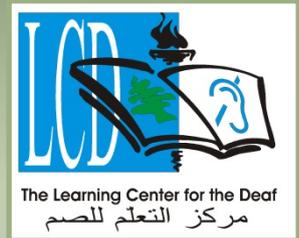




Annual Report 2025

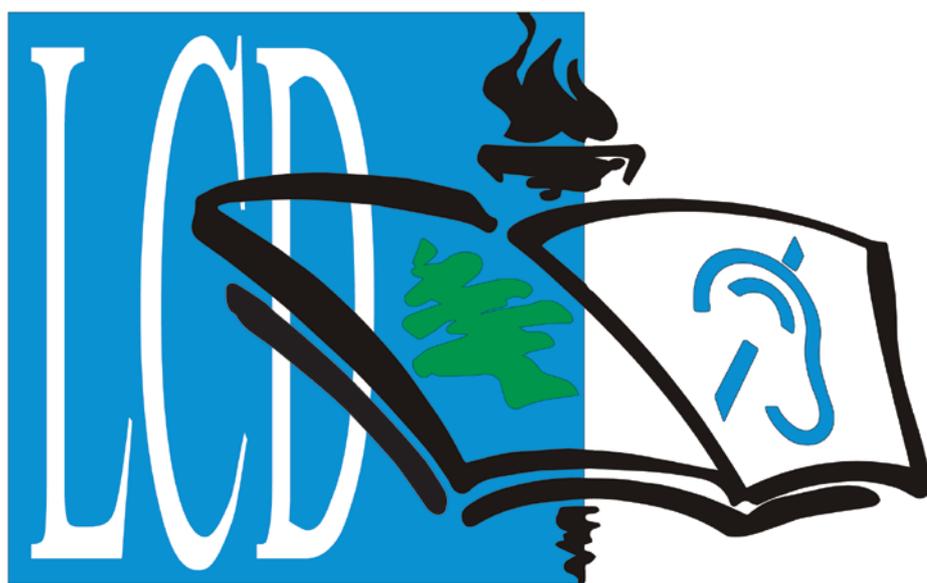


A good start in life for the Deaf, for a better future

Prepared by Dr. Hussein Ismail, Director

2025

Annual Report



The Learning Center for the Deaf
مركز التعلم للصم

Contact:

+961-5-954584

+961-79-128433

lcd@lcd-lebanon.org

A Message from the LCD's Director, Hussein Ismail, Ed.D.

Dear Readers, Friends, and Supporters,

We thank God that 2025 was a fruitful and meaningful year for the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD). Despite the ongoing challenges and fluctuations within our country—factors that inevitably affect our work—we were able to continue serving Deaf individuals and their families with dedication and effectiveness.

I am deeply humbled by the resilience and commitment of our team. Their unwavering dedication enabled us to provide consistent support to Deaf children, their families, and our valued partners. Their work reflects not only professional excellence, but also compassion and genuine care.

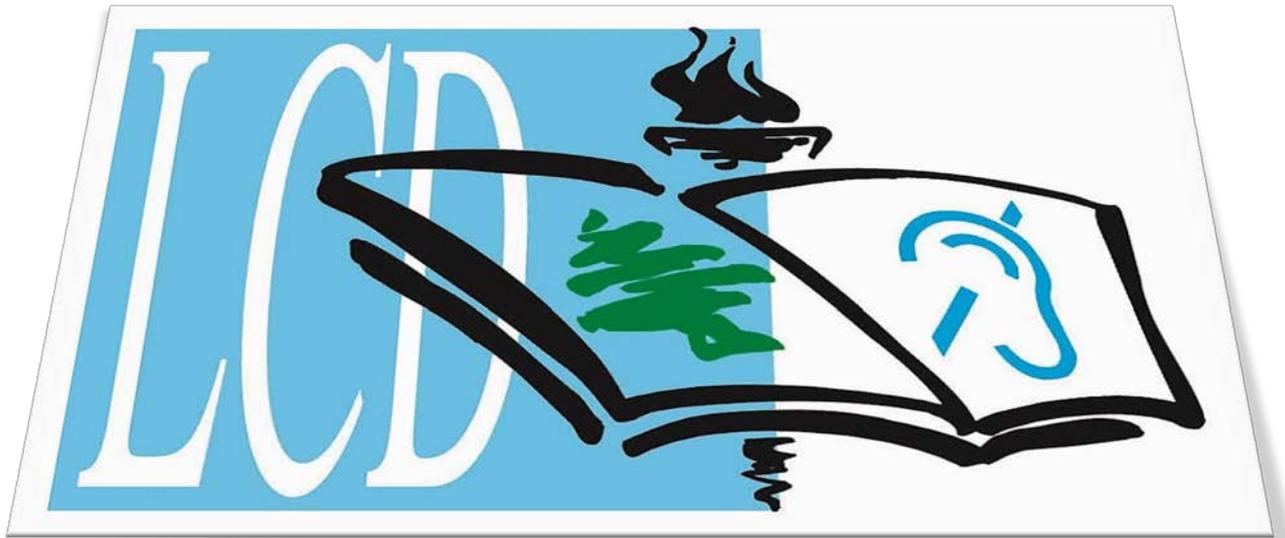
The mission of the LCD remains clear: to provide essential services and quality educational programs for Deaf children, serving as a beacon of hope and a living expression of our calling to serve. Our primary objective is to empower Deaf children and support their families to reach their full potential. Through God's grace, the steadfast commitment of our staff, and the generosity of our supporters, we have continued to make a meaningful and lasting impact.

In this Annual Report, you will find general information about the LCD, along with highlights of our activities, advocacy efforts, and educational initiatives throughout the year. We have invested significantly in both advocacy and educational development, strengthening our role within the Deaf community in Lebanon. As we move forward, we remain firmly committed to the mission and vision of the LCD. We will continue to adapt, grow, and innovate in order to meet the evolving needs of Deaf children and their families. With your continued partnership and support, we are confident that we can overcome challenges and build a brighter, more inclusive future for Deaf children in Lebanon.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Your support is invaluable, and we look ahead with hope and determination.

With gratitude and appreciation!





Mission Statement

The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD) is a prominent organization representing individuals with disabilities (OPD), with a strong focus on issues concerning the Deaf community. The majority of its Board and General Assembly members are Deaf. LCD provides a combination of services and advocacy efforts aimed at addressing the needs of the Deaf.

Located in Baabda, near Beirut, LCD offers vital services that were previously unavailable in the country, enhancing existing programs to create better opportunities for Deaf individuals and their families.

The center's main activities revolve around education and empowerment. Key programs include the Early Intervention Program (supporting families of Deaf children), Educational Activities for the Deaf (including Sign Language courses for interested participants), an Integrated Nursery and Preschool (where Deaf and hearing children learn together), and a High School Program (designed to prepare Deaf students for higher education), among others.

Motto of the LCD

"Do for others as you would like them to do for you"

Matthew 7:12

The Annual Report 2025

Life Learning Impact on Deaf Children

Contents

1. The Mission Statement of the LCD / Purpose

2. The Programs Offered at the LCD

3. Basic Data about the LCD

4. Members of the LCD (2025)

- Board of Administration
- Staff List
- Volunteers

5. Statistical Data of the Number of the Beneficiaries

6. News & Activities of the LCD 2025

- I. Introduction
- II. General Situation in Lebanon
- III. Effect of the Situation on the LCD
- IV. Family Members of the LCD
- V. Early Intervention Program
- VI. Practical Role at the LCD
- VII. Support Group for Parents
- VIII. Challenges undertaken by the LCD
- IX. Jip & Janneke Nursery and Preschool
- X. Hearing Aids and Batteries
- XI. An Article Written by Embrace the ME
- XII. High School Program
- XIII. Annual Visit to St. Gallen and Health Incident
- XIV. Hospital Bill and Support Received
- XV. Project: Construction of Nursery Annex Update
- XVI. Intensive Trainings
- XVII. Wafa attended a Congress in UAE
- XVIII. First Aid Workshop
- XIX. Sign Language Courses
- XX. Sign Language in the Nursery/Preschool
- XXI. Sign Language Development Work
- XXII. Sign Language on the Local TV
- XXIII. Teachers' Day
- XXIV. Annual School Trip
- XXV. Advocacy Work
- XXVI. LCD's Project Works
- XXVII. Our Faithful Partners and Sponsors
- XXVIII. Conclusion

7. Master Account 2025 (prepared by the certified auditor)

- Income / Expenditures
- Balance Sheet
- Financial Summary Sheet with the Pie Figures

8. Photos - Activities



1. The Mission Statement of the LCD

The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD) is a representative organization for persons with disabilities (OPD), with a primary focus on issues affecting the Deaf community. Deaf individuals make up the majority of the Board and General Assembly, alongside Deaf staff and management. LCD combines both service provision and advocacy work.

LCD is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian organization located in Baabda-Brasilia, Lebanon, dedicated to addressing the urgent needs of Deaf individuals in the country. Its mission is to provide high-quality services with an emphasis on education as a tool for change and progress for the Deaf community.

The management and teaching team at LCD are committed to empowering Deaf individuals, as well as their families, and reaching out to the hearing world with information to promote awareness of Deafness. The organization's focus is to advocate for the rights of Deaf individuals, particularly the right to accessibility and inclusion in society, always striving for justice, equal opportunities, and respect for human dignity.

To meet the needs of the Deaf community, LCD has launched innovative services and programs that were previously unavailable in Lebanon. These initiatives complement existing services, offering better opportunities for Deaf individuals and their families. One of the programs involves providing Sign Language classes, among others.

All of LCD's services are designed to create positive change. The organization also leads several rights-based initiatives, working to influence legislation and policies, often in collaboration with other OPDs.

These initiatives are added to the previously developed two major, unique programs: the Early Intervention Program (launched in 2001) and the High School Program (launched in 2003).

The High School Program provides Deaf students the opportunity to take the official Baccalaureate exams, allowing them to attend university, just like their hearing peers.

The Early Intervention Program is a comprehensive, family-based program for children aged 0-3 years. It empowers families with tools to create a rich, supportive environment that promotes the child's overall development, with a particular focus on communication and language. This early intervention plays a crucial role in determining the quality of life for many Deaf children, laying the foundation for their future well-being.

For the further details of the LCD's programs and activities, please go to the website page www.lcd-lebanon.org

And for the continuous updated information, please visit to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Learning.Center.Deaf.Lebanon/>

2. The Programs Offered at the LCD

To meet the needs of the Deaf community, the LCD offers a range of programs, which include the following:

1. *The Early Intervention Program (birth to six years)* supports families of Deaf children from infancy onward, aiming to prevent developmental delays, particularly in language. The program focuses on restoring and strengthening the relationship between the child and their parents while empowering the family to create a healthy, nurturing, and loving environment for the child's growth.

Additional components of the Early Intervention Program include:

- a. the **Support Group** for parents of deaf children
 - b. the **Course** related to deafness for parents of deaf children
 - c. the **Integrated Nursery** for deaf and hearing children
 - d. the **Resource Room** for parents, students, and professionals
 - e. the **John Tracy Clinic sequential lessons** for parents of deaf children
2. *The High School Education for the Deaf* provides Lebanon's only secondary program for Deaf students, offering them the opportunity to pursue higher education at the university of their choice, thereby promoting a positive image of the Deaf community.
 3. *The Preschool Section (ages 3 to 6)* is a regular school setting that spans from KG 1 to KG 3, preparing children to enter the first grade. Launched in October 2017, this program is designed for both Deaf and hearing children, fostering an inclusive learning environment.
 4. *Educational Activities for the Deaf* are designed to help adult Deaf individuals learn and improve specific subjects, such as English language, computer literacy, and social skills, while also providing opportunities for empowerment. This program also offers Sign Language courses for anyone interested in learning.
 5. *Advocacy* involves working with stakeholders to ensure that Deaf individuals receive their basic rights across various domains, promoting greater awareness and support for the Deaf community.
 6. *Awareness programs about deafness and deaf people*, which has as an objective to promote the image of deaf people incorporates activities through media, brochures, and books. Activities in regular nursery settings as well as activities in school and university settings (experiment, telling a story interacting with a deaf puppet and introducing a deaf adult teaching some signs) are provided.
 7. *Awareness programs* about Deafness and Deaf individuals aim to improve the image of the Deaf community. These programs include activities through media, brochures, and books, as well as interactive sessions in nursery, school, and university settings. Activities may include experiments, storytelling with a Deaf puppet, and introducing a Deaf adult to teach basic signs.
 8. *Consultation* provides guidance and advice to families of Deaf children, as well as to Deaf adults, offering support on various aspects of communication, development, and integration.

9. *Sign Language Courses* offer training for teachers of the Deaf, specialists, university students, and other interested individuals, with a primary focus on enhancing communication access for Deaf persons.



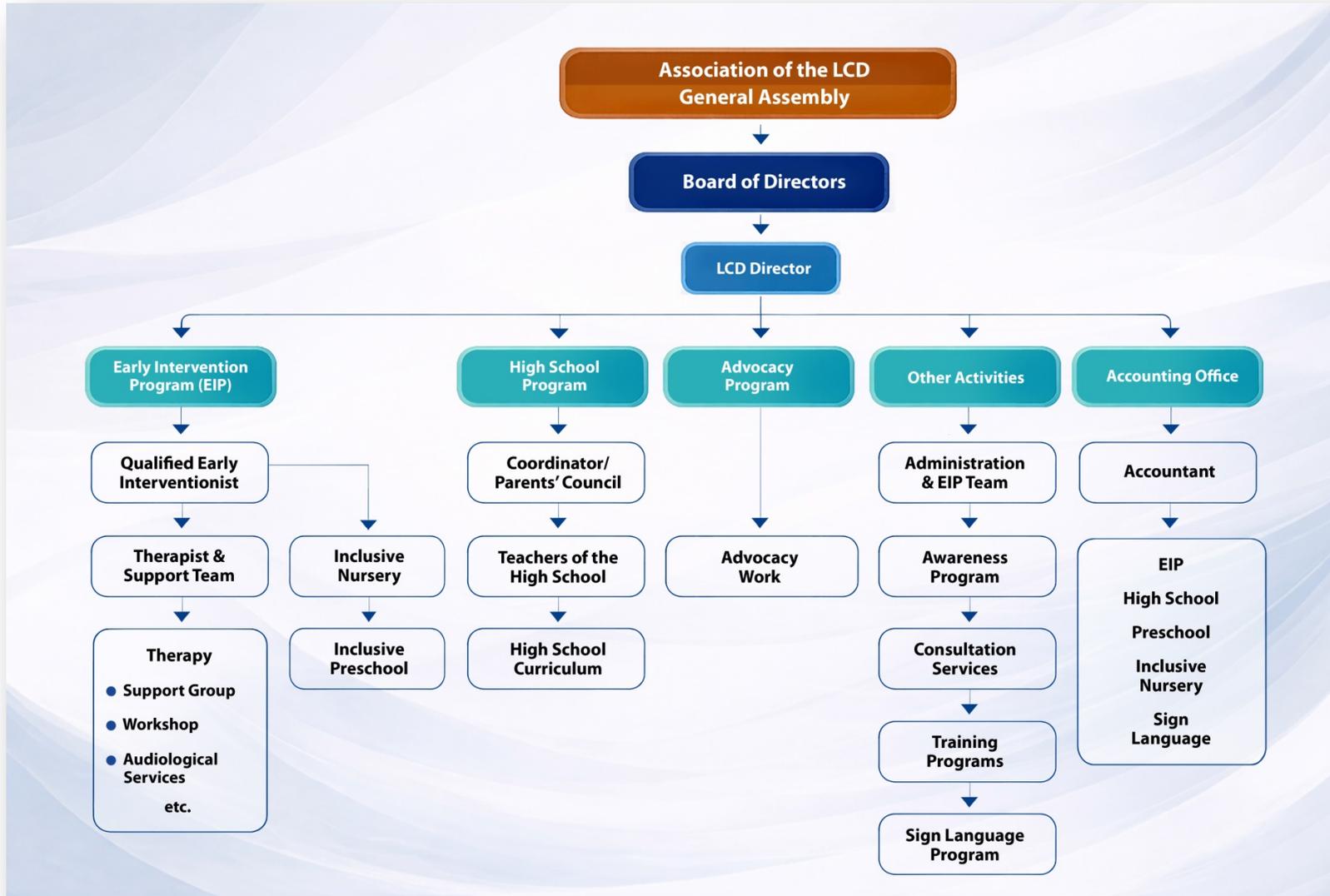
Learning Center for the Deaf
مركز التعلم للصم



3. The Basic Data about the LCD

Name	The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)
Date established	January 2002
Legal status	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charity Registration Number: AD 89, established 2002 with the Lebanese Government 2. Presidential Decree No.: 15798, established 2005 3. License # 2/294, 2025 (the Integrated Nursery)
Visiting address	Sacre Coeur Hospital Crossing, Presidential Palace Road, Near Evangelical Church, Brasilia – Baabda
Contact person	Hussein Ismail, Ed.D. Director
Telephone numbers	00961-5-954584 / 00961-79-128433
Fax number	00961-5-954584
E-mail address	lcd@lcd-lebanon.org
Website	www.lcd-lebanon.org
Facebook	www.facebook.com/Learning.Center.Deaf.Lebanon
Instagram	lcd.lebanon
Type of organization	The LCD is a non-profit, charitable, non-sectarian, non-governmental organization, and an Organization for Disabled Persons established to promote, support, and empower Deaf men and women through education across Lebanon.
LCD's Motto	Based on the Lord Jesus's essential statement: <i>“Do for others what you would like them to do for you”</i> . Matthew 7:12
Main areas of activity	Education, Rehabilitation, Consultations, and Advocacy

4. The Organization Chart of the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)





The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)

The High School Education for the Deaf

The Integrated Nursery "Jip & Janneke"

Brasilia - Baobda 05-954 584 / 03-700 584

5. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2025)

Board of Administration	
Chairman of the Board	Ms. Caroline Haykal (deaf)
Treasurer	Ms. Najah El Hamad (deaf)
Secretary	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
Accountant	Mr. Hisham Selman (deaf)
Members of the Board	Mrs. Charlotte Khalil Dr. Raed Mohsen Dr. Assadour Khanjian

Staff List	
1. Director / Instructor	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
2. Accountant / Auditing Office	Mrs. Stephanie Amar
3. Office Manager / Secretary	Mrs. Christine Jarrouje
4. Coordinator - Early Interventionist	Mrs. Nadine Badreddine-Ismail
5. House Mother – Handicraft Teacher	Ms. Najah El Hamad
6. Domestic Helper	Mrs. Mirna Abel Rahman
7. Speech Therapist / Early Interventionist	Mrs. Wafa Nawar
8. Assistant Speech Therapist	Ms. Nadine El Khalil
9. Occupational Therapist	Ms. Laura Tawk
10. Social Worker – Special Educator	Mrs. Layal Mansour
11. Nursery Teacher for Deaf Children	Mrs. Waddad Daher
12. Nursery Teacher	Ms. Vana Markarian
13. Nursery Teacher Assistant Teacher	Mrs. Claudine Yazbeck
14. Preschool Teacher - English	Ms. Cosette Melko
15. Preschool Teacher – Arabic	Mrs. Darine Nakour
16. Specialist/Teacher for the Deaf	Ms. Hanna Tahan
17. Cook	Mrs. Sabine Nakour
18. Advocacy Officer	Mrs. Malak Reslan (deaf)
19. Sign Language Developer	Mr. Saeed Shaaban
20. Coordinator for Afternoon Sessions	Dr. Assadour Khanjian
21.	

Volunteers	
22. LCD's legal advisor	Mt. Rayan Kouatly
23. Psychologist – Family Counselor	Mrs. Charlotte Khalil
24. Hearing-Aid Technician	Different settings
25. Family Counselor	Dr. Raed Mohsen



Statistical Data on the Number of Beneficiaries

2025:

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries
Early Intervention Program	
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents	28 (average - in house children) 48 approx.
The Support Group	6 - 8 families
Integrated Nursery	18 (average)
The Preschool Section	10 (average)
The Outreach Program	Unspecified
The Resource Room	Unspecified; open for all professionals
Advocacy	National Level
Sign Language Development	National Level
Educational Activities for the Deaf	
Sign Language Class	79 participants
High School Education for the Deaf	
Third Year	0 students
Preparatory	0 Student
Consultations	95+
Hearing Aids	150 (105 beneficiaries)
Awareness Programs about Deafness	Unspecified; National level

Result: As observed in the table above, the number of children enrolled in the Nursery section has significantly declined due to the situation and the Nursery Construction. Consequently, the income from these sections, which are the backbone of the LCD's revenue, has also decreased.

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Beirut – Lebanon



News & Activities of the LCD during 2025

6. News of the Learning Center for the Deaf



Introduction

We are pleased to present the 2025 Annual Report, offering a comprehensive overview of the activities, programs, and services provided by the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD) throughout the year. This report is designed to give you a clear insight into our ongoing efforts to support Deaf persons in Lebanon with essential educational services, specialized programs and advocacy work.

The report begins with a brief overview of the situation in Lebanon, providing context to the social and economic realities faced by the Lebanese people in their daily lives. This background helps readers better understand the environment in which the LCD operates. It is followed by a detailed presentation of our work, achievements, and activities during 2025.

The situation in Lebanon brought challenges for the LCD, with many aspects of our operations. Nevertheless, our commitment to serving Deaf children and their families remained steadfast. In the news and activities sections, readers will find a comprehensive account of how the LCD responded, adapted, and continued its mission during this difficult period.

Despite the hardships, we are deeply grateful to Almighty God for His continual guidance, protection, and provision. We have witnessed His faithfulness throughout the year, meeting the needs of the LCD and the people we serve at the right time and in the right way.

As Psalm 46:10 reminds us, “Be still, and know that I am God.” We place our trust in Him, confident that He remains sovereign over our lives, our challenges, and the work to which we are called.

General Situation in Lebanon

Lebanon’s socioeconomic situation remains highly fragile, increasing vulnerabilities among both Lebanese citizens and refugee communities. The recent conflict is considered the most destructive since the end of the civil war in 1990. Although the November 2024 ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon reduced large-scale hostilities, tensions persist, with continued targeted strikes and military presence in border areas. Many communities continue to live in fear of renewed violence.

The conflict caused an estimated USD 14 billion in damage. Displacement remains significant, and reconstruction is constrained by limited national resources. Finance Minister has indicated that Lebanon cannot currently afford the necessary rebuilding costs. Economic stagnation and declining humanitarian assistance continue to strain livelihood. In addition, unexploded ordnance poses ongoing risks to civilian safety, particularly in southern and eastern regions.

During 2025, over 108,000 Syrians entered Lebanon due to instability in Syria. Many face hardship, discrimination, and limited access to basic services.

Economically, Lebanon’s GDP is projected to grow by 5% in 2025; however, it remains approximately 40% below 2019 levels, with inflation forecast at 15%. More than half of the population lives below the poverty line. Food insecurity affects one in five people (1.17 million individuals), and food prices in June 2025 were 21% higher than the previous year.



Access to healthcare continues to decline due to rising medication costs and reduced aid. The education sector is also under severe pressure. Over 10% of Lebanese children are out of school due to financial hardship. Among Syrian refugee children, more than half lack access to formal education.

According to the World Bank, 59 schools were destroyed and 299 partially damaged during the recent conflict, further limiting access to learning nationwide.

Effect of the Situation on the LCD

The ongoing socioeconomic crisis and security instability in Lebanon have had a direct and significant impact on the operations of the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD).

Economic instability, inflation, and rising operational costs have increased the financial burden on the Center. Utilities, transportation, educational material, and maintenance expenses have all risen sharply, placing additional pressure on limited resources.

As more than half of the population lives below the poverty line, many families of Deaf children struggle to cover transportation fees, school contributions, and basic needs. This has increased reliance on the LCD for broader social and emotional support beyond education.

Despite these profound challenges, the LCD has remained steadfast in its mission. Through careful adaptation, dedicated staff efforts, and the continued support of partners and donors, the Center has sustained its services, ensuring that Deaf children continue to receive education, care, and hope in the midst of crisis.



Family Members of the LCD

At the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD), we consider families to be essential partners in our mission. Parents and family members are not only caregivers, but active participants in the educational and developmental journey of their Deaf children.

Throughout the year, family members have demonstrated resilience amid the ongoing challenges in Lebanon. Despite economic hardship, insecurity, and daily uncertainty, they continue to prioritize their children's education and well-being.

The LCD works closely with families by:

- Maintaining regular communication regarding children’s progress
- Providing guidance and counseling when needed
- Offering emotional and social support during times of crisis
- Encouraging parental involvement in school activities and decision-making

In a context where many families face financial strain—particularly in and around Beirut—their trust and cooperation remain invaluable. Their partnership strengthens our work and reinforces a supportive environment where Deaf children can thrive.

We deeply appreciate the commitment, patience, and courage of our LCD families. Together, we continue to build a community grounded in support, dignity, and hope.

Early Intervention Program

The report regarding the Early Intervention Program is written by our interventionist, Mrs. Wafa, which is as follows:



The Early Intervention Program (EIP) continued to provide comprehensive and continuous support in 2025 to families of deaf children aged 0–6, combining resources, training, and guided sessions for both children and their parents or caregivers. The program emphasizes



the active involvement of parents and caregivers at every step. Families benefit from emotional support, access to valuable information and resources, therapy sessions for their children, and training to implement strategies and activities at home. Home visits are offered when needed and possible, and support groups for both mothers and fathers help families feel confident and capable in supporting their child's development.

The EIP team continues to offer consultation sessions for families not enrolled in the program, particularly those seeking guidance for children or adults with other disabilities or learning difficulties. Led by experienced therapists, these consultations include formal and informal assessments, guidance, support, referrals to other professionals, and the donation of hearing aids when available. In 2025, the program provided consultations for approximately 120 external cases, distributing an average of 150 second-hand hearing aids to children and adults.

A key component of the Early Intervention Program is the Integrated Nursery and Preschool. These inclusive early childhood programs serve as models of successful inclusion, providing a nurturing learning environment that benefits both children and families. They also assist parents in making informed decisions about future school placements. In 2025, five children from the EIP were integrated into our preschool/nursery programs.

Throughout 2025, the program served 28 children and their families through rehabilitation sessions, group sessions, and remote follow-ups. Parental participation remained a critical factor in the program's effectiveness, while increasing referrals for younger children reflected the impact of ongoing advocacy and awareness efforts. Support groups, family gatherings, and organized events strengthened connections, emotional support, and shared experiences, contributing positively to participating families.

In response to emerging challenges, including increased parental stress and behavioral and emotional difficulties among children, the EIP team encouraged greater family involvement in sessions and invited key family members to participate whenever possible. This approach strengthened family support around each child and provided additional practical and emotional assistance.

The program team expanded in October with the addition of Layal, an educator and social worker, who now attends the center weekly. Layal works directly with deaf children in the classroom, follows up on their EIP sessions to ensure consistency, conducts group activities, and supports parents through phone calls based on John Tracy Clinic (JTC) lessons, helping families resume home activities and engagement. Plans are underway to organize group discussion sessions for all EIP parents on common JTC topics.

During the war and displacement period, several families benefited from online and in-person follow-up through the Early Intervention Program. This continuity of support allowed children to continue receiving guidance and intervention despite relocation and challenging circumstances. Even after families returned to their original locations, many remained in regular contact with the team, reaching out for recommendations, guidance, occasional visits, follow-up support, or simply to stay connected. We are grateful for the lasting relationships built and for the positive impact this support has had on families and children.

Families consistently expressed appreciation for the program's moral and emotional support, tailored activities, adaptation of support to each family's situation, and

opportunities for social connection. Parents noted their children’s progress in self-esteem, communication, and overall development despite all the challenges and changes. The EIP team continued to respond with flexibility, encouragement, and individualized support.

On June 14, we organized a special event in the LCD garden in collaboration with Wafa (our main early interventionist) and her husband, who run a center for children’s workshops. Together, we created a fun and meaningful day that included wooden crafts (flying birds), a clown show, face painting, food, and awareness activities about hearing loss and sign language. The event was open to all children aged 4 to 10. More than 35 children attended with their parents, and the atmosphere was full of joy and positive energy. All profits from the event went toward supporting EIP children at the LCD.

During July and August, LCD organized a summer school for our preschoolers, including their siblings, former students, and other children aged between 3 and 8 years. A total of 12 children attended and participated in six weeks of enjoyable, educational, and engaging activities. The summer camp was led by one of our preschool teachers, and we were especially happy and proud to have Sadine, a former Early Intervention Program (EIP) child, assisting her. Now 16 years old, Sadine had a beautiful and inspiring presence, particularly for the deaf children. This was her first work experience, and it played an important role in building her self-confidence, strengthening her personality, and fostering a sense of responsibility. For our team, it was deeply rewarding to witness the lasting impact of early intervention and to see, years later, the positive outcomes reflected so clearly in Sadine’s journey.



Through all these initiatives, the Early Intervention Program continues to empower families, enhance children’s development, and promote inclusion, reflecting LCD’s commitment to lasting, positive change in the lives of deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals.

Practical Role at the LCD



A report, written by Layal, one of the LCD's educator and a social worker, on a practical role of the LCD, which is as follows:

I began my role at the LCD by conducting systematic observations of children within the classroom setting. The purpose was to better understand each child's developmental and behavioral profile in order to identify appropriate areas for intervention. Observations were carried out during regular classroom activities alongside teachers, allowing for a realistic understanding of how children interact within their natural learning environment.

I also coordinated and consulted closely with the Early Interventionist (Wafa) to gain a clear understanding of the therapeutic goals established for each child, ensuring professional collaboration and integration of roles within the center.

Then, I began attending speech therapy sessions as an observer to gain deeper insight into the strategies being implemented. My role then evolved into co-leading group sessions in partnership with Wafa, with a particular focus on children's social and emotional development in my capacity as a social worker.

Following this phase, I began conducting sessions independently while maintaining clear professional boundaries as a social worker. My role does not involve direct speech therapy intervention; rather, it focuses on strengthening social skills, providing emotional support, and promoting positive peer interaction among children.

Currently, we are preparing to launch dedicated parent sessions addressing topics related to their children's needs. These sessions aim to provide guidance and support to families, while strengthening continuity between the center and the home environment to ensure the best possible outcomes for children.

Support Group for Parents



The Support Group of Parents of Deaf Children at the LCD plays a vital role in strengthening families and fostering a sense of community. The group provides a safe and encouraging space where parents can share experiences, discuss challenges, and learn from one another. Amid the ongoing socioeconomic pressures in Lebanon, the support group has become even more essential. It offers emotional encouragement, practical guidance, and increased awareness about Deaf education and communication strategies.

Through regular meetings and collaborative discussions, parents are empowered to better support their children's development and advocate for their rights. The group continues to reflect the LCD's holistic approach—caring not only for Deaf children, but also for the well-being and resilience of their families.

Several Support Group Sessions were held for parents of deaf children, guided by the dedicated board member of the LCD and volunteer psychologist, Charlotte El Khalil, with the presence of Wafa. The sessions provided a supportive space for parents to share experiences, receive guidance, and gain valuable insights into supporting their children's development and well-being.

Challenges undertaken by the LCD

All of the LCD's initiatives are designed to provide essential services that are either unavailable, in need of significant improvement, or considered too complex or challenging to undertake within the current context. These initiatives are firmly rooted in the rights of Deaf individuals to live with dignity, to have their identity respected, and to enjoy equal opportunities at all levels of society. Central to this mission is ensuring full access to communication, information, and quality education—beginning with early intervention.

Strengthening the capacity of the Nursery and Preschool sections under the Early Intervention Program remains a key priority. These sections are continuously developed to maintain high-quality, inclusive educational standards that also attract families of hearing children. This inclusive model not only promotes integration and social cohesion but also contributes to the LCD's financial sustainability through self-generated income.

Pursuing these goals is not without significant challenges. Resistance to change, systemic limitations, and the lack of readiness for innovative approaches, often slow progress. For this reason, the LCD depends on every possible form of support to implement necessary reforms and to continue improving the lives of Deaf children, their families, and Deaf adults.

Over the years, the LCD has built substantial expertise that enables it to accurately assess the real challenges facing the Deaf community and to respond with high-quality services and effective advocacy. While the number of direct beneficiaries may be limited, the broader and lasting impact of its work—promoting structural and attitudinal change—extends nationwide and even beyond.



Jip & Janneke Nursery and Preschool



In 2025, the Jip & Janneke Integrated Nursery and Preschool served an average of 28 children, including 7 children with hearing loss. The program continued to uphold its inclusive educational approach, fostering interaction and mutual learning among Deaf and hearing children within the same environment.

The number of enrolled children—particularly in the Nursery section—declined significantly as a result of the construction work. From October, the Nursery section enrolled only 4 children.

Despite these challenges, the Nursery and the Preschool remained a nurturing space where children continued to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. It has been deeply encouraging to witness their development. One of the most remarkable areas of progress has been in language and communication. The children increasingly express their thoughts and emotions with confidence and are able to share newly acquired knowledge with their peers, teachers, and family members.

The presence of the children at the Jip & Janneke Inclusive Nursery and Preschool brings great joy to the LCD community. Their daily engagement is truly a blessing. Even amid the persistent crisis and construction work, families have remained committed to the program,



Preschool students enjoyed reading a book as well as using Montessori math material.



and children continue to benefit from the services provided. Parents have consistently expressed their appreciation and satisfaction with the quality, care, and inclusive spirit of the program.

Hearing Aids Support Program



For many years, the LCD has remained committed to providing hearing aids and batteries to individuals in need throughout Lebanon. This vital initiative has been made possible through the generous and faithful support of our friends in Switzerland, particularly the board members of Friends of the LCD-Switzerland (FK-LCD).

Through their dedicated efforts in collecting and sending high-quality, second-hand hearing aids, we have been able to distribute these devices free of charge to people with hearing loss who cannot afford them, including refugees and families facing severe economic hardship.

Throughout the past year, we were once again deeply moved by the remarkable generosity of our Swiss partners, who sent hundreds of hearing aids to Lebanon. Their commitment goes far beyond simply providing devices. Whenever we have required specific equipment for testing, fitting, or maintenance, they have made every effort to source and send the necessary materials promptly.

Gender	Number of Beneficiaries	Hearing Aids Quantity
Children	16	32
Women	40	58
Men	49	60
Total	105	150

During this reporting period, 105 individuals received, with one or two hearing aids, including 18 refugees who were among the most vulnerable and in urgent need of assistance, totaling to 150 hearing aids.

We express our heartfelt gratitude to our Swiss friends for their unwavering solidarity and compassion. Their awareness of the urgent need for hearing aids support in Lebanon, combined with their proactive engagement, has significantly improved the quality of life for many individuals who would otherwise remain without access to this essential service.

An Article Written by Embrace the Middle East

I wanted to give deaf people like myself a chance to succeed - March 2025

“We thank God that we are able to bless others, because we have been blessed,” says Dr Hussein Ismail, the founder and director of Embrace’s partner the Learning Centre for the Deaf (LCD) in Lebanon.

Since 2001, the centre has helped plug a gap in Lebanon’s educational and social provision for deaf children by providing specialist pre-school support and also an education programme for teenagers wishing to go onto university.

The centre also leads the way in campaigning for equal rights for Lebanon’s deaf community – including lobbying for improved access to education, employment rights and healthcare support.

We spoke to Dr Hussein about his motivation for starting LCD and the importance of his Christian faith:

I wanted to give deaf people, like myself, a chance to succeed

I am a deaf person myself and I'm very proud of being deaf. My dream is to empower. My dream is to encourage.

I have a doctorate in educational administration and my dream was to have other deaf people also obtain the highest level of education and show society at large that, if you give them one chance, deaf people can show remarkable capabilities, they are able to reach the highest levels and are productive members of society.

We have 13 schools for deaf children in Lebanon, but they start from Preschool and only go to grade nine. And only four of those schools prepare for the official examination at the end of the ninth grade, so what happens when the children graduate from the ninth grade? Where will they go?

And what help is available for parents if, at the age of 1 or 2 months, they discover their baby is deaf?

That is why we established the Learning Centre for the Deaf, to provide important services and programmes and prepare children to be productive citizens in society. As soon as the parents discover that their baby is deaf, they can come to the Learning Centre and we will give them full support, as the parents play an important role in the early development of their deaf children.

And then, when the child gets to 14 or 15 years old, they can come back to the centre and enrol in our high school education programme for the deaf for three years, so that they can study for the official examination set by the Minister of Education in Lebanon. When they pass the exam, they can go to any university in Lebanon or worldwide, and show society that nothing can stop them from fulfilling their dreams, if given the chance.

Early years support at the Learning Centre for the Deaf.

Dr Hussein with recent graduates of the Learning Centre for the Deaf's High School Education Programme.

We are changing society so it's more inclusive

In Lebanon there is not so much human rights for people with disabilities, especially for deaf people. That is why we have established an advocacy programme so we can fight, we can lobby with the government to provide minimum rights for deaf people.

And we also run an awareness program. We go on social media, on television and provide lectures and sessions about the wellbeing of deaf people and the culture of the deaf community.

And we are giving deaf people more information, more empowerment, more advocacy so that they know what to speak of on their own behalf – and not only for themselves, but for their brothers and sisters and their children.

Promoting awareness and understanding for the deaf community in Lebanon.

We have seen a great impact over the last 24 years. We have seen how the development of education and the development of concepts around deaf people have dramatically changed – have positively and remarkably changed.

This gives us a great motivation to continue serving deaf people in Lebanon. What is not available in Lebanon, we try to provide - with God's guidance, with God's protection and encouragement.

Experience during the recent crises in 2024

During the war, the Learning Centre for the Deaf also provided emergency food supplies for displaced families.

The year 2024 presented us with extraordinary challenges as Lebanon continued to face ongoing crises due to the war. These events impacted various aspects of our work, but our commitment to supporting children remained steadfast.

The challenges we encountered were unlike any we have faced since the founding of the Centre in 2002. However, we did our utmost to continue serving the children during these difficult times.

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Despite the hardships, we are deeply grateful to Almighty God for His constant guidance and protection, as well as for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. He understands the needs of both the Centre and the children we serve, always providing at the perfect time.

As Psalm 46:10 reminds us: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.” We place our full trust in Him, knowing that He is powerful and in control, watching over our lives, our challenges, and the services we provide.

From Embrace the Middle East Page: <https://embraceme.org/blog/the-learning-centre-for-the-deaf>

High School Program

The High School Program at the LCD is designed to prepare Deaf students for the official examinations administered by the Lebanese Ministry of Education after completing three years of study at the Center. Upon successfully passing these examinations, students are awarded the Lebanese high school diploma (Baccalaureate Part II), which qualifies them to pursue higher education at universities in Lebanon or abroad. This pathway enables Deaf students to pursue their aspirations and specialize in their chosen academic or professional fields.

In September, the LCD had planned to open a new Grade 10 class, marking the first year of the secondary cycle. However, this plan could not be realized. During the past academic year, the official Grade 9 examinations were excluded by the Ministry of Education. As a result, students opted to enroll in vocational training programs, particularly in light of the ongoing economic challenges in Lebanon.

Despite these circumstances, the LCD remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering Deaf youth through quality education and academic support. We continue to look forward with hope and confidence to the future achievements of these promising young men and women.

Annual Visit to St. Gallen and Health Incident



In April, Hussein traveled to St. Gallen, Switzerland, as part of his annual visit to meet friends and supporters of the LCD. During this visit, he makes a presentation on Mission Sunday, addressing devoted supporters who have faithfully contributed to the work and development of the Learning Center for the Deaf in various ways.

During his stay, Hussein experienced a serious health incident. On a Saturday evening, he fell in his hotel room and was taken by ambulance to

a nearby hospital. He was supported by friends and especially by family members who came to assist and accompany him.



On Wednesday, he underwent surgery at the back of his head due to complications related to high blood pressure. He remained hospitalized until Friday evening. Following his discharge,

he stayed for four weeks in Adliswil, where his daughter Shaden and his son-in-law Callum reside.

Two weeks after the surgery, Hussein returned to St. Gallen for a medical follow-up, during which the stitches at the back of his head were removed. Since then, he has continued with prescribed medication and physiotherapy. Gradually, his condition has improved, and he has been feeling better.

Hospital Bill and Support Received

Following Hussein's hospitalization and surgery in St. Gallen, he and Nadine received a hospital bill amounting to approximately CHF 67,400. Unfortunately, their insurance company declined coverage due to policy limitations, leaving the full amount to be settled privately.



During this difficult period, their dear friends, **Gabriela and Rainer Nobs**, assured them that the bill would be covered, although the practical means were not yet clear. A few months later, they were informed that a lady priest responsible for three churches in St. Gallen, and neighborhood, had committed to make efforts to cover the costs. This gesture deeply touched the family.

In addition, friends and supporters of the LCD made generous contributions, following an appeal letter written by **Rainer Nobs and Hans Silberschmidt**. Hussein and Nadine's daughter, Shaden, opened a dedicated bank account in Switzerland to manage and collect these contributions specifically for the hospital fees.

Furthermore, at later stage, Sr. Doris from the Diakonissenhaus Riehen kindly indicated that their institution would cover half of the bill. This was another extraordinary act of solidarity and compassion which contributed to covering the full amount indeed.

Through the combined generosity and coordinated efforts of many faithful friends, and with the careful follow-up and handling of Gabriela Nobs, the full hospital bill was finally settled in early February 2026.

Hussein and Nadine remain deeply grateful for the remarkable support, love, and solidarity extended to them during this challenging time.

Project: Construction of Nursery Annex Update

As indicated in the Annual Report 2024, the LCD was hopeful to begin the construction of the Integrated Nursery annexed to its premises. After months of preparation and coordination with the Lebanese authorities, the official construction permit was granted in June 2025. This approval marked a significant milestone and allowed the project to move forward.

In July 2025, following the receipt of both the license and the necessary funds, construction work officially commenced. In preparation for excavation, the LCD's vineyard, green lawn, basketball field, and part of the surrounding wall were removed to allow heavy machinery access to the premises.



A substantial excavation was carried out beneath the building site, followed by cement and metal framework works, which were completed in November 2025. Internal partition walls between rooms were then constructed. Plastering works began in November and December and continued through the end of February 2026.

The new structure significantly enhances the LCD's facilities:

- **Basement:** A large hall of approximately 75 m² and a mechanical room were constructed.
- **Ground Floor:** Five spacious nursery rooms replace the previous three small rooms, along with a kitchen and toilet facilities.
- **First Floor:** A large multi-purpose hall, an open kitchenette, and accessible toilet facilities were constructed. The entire floor was designed to be fully accessible, especially for persons using wheelchairs.
- **Top Floor Play Area:** On the top floor, a dedicated open space has been designed for preschool children to play safely and freely. This area will be covered by a photovoltaic (PV) solar system, which will provide shade and help maintain a cooler environment during the hot summer months.



In addition to creating a comfortable and protected play space for the children, the PV system will contribute to energy sustainability by generating electricity for the facility, thereby reducing operational costs and supporting environmentally responsible practices at the LCD. This important construction project has been generously sponsored by Wilde Ganzen (WG), in collaboration with AMT-NL. Their partnership and commitment made this long-envisioned development possible.

All members of the LCD community have expressed great excitement and anticipation regarding this new facility. Completion of the project is expected toward the end of April 2026, marking a new chapter in the LCD's mission of inclusive education and service.

With the completion of the new construction annexed to the LCD, we anticipate a significant and positive transformation in both our educational capacity and financial sustainability.

First and foremost, the expanded facilities will allow us to increase the number of enrolled children to approximately 33. This growth represents a substantial improvement compared to the current enrollment numbers, which have been heavily affected by the socioeconomic crisis in Lebanon. The additional classrooms and improved infrastructure will enable us to admit more children with hearing loss and learning needs, ensuring that more families can access specialized education and early intervention services.



An increase in enrollment will naturally lead to a corresponding increase in revenues through tuition contributions. While we remain committed to supporting vulnerable families and maintaining accessibility, the broader enrollment base will strengthen the LCD's operational stability. This will allow us to better cover salaries, maintenance costs, educational materials, and essential services without relying exclusively on external funding.

In addition to the increased enrollment, the newly constructed multi-purpose hall presents an important opportunity for income generation. We plan to rent the hall on a daily basis for community activities, educational workshops, small conferences, church gatherings, and family events. Given the scarcity of suitable venues in the surrounding area, we believe there is strong potential for consistent demand. This initiative will create an additional and diversified revenue stream for the LCD.

The combination of higher enrollment and the rental of the multi-purpose hall will significantly enhance the financial resilience of the institution. These developments move the LCD closer to long-term sustainability, reducing vulnerability to economic fluctuations and ensuring continuity of services for deaf children and their families.

We are extremely thankful for these opportunities. The completion of this project is not merely a construction milestone; it is an investment in stability, growth, and the future of deaf children in Lebanon. We deeply appreciate the support and partnership that have made this vision possible.

Intensive Trainings, Workshop, Seminars, etc.

In 2025, the LCD hosted several intensive training sessions for various centers, professionals, and other organizations. Below, we highlight some of the key events that took place.

1. **Training on Lebanese Sign Language at the American University of Beirut (AUB):** One of our Board Members, Hisham, delivered three Lebanese Sign Language (LSL) courses at the American University of Beirut, in collaboration with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Participants were enthusiastic and highly engaged. Many were motivated to improve communication with Deaf staff members working at the university, while others expressed a genuine desire to better understand Deaf culture and strengthen inclusion on campus.



The workshops aimed to promote inclusivity and improve communication accessibility within the university community. They were particularly designed for AUB members—especially frontline staff who frequently interact with students, patients, and visitors—equipping them with practical LSL skills and a deeper understanding of Deaf Culture.

2. **Meeting with the Ministry of Social Affairs:** Several meetings were held with the Ministry of Social Affairs focusing on the Ministerial Statement on Disability Rights. Discussions emphasized the importance of adopting an inclusive national approach aligned with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including a proposed 15% inclusion target.

Key points addressed accessibility challenges, the need for strengthened social protection systems, and clearer budget allocations to ensure implementation. The importance of enhancing political participation for persons with disabilities was also highlighted, along with the proposal to establish a dedicated task force to follow up on these issues. The CRPD framework was repeatedly underscored as a guiding reference for policy development and implementation.

- 3. Training Courses:** Vana, our nursery teacher, completed three professional training courses (equivalent to 55 hours of modular training) provided by SKILD in collaboration with the Lifelong Learning Centre and Notre Dame University (NDU). The training series, titled “Guided and Skilled: Supporting Inclusive Classrooms,” aimed to strengthen teachers’ capacity to support children with diverse educational needs in inclusive settings.



Upon completing 40 hours of the program, Vana qualified for an accredited diploma from NDU. The courses included: “Guided and Skilled 1: Becoming an Inclusive Teacher” (25 hours), focusing on special education and supporting students with educational and behavioral challenges; “Guided and Skilled 2: Speech and Psychomotor Development” (15 hours), which addressed speech, language, and developmental milestones; and “Guided and Skilled 3: Integrating AI and SEL Skills in the Classroom” (15 hours), which explored social-emotional learning and the integration of AI tools in special education. Vana got a generous support by the Embrace the Middle East (EME).

- 4. Early Intervention Workshop – “Rising Initiative”:** The LCD’s Early Interventionist, Wafa, attended a three day workshop entitled “Rising: An Initiative to Promote Integrated Nutrition and Early Childhood Development in Lebanon.”

This workshop was organized by American University of Beirut Medical Center, UNICEF, and the Ministry of Public Health, and was held at Four Points by Sheraton Verdun.

The training focused on integrated nutrition strategies and early childhood development approaches, strengthening professional capacity in serving young children and their families.

- 5. Awareness Program – Melkart College, Louaizeh:** As part of our ongoing awareness program about the Deaf community and the work of the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD), Hussein delivered a presentation to 40 Grade 9 students at Melkart College.

The students were highly engaged, asking insightful questions and participating actively throughout the session. At the conclusion of the visit, Hussein received a thoughtful surprise: a beautiful cactus



plant and a glass “Gratitude Jar” filled with heartfelt notes from the students. Subsequently, 24 Grade 9 students, accompanied by their teacher, visited the LCD. They were introduced to the Center’s activities and spent meaningful time interacting and playing with the children. The students also presented a generous donation to support the Deaf children at the LCD.

6. **Nursery Workshop – “Shaping the Future of Learning”**: The LCD nursery teachers, Wadad and Claudine, participated in a workshop entitled “Shaping the Future of Learning,” organized by the Syndicate of Nursery Owners in Lebanon at the Sin el Fil Municipality Hall.

The workshop focused on innovative approaches in early childhood education and strengthening learning environments.

Also, another workshop was presented which was prepared by the Syndicate of Nursery Owners in Lebanon entitled “**Nurturing Minds Building Bridges**” – Effective Communication to build connections among Early Childhood partners for a successful start to the new school year in Sin el Fil Municipality hall. Our teachers participated in this workshop.



7. **Meetings with the Ministry of Public Health**: Several important meetings were held with the Ministry of Public Health addressing various critical matters related to health services, accessibility, and coordination in support of Deaf children and their families.

These meetings contributed to strengthening collaboration and advocating for improved healthcare access for the Deaf community.

8. **MEDEL Rehabilitation Workshop**: Wafa participated in a two day rehabilitation workshop organized by MEDEL at the Phoenicia Hotel Beirut.

The workshop provided practical, evidence based strategies for working with children who use amplification devices. Through hands-on activities, case studies, group discussions, and therapy tools, the training enhanced intervention approaches and strengthened professionals' ability to empower and guide families effectively.

9. **Cochlear Annual Festival:** The annual festival organized by Cochlear Limited brought together families, professionals, and children for a warm, informative, and festive day.

The event featured a rich program of educational sessions, interactive workshops, and recreational activities, creating an environment that fostered learning, connection, and celebration within the hearing impaired community.



10. **International Medical Corps Conference on Health Inclusion:** LCD participated in a conference organized by International Medical Corps entitled: “Promoting Health Inclusion for Persons with Disabilities – Towards Sustainable and Inclusive Change” “Communicating for Change: Health Equity – Inclusion – Advocacy.”

The conference brought together selected Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) and influential persons with disabilities. Its aim was to present the services provided by Primary Health Care Centers and highlight ongoing improvements despite limited financial resources.

During the discussions, LCD provided feedback particularly regarding:

- The need for improved access to information
- The importance of early detection and early intervention
- Stronger coordination between the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Social Affairs (both represented at the conference)

LCD also requested access to the documented action points in order to further elaborate on the most essential priorities.

11. National Conference on Inclusive Emergency Preparedness: A National Conference on Developing an Inclusive Emergency Preparedness Plan for Persons with Disabilities was held at a hotel in Lebanon. Nadine and Malak attended this important event. The conference aimed to:

- Ensure accessible and well equipped shelters in displacement areas
- Provide psychological and social support services
- Secure assistive devices for persons with disabilities
- Address other essential needs during emergencies

This initiative reflects a growing national recognition of the necessity to integrate disability inclusion into crisis response planning.

12. LAU Workshop – “Learning Without Limits”: Later in the year, Malak, Hisham, and our high school teacher Zaynab attended a workshop organized by Lebanese American University entitled: “Learning Without Limits: One Size Doesn’t Fit All.”

This interactive event was held in honor of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Participants engaged with LCD educators and students with special needs, gaining firsthand insights into inclusive education practices. They also took part in hands-on simulations that explored diversity, accessibility, and the importance of adapting learning environments to meet the needs of all students.

13. LADE Workshop on Disability Inclusion Reform: Malak and Hisham attended a workshop organized by Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections entitled: “Disability Inclusion Reform for the Upcoming Parliamentary Elections 2026.”

The workshop addressed the importance of ensuring accessibility, political participation, and electoral reforms that safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities in the upcoming parliamentary elections.



Wafa attended a Congress in UAE

The Emirates Otorhinolaryngology Audiology Swallowing and Communication Disorders Congress (EROC) is an annual event that brings together leading experts in ORL (Otorhinolaryngology) Head and Neck, including ENT doctors, audiologists, speech therapists, and other professionals. In 2025, due to the war in Lebanon, Wafa, the LCD's Early Interventionist, was unable to attend.

First Aid Workshop

In our continuous commitment to providing a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for the children and families we serve, the staff members of the LCD participated in an intensive four-day First Aid and Emergency Response Workshop organized by the Lebanese Red Cross. The training was conducted at the LCD's premises, allowing all team members to attend and benefit fully from this important capacity-building initiative.



The workshop provided comprehensive theoretical and practical sessions on first aid in various emergency circumstances. Participants received extensive presentations on how to respond effectively to accidents and sudden health conditions, including wounds, fractures, burns, choking incidents, allergic reactions, and other urgent medical situations that may arise in a school or community setting. Special emphasis was placed on recognizing early warning signs, ensuring scene safety, and applying immediate and appropriate first response measures while awaiting professional medical assistance.

A significant component of the training focused on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) techniques for both young children and adults. Staff members practiced hands-on CPR procedures, learning the correct methods for chest compressions, rescue breathing, and the management of airway obstructions. The practical exercises enhanced their confidence and competence in handling life-threatening emergencies calmly and efficiently.

The training also included guidance on the proper use and maintenance of emergency items and first aid kits, ensuring that the LCD is adequately prepared and equipped at all times. By the end of the workshop, staff members demonstrated a clear understanding of emergency protocols and their individual roles during critical situations.



This initiative has significantly strengthened the LCD’s preparedness framework and reinforced our responsibility toward the well-being of the children, staff, and visitors. Through this collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross, the LCD continues to invest in professional development and to uphold the highest standards of safety and care within our institution.

Sign Language Courses



Throughout the year, the LCD regularly offered sign language courses, at the LCD’s premises, local and international offices, and educational institutions, that attracted participants from diverse professional, social, and national backgrounds. Attendees included medical doctors, soldiers, social

workers, teachers, and other professionals, as well as individuals who were personally motivated to learn the language of the Deaf community.

The primary objective of these courses was to equip participants with practical communication skills that enable them to interact effectively with Deaf individuals. By strengthening communication across sectors, the LCD promotes greater inclusion, accessibility, and mutual understanding within professional environments and society at large.

These courses contribute not only to individual capacity development but also to the broader goal of fostering a more inclusive community where Deaf persons can access services and opportunities on an equal basis with others.

Sign Language in the Nursery/Preschool

Sign language sessions were continued in the Nursery and the Preschool section, led by Malak and Najah, both Deaf instructors. Their expertise and natural ability to engage young children made the sessions both dynamic and enjoyable. Through interactive and age-appropriate methods, they created a learning environment that was stimulating, inclusive, and meaningful.



The children greatly enjoyed the lessons and were positively impacted by the experience of communicating directly with Deaf adults. This exposure not only enhanced their communication skills but also fostered respect, empathy, and appreciation for Deaf culture and identity.

Encouraged by the visible progress and enthusiasm of their children, several parents expressed interest in enrolling in sign language courses themselves, further extending the program’s impact beyond the classroom and into the wider community.

Sign Language Development Work

The LCD is proud to have a dedicated and talented team of Deaf members, including Saeed and especially Malak. Their work focuses on collecting and refining local sign language concepts, as well as producing and documenting video materials for future reference and educational use.



These efforts contribute to the preservation and development of sign language resources. The documented signs will eventually be integrated into a digital application, making them accessible to anyone interested in learning or improving their sign language skills. This initiative represents an important step toward expanding access to structured, high-quality sign language resources for the wider community.

Sign Language on the Local TV

The LCD has maintained close and constructive follow-up with the Ministry of Information regarding the inclusion of sign language interpretation in national media. As a result of these efforts, sign language interpretation was introduced during a local news broadcast aired at peak viewing hours. The Minister and the responsible officials expressed clear interest and support for strengthening accessibility in this area.

The LCD was particularly pleased that a news program in Sign Language—translated and presented by Deaf individuals, including LCD staff members and a board member—was broadcast on the national television station, Télé Liban, during the evening prime time slot (7:30–8:00 PM).

This milestone represents a significant step toward promoting accessibility, visibility, and recognition of Deaf professionals in the media sector, while advancing the rights of Deaf citizens to equal access to information.

Teachers' Day



The celebration of Teachers' Day was a joyful and meaningful gathering for the LCD community. It provided a valuable opportunity for staff members to come together, share moments of appreciation, and enjoy a warm and uplifting time of fellowship.

We thank God for this special occasion and

for the gift of dedicated educators. We pray that each teacher and mentor at the LCD will be richly blessed for their commitment, perseverance, and the care they invest daily in the lives of children and families. Their dedication remains a cornerstone of the LCD's mission and impact.

Annual School Trip



Continuing its tradition, the LCD organizes an annual school trip for staff members to explore notable and culturally significant sites in Lebanon. In May 2025, the group visited several remarkable locations, including the St. Charbel Shrine, the scenic inward river of Ballou Ballaa, and the Tannourine Cedars, all approximately two hours away by bus. The day

concluded with lunch in Douma Village and ice cream treats for everyone in the town of Byblos.



This memorable excursion was made possible thanks to the generous support of our Swiss friend, Rainer Nobs, President of the "Friends of



the LCD–Lebanon.”

The trip was met with great enthusiasm, bringing joy to participants and providing many students and staff members the opportunity to experience places they had never visited before. It fostered a sense of community, learning, and shared adventure, making it a truly cherished event of the year.



Advocacy Work

In 2025, the LCD continued its longstanding collaboration with other Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) in Lebanon, working jointly on issues affecting persons with disabilities (PwD), with a particular focus on human rights. Through these partnerships, the LCD has actively advocated with the Lebanese Government to ensure that the fundamental rights of PwD are recognized and implemented. Collaborating with OPDs has been instrumental in strengthening the LCD’s capacity to achieve meaningful progress in this area.

In partnership with the Lebanese Federation of the Deaf (LFD), the LCD sustained its advocacy efforts throughout the year. A range of workshops, awareness seminars, and meetings were organized, bringing together representatives from multiple government departments and other concerned stakeholders. These events highlighted the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, including Deaf individuals, and were sometimes conducted solely by the LCD or in collaboration with national NGOs and especially OPDs.

Beyond these organized activities, the LCD and LFD have actively engaged in lobbying and carrying dialogue with government stakeholders to ensure the enforcement of minimum rights for the Deaf community. These sustained efforts reinforce the LCD’s commitment to promoting equality, inclusion, and the empowerment of the Deaf and persons with disabilities across Lebanon.



LCD's Project Works

In 2025, the LCD carried out several small-scale projects aimed at renovating and improving its facilities. A key project was the renovation of the toilet area on the 3rd floor, designed to ensure accessibility for all users, with particular attention to the needs of children.

The renovation work commenced in June and was completed within two weeks. The project was executed efficiently and to a high standard, reflecting the LCD's commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment for all members of its community.



Toilet as seen before the work began



After the work

Our Faithful Partners and Sponsors

As always, the LCD is deeply grateful for the faithfulness and support of various organizations, associations, individuals, and friends, both locally and internationally. Without their generous contributions—financial, moral, and spiritual—the LCD would not be able to continue its important mission of serving deaf children and supporting their families in Lebanon.

In a year marked by economic hardship and uncertainty, their solidarity has been more than assistance; it has been a sign of hope and shared responsibility. Their trust in our work strengthens our resolve and enables us to maintain the quality, continuity, and sustainability of our programs.

To name just a few, we would like to acknowledge some of our steadfast supporters:

1. Embrace the Middle East – United Kingdom

Embrace has been one of our primary and most faithful partners for many years. They cover a substantial portion of the salaries of several staff members, ensuring the continuity and stability of our educational and rehabilitation services. Their support goes far beyond financial assistance; they maintain a close and active interest in our work, consistently offering encouragement, guidance, and a genuine sense of partnership. We deeply value their prayers, their readiness to listen, and their willingness to respond whenever we face specific challenges.

2. Friends of the LCD-Lebanon (FK-LCD) – Switzerland

The LCD has enjoyed a long-standing and strong relationship with the Swiss foundation “Friends of the LCD-Lebanon (FK-LCD).” This foundation was among the very first to support the LCD at its establishment and has remained a pillar of strength throughout the years. Their generous financial contributions have helped us meet both operational and strategic needs. Beyond financial support, our Swiss friends regularly assist us in securing essential items such as hearing aids, batteries, and other specialized equipment. They truly embody the meaning of a faithful friend in times of need.

3. AMT-NL – The Netherlands

AMT-NL is a small but highly committed foundation that has supported the LCD since its initiation phase. They were the first foundation to believe in and invest in our vision. Over the years, they have provided assistance for specific projects whenever needed. Their continued trust and commitment to our cause remain invaluable.

4. Wilde Ganzen – The Netherlands

Wilde Ganzen (WG) has been a vital strategic partner of the LCD, supporting several major projects. Their most significant contribution was the purchase and expansion of the LCD premises, in addition to funding two major renovation projects. During the crises of COVID-19 and the Beirut port explosion, WG provided crucial financial assistance to ensure the continuity of our services. In 2022, WG approved our proposal for the construction of a new Integrated Nursery facility with upgraded playground equipment. We look forward to initiating this important project in the summer of 2025.

5. Johanne van Dijk

Although Johanne previously worked at Wilde Ganzen, she continues to support the LCD with great dedication and personal commitment. She carries the LCD deeply in her heart and has worked tirelessly to help advance the Integrated Nursery construction project. Together with our dear Dutch friends Frits and Marjolijn van der Hoeven, and with the support of Hans Wareman from AMT-NL, she has shown remarkable perseverance and dedication. We are sincerely grateful for their unwavering efforts.

6. Hans Silberschmidt

Hans serves as the treasurer of FK-LCD and remains in constant and close communication with the LCD through email, WhatsApp, and phone. He consistently shares valuable ideas and encouragement. Alongside **Rainer Nobs**, President of FK-LCD, Hans has been a strong and reliable supporter. Both Hussein and Nadine consider him a close and trusted friend of the LCD.

7. Josephine Marriage

Josephine, an English audiologist, has become a dear and treasured friend of the LCD. She has supported our work both financially and technically. In previous years, she visited annually to conduct training sessions and workshops for our staff and specialists. Her expertise, generosity, and compassion have left a lasting and meaningful impact on our services.

8. Herbert Klein

Herbert, a deaf supporter from England, continues to stand with the LCD through faithful prayers and financial contributions. His solidarity and encouragement are deeply appreciated.

9. Doris Kellerhals – Kommunität Diakonissenhaus Riehen, Switzerland

Sr. Doris Kellerhals continued to uphold the LCD in her prayers and made a generous donation during the recent crises. Her spiritual and material support has been a true blessing to our community.

10. Pam White

Mrs. Pam White, a long-time friend of Hussein, has continued to support the LCD within her capacity. Her faithful friendship and generosity are sincerely valued.

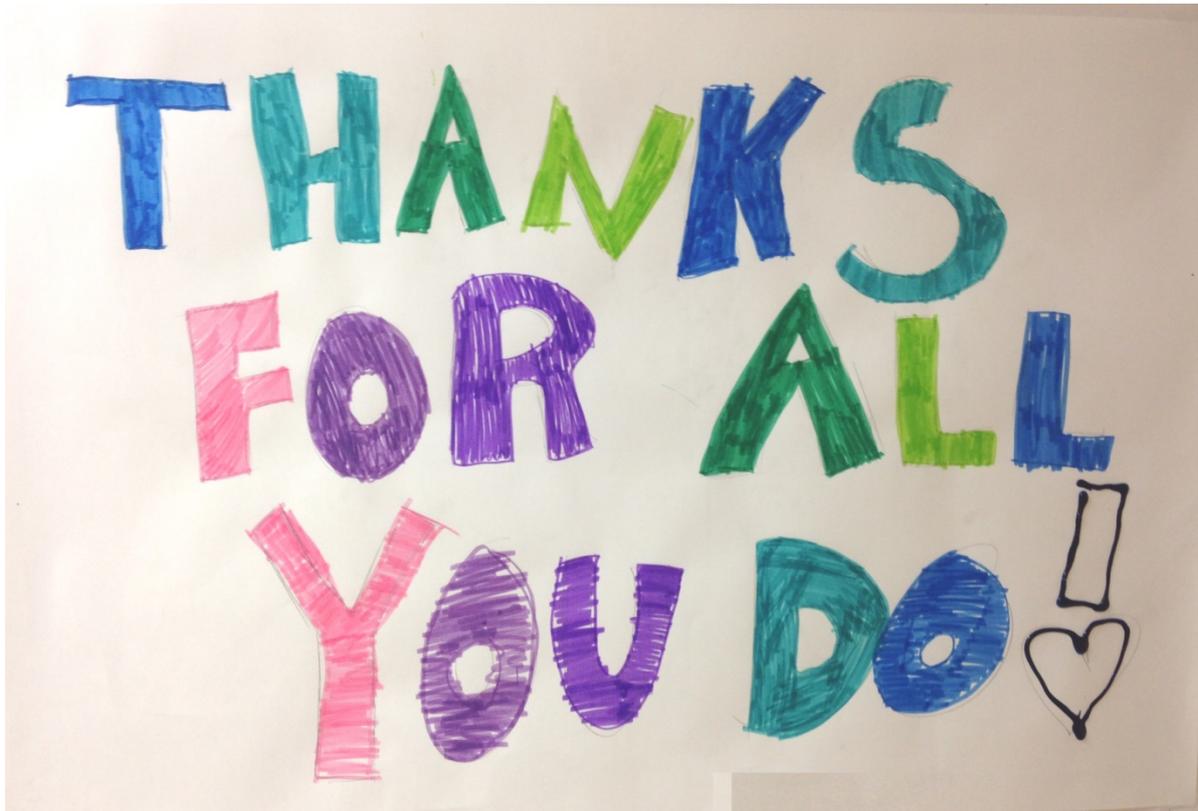
11. Faithful Friends During Times of Difficulties

We are also grateful to our dear friends Marnix, Achim, Gabriele, Paul, and Gregory, who stood by us especially during the most challenging periods. Their solidarity and encouragement strengthened us greatly.

12. Other Individuals and Friends

Finally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the many other individuals and friends who quietly and faithfully support the LCD in various ways. Whether through donations, prayers, advocacy, or moral encouragement, each contribution plays an essential role in sustaining our mission.

On behalf of the children, parents, staff, and Board of the LCD, we express our profound gratitude to all our partners and friends. Your generosity enables us to continue offering hope, inclusion, and opportunity to deaf children in Lebanon.



Conclusion

As we reflect on the past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude and humility. Despite the many social and economic challenges surrounding us in Lebanon, we have witnessed unwavering commitment from organizations, churches, partners, and faithful friends who believe in the mission of the Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD). Your continued trust in our work to serve Deaf children and their families has been a constant source of encouragement and strength.

Throughout the year, we encountered significant obstacles—financial pressures, operational uncertainties, and the broader instability affecting the country. Yet, time and again, we experienced timely support and open doors at moments when the need was greatest. We firmly believe that God, in His faithfulness, has touched the hearts of those who stand with the LCD, sustaining this ministry and enabling it to continue its mission with dignity and hope.

As we conclude the year 2025, we do so with deep gratitude, renewed determination, and unwavering faith in our mission. Despite the ongoing socioeconomic crisis and security instability in Lebanon, the LCD has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving deaf children and their families with dignity, professionalism, and compassion.

This year has been marked by both serious challenges and meaningful accomplishments. The difficult national circumstances continued to affect families, staff members, and the overall operational capacity of the institution. The decline in enrollment—particularly in the Nursery Section—reflected the broader reality of

migration and economic hardship facing many households. Yet, even in the midst of these constraints, the LCD continued to provide specialized educational services, early intervention support, parental guidance, and community awareness initiatives.

Throughout 2025, our dedicated staff demonstrated resilience and exceptional commitment. They adapted to changing conditions, managed limited resources responsibly, and pursued professional development opportunities—such as first aid and emergency response training—to ensure that the highest standards of safety and care are maintained. Their dedication remains the backbone of the LCD.

We are equally grateful for the trust of the families who continue to entrust us with the education and development of their children. The Support Group of Parents of Deaf Children remained a vital pillar, fostering solidarity, shared learning, and emotional encouragement among families navigating similar journeys. Together, we continue to promote inclusion, empowerment, and hope.

The construction and development efforts annexed to the LCD represent not only physical expansion but also a symbol of long-term vision. Even in uncertain times, we are building for the future—investing in improved facilities that will better serve generations of children to come.

None of this would have been possible without the steadfast support of our partners, donors, churches, and friends both locally and internationally. Their solidarity has enabled the LCD to sustain its programs, settle obligations, and move forward with courage. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each individual and organization that has walked alongside us during this demanding year.

As we look toward 2026, we remain realistic about the challenges ahead, yet confident in our calling. The need for specialized services for deaf children in Lebanon remains urgent. Our responsibility is clear: to continue advocating for their rights, strengthening their abilities, and ensuring that they grow in an environment of respect, faith, and opportunity.

With gratitude to God for His guidance and protection throughout 2025, we step into the new year with hope, resilience, and a firm commitment to our mission.

Together, we continue to build a future where every deaf child in Lebanon is heard, valued, and empowered.

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2025



The LCD's faithful visitors: Embrace the ME



Classroom work



Preparation for the construction site of the LCD



During the exhibition



Teacher instructs how to open a lid



Prior to Construction Project

The Learning Center for the Deaf

Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2025



Activities conducted by one of the LCD – Wafa



Some Educational Material were donated



Support Group in the garden



In the EIP intervention with a mother



In one of the sign language classes

The Learning Center for the Deaf
Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2025



Happily playing with a car



Office Manager and the Accountant



Hussein's head surgery



Pruning the dried branches off the trees



Please visit us at the www.lcd-lebanon.org, for detailed information about our services and activities.

Thank you for your continuous prayers and support !!

God bless you.