

Health Care Society Annual Report 2015

Foundation

Health Care Society was founded in 1995 and was registered legally with the Ministry of Interior in 1997, under the registration number AD/156.

Mission

Its mission is to provide health security to the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.

Objectives:

- Contribute towards costs of secondary and tertiary medical care for Palestinian refugees while ensuring quality care.
- Support emergency cases that are not covered by any other institution.
- Supporting chronic disease patients such as kidney failure.
- Engage in evidence-based advocacy to promote high quality and more dignified health care of Palestinian refugee.
- Provide health awareness.
- Provide medications and medical supplies according to needs.

Executive Summary:

The Palestinian refugees in the camps in Lebanon suffer from high unemployment rates as they are prohibited from working in many domains in the Republic of Lebanon. The majority are workers on daily or seasonal basis as in agriculture. 11.5% of this population suffers from hardship cases. This is the highest rate compared to refugees in other countries due to the lack of socio-economic integration of refugees in Lebanon. In addition 56% of the Palestinian refugees are under 25 years of age, indicating a young population.

According to UNRWA statistics, more than 32% of the Palestinian Refugees suffer from chronic diseases. Furthermore, the cost of health care in Lebanon continues to escalate leading to further deterioration in the health of the residents.

Since the war in Syria, HCS was the only haven that Palestinian refugees from Syria could find. HCS extended its health projects to cover those refugees, especially in the kidney dialysis free services. This created a burden on the budget as there was no earmarked donation for this emergency project.

Health Care Society is committed to promotion of human rights and the right of all people to have access to good health care.

By November 2015, HCS got a grant from NORWAC to treat Palestinian patients from Syria, with kidney failure and those suffering from thalassemia- sickle cell disease. The period of the grant is for one year

The number of patients reached **276** for surgery coverage, and **755** in kidney dialysis and more than 3000 for the in-kind donation of medication and medical supplies. The budget reached **732,736.39 USD** in 2015.

A- Projects Details

1- Surgery and hospitalization project

Description of the Project:

Due to the fact that Palestinian refugees are not covered by any health or medical insurance, and the Lebanese MoH refuses to include them in its health plans, in addition to the limited resources of UNRWA and PRCS, the initiative of creating other source of support came by the founders of Health Care Society (HCS).

HCS covers partial cost of surgery or hospitalization to the needy Palestinian community. Its services cover all regions in Lebanon, both genders and all ages with no discrimination.

For the setup of this project, local NGOs are donating services of around 32 social workers. This is in an attempt to cut down administrative costs and to easily channel the money to beneficiaries.

HCS covers 10-15% of the actual cost, noting that assistance does not exceed 1250\$ for one case. Exceptions are made to very severe and hardship cases that are entitled for more support reaching \$2500 where the cost of surgery is extremely high.

Objectives of the project:

The aim of this project is to enable the Palestinian community to improve their health conditions by supporting them with partial cost of surgery and/or hospitalization. Many Palestinians are unemployed and are not covered by any kind of medical insurance.

It helps beneficiaries in achieving their basic need of survival, without which it is impossible for them to efficiently resume their productive, reproductive, and community roles.

Achievements

Since its establishment, HCS helped more than **11,369** beneficiaries in all regions in Lebanon and for all kinds of surgeries.

For the year 2015 the number of beneficiaries reached **276** and distributed in the table below according to disease:

Type of Disease	Number of Beneficiaries
Cardio- vascular	80
Cancer	19
Kidney problems	2
General surgery	129
Ophthalmic problems	12
Therapeutic /hospitalization	34
Total	276

HCS is still supporting the Palestinian Refugees coming from Syria who are in need of surgery or hospitalization.



Social worker filling application for beneficiaries

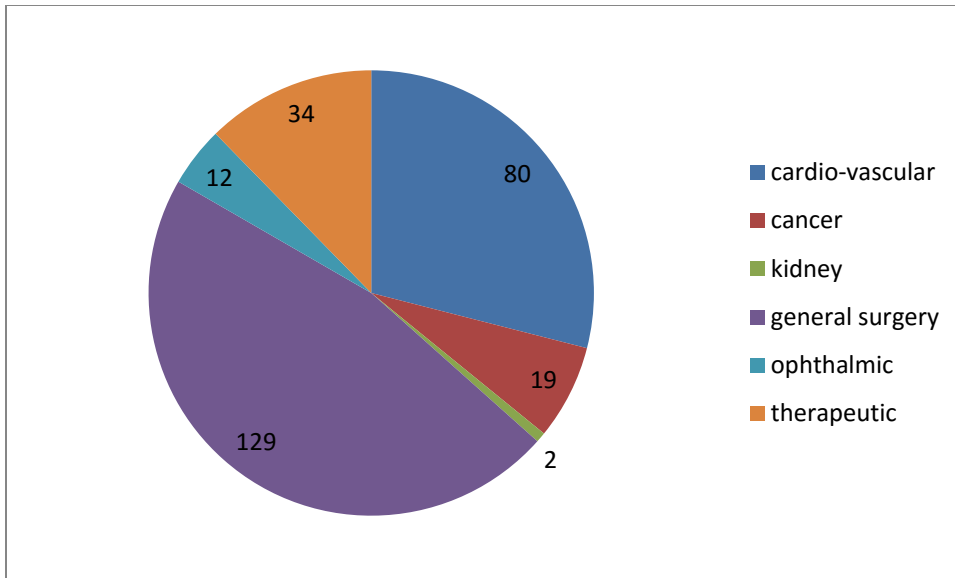
Results:

1. Palestinian refugees with health problems are supported with partial cost of hospitalization/operation.
2. Access to satisfactory hospitalization and medical treatment for underprivileged Palestinian refugees is improved.
3. Saves lives.

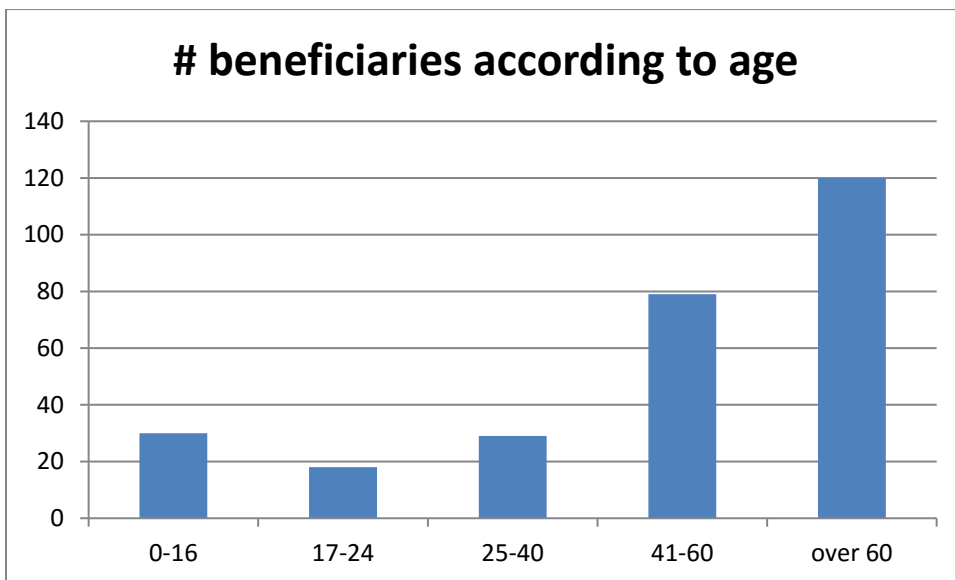


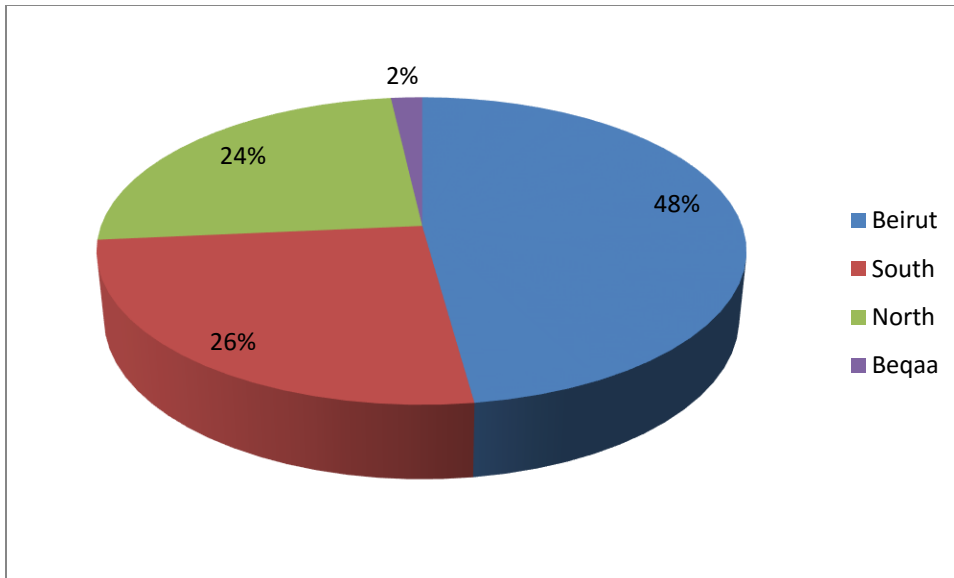
Donors for this project:

1. Welfare Association (WA).
2. Late Rifa'at El Nimer Fund.
3. Fund raising activities.



Number of beneficiaries according to disease





Number of beneficiaries according to region

Comments:

It is important to mention that Norwegian Peoples' Aid has stopped its health projects and hence, stopped supporting the surgery and hospitalization. HCS will be looking for other funds from other donors and from fundraising activities.

2- Kidney dialysis project:

Description of the project:

The kidney dialysis center was established in 1996 with efforts of Late Mr. Hussein Al Tabari and still continuing with additional support from generous Palestinian donors through Welfare Association.

The center provides free kidney dialysis services for around 70 patients per month.

HCS subsidizes the center by providing all the consumable items needed for dialysis such as haemodialysis filters, solutions, blood lines, fistula needles and other supplies.

Palestinians from Syria are still using the services of the center for free.

This year we got a grant from NORWAC to cover the treatment of these patients that reached 9 Palestinians from Syria. For the year 2015 around 7720 sessions were performed to benefit 755 patients of both genders (56% males and 44% females). This service is delivered free of charge and it is the only one available for Palestinians suffering from kidney failure. The patient needs 2-3 dialysis sessions per week. Each session costs minimum 120\$, this creates a burden on the patient and his family.



Results:

1. Kidney dialysis service is made available for Palestinian community free of charge.
2. Health is improved and lives are saved.
3. As a long term consequence, the socio-economic status is improved and the patients are having an active role in society.
4. Diet is improved for the patients.



Patient in isolation room



3- Construction of the kidney dialysis center in Beddawi camp

HCS signed an agreement with Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) for supporting the construction of the kidney dialysis in Beddawi camp.

Donors for this project are:

- Welfare Association (WA)
- UNRWA
- Islamic Relief (IR)
- Palestine Children Relief fund (PCRF)/ HCS

Monthly running cost for consumables will be covered by an annual grant from WA.

Background of the project:

The objective of this project is to treat Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and from Syria who are suffering from kidney failure and are in need of kidney dialysis. The center will treat the 25 patients in North Lebanon: Nahr Al Bared, Beddawi and Tripoli.

The land is offered by PRCS. One floor guest house on the land will be demolished and a 2 floors building with a basement will be constructed. The center will accommodate 7-8 dialysis machines and I.C.U. for emergency cases.

Profile of patients:

There are 25 patients in the North of Lebanon suffering from end stage kidney failure and are in need of kidney dialysis. They perform 2-3 dialysis sessions per week and this makes 3000 dialysis sessions per year.

They can't afford the cost since most of them are unemployed or under-paid and the expenses add burden on the entire family. Hence, the idea of constructing a kidney dialysis center in the North is the hope for these patients.

The age category of the patients is:

19-29 yrs 31.5%

30-49 yrs 31.5%

50-59 yrs 10%

60+ yrs 27%

Gender distribution: 63% are males and 37% are females.



Location of the land and building to be demolished



Beddawi camp



Provisional dialysis center

4- Medical In-kind Donation Program (MIKP)

Objective:

The aim of this project is to provide the Palestinian community with medications according to their needs. Medicines are very expensive in Lebanon and beyond the reach of this marginalized community.

Another important issue is the health awareness that HCS provides with its partners regarding the rational use of drugs including handling and distribution.

Background:

The main partner of this project with HCS is the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA). The project started in 2003 to fill the gaps and needs of the Palestinian community for medications.

The close collaboration with YMCA led us to sign an agreement where the latter plays the role of the consignee. In 2015 we received 4 shipments of commonly used chronic diseases medications like diabetes, hypertension, mental illness, etc. HCS and YMCA share expenses of release of shipments according to the share of medications of each.



Visiting warehouse of partners



Achievements:

- Regular needs assessment in collaboration with recipient partners.
- Receiving more medications according to needs.
- Improving health care and access to medications.
- Receiving quality medications and medical supplies.
- More donors are willing to assist in supporting with medications and medical supplies.
- Reaching more areas of the marginalized community.



Shipment at warehouse for distribution

5- Thalassemia Project:

HCS received a generous grant from NORWAC in Norway, to treat the Palestinian Refugees from Syria who suffer from Thalassemia and Sickle cell anemia. The amount is 244,000 USD.

Since the war in Syria has a drastic effect on the Palestinians, they are not treated by any institution even UNRWA. The cost of the treatment and medications are very high and beyond their reach.

There are around 40 patients that need medical care and cure. This project started in November 2015 and will end in September 2016 and hopefully it will be renewable.

Activities:

- Collecting data and contacting patients by HCS.
- Patients are referred to AUBMC- OPD to Dr. Miguel Abboud.
- Blood tests, urine tests, MRI, X-ray, etc. are performed for the patients for proper diagnosis.

- Medications are provided by HCS for the patients that are prescribed by Dr. Abboud.
- Eye tests, Ultra-sound for heart, are also done for the patients.
- Follow-up with all patients is done by HCS in coordination with Dr. Miguel.



Contacting and meeting patients in Borj Al Shamali camp



Thalassemia patient waiting for her appointment with Dr. Miguel Abboud

6- Fundraising events:

Health Care Society conducted 2 fundraising events in 2015 and they were a success.

A- Iftar event:

HCS conducted an iftar event during the Holy Month of Ramadan, in Phoenicia Hotel.

More than 400 persons attended the event.

HCS board members acknowledged Mr. Fouad Bawarshi for his achievements and efforts for many years supporting HCS as a president and as a member.

As usual Dr. Zuhair Alami covered all the expenses of the event. We are all very grateful to him.

Young musicians and dabkeh dancers from Beit Atfal Assomoud entertained the audience by their great performance from the Palestinian folklore.







B- Simon Shaheen concert:

Simon Shaheen, Bassam Saba, Rima Khcheich, Tareq Rantisi, Charbel Rouhana and Angela Hounanian, performed a great concert at MusicHall- Starco to support the construction and operation of the kidney dialysis center in Beddawi camp.

Mr. Simon a great musician and composer of Palestinian origin, came especially from USA to perform for our great cause. It is important to mention that Mr. Shaheen volunteered his performance.

Dr. Walid Alami, HCS president, was able to provide partial sponsoring of the concert by CreditBank, Blom Bank and some private donors. More than 500 persons attended the concert.





7- Celebrating Labor's Day

On 1st of May, HCS celebrated Labor's Day at Galleria Golden Tulip with the social workers and staff from Hamshari dialysis center. More than 30 persons attended the event. This is to express HCS gratitude to all employees who support our mission and facilitate our work in all regions in Lebanon. An hour discussion session was moderated by HCS to explain issues for supporting the patients and to avoid hospital abuse of patients.



Discussion session before lunch

B- Administrative Issues

General Assembly Meeting:

Health Care Society held its General Assembly Meeting on Sat 7 March, 2015, at Golden Tulip Hotel, Abdul Aziz Str- Hamra. The meeting started at 10:00 A.M. and ended at 13:00 P.M. During the meeting the audit reports of 2013 and 2014 were discussed and approved by all members. New board members were elected as follows for the 2 years 2015 & 2016:

Dr. Walid Alami	President
Dr. Ghassan Abu Sittah	Vice-president
Mr. Rami Nimer	Treasurer
Mr. Kassem Aina	Secretary
Mrs. wafa Al Yassir	Consultant member
Dr. Marwan Rifaat	Consultant member
Dr. Mona Osman	Consultant member

Recommendations were suggested to develop and broaden the scope of funds for HCS and implement new projects according to assessment needs.



C- Financial Issues
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	<u>2015 (USD)</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash At Banks	467,105.67
Accounts Receivable	20,000.00
Automobile/Vehicles (Net)	6,410.67
Total Assets	493,516.34
Liabilities & Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities	
Promissory Note payable (Hospitals)	8,500.00
Care Program (UNRWA)	50,000.00
Total Current liabilities	58,500.00
Fund Balance at beginning of year	175,181.80
surplus for the period	<u>259,834.54</u>
Ending Fund balance	435,016.34
Total Liabilities & Fund balance	493,516.34

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	(\$)2015
Revenues, Gains, and other Support:	
Welfare Association	315,000.00
Norwegian People's Aid	3,998.36
NORWAC	140,000.00
ANERA	11,000.00
Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	75,000.00
Individuals Donations	57,466.83
General Assembly Members Subscription	1,734.99
NGO's Staff Contributions	6,235.33
Fund Raising	114,200.00
Other Income (Interest & Returned cheques)	8,100.88
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	732,736.39
Expenses:	
Program service :	
Hospitalizations and medical Support	156,988.99
Unpaid medical support (promissory notes)	8,500.00
Thalassemia & Mental cases medications	842.00
Kidney Dialysis Center- Hamshari Hospital	175,503.10
Total Program Service	341,834.09
Administrative and Support:-	
Employees' Salaries & Auditing	46,603.00
Office equipment/ Supplies/ printing & Stationary	4,580.12
Employees medical Insurance	6,778.00
Office rental & services	8,539.93
Transportation & Automobile Maintenance	3,796.80
Miscellaneous/ Utilities/Bank charge/telephone bills	2,911.65
Total Administrative and support	73,209.50
Other Expense:-	
Medical In Kind Donation Expenses	5,828.00
VOC Rental	1,800.00
Fund Raising Expenses	50,230.26
Total other Expenses	57,858.26
Total Expenses	472,901.85
Year End Balance surplus	259,834.54

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2015

	2015(\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Cash received from Welfare association	345,000.00
Cash received from Norwegian People's Aid	3,998.36
Cash received from NORWAC	140,000.00
Cash received from ANERA	11,000.00
Cash received from Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	75,000.00
Cash received from Individuals Donations	57,466.83
Cash received General Assembly annual subscriptions	1,734.99
Cash received from Contributions from NGO's Staff	6,235.33
Cash received from Fund Raising Activities	114,200.00
Cash received from Other Income (Interest & Returned cheques)	8,100.88
Cash paid to Hospitalization Support	(156,988.99)
Cash paid for medical Aid from Previous year	(10,000.00)
Cash paid for Thalassemia & mental cases medications	(842.00)
Cash paid For Kidney Dialysis Center-hamshari	(175,503.10)
Administrative Expenses	(73,209.50)
Medical In Kind Donation Expenses	(5,828.00)
Cash paid for VOC Rental	(1,800.00)
Cash paid for Fund raising Expenses	(50,230.26)
Net Increase in cash	288,334.54
Cash and Cash equivalents at beginning of year	178,771.13
Cash and Cash equivalents at End of year	467,105.67

