



Changing Course

In our last newsletter, we shared that Noor El-Salam was at a crossroads caused by changing circumstances in Hermel. Despite our efforts to keep the school open, our offers were rejected and we ended our support to them at the end of June.

Yet, as the saying goes, where one door closes, a window opens. We are planning for the opening of a new small school, Noor El-Salam Academy, in one in the poorest area of Beirut. Here Syrian refugees live in designated areas, one of which is shown above. We visited this area in March and reported on our time with a large NGO providing opportunities for youth there.

Nearly 25% of Beirut's 2.4M population is estimated to be refugees. About half of the refugees are under the age of 17, and only about half of those children have attended school. In Beirut, there is a limited "Second Shift" public school system that operates for refugee children after 2:30 pm, when the Lebanese children are dismissed from school. The refugee classes are overcrowded and typically taught by inexperienced teachers. This leads to high drop-out rates after the third grade.

See, <https://www.reach.gse.harvard.edu/resources/including-and-educating-syrianrefugees-in-national-education-systems-the-case-of-lebanon>

Our goal is to provide basic literacy and numeracy for children age 5-14 and accelerated learning for students who have been out of school for more than two years. Our hope is this intervention will allow students to eventually be successful in gaining entry to the formal public education system, or at least better able to learn a trade and support themselves .



Beirut

This once vibrant, culturally rich city is struggling to meet people's basic needs, including educating their own children much less refugee children. It is understandable why they cannot provide adequate schools for refugees. And this is where we can help. Noor El-Salam is committed to educating refugee children wherever they are found and providing that light and peace which can give them hope for the future. The Beirut location of the school will also make it easier to monitor by our local contacts. Additionally, Amine

will visit Lebanon in August to personally oversee the planning for the school year and meet with the teachers prior to the opening on Sep 4.

How You Can Help

Three new teachers are being hired for the school. With a new school year comes a renewed need for school supplies. Your contributions will be used not only for teacher salaries, but for textbooks, binders, pens and pencils, tape, erasers, paste, etc. Desks and chairs, white boards, and other classroom items will also need to be purchased.

We are grateful for your support. Please click on the link, below, to donate.

[Donate Online](#)

Or to donate by mail, please send a check payable to Noor El-Salam to:

Noor El-Salam
1237 Purdue Drive
Longmont, CO 80503

Respectfully,

Amine and Susan

Please feel free to share this newsletter with your colleagues or on social media.