



Basmeh & Zeitooneh - A Lebanese Association

Announced by the decree #145/2014

A Concept Note to Support Basmeh & Zeitooneh's school

An introduction to Basmeh & Zeitooneh

Basmeh and Zeitooneh started as a group of volunteers dedicated to serving Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The organization was founded by Syrian expatriates currently residing in Lebanon, whose primary goal is to motivate Syrian youth and women that are victimized by the conflict. Basmeh and Zeitooneh's role has been to find and initiate avenues for those affected by the conflict to develop their skills, and lead a life of dignity. Its mission is to launch an initiative that fills the gaps left by larger humanitarian aid agencies, whose shortcomings stem primarily from bureaucratic burdens. Today, the organization currently serves an estimated 15,000 Syrians individuals in Beirut alone, and employs 70 full-time employees. The organization now has three locations one in Shatila one in Burj Al Barajneh, and the Third is in Bar Elias in the Bekaa, all of them are in areas with a high volume of refugee populations. Basmeh and Zeitooneh has also launched a series of developmental projects that aim to revive the sense of dignity among Syrian refugees in Lebanon and to empower them with the skills necessary for them to lead constructive lives.

The status of children access to education in Lebanon

The right to education is considered a fundamental human right primarily due to the fact that education facilitates a society's development and progress. For children, education can provide them the skills necessary for them to become constructive members of society and to break cycles of poverty which have trapped generations of children. Today, Save the Children estimates that 463,798 Syrian children are currently seeking refuge in Lebanon, and approximately 80% of these children have no access to education. This leaves over 350,000 Syrian refugee children without access to education. These figures illustrate the vulnerability of Syrian refugee children, and more importantly, a need to establish educational institutions to absorb them.

In addition, the 20% of Syrian children currently enrolled in Lebanese public schools are suffering from a variety of obstacles that impede their access to quality education. First, and most importantly, the sizes of classrooms have expanded to host over 40 children per classroom. In fact, Lebanese public schools were designed to absorb between 230,000 to 240,000 Lebanese students, all of which have been adequately occupied by Lebanese children. The presence of Syrian children, however, has forced the schools to absorb an estimated additional 80,000 students, creating remarkable pressure on the Lebanese public school system. Second, all Syrian children who were previously educated in Syria were



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educated in the Arabic Language, in Lebanon however, the language of instruction is French and English. This has served as a major impediment to Syrian children's capability to adapt to the Lebanese educational system. Third, several sources have reported that the pressure absorbed by the Lebanese public schools, in combination with Syrian students struggle to acclimate to the Lebanese curriculum has created social tensions within the schools, sometimes leading Syrian refugee students to suffer from additional psycho-social pressures.

Basmeh & Zeitooneh's community learning approach

In response to the existing impediments to Syrian refugee children's access to education, and as a response to the fact that the Lebanese public schools are not equipped to absorb over 400,000 Syrian Children, Basmeh and Zeitooneh has launched a community Learning Program for children between the ages of 6- 14 in Chatila refugee camp in Beirut. The school intends to provide children, many of whom have been without education for three years, an opportunity to attain an education.

The school currently provides 300 Syrian children access to education based on the Lebanese curriculum, intensive training in English and French, extra-curricular activities, and psycho-social support in the form of peace education. More specifically, the school provides students with training in 8 subject matters that include: Arabic, French, English, Math, Art, Sports, Music, and peace education.

The school aims to provide Syrian children with education, by facilitating the skills necessary for them to adapt to the Lebanese educational system, and to facilitate their enrollment in the Lebanese public schooling system for the next scholar year. In case the Lebanese public schooling system wasn't able to absorb them by then, Basmeh & Zeitooneh intends to move with the children it trained to a higher level. Moreover, through the provision of Peace Education, Basmeh and Zeitooneh's school provides children with an avenue to release the stress and tension that is a direct result of their plight as refugees through the provision of a variety of activities like: Puppetry, art, storytelling, and theater. More importantly, these activities serve to promote a culture of peace amongst child refugees who have been victims of, and witnesses to, violence.

The Curriculum

Basmeh and Zeitooneh has developed a curriculum in collaboration with academic consultants, in order to respond to the immediate educational needs of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The school will initially provide 400 Syrian children access to education based on



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the Lebanese curriculum, intensive training in English and French, extra-curricular activities, and psycho-social support. More specifically, the school will provide students with training in 9 core subject matters that include: Arabic, French, English, Math, Art, Sports, Music, Computer, and peace education. The organization has been implementing the curriculum since January 2014 in Chatila. Accordingly, the staff in Basmeh and Zeitooneh has had experience implementing and adapting the curriculum in order to ensure that Syrian refugees are acquiring the educational training they need to excel academically.

The school intends not only to provide Syrian children with education, but also to teach them the skills they need to adapt to the Lebanese educational system. Moreover, through the provision of Peace Education, Basmeh and Zeitooneh's school provides children with an avenue to release the stress and tension that is a direct result of their plight as refugees through the provision of a variety of activities like: Puppetry, art, storytelling, and theater. More importantly, these activities serve to promote a culture of peace amongst child refugees who have been victims of, and witnesses to, violence. In addition, by immersing students into an educational environment where they learn to use their time constructively, Basmeh and Zeitooneh will curtail child involvement in labor, early or forced marriage, and violence, all of which are widespread during prolonged periods of conflict and displacement.

The school's social role

As mentioned, B&Z tries to implement, in addition to the Lebanese curriculum, several programs like the peace education, the psycho-social support, and the Saturday Fun Day. Through those different programs, the school staff has been able to play a significant social role by following on students with special cases. For instance the case of Moustafa 13 years old, the oldest son for his mother, who wanted to drop out of the school to work in the local market and support his mother and siblings. The staff intervened is following up Moustafa closely and finds ways to financially help his family and let him continue his studies and have a normal childhood.

The need for further funding

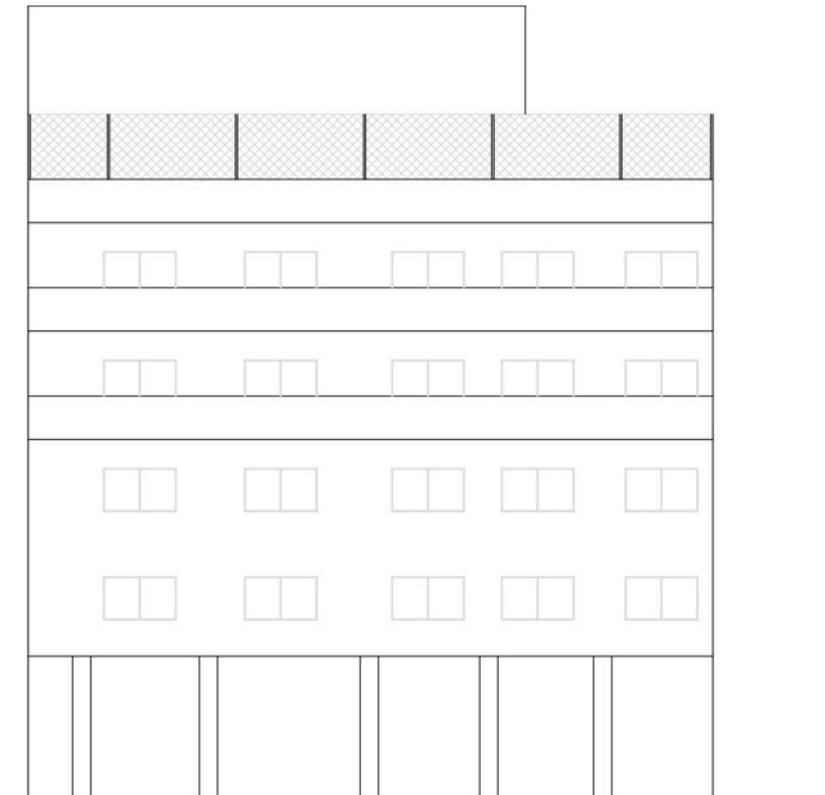
Upon witnessing the success of the community-based learning Program, Basmeh and Zeitooneh is currently seeking donor support to continue and expand the operations of its school to reach 400 kids in the coming scholar year. As an organization, we are striving to ensure our students have the opportunity to continue to access education, and to maximize the number of Syrian refugee children's access to education. More importantly, we are hoping to give more students a similar opportunity to learn the skills that will allow them to have more rewarding futures.

We believe that it is through education that these children can overcome the trauma they have witnessed as refugees of a violent conflict, and acquire the tools necessary to grow up to become constructive and productive members of society. More significantly, we believe by educating Syria’s youth, we will be investing in the future of Syria’s social and economic development.

An Estimated Budget

The table below provides an estimated budget to support the school fully for a period of 12 months, in order to provide 400 students with access to basic education, in addition to peace education, and extra-curricular activities to provide psycho-social support for Syrian refugee children.

The school is comprised of a three-story building in Shatila camp. The students will receive education in 9 subject areas that include: Arabic, French, English, Math, Art, Music, Computer, Sports, and Peace Education. They are also served a nutritious snack once a day to support their wellbeing and growth.



The School’s Facade

(The first floor belongs to another organization, while the school, occupies the other four floors - 3 are used as classrooms and the fourth is used as a playground)



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	Item	Unit Cost (US \$)	Monthly Cost	Yearly cost	Total (US\$)
Establishing	Desks and chairs (teachers 15)	55	-	-	\$825
	Desks and chairs (Students 50)	55	-	-	\$2,750
	Furniture	-	-	-	\$3,500
	Boards (10)	200	-	-	\$2,000
	Subtotal				\$9,075
Building	Rent	-	\$3,700	\$44,400	\$44,400
	Fuel for generator	-	\$600	\$6,600	\$6,600
	Water + Internet Subscriptions	-	\$100	\$1,200	\$1,200
	Heating	-	\$250	\$1,750	\$1,750
	Subtotal				\$53,950
Salaries	Manager	-	\$1,450	\$17,400	\$17,400
	Social assistant	-	\$1,000	\$12,000	\$12,000
	Teachers (up to 14)	-	\$7,000	\$77,000	\$77,000
	Cleaners (3)	400	\$1,200	\$14,400	\$14,400
	Subtotal				\$120,800
Education	GoToSchool Kit (400)	35	-	-	\$14,000
	Learning materials	-	\$1,100	\$12,100	\$12,100
	Office Stationary	-	\$150	\$1,650	\$1,650
	Subtotal				\$27,750
Other costs	Light meals (0.5\$ per Kid)	200	\$5,200	\$57,200	\$57,200
	Hospitality	-	\$150	\$1,650	\$1,650
	Hygienic and cleaning materials	-	\$150	\$1,650	\$1,650
					\$60,500
Subtotal				\$272,075	
overhead (9%)				\$24,487	
Total				\$296,562	



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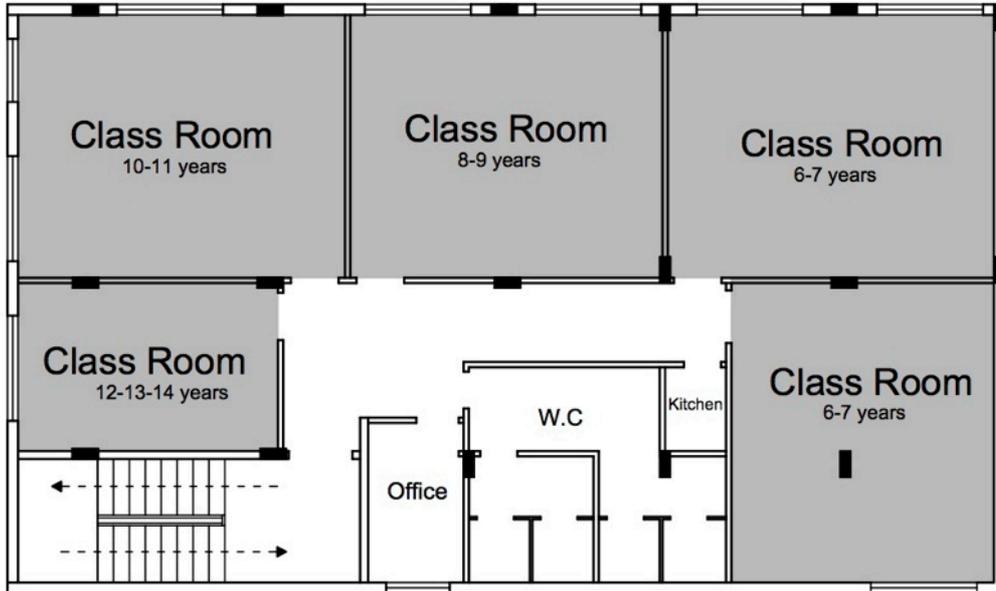
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	Item	Unit (US\$)	Monthly	Yearly	Total (US\$)
Establishing	Desks and chairs (teachers 15)	55	-	-	\$825
	Desks and chairs (Students 50)	55	-	-	\$2750
	Furniture	-	-	-	\$3500
	Boards (10)	200	-	-	\$2000
	Subtotal				\$9075
	GoToSchool Kit (400)	35	-	-	\$14000
one time costs					\$23,075
Building	Rent	-	\$3700	\$44400	\$44400
	Fuel for generator	-	\$600	\$6600	\$6600
	Water + Internet	-	\$100	\$1200	\$1200
	Heating (7 months)	-	\$250	\$1750	\$1750
	Subtotal		\$4,650		\$53,950
Salaries	Manager	-	\$1450	\$17400	\$17400
	Social assistant	-	\$1000	\$12000	\$12000
	Teachers (up to 14)	-	\$7000	\$77000	\$77000
	Cleaners (3)	400	\$1200	\$14400	\$14400
	Subtotal		\$10,650		\$120,800
Education	Learning materials	-	\$1100	\$12100	\$12100
	Office Stationary	-	\$150	\$1650	\$1650
	Subtotal		\$1,250		\$13,750
Other costs	Hospitality	-	\$150	\$1650	\$1650
	Hygienic and cleaning materials	-	\$150	\$1650	\$1650
			\$300		\$3300
operational costs		Per month	\$16,850	Per year	\$191,800
		Student/ month	\$42	Student/ year	\$480
without meals					\$214,875
Meals for kids	(0.5\$/Kid per day)	200	\$5200	\$57200	\$57200
Subtotal					\$272075
overhead (9%)					\$24487
Total					\$296562

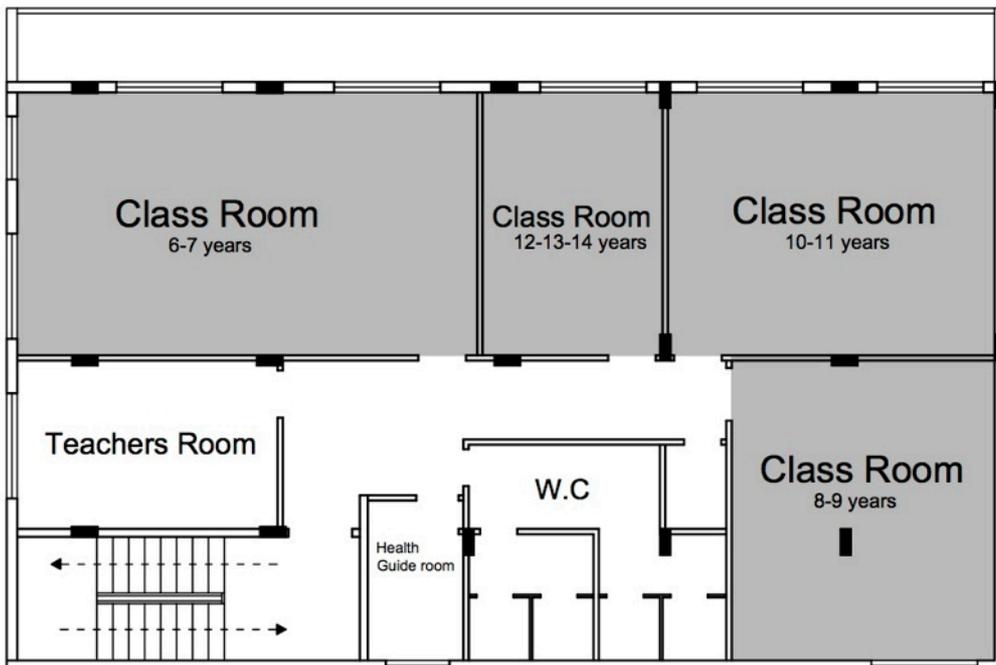


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second floor - school 1

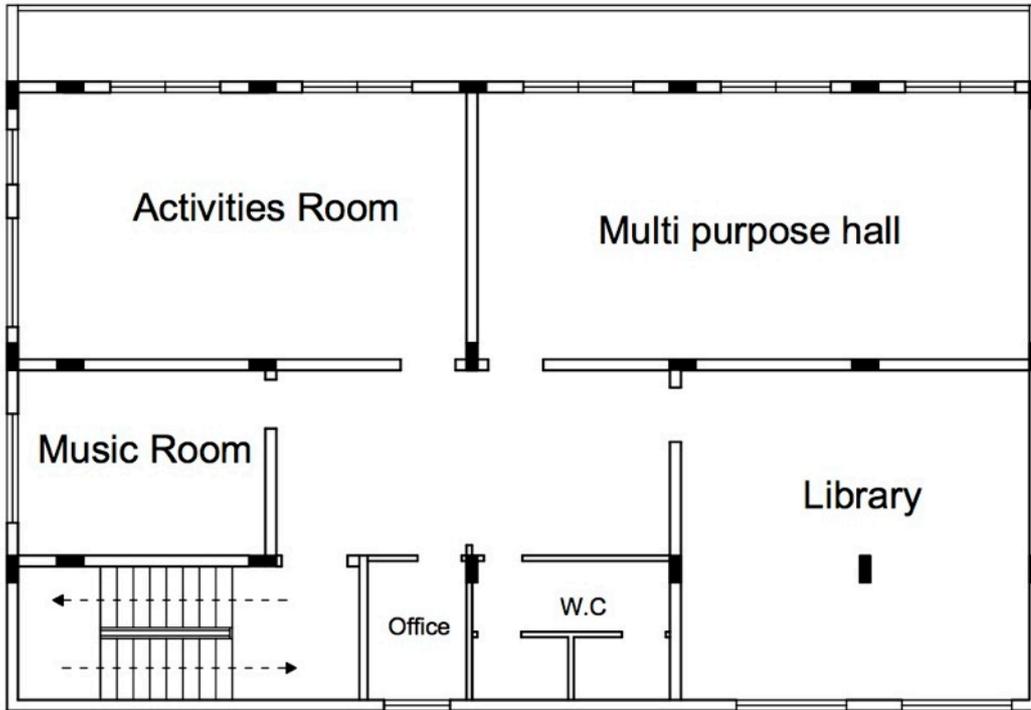


Third floor - school 2

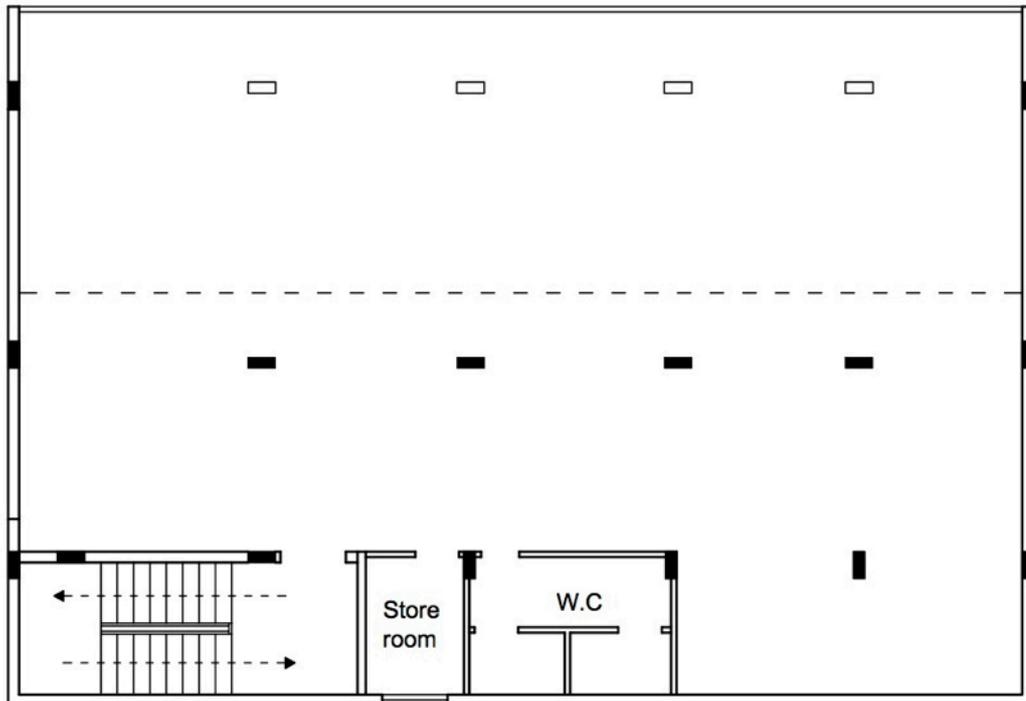


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Forth floor - Art and Culture center



Roof - Play ground