



seal

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

Dear Friends,

2017 was SEAL's 20th year. With a record number of projects completed and a series of anniversary events raising record funds, we were proud to celebrate entering our third decade of **community-led projects**, raising incomes and creating jobs across Lebanon.

We look forward to 20 more years of **targeted and impact-driven projects** that directly connect friends of Lebanon and the diaspora living around the world with rural entrepreneurs in Lebanon. Thank you for your support.

With best wishes,
The SEAL Team

About SEAL

SEAL provides equipment and other assets as well as training and business advice directly to cooperatives, small social enterprises and municipalities in isolated areas of Lebanon. To date we have helped to launch or expand over **130 initiatives** since inception.

The Context

Lebanon is a small country of **4.5 million people**, but over **28%** of the local population lives in poverty. Between the high cost of agricultural inputs, lack of proper irrigation, the blockage of Lebanon's land borders due to the ongoing war in Syria, environmental threats, and the pressure on jobs and public services posed by the 1.5 million vulnerable refugees in the country, **rural communities are currently facing a crisis**. Indeed, the number of people living in poverty has doubled since the start of the Syrian war.

SEAL is working towards a **dignified future** for Lebanon's most vulnerable populations - who need our support to achieve this.

2017 IN NUMBERS



20

Projects implemented



100

Beekeeping suits and beehives purchased



3,928

Families served

4



Women-led businesses launched (including 2 soap factories)

16,000m



Irrigation pipes installed (across 3 regions of Lebanon)

6



Vehicles delivered

300% DONOR NUMBERS
TRIPLED compared
with 2016

13 CORPORATE
SUPPORTERS JOINED

\$841,603
RAISED BY 360+ DONORS

340 GUESTS ATTENDED
SEAL'S 2017 GALA
celebrating 20 years of SEAL and the band
MASHROU' LEILA

FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENTS

Mashrou' Leila performing
to a packed venue at SEAL's
20th Anniversary Gala,
September 2017



The first event organized by the Ambassadors of SEAL: Cocktails & Comedy with comedian Mo Amer, April 2017



AMBASSADORS OF SEAL
launched for young people to engage
in SEAL's work



**20 SPECIAL-EDITION
SCULPTURES “Hobb-حب”**
by Nayla Romanos Iliya sold in aid of SEAL



NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED
at seal-usa.org



**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWING DOUBLED** from
1,430 to 2,613 (across platforms)



PROJECTS

2017

20 projects completed

\$492,065

project investment **doubled**
compared with 2016

1997 - 2017

133 projects completed

\$2,911,001

invested in projects

2017 PROJECT FOCUS

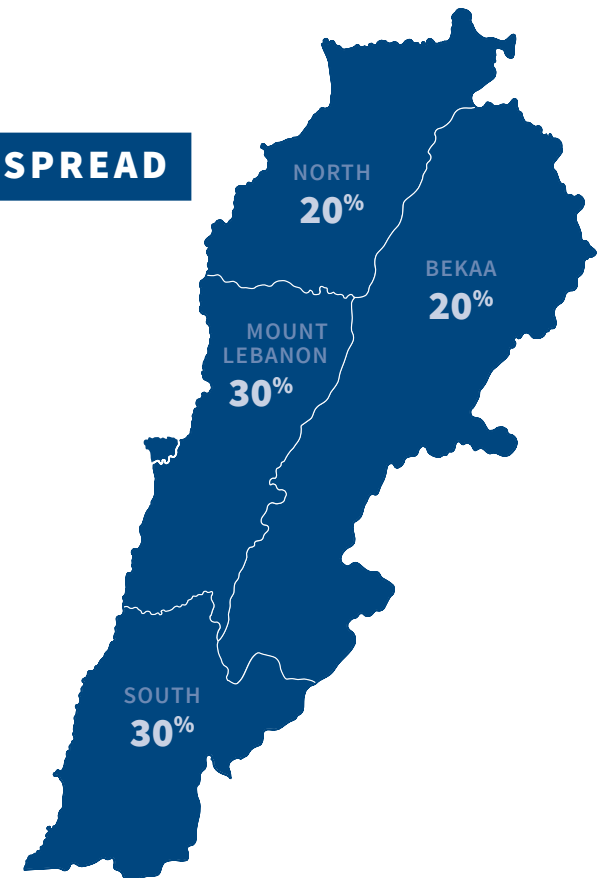
50%
LAND &
AGRICULTURE



25%
WOMEN IN THE
WORKFORCE

25%
WATER & IRRIGATION

REGIONAL SPREAD



WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE



SPOTLIGHT: Food Production in Jezzine

Of course all new things are difficult. But then you get used to it. These machines are new for us: we were used to doing everything by hand. But it gives us energy and enthusiasm to work. We're excited. It's making things much less tiring for the women in this village. Before we would spend the whole day working by hand. The day would end and we still wouldn't be done!

We didn't work before because there wasn't any work around here. But this work makes us stronger. When we work we're happy and excited about the produce. Our money will go to the family and to the children. I want to work to get money to buy medicine for my son. It makes things easier to work and have your own money."

Layla, cooperative member, Jezzine



1. Food Production in Jezzine, SOUTH

In memory of Dr. Nabil Husami

2. Food production in Mejdal El Koura, NORTH

Sponsored by The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation

3. Soap factory in Al Souweni, SOUTH

4. Refrigerated truck for Khyara mouneh house, BEKAA

5. Soap factory in Gharifee, MOUNT LEBANON

LAND & AGRICULTURE

Spotlight: Salim's Story

Salim has been working in olive cultivation for 65 years now. He has 7 children who are all married. One of them lives in Lille in France, the rest are in Lebanon. Salim usually reinvests the money he makes back into the land. Since SEAL's grant to the Zaarouriye cooperative, Salim has been able to sell his olive oil to them at a better price.

He is grateful to be able to sell his oil but even more grateful to be able to benefit from this project in other ways. He received training on how to improve the quality of his oil. He learned early harvesting techniques to ensure the olive seeds are of a higher quality, and tips on collecting and pressing the oil.

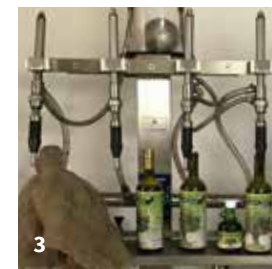
Salim, olive farmer & SEAL beneficiary, Zaarouriye



1



2



3



4

1. Hangar for orange blossom water in Maghdouche, SOUTH

Sponsored by The Anthony R. Abraham Foundation

2. Pruning shears in Baskenta, MOUNT LEBANON

Sponsored by Pierre Abousleiman

3. Olive oil bottling & collection in Zaarouriye, MOUNT LEBANON

4. Waste sorting truck in Sarafand, SOUTH

5. Apple chips in Mristy, MOUNT LEBANON



5

LAND & AGRICULTURE



1. Tanin el Nahel beekeeping, MOUNT LEBANON Sponsored by Kamil Salame

2. Pickup truck for packaging & marketing center in Bater, MOUNT LEBANON

3. Small truck for Chadra cooperative, NORTH

4. Pickup truck for Mejdel Zoun cooperative, SOUTH

5. Tractor for Hasbaya cooperative, NABATIYEH



WATER & IRRIGATION



1. Water pipes in Nabha, BEKAA



2. Water well in Anjar, BEKAA

3. Water pipes in Anjar, BEKAA

4. Water pipes in Al Nahr, NORTH Sponsored by Ambassadors of SEAL

5. Water networks in Tannourine, NORTH



We were thrilled to welcome over 340 guests to our gala on September 27, 2017, and to celebrate the Lebanese band Mashrou' Leila as well as SEAL's achievements over 20 years. The gala took place at the historic Capitale venue in downtown Manhattan, and we would like to thank our corporate gala partners for their invaluable support.

Thank you to all our generous supporters



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A special 20th anniversary donation of \$20,000 and up

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Special thanks to: All Mashrou' Leila's bandmates (Firas Abou Fakher, Carl Gerges, Haig Papazian, Hamed Sinno) and to the band's management team. Thanks also to the talented Nathaly Aucaer, Jennifer Wright, Chloe Squires, and to our volunteers: Izzy Kacha, Talia Kairouz, Saria Massoud, Amanda Zihenni (head volunteer).

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www.seal-usa.org