The legal department also takes on legal representation in courts or in front of other relevant authorities, whenever necessary.

4/ Beneficiaries

Currently, two lawyers are working on 76 cases concerning different issues.
3. Protection / Insan House

1/ Context

Many of the families with whom Insan works have severe problems at home, which can present itself in violent behavior towards the children of the family. An unstable family environment influences the development of the children negatively. In some cases children find themselves in extreme risk situations and are exposed to excessive violence, prostitution or paedophilia.

2/ Objective

Insan House gives temporary shelter to these children by providing them with a safe environment in which they can develop and thrive. Insan also works on helping their families to improve the situation at home, in order to enable the reintegration of the children within the household, once the situation has become safe.

3/ Description of the action

At Insan House the children are integrated in a normal family and are able to experience a stable family environment. After attending school they receive additional tutoring and support with their homeworks along with other children at Insan Centre. They return to Insan House in the afternoon where they are allowed to watch TV or play before they get their dinner and go to bed. During the weekends the children are supposed to spend their time with their families; however some of them have no family to take care for them, which is why they spend the weekend with a host family or stay at Insan House over the week end. The children living at Insan House are under constant supervision by Insan and if necessary receive psychological support from the team of psychologists. In the case of legal issues the legal counsellor takes on their legal representation and tries to get their papers in order.

From Monday to Friday, the children come back from school to Insan Association around 3:00p.m., where they have their lunch and then start studying their lessons and doing their homework with the help of teachers and volunteers. 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.

4/ Beneficiaries

All through 2012, Insan House functioned regularly as a shelter for nine children at very high risk with a caretaker. Three other children have benefited from the protection of Insan House during short periods.
Section 4

Advocacy Program

Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs), mainly women, come to work as domestic workers in Lebanese households and routinely encounter exploitive working conditions and discrimination. MDWs are excluded from Lebanese labours which provides basic protection for workers. Instead, the sponsorship system governs working and living arrangements for MDWs in Lebanon. The sponsorship system (Kafala) is the legal basis for residency and employment: it renders them totally dependent on their employers. Due to the entangled relationship between MDWs and their employers, MDWs are more exposed to exploitive conditions and other abuses than other migrant workers. Indeed, they are extremely vulnerable to maltreatment and abuse of all kind, which range from exploitive condition (to physical, verbal and even sexual abuses). Moreover, although discrimination is highly visible, government, judiciary and the Lebanese population at large remain insensitive to their plight.

Our project aims to empower MDWs through lobbying and awareness raising about their inalienable rights and the possibility to seek redress from abuse and exploitation. Further, our awareness raising and advocacy events intend to foster the political and community will to create an alternative to the sponsorship system.
4. Advocacy Program

1/ Context

Migrant Domestic Workers (MDWs), mainly women, come to work as domestic workers in Lebanese households and routinely encounter exploitive working conditions and discrimination. The sponsorship system (Kafala) is the legal basis for residency and employment: it renders MDWs totally dependent on their employers for food, shelter, residency and work permits. MDWs lose their legal status if their sponsor terminates their contract, or if they decide to leave their employer. Moreover, they are excluded by the Lebanese Labour Law where article 7 clearly states that all workers are covered except domestic workers. Considering their precarious situation, MDWs are more exposed to exploitive conditions and other abuses than other migrant workers. Indeed, they are extremely vulnerable to mistreatment and abuse of all kind, which range from exploitive condition (confiscation of identity papers, withholding of wages and foods, confinement to employer’s residency, lack of privacy as they live at their employer’s house, unlimited work hours) to physical, emotional and even sexual abuse. Moreover, although discrimination is highly visible, the government, judiciary and the Lebanese population at large remain insensitive to their plight.

2/ Objectives

Through different campaigns Insan Association advocates for the rights of the people that are most marginalized in the Lebanese society. The actions seek to strengthen the awareness of the judiciary system, decision makers, opinion makers and the Lebanese civil society to uphold their duty to guarantee the rights of MDWs and their children to a life free of abuse, exploitation and discrimination, as described in the international conventions ratified by Lebanon such as International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, or International Labour Organization Conventions... At the same time, Insan Association attempts to inform MDWs about their rights.

The Daily Star (Friday, January 20, 2012)

Extract from the article Fashion and human rights unite at Beirut event The Daily Star

“Though it might be seem an odd event for highlighting the challenges facing migrant domestic workers in Lebanon, the Insan Association took on the issue with a fashion show, hoping to open people’s eyes to the fact that beauty comes in all colors.

Behind the Green Door in Gemmayze presented the show, “Celebrating Colors,” Wednesday night to a packed audience. It featured creations by up and coming Lebanese designers, modeled by women from backgrounds representing Lebanese and immigrant communities in Beirut.

According to event organizer Joana hauff from Insan Association, the idea for a fashion show came as a new tactic to raise awareness about the plight of migrant workers and immigrants in Lebanon, in a way that roundtables and news conferences cannot.

“This event was supposed to target the broad public and the aim was to attract a different kind of crowd that would usually not show up to our events and not already sensitized to the issue,” explained Joana Hauff.”
3/ Description of the actions

During 2012, Insan was particularly active regarding the advocacy for the rights of MDWs. Awareness raising actions were both led with Lebanese decision makers and civil society. We worked not only at a national level but at an international level too.

We organized 2 conferences in La Sagesse University about the rights of Migrant Domestic Workers in Lebanon and their legal protection and the access to justice for migrant domestic workers and their children in Lebanon. We invited notably a representative of his Excellency the Minister of justice, the Ambassador of Spain in Lebanon, the Dean of the Law Faculty of La Sagesse University, Dr. Charbel Nahas the Minister of Labour, other NGOs and some migrant community leaders. In acknowledgement of our experience, we were invited to participate at the World Social Forum on Migration held in Manila and at the OCHA (the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, an organ of the United Nations Secretariat) ‘day of general discussion on children in the context of international migration’ in Geneva.

Insan organized public events to sensibilize the Lebanese society about the living conditions of MDWs. A fashion show held in January, ‘Celebrating Colours’ was an event uniting fashion and human rights of migrants targeting the broader public. The aim was to attract a different kind of crowd that would usually not attend our events and therefore a crowd that are not already sensitized to the issue. Insan co-organized The Workers’ Day parade as a call to action and a cultural celebration. The parade saw hundreds of MDWs calling on the Lebanese Government to abolish the kefala system. Finally, Insan with the Lebanese NGO KAFA recently organized a flashmob demonstration entitled “Untie the Knot” to highlight the plight of migrant domestic workers and to denounce the sponsorship system in particular. The flash mob was done in three locations in Jounieh and in two places in Beirut. We picked the locations based on the crowds and also to target a diverse set of people.

Another goal was to record the flash mob so that it could be seen by more people than those present in the locations chosen and to have a broader reach. The footage was shown on a popular Lebanese television station during the nightly news.

On Tuesday 18th of December, International Migrants Day, Insan Association and other NGOs (Anti-Racism Movement and KAFA), collaborated with migrant domestic workers in Lebanon to document their dreams for a more just society where their voices are heard and their rights are protected by law. This video, titled ‘I have a dream for justice in Lebanon!’ and notably broadcast on YouTube and Facebook, highlighted slavery-like conditions that they are currently subjected to under the sponsorship system.

During all its events in schools, universities and other public spaces, Insan prepares and distributes leaflets and posters with the aim of raising more awareness amongst the Lebanese public on equity and the rights of MDWs.

Finally, Insan Association, is deeply concerned about the predicament of the children of MDWs. Issues faced by these children, including statelessness, is reaching a critical point but has not yet received the attention and focus it duly requires. Consequentially, Insan is undertaking a large research project to determine their specific vulnerabilities and needs. The first results of this study will be available next year.

4/ Beneficiaries

Today, it is estimated that there are some 200 000 MDWs in Lebanon from which 85 000 are undocumented freelancers (according to embassies figures).
We would like through this annual report, express our thanks and gratitude to all our partners who helped us this year to achieve our different projects:
Our location

Insan Association is located in Nabaa, Sin el Fil, in the North East of Beirut. The area and the surrounding suburbs are home to many migrant workers and refugees. This closeness helps to always be aware of the developments and problems faced by the organisation’s target populations.

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