





#Danniyeh_belsoura

GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME



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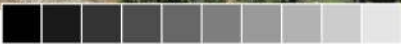
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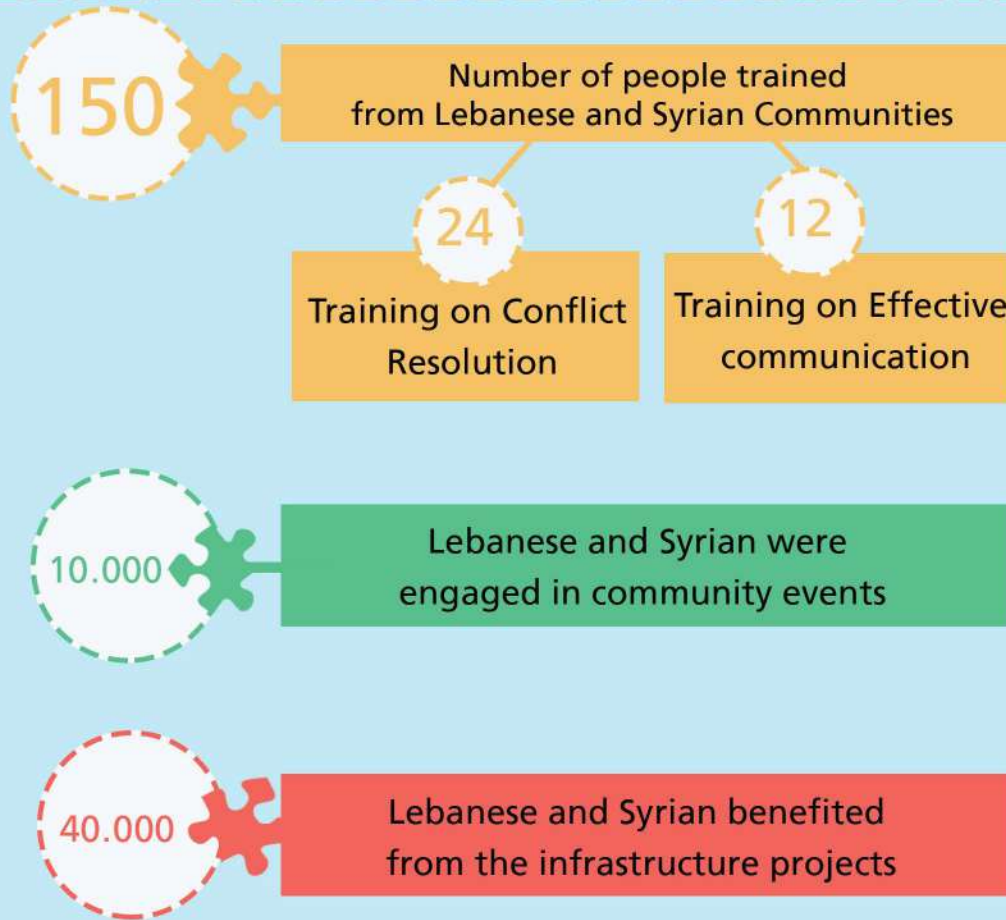
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#DANNIYEH_BELSOURA



"Governance and Community Action Programme"



#Introduction

The area of Danniye is distinguished by its excellent ecological environment, with abundant trees taking over the lands and a diversified wildlife taking its course. However, the situation of the 115,000 inhabitants of the 80 towns of Danniye is alarming as the development is faltering, starting from the road networks, to problems in water, electricity, transportation, education, and hospitalization. Moreover, the area has been linked with terrorism and extremism by the media who never failed to depict the area from a negative angle by talking about the armed terrorist in the area's far off mountains. The problem lies in that the area is remote and the media is not personally reaching this area, which only leaves room for the coverage of major events related to violence and terrorism. With municipalities lacking the capabilities to voice their concerns and implement change, and the media failing to emit a positive image about the area, Danniye is calling for help.

As the municipalities were barely responding to the needs of the towns of Danniye, the burden intensified as the area welcomed Syrian refugees. Even though the inhabitants welcomed the Syrian community with open arms, the load that the municipalities were barely carrying became heavier with the addition of the new Syrian community. As a result the municipalities were struggling to respond to the needs of both communities, thereby leading to the creation and installment of tensions within the Syrian and Lebanese communities.

between local actors and promote effective communication between the municipality and the community.

During the project, six community representatives committees were formed in Kfarhabou, Bakhoun, Izal, Asoun, Sir, and Bekaasefrine. Each committee consisted of 24 members 10 Lebanese, 10 Syrians and 4 members of the municipality. Mercycorps was keen during the selection process to ensure gender balance and used announcements and surveys to spread the call followed by interviews. The committees have received training in conflict resolution and mediation, in addition to trainings on effective communication, and media literacy in order to attract media to cover positive stories on the region. The key to the project was for the trainers to provide the technical assistance while giving the ownership to the trainees.

The committees went through a needs assessment process in order to identify resource based interventions that were implemented by the GCAP in the six areas of Danniye.

Community events were designed as well by the committees in the aim to shed light on the issues faced in their local areas to bring attention to this forgotten geographical area while trying to lay solutions and to provide spaces of interaction and engagement of local communities both Lebanese and Syrians.

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Further trainings were conducted within the GCAP to increase municipalities' operational capacities. Mehanna Foundation and Maharat Foundation delivered trainings to 33 municipalities based on a needs assessment identifying the gaps and the areas that need improvement. The training included strategic planning, archiving, program management, mechanization, useful softwares and communication including social media.

Maharat based its training on the Access to Information Law, adopted at the end of January 2017, which mandates municipalities to publish all information that ensures transparency of their work from budget to contracts and meeting minutes. The training also included the importance of building effective communication channels to increase transparency while promoting communication between local communities and local governments

GCAP contributed to the establishment of communication channels between the local authorities, represented by the Municipality, and the local community. Six websites were established for the six municipalities in Kfarhabou, Izal, Bakhoun, Sir, Bekaasefrine, and Asoun; These websites were produced with the cooperation of the municipalities and encompass specialized content including information about the municipality (municipal council program - members of the municipality - the date of establishment of the municipality - information about the mayor and the committees), reports (budget, About the town (its history - its features), copies of the circulars and declarations issued by the municipality, public service centers in the town, transaction forms, complaints section, and municipal cooperation programs with donors or associations.

The project benefited more than 40,000 people including Lebanese and Syrians throughout its activities, while the trainings targeted 150 Lebanese and Syrians in the six community committees.

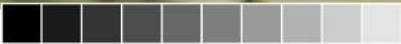


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#DANNIYEH_BELSOURA





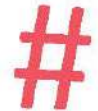
#KFARHABOU_BELSOURA

#KFARHABOU_BELSOURA





A breath of fresh air was carried over the agricultural town of Kfarhabou with the renovation of its water well. Farmers who are struggling with water irrigation and Syrian refugees who are undergoing financial problems are seeing things turn around. The renovation will provide water for irrigation, which will improve the situation of 70% of the town's population that depend on farming for a living as well as boost the situation of the displaced Syrians. Moreover, the project conveyed a positive picture that promotes a harmonious Lebanese-Syrian coexistence.



#KFARHABOU_BELSOURA



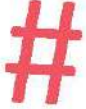


The renewal of the only dentistry clinic in the Danniyeh area was a must for the people of Kfarhabou, where the clinic is based. The 15 year old infrastructure and material of the clinic went through a well-deserved revitalization that will benefit the whole area of Danniyeh which includes locals as well as Syrian refugees who go there.



#KFARHABOU_BELSOURA





The conflict resolution trainings brought participants closer together, removed existing tensions, and strengthened dialogue. Omar El Debel, member of the municipality of Kfarhabou, was able to resolve a conflict between the municipality and a land owner using a conflict resolution strategy based on finding common interest. Ramziya Al Mahmoud, a Syrian refugee who was a member of the community committee, says that "It was a nice experience [...] as we benefited from the experiences of the trainers and from the conclusions we reached. The thing that stuck in my head is the "Win-Win" situation, which explains that a person does not always have to be in a position of strength and profit, that [as a result] it's not necessary for the other person to lose everything, and that there should remain a place for reason and logic. It was mentioned in conflict resolution training: I do not necessarily have to destroy the person I disagree with so I can make a profit".



Kfarhabou's activities focused on spreading health awareness to Lebanese and Syrian children through Kermis games as well as on promoting the famous local agricultural products through an exhibition, in order to shed the light on the poor management of these products. In addition to that, a panel discussion was held by media figure Walid Abboud on the importance of building relations with the media in order to highlight the needs of the communities outside Beirut and on the role that media can play in promoting development.

#KFARHABOU_BELSOURA





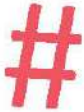
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After the Syrian refugees voiced their concerns about the poor hygiene and hygienic education they are currently undergoing, a health kermis was put in place in order to raise the awareness of both the Syrians and the Lebanese about hygiene. A booth was installed where posters including information about transmittable diseases and how to avoid them, as well as games through which the kids learned how to properly wash their hands, brush their teeth, and responsibly and securely use water.

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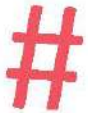


“The media is deficient in portraying the area’s problems, but there is a shared responsibility between the media, the citizen, and the municipalities in that we should all raise awareness about the role of the citizen as a journalist, and that we should impose our agendas through the media...There is also a necessity for the integration of communication within the work of the municipalities in order to create bridges with the media and deliver the voices of the local communities and the municipalities to the public”.



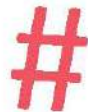
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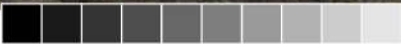




Kfarhabou produces eight tons of honey per year as well as 20 different types of compote labeled "Atyab Kfarhabou". "Everything our village produces, is made naturally and organically [...] The Syrian women help us in the preparation [of the compote]," said Lima Swan, president of the association of culture and craft for woman.

Through the "Kfarhabou Bel Soura" event, Lebanese and Syrian women displayed their home-made Saj bread and their jam to promote local production.





#IZAL_BELSOURA



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The tower of Izal is now a more welcoming refuge for the 70 Syrian families who live there; after it was equipped with a power generator that allowed electricity to be produced, and drinking water to be drawn more easily. Before the installation, the Syrian refugees, especially children, struggled by carrying water in buckets from the land source to the different floors of the tower. Today, one less burden is carried by the displaced families in Izal as water and electricity are directly provided.

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Every year many people fall victim to the poor road infrastructure system of the town of Izal, as the only road that connects the town to the rest of the region is small and unsafe. GCAP contributed in improving the new road which is now paved, and equipped with lighting.

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#IZAL_BELSOURA





Syrian refugees are gathered in the tower of Izal while the Lebanese residents live in the rest of the town. This segregation created tensions and a sense of unfamiliarity between the two communities. However, during the harsh winter season, the Lebanese participants came to the aid of the Syrian participants, who did not own any mean of transportation, by giving them a ride to the trainings done by the GCAP, and bringing them back to the town. “The project reinforced the Lebanese-Syrian Coexistence which contributed to the resolution of the difficulties and the developmental problems in Izal,” said Hamd Al Hamad, a Syrian refugee.



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Hamad Al Hamad

“The activities shed the light on the town of Izal, a town that needs much support and developmental work. The Syrian community has benefited both individually and collectively, from this project and its activities. One of the most prominent things is that a joint Syrian-Lebanese concern was created, which we are working to resolve together. The training we have received in the area of conflict resolution has helped us solve a number of problems, so the adversaries are turning to us to solve their problems.”

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#IZAL_BELSOURA



The "Izal Bel Soura" event was characterized by the traditional character of the town and its simplicity. A traditional village was inaugurated which included the preparation of the Keshek, soap, Changlish, Kebbe, Tannour bread, and some traditional dishes prepared by Lebanese and Syrian women. The event also included an exhibition of the photographs of the village's Lebanese and Syrians children (ages 13-17 years) who were previously trained on photography, in a way of a documentary that shed light on a number of issues and problems faced by residents in this town.

#IZAL_BELSORA





Choosing the trainees that would be given this workshop was a hard task as everyone in the town wanted to learn and have a voice. However, after carefully choosing the sample, twenty three Syrian and Lebanese children acquired photography skills through a training developed by Maharat foundation, whose goal is to create and promote the journalist citizen. This training allowed children to cover and show the problems that their town is suffering from through an art form, instead of resorting to violence.



Photo by: Dania Amoun

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Present in around most of the houses of the towns, the Tannour stone is used by the villagers to produce bread. This is an old traditional way to do the bread that the town of Izal is still preserving. The women of Izal prepare the dough, and cut the dried tree branches in order to make fire and cook the delicious Tannour bread.

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The inhabitants of the town of Izal and the Syrian refugee share the cultivation of onions, which are well-known in the town. Large quantities are produced for self-use or marketed in the rest of the towns of Danniye and Souk Al-Hesba in Tripoli.

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Photo by: Fatima al Maghchouch

Since the beginning of the Syrian crisis, the Syrian refugees have been living in camps. The shelters are made of large tissue material that do not protect them from the winter cold. Since 2014 they moved into the "Tower" building which was abandoned. Today, the Tower of Izal has about 70 families suffering from the bad living conditions that come with the habitat. Moreover, it is isolated from the town and the roads leading to it are bad and full of potholes, so it is difficult for ordinary cars to drive on them. These potholes also turns into winter pools that lead to the imprisonment of residents of the tower, paralyzing their movement.

#IZAL_BELSOURA



Photos by: Nour al Moussa & Oussama al Saleh



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The old stone houses, scattered throughout the town of Izal, are a sign of its old history as the houses date back to more than 200 years. Today, they are neglected and not subject to any restoration; some of them preserved their doors, roofs, and pillars of old wood, while others have become ruins housing poultry and cows.

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Photo by: Mayssa al Hady, Saraa & Rayane al Maghchouch



Photo by: Ali Samiha

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Izal is characterized by the manufacture of concrete blocks, which is a basic livelihood for the people of the town, and is marketed locally in Danniye and a number of Lebanese regions. The sand is extracted from the rock-crushers of the region, mixed with gravel and water, and placed in manually-assembled molds. The concrete blocks come out to enter the building process.

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Photos by: Nancy Abed al Rahman



Women still rely on the traditional production of local soap, whose mold passes through many stages of manufacture. First, the ingredients are combined into large metal containers which are placed on a strong fire. The liquid is then transferred to wooden blocks and later cut to take its usual rectangular shape.



Photo by: Fatima Kamal al Din & Khaled Abed al Wahed

Izal is famous for its perennials, especially pine, its green spaces and animal wealth, which constitute an attraction for hunting. However, trees are cut in a random manner in response to heating, cooking and other needs, without respect for environmental standards, which threatens the forest wealth on a long term.

#IZAL_BELSOURA



Photo by: Amer al Saleh

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A large number of Syrian refugees live in the Tower, which lacks access to water and electricity. People, including children, are forced to go to the water source and wait for a long time to fill their plastic containers. When they return, the children take them to the upper floors where they are used for drinking and daily needs.

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#SIR_BELSOURA

#SIR_BELSOURA





The youth of Sir can now enjoy a local football field where they can break away from their routines and form bonds with each other. Before the field was constructed, locals and Syrian refugees used to go to neighboring towns to play but the trip was costly, reaching the relatively large sum of 75,000 LL; Mhammad Ibara, a Syrian refugee, recounts: “Before, we were forced to assemble ourselves and rent cars to arrive to the closest football field either in Bakhoun or Bekaasefrin, in addition to the cost that came with renting the field”. However, the presence of a local football field was a priority to the people of Sir, because it is a place of entertainment and distraction, especially for the displaced Syrians who need it to escape their harsh realities. The establishment of the field will not only provide a way of distraction but will also bring the Lebanese and Syrian youths together.



#SIR_BELSOURA





A baseline study done by Mercy Corps sought to identify the circumstances causing violence and tensions inside Danniyeh villages and whether the latter resulted from a lack of social services provision. The study, which was done on 2437 homes, showed that one of the three factors that create tension and violence is the lack of employment. Struggling with unemployment, the youths of the town of Sir consider the establishment of an employment office a priority as it helps individuals find jobs and lessen the tensions in Sir. Finally, Abire, a holder of an Arabic literature degree has found a job as teacher through the employment office.



#SIR_BELSOURA





Sir's old souk has more than 100 shops that date back to a hundred years. Back in the days, it was one of the most popular in Danniyeh area. Unfortunately, tourism, which used to fuel it, is not what it used to be. As a result the souk has been neglected for many years and owners deserted their shops. A new life was breathed into Sir's streets as the "Sir Bel Soura" event took place in the heart of the old souk with Lebanese and Syrians dancing their traditional dances and exhibiting their handicrafts, all the while children, by engraving their hands on a white sheet of paper, sent a message of peace and joy to the town on Sir.



#SIR_BELSOURA



#SIR_BELSOURA



#SIR_BELSOURA





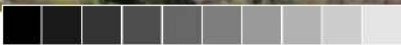
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Dahi Karim

"The event in Sir was marked by the highlight of the common culture of Syria and Lebanon through the presentation of traditional Syrian dance" Al-Arada" and Lebanese dance "AL Dabkeh ", in addition to a handicraft exhibition done by Syrian and Lebanese women."

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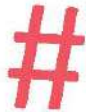




#BAKHOUN_BELSOURA



Bakhoun is characterized by being the educational center of Danniyeḥ as it possesses the only public school that contains all levels in the region, which explains why it was its priority to provide a public library, and equipped spaces for cultural events. Leena Al Bab, holder of a master in history, believe that the project will definitely provide the students of Bakhoun with the appropriate equipment to advance their communication skills, thereby providing better quality education.



#BAKHOUN_BELSOURA





People all around Lebanon saw Bakhoun in a positive light after Mhamad Youssef, a member of the municipality of the town, reached out to the television program “Mechwar” (journey) that presents a beautiful picture of Lebanon by visiting towns all over the country and documenting their nature, historical sites, and touristic places. By implementing the things he learned during the training conducted by Maharat foundation on effective communication pertaining to media attraction, Mhamad Youssef introduced people to another facet of Bakhoun; one that is staying away from conflict and approaching peace.



#BAKHOUN_BELSOURA





“Bakhoun Bel Soura” promoted positive communication among the local community through the participation of the local official schools in the town. A group of children from the school of Bakhoun showcased their talents in the field of painting and handicraft. Also, a theatrical play, under the title of “Al Hayat Tajrouba Bi 7issab,” was performed by secondary school children, and showed the positive and effective roles of young people in building a society before exposing the problems the current society suffers from.



#BAKHOUN_BELSOURA





Nature, environment, and coexistence were topics the children of Bakhoun adopted and exhibited through drawings and handicrafts. Their artistic products were showcased in the “Bakhoun Bel Soura” event.



#BAKHOUN_BELSOURA





Syrian and Lebanese women prepared a diversified menu that fused both cuisines, which included Al Mansaf, Al Kebba, Al Tabbouleh and Abou Amneh. The inhabitants of Bakhoun enjoyed the cultural fusion during the “Bakhoun Bel Soura” event.



#BAKHOUN_BELSOURA





#BEKAASEFRINE_BELSOURA

#BEKAASEFRINE_BELSOURA





The construction of a cultural center in the touristic town of Bekaasefrine could boost the development and economy of the town by providing means of education and job creation for both the Lebanese and Syrian local communities. One Syrian refugee, Yamama Al Tawil, hopes to teach sewing to the local communities through the cultural center, with the goal of improving the development of Bekaasefrine.





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Samah Warde

"These trainings changed the way we work in the municipality to provide better services for the citizen. It also increased our knowledge in many important details about archiving and preserving the data especially that the trainers have a great experience and knowledge on the level of municipality work, which facilitated the deliverance ideas to the participant in an easy and clear way."

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Yamama Tawil

"Through the experience in this project, we learned a lot about ourselves and the community, and earned new horizons in thinking about group work and Lebanese-Syrian collaboration while overcoming all the difficulties that were imposed on us. Subsequently we have to think about learning and aiming for the best. We are trying to solve our conflicts rationally, and we thank each person that welcomed us in Bekaasefrine."

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The "Bekaasefrine Bel Soura" event focused on supporting the Lebanese army and rejecting extremism to improve the town's image and send positive messages to the media. In addition, the activity included artistic performances by Lebanese and Syrian students, a Lebanese Zajal, a gallery of pictures of the town of Bekaasefrine, an exhibition of the Lebanese and Syrian handicrafts, as well as a traditional Syrian-Lebanese luncheon.

#BEKAASEFRINE_BELSOURA



#BEKAASEFRINE_BELSOURA





The Storyteller parked his bus in Bekaasefrine, during the community event the town hosted, and recounted stories and myths that reflect both the Lebanese and Syrian histories. The children and their parents, which were Syrian and Lebanese, soon realized the similarities between the two countries, which strengthened the ties between the two communities. Due to these stories, the storyteller was able to break the tension between the two communities by reminding them of their similarities rather than their differences.



#BEKAASEFRINE_BELSOURA





After the town was negatively depicted in the media with the recent conflict that occurred in the region, the municipality gifted a Lebanese flag with all of the inhabitants' signatures engraved on it as a token of peace to the military and solidarity, to show that there is nothing but respect between the two groups. This gesture deflated the negativity surrounding Bekaasefrine in the media by bringing a breath of positivity.



#BEKAASEFRINE_BELSOURA





#ASOUN_BELSOURA



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The town of Asoun has been divided ever since conflicts in the municipality split it into two which led to its dissolution. However, the two parties were able to work together by and make the “Asoun Bel Soura” event a success by providing logistical support as well as a good example of peace and collaboration that promotes a positive picture for Asoun.

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#ASOUN_BELSOURA



#ASOUN_BELSOURA



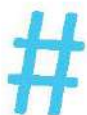


Members of the Asoun committee came up with an idea to bring the Lebanese and Syrian communities together in order to reinforce the bonds between them. Consequently, an entertainment activity was put in place for the Lebanese and Syrian children, bringing the parents together and promoting coexistence. The main objective of Assoun's activity was promoting the coexistence between the local community and displaced Syrians. Through the "Lakouna fi Asoun" games, mixed teams of Lebanese and Syrians which were formed, challenged each other in games like rope-pulling, apple-eating, as well as in coin-searching in flour. These competitions have been a success and a great way for the audience to interact.



#ASOUN_BELSOURA





A strange-looking sweet appeared in the “Asoun Bel Soura” event. Made from “Jeben”, a special kind of cheese, and topped by honey, the sweet has the shape of beehive and so it followed that it was named “The Beehive Sweet”.



#DANNIYEH_BELSOURA
MEDIA



Danniyeh has long been underrepresented in the media. According to study conducted by Maharat Foundation on media coverage, between February and March 2016, only 3% of reports about North Lebanon that were presented on the main news bulletins of the seven monitored television outlets, were about Danniyeh; and only 4% of the printed news, from the six chosen journals, mentioned Danniyeh. Not only is the area underrepresented, but the way the news are covering it is almost always in a negative light. Today Danniyeh is associated with lack of security and criminality which make it seem like a dangerous and non-law-abiding region.

As a response, Maharat conducted another study investigating whether the local community plays an alternative and effective role through the use of effective communication channels between the various components and entities in the region of Danniyeh in order to promote opportunities for local development and make it more transparent and participatory.





The findings were surprising as only 8% of the residents, which are from the 25 municipalities that were studied in this area, have access to social media; and there were no broadcasting channels in Danniyeh with only few radio channels like “Izaat Tarik Al Ertikaa” reaching the area from Tripoli, and other radio stations that broadcast on all Lebanese territories.

The second study recommendations focused on developing the role of media and communication at the level of this region in order to respond to its developmental needs and raise its issues on a larger scale. Maharat was able to achieve this through the communication trainings through which participants were trained to understand how the Lebanese media works, how to communicate with them and to attract them by sending positive messages about the Danniyeh area. Participants were also trained to build an effective communication strategy to promote community activities in the six townships. Participants were also trained to deliver messages and promote activities through televised interviews on various Lebanese outlets.

KFARHABOU



"Water strengthens the agricultural role in Kfarhabou and contributes to the employment of hundreds of Syrians living in the town. Therefore, the activities of Kfarhabou focus on finding alternative sources of irrigation water, including rehabilitating the wells in the town by inviting the North Water Authority to attend the activity and listen to the views of the town," said Nidal Hammadi, a member of the committee representing displaced Syrians in the town of Kfarhabou, during his appearance on the program "Sabah Lebnen" on TeleLiban, the public broadcast.

BAKHOUN



“The project created coexistence and a kind of familiarity in the town of Bakhoun, between the Lebanese and the Syrian communities through the conflict resolution trainings. Also, the communication training contributed in improving the image of Danniyeh area in general especially Bakhoun. In particular, the activity of "Bakhoun Bel Soura" reflects Bakhoun's beauty, nature, cultural richness and intellectual diversity,” said Alaa Al Bayaa, member of Bakhoun committee, during the OTV programme “Yawm Jadid”.

SIR



The community events done in Sir, revitalized the bonds between Lebanese and Syrians people and also gave hope for the inhabitant in regards to tourism. "In Sir we depend on tourism, agriculture aside, so these community events helped us a lot [...] we hope the upcoming years will be better than the ones that have passed," said Dahi Karim Hawchar, member of the committee of Sir, during his appearance on the OTV show "Yawm Jadid".

ASOUN



In order to mobilize help for the improvement of Danni-yeh's hospital in Asoun, the Qaemakam Roula Al Bayaa raised the issue during the panel discussion held within Aasoun community event. Accordingly, MTV crew mobilized and produced a report for the main news about the condition of the hospital showing how it suffers from a lack of health services and seeking support. It described how the hospital, which is one hour away from Tripoli, is equipped with necessary equipment which however still needs improvement and renovation. "The bad image that is being propagated about the hospital is not the real image. The hospital as is, in a remote area, a village, far away from the common routes, is equipped [...] the hospital was opened in 2002 and a lot of the equipment is old or has been used up" said, the director of the hospital Dr. Omar Fatfat. He added that the hospital is experiencing a financial loss amounting to 10% every year, and if the debt is closed than they could start working on improving the facility. "I ask from the minister of health to take care of the hospital and to do a visit [...] the hospital's director tried to get in touch with various previous health ministers but the results were always that there are no financial appropriations," said Roula Al Bayaa, Qaemakam Al DanniyeH-Mina area. It is clear that money is the main obstacle for the improvement of the facility, and the responsibility to maintain an acceptable level of health services lies on the shoulders of the people responsible, who should put people's health as a priority.



IZAL





The weak road system, the absence of health services, water shortage, and the weak level of education were the points on which the MTV television report highlighted in the town of Izal, in order to raise awareness on the developmental situation of the town. Ever since the government helped improve part of the road infrastructure system in Izal, six years ago, there never was any other initiative that followed. "I used to go to school here but then I was obliged to go to the secondary school in Meryata but the lack of communication routes prevented me from finishing my education. So the inhabitants of Izal suffer from this issue," says a senior woman of the town. However, the report included solutions proposed by the mayor of the town, Ahmad Maghchouch that said "If a sewage system was made in our village here in Izal, it would alleviate the danger from the neighbors [...] and we have an old water system that barely delivers six hours out of 24 [...] an appeal for the responsible people to help us dig wells". On the other hand, the report that was broadcasted on MTV main news shed the light on the beautiful nature of the town and its historic monuments and ruins.

BEKAASEFRINE



Bekaasefrine is depicted as a natural wonder in a video montage that was broadcasted on LBCI main news bulletin. Bekaasefrine is dissimulated between the many hills, and the majestic Cedar and Prawn trees it hosts. LBCI report highlighted the magnificent grottos mainly “Beit Zed” that has been recently discovered while mentioning the challenges and bad road infrastructure that impede the access to the grotto. The report called the ministry of tourism to bring attention to this grotto and to provide the support needed.

#DANNIYEH_BELSOURA

PARTNERS







#Governance and Community Action Programme



Mercy Corps

Mercy Corps is an international organization working in more than 40 countries to alleviate crisis resulting from natural and economic disasters.

Mercy Corps has worked in Lebanon since 1993, providing development assistance to thousands of disadvantaged citizens to create economic opportunities and to build capacities of local organizations and individuals.



Maharat Foundation

Maharat is a specialized organization endeavoring to defend the freedom of opinion and expression. This is achieved by developing the media sector, advocating for legal reforms, building knowledge and awareness, disseminating information and building capacities of diverse social, media, culture and civic actors. Maharat has many publications and monitoring studies aiming at enhancing the role of media.



Peace Labs

Peace Labs works on empowering local communities to address conflicts cooperatively and nonviolently, by providing local initiatives with training, coaching, technical support, grants and in-kind contributions.



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