

Health Care Society Annual Report 2016

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.

During 2015 and 2016, HCS continued the project from NORWAC grant to treat Palestinian patients from Syria, with kidney failure and those suffering from thalassemia- sickle cell disease. Also HCS got a grant from WA to treat Palestinians from Lebanon with sickle cell disease or thalassemia.

The number of patients for surgery coverage reached **437** and **904** kidney dialysis patients, **30** recurrent patients with thalassemia and SCD, and more than **3000** for the in-kind donation of medication and medical supplies. The budget reached **877,935.40\$** in 2016.

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.

Exceptionally this year we had a lump sum of money from NORWAC to cover some severe cases with greater amount of support. We helped 4 patients with different types of surgery that were successful and urgent.

- 1- A 12 years Marah Zeid; suffers from back scoliosis and needed an urgent surgery in the back bone. We supported the cost of operation and now she can stand straight and is able to walk.



Before the operation



After the operation

- 2- 38 years old Hassan Fantazieh; suffers from lypo-edema (elephant foot). HCS supported the cost of surgery.
- 3- 25 years young man Ahmad Yassin; who is also a sickle cell patient needed total hip replacement and special care as his case was very severe. We also followed up with physiotherapy and medications needed after operation.
- 4- Mahmoud Mansour; 66 years old man, suffers from liposarcoma. We supported the chemotherapy for 6 months.



Hip replacement at AUBMC

Achievements

Since its establishment, HCS helped more than **11806** beneficiaries in all regions in Lebanon and for all kinds of surgeries.

For the year 2016 the number of beneficiaries reached **437** and distributed in the table below according to disease:

Type of Disease	Number of Beneficiaries
Cardio- vascular	136
Cancer	49
Kidney problems	7
General surgery	174
Ophthalmic problems	27
Therapeutic /hospitalization	44
Total	437

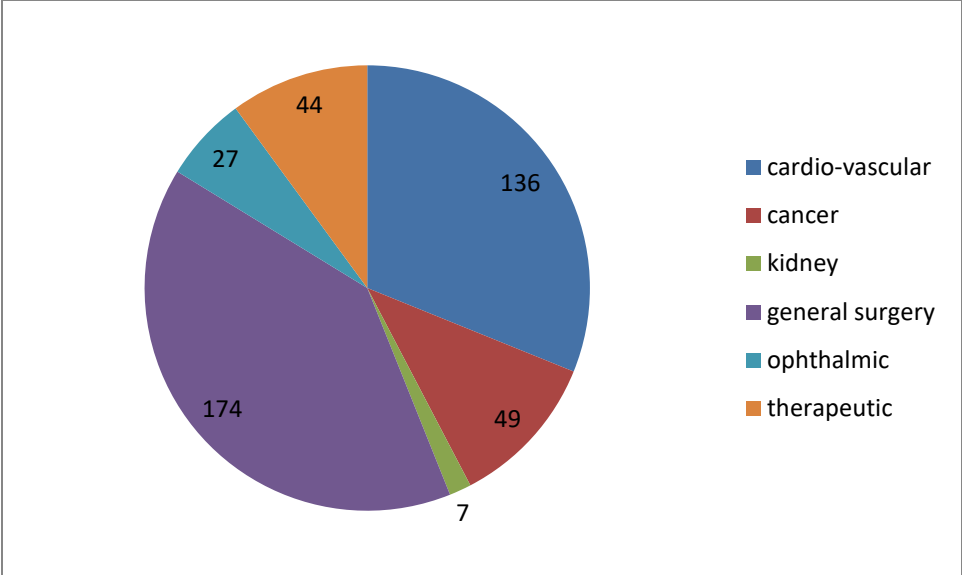
HCS is still supporting the Palestinian Refugees coming from Syria who are in need of surgery or hospitalization of the WA grant and Late Rifaat Nimer Fund.

Results:

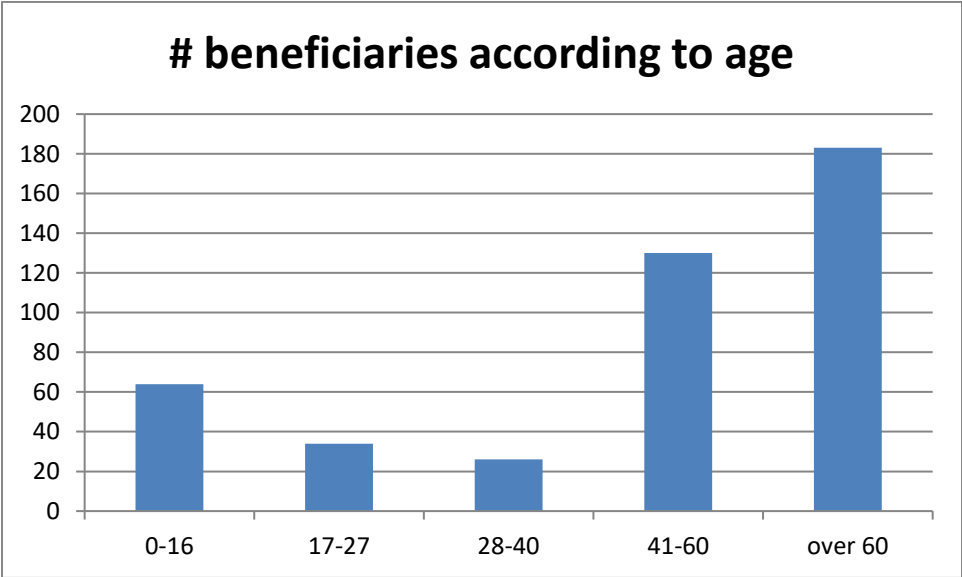
1. Palestinian refugees with health problems are supported with partial cost of hospitalization/operation.
2. Access to satisfactory hospitalization and medical treatment for underprivileged Palestinian refugees is improved.
3. Saves lives.

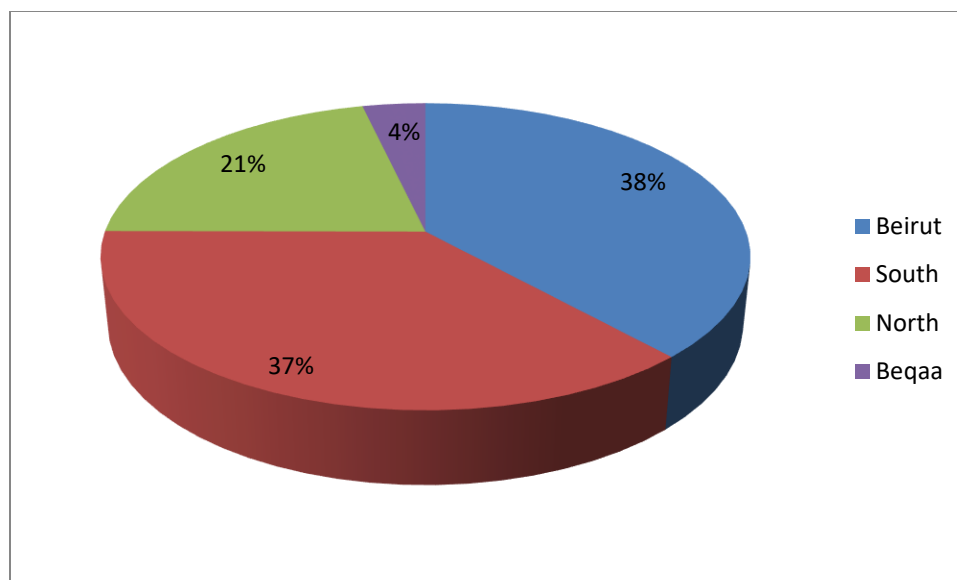
Donors for this project:

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



Beneficiaries according to disease





Beneficiaries according to region

2- Kidney dialysis project:

A- Hamshari dialysis center

Description of the project:

The Hamshari kidney dialysis center was established in 1996 with the 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 81 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.

The grant we received from NORWAC in Oct 2015 is still continuing and will be extended till February 2017, to cover the treatment of these patients that reached 10 Palestinians from Syria. For the year 2016 around 9005 sessions were performed to benefit 904 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 130\$, this creates a burden on the patient and his family.



Testimonial:

Mr. Mohammed Zaaroura, 43 years old has been using the services of Hamshari dialysis center since 18 years. He performs 3 dialysis sessions per week.



B- Safad Kidney Care Unit

Since Nahr Al Bared crisis in 2007, UNRWA considered all its projects as emergency and thus supported the treatment of kidney dialysis patients at hospitals in the North. But few years later and as its budget diminished, they stopped the coverage of the patients, but nevertheless; these patients exceptionally were treated by the support of the Lebanese Ministry of Health, which was for 3 years only.

Here came the idea of constructing a center in the North as the number of patients is increasing and to avoid any risk on the health of the patient to commute to Hamshari dialysis center in Saida.

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 28 patients in North Lebanon: Nahr Al Bared, Beddawi and Tripoli.



A kidney patient who will be using Safad kidney care unit and he is also an employee at Safad Hospital in Beddawi camp. He is anxious to have this service provided for free for all the patients.

Donors for construction:

It was agreed to build the dialysis unit in Beddawi camp. The land is offered by Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS). Donors who contributed to the construction of a 2 floors center are:

- 1- Palestine Children Relied Fund (PCRF)
- 2- UNRWA
- 3- UNICEF
- 4- Islamic Relief

The monthly running cost for the operation of the center is covered by Welfare Association and implemented and monitored by Health Care Society (HCS).

Overview:

To operate the center, HCS will hire 5 nurses and 2 doctors who have been trained at AUBMC dialysis unit, and practiced at hamshari dialysis center.

HCS will provide all the consumables and solutions, maintenance of machines, in order for the patients to use the center gratis.

I.C.U. room is being installed and equipped as the center is far from Safad hospital in case of emergency.

The center accommodates 7 dialysis machines of which one will be in an isolation room for patients with Hepatitis.



Training at Hamshari dialysis center



There are 28 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 3300 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:

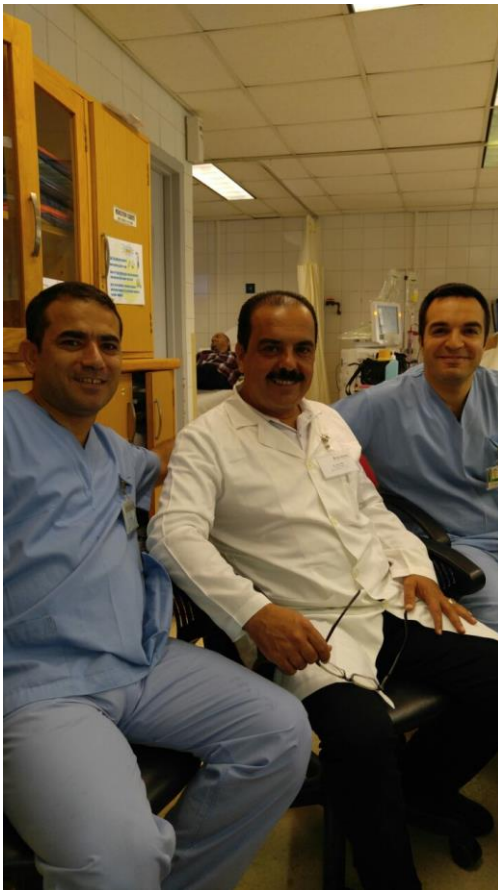
19-29 yrs 31.5%

30-49 yrs 31.5%

50-59 yrs 10%

60+ yrs 27%

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



Training at AUBMC

The center will start operating in February 2017.

3- 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 2016 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 percentile share of medications of each.



Field visit of our donor from USA: ANERA & AmeriCares

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.



Field visit to partners

4- Thalassemia & Sickle cell disease:

Among the enduring chronic diseases that the Palestinian community suffer from are Congenital Hemoglobinopathies (Thalassemia, Sickle-cell-Thalassemia and Sickle-cell anemia). The goals of treatment in SCD & Thalassemia are symptom control and management of disease complications.

HCS received 2 grants:

- 1- NORWAC's grant to support Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS).
- 2- WA's grant to support the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL).

1- NORWAC grant:

HCS received a grant from NORWAC in September 2015 and will end in December 2016 to treat PRS with sickle cell disease or thalassemia.

The amount of the grant for thalassemia is 101,191.00\$

Treatment which is covered totally by HCS involves:

- Diagnostic blood tests
- MRI & MRA
- Prevention and treatment of infections
- Management of vaso-occlusive crisis
- Management of chronic pain syndromes
- Management of the complications and the various organ damage syndromes associated with the disease
- Prevention of stroke
- Detection and treatment of pulmonary hypertension
- Blood transfusion

Patients in need of medications like Hydroxyurea or chelating medication to lower iron levels in blood (exjade) were also provided for the patients.

Consultations and examination of the patients are done by Dr. Miguel Abboud at OPD- AUBMC.

We could reach 41 patients. 29 patients suffer from either thalassemia or SCD, and the other 12 patients suffer from severe anemia.

2- WA grant:

HCS received a grant from WA to treat PRL with sickle cell anemia or thalassemia. The budget is 71,000 USD and started in September 2016 for one year and hopefully to be renewed. The grant covers only children between 1 – 17 years old.

HCS reached 29 patients. Most of them are already diagnosed and followed-up by Dr. Miguel Abboud but couldn't continue due to the high expenses of the treatment, medication and blood transfusion.

The same procedure and disease management is followed to treat PRL as those from Syria.

Success story



Shahed, 4 years old Palestinian from Syria is suffering from sickle cell disease, is being examined and treated and followed-up by Dr. Miguel Abboud, like all other patients. Before she started the treatment and medication, she used to feel pain and fatigue, and perform blood transfusion very often. She needed hospitalization every 15 days. She refused to go to the Kinder Garden because she was feeling inferior to her mates because of pain.

After a year of treatment, she was feeling much better, she needed only one time blood transfusion and only one time hospitalization, and less pain attacks or negligible. She goes now to the KG and plays with her friends. She is now singing and reading and can write the numbers. This is what her mother said, and that what we saw during her consultation visit.



Said and Majed Said, are Palestinians from Lebanon, brothers who suffer from sickle cell and other blood disease. They are having the chance to be treated and followed up by Dr. Miguel Abboud at OPD- AUBMC, with the support of WA grant. HCS covered all blood tests and doctor's consultation and medications, in addition to MRI.

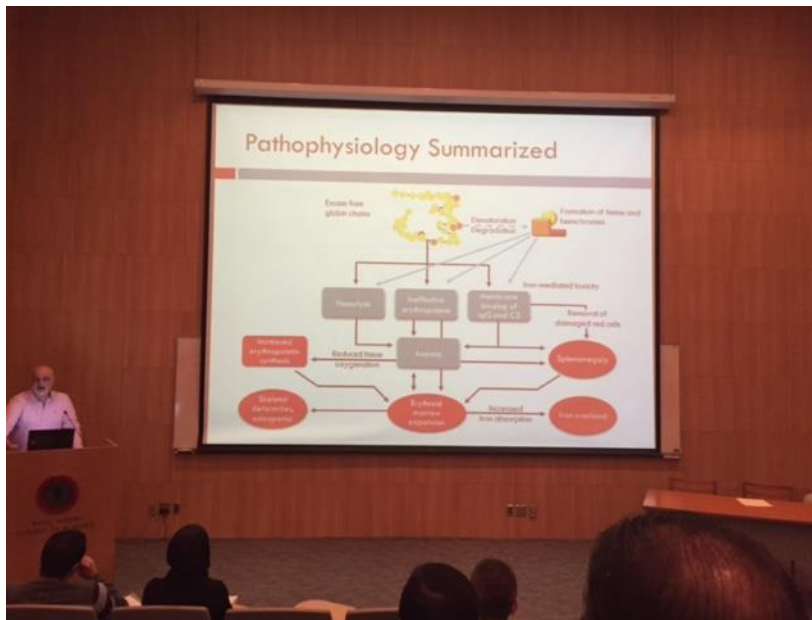
Results:

- Total health improvement
- Decrease in pain crisis
- Decrease in hospitalization and emergency cases
- Lowered iron blood levels
- Less frequent blood transfusion
- Decrease in strokes

Capacity Building

As part of our project on awareness, HCS in collaboration with AUBMC conducted a training workshop on diagnostic tests and managing and treating a patient with pain attack. This was facilitated by Dr. Miguel Abboud and Dr. Ali Taher. Participants were doctors and nurses from Palestine Red Crescent Society, where the majority of PRS are referred for blood transfusions and some emergency cases, in addition to doctors and nurses from URDA who are supporting the Syrian Refugees.

The workshop was very interesting and informative. More than 40 persons participated in the conference.



5- Fundraising event:

Iftar event:

HCS conducted its annual fundraising Iftar event during the Holy Month of Ramadan, at Phoenicia hotel. More than 370 people attended the event.

During the event, HCS board members acknowledged Dr. Erik Fosse from Norway for his support of the Palestinian cause and community in Palestine and the region.

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

Zahrat Al Mada'en Choral of young men and girls from Beit AtFal Assomoud, Beddawi camp, entertained the audience with great vocal of Palestinian and Lebanese songs.





Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta honoring Dr. Erik



HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	<u>2016 (USD)</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash At Banks	324,930.04
Account Receivables	25,000.00
Automobile/Vehicles (Net)	6,410.67
Total Assets	356,340.71
Liabilities & Fund Balance	
Liabilities:-	
Promissory Note payable (Hospitals)	29,231.00
Total liabilities	29,231.00
Fund Balance at beginning of year	435,016.34
(Deficit) for the period	(107,906.63)
Ending Fund balance	327,109.71
Total Liabilities & Fund balance	356,340.71

HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016 (\$)
Revenues, Gains, and other Support:	
Welfare Association	355,500.00
NORWAC	115,344.00
United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)	15,000.00
Palestine Children Relief Fund (PCRF)	230,000.00
Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	50,000.00
Individuals Donations	55,678.32
General Assembly Members Subscription	466.66
NGO's Staff Contributions	7,591.00
Fund Raising Activities	32,200.00
Other Income	16,155.42
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	877,935.40
Expenses:	
Program service :	
Hospitalizations and medical Support	215,087.33
Unpaid medical support (promissory notes)	25,000.00
Kidney Dialysis Center- Hamshari Hospital	258,143.16
Construction of kidney Dialysis- Baddawi	221,320.00
Thalassemia / Sickle Cell treatment and surgery Support	157,774.92
Total Programs Service	877,325.41
Administrative and Support:-	
Employees' Salaries & Auditing	55,908.00
Office Equipments / Supplies / printing & Stationary	4,006.88
Employees medical Insurance	7,282.00
Office rental & services	8,579.92
Automobile / maintenance & parking	3,501.48
Miscellaneous/ Utilities/Bank charge/Telephone bills	4,678.34
Total Administrative and Support	83,956.62
Other Expense:-	
Medical In Kind Donation Expenses	5,105.00
Thalassemia & Sickle cell workshop at AUB	2,230.00
Fund raising expenses	17,225.00
Total Other Expenses	24,560.00
Total Expenses	985,842.03
Year End Balance Deficit	(107,906.63)

HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016(\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Cash received from Welfare association	375,500.00
Cash received from NORWAC	115,344.00
Cash received from United Palestinian Appeal	15,000.00
Cash received from Palestine children Relief Fund	230,000.00
Grants from Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	25,000.00
Individuals Donations	55,678.32
General Assembly annual subscriptions	466.66
Contributions from NGO's Staff	7,591.00
Proceeds from Fund Raising	32,200.00
Cash received from Other Income	16,155.42
Cash paid to Hospitalization & Surgery Support	(210,914.33)
Cash paid for medical Aid from Previous year	(8,442.00)
Cash paid to Kidney Dialysis Center-hamshari	(258,143.16)
Construction of kidney Dialysis- Baddawi	(221,320.00)
Thalassemia / Sickle Cell Treatment & surgery Support	(157,774.92)
Cash paid to care program (UNRWA)	(50,000.00)
Administrative Expenses	(83,956.62)
Medical In Kind Donation Expenses	(5,105.00)
Thalassemia & Sickle cell workshop at AUB	(2,230.00)
Fund raising expenses	(17,225.00)
Net (Decrease) in cash	(142,175.63)
Cash and Cash equivalents at beginning of year	467,105.67
Cash and Cash equivalents at End of year	324,930.04