



SEAL's mission is to assist low-income individuals in Lebanon to increase their income and develop successful businesses, thereby creating jobs and lifting the standard of living for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Quick Facts:

- > Non-profit organization, founded in NY by a group of Lebanese-Americans interested in taking action against the severe social and economic problems facing post-war Lebanon
- > Assistance provided to people, irrespective of background, religion, political affiliation or geographic location
- > Full transparency
- > Tax deductibility for donations
- > 100% of contributions used directly to sponsor projects

Social and Economic Action for Lebanon

2009: The year in review

It is hard to believe that a new decade has started! As we reflect on the past one, and on 2009 in particular, we realize once again that none of SEAL's accomplishments would have been possible without the support of our generous donors and volunteers, which remained unwavering even in times of economic crisis. We wish to sincerely thank them for their invaluable backing.

With a total of \$326,628 raised in 2009, SEAL funded several irrigation projects, as such endeavors are desperately needed and have an almost-immediate and significant impact on beneficiaries. As usual, all of the projects were spread across Lebanon, and included:

- The construction of over 700 meters of water pipelines in Kfarhabou, in the Dennyeh region. Building these cement pipelines allowed irrigation into the North East side of the village, which focuses on agriculture. In addition to allowing farmers to irrigate their land and benefit from a production increase, this project resulted in the expansion of the agricultural areas; a significant amount of water being saved; fair distribution of the water among the farmers; and a drastic reduction of the problems caused by mudslides and rocks which blocked the pipelines after winter storms. A total of thirty-one farmers benefited from these pipelines, which spanned an area estimated at 120,000 square meters.
 - The irrigation of over 50,000 square meters of agricultural land in Seraayta (in partnership with the Mayor of Seraayta). Farmers in the Seraayta region were unable to irrigate their land due to improper water management. The construction of 3,500 meters of pipelines helped a total of 18 farmers, not only with respect to improved economic opportunities, but also because water access was provided in an environmentally-friendly way which will benefit this community for years to come.
 - The construction of 4,200 meters of water pipes in the El Charbini and Hossaya areas / Kartaba region (in partnership with the Mayor of Kartaba). Once again, the pipes helped to irrigate new land, and over 80 farmers benefited from this project.
 - The distribution of 3,650 nets to the Fishermen in Saida (in partnership with Saida's Fishermen Union and the Development for People and Nature Association/DPNA). Lebanon's fishing industry has become increasingly fragile: the combination of an increasing number of fishermen at sea, poor income and little government regulation has propelled the unscrupulous use of dynamite. This in turn is destroying the seabed and rapidly emptying the sea. As a result, Lebanon's fishermen are among the country's most impoverished communities. Providing them with much-needed nets allows them to keep providing for their families and communities.
 - The distribution of 12,500 tree roots to farmers in the Jezzine area (in partnership with the Mayors of Jezzine, Bkessine, Taiid, Zhaltay, Azour and Ain Mejdlin). SEAL provided mostly apple,
- continued*

PROJECTS FUNDED *continued*

but also olive, peach, cherry, prune, cashew and apricot samplings to farmers across the Jezzine area, as the production and sale of such fruits most often represent their single source of income.

- The funding of a water reservoir in Dweir, Tannourine (in partnership with the Lebanese Civil Cooperative). This lake serves to reclaim, cultivate and irrigate land that has been neglected for the past fifty years. Approximately sixty beneficiaries are to plant a large variety of fruits and vegetables, and market their sanitary, organic agricultural practices.
- The sponsorship of a comprehensive exhibition in Washington D.C. this coming April, organized by APEAL (the Association for the Promotion and Exhibition of the Arts in Lebanon) and entitled "Convergence: New Art from Lebanon". The focus of this exhibition, which includes nearly 50 paintings, sculptures, mixed-media installations, photographs, digital animations, films, and architectural projects by 31 mostly Beirut-based artists, is art in the aftermath of Lebanon's civil war.

We also followed up on the progress of the projects that were sponsored prior to 2009, and are proud to report their successful and timely completion. Additional details about SEAL's projects, including photographs and contact information, can be found on our website.

SEAL HONORS REEM ACRA

In September, SEAL held its annual fundraising dinner and this year, the honoree was internationally-acclaimed fashion designer Reem Acra. Ms. Acra made a moving speech, reflecting on her path to success, appealing for help to Lebanon and to the Lebanese youth, and insisting on the importance that women should have in the economy. The evening was highly successful and allowed SEAL to showcase its work and share its goals.

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* *In Memory of Sarkis P. Bakalian*

PLEASE CONTINUE SUPPORTING SEAL



- **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES** paid for 100% by SEAL Officers and Directors
- **CONTRIBUTIONS & FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES** used entirely towards funding SEAL projects

In 2010, we intend to keep meeting pressing needs all across Lebanon, and already have a long list of worthy projects in our pipeline.

As always, what we most need is your continued support. We wish to stress one more time that 100% of your donations go to people in need in Lebanon, as all operational expenses are covered by SEAL officers/directors. To make a donation, please click on the [Donate Now](#) link below.

We would also like to mention that elections took place at the end of 2009, with Joumana Tager elected as SEAL's new President. Adla Massoud and Raymond Debbane will continue supporting SEAL through their involvement on the Board of Directors and the Advisory Board respectively.

We would like to send you our best wishes for a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

The SEAL Team

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