

20  
23

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year, we have accomplished several significant milestones, including:

**Legal Aid Program:** CLDH offers legal aid services to vulnerable individuals through walk-in consultations, assistance, and mediation. The legal aid program ensures access to justice for individuals who are unable to represent themselves in detention facilities.

In numbers, legal aid was:

**Legal Representation:** 756 cases

**Legal Consultation:** 333 cases

**Legal Mediation:** 12 cases

**Grand Total:** 1101 cases

**Decentralized Operations:** CLDH's decentralized operations approach has allowed it to have a more impactful reach to the most vulnerable populations. The offices located in Beirut, Tripoli, and Beqaa operate independently, delivering all of CLDH's activities with the support and guidance of experts presented as heads of departments.

**Organizational Development:** In 2023, CLDH embarked on a transformative journey of organizational development, aimed at fortifying its foundations

and operations to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, and impact. This included a comprehensive review of the structure, strategy, policies, and mechanisms.

**Capacity Building:** Through tailored internal training and workshops, CLDH fostered a culture of continuous learning, skill development, and enhanced communication. Additionally, external training equipped staff members with the skills and knowledge required to excel in their roles.

**Policy Review and Development:** CLDH led a policy review and assessment, followed by a phase of policies and mechanisms drafting. These processes ensure alignment with evolving regulatory requirements and organizational best practices.

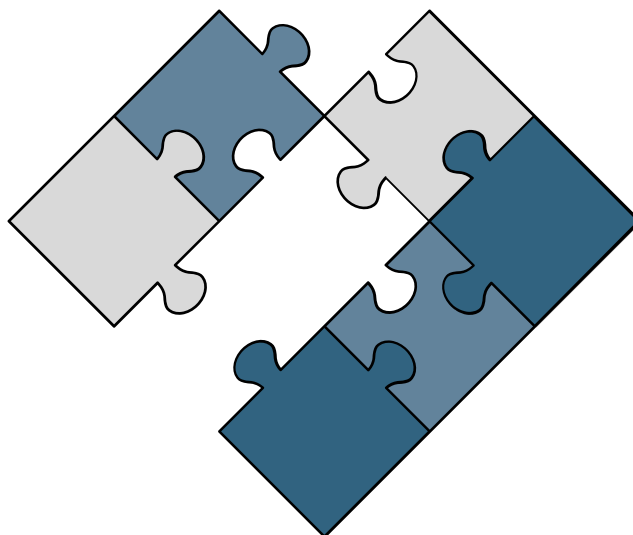
**New Database for Monitoring and Evaluation:** CLDH advanced its monitoring and evaluation department by adopting a new database. This new database minimizes human data error, provides better data management, and lays out data-driven decision-making to optimize outcomes.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite our successes, we have faced several challenges, such as:

- 1. Strikes and Delays:** Outside of detention, notable challenges include strikes, delays in court processes, increased court fees, shortages of stamps, and delays caused by beneficiaries not promptly providing necessary documents. While some challenges are unavoidable, mitigation tactics are adopted as needed
- 2. Communication Issues:** In detention, challenges include disruptions caused by strikes and instances where beneficiaries are already represented by legal counsel. Additionally, beneficiaries sometimes cease communication with lawyers after progress in their case, complicating ongoing support
- 3. Funding and Fees:** Insufficient funding and escalating fees further strain resources, exacerbating operational constraints. Moreover, the sluggish pace of legal processes and a lack of accountability mechanisms contribute to delays, impeding the program's effectiveness in delivering timely assistance to those in need

These challenges reflect the organization's ongoing efforts to navigate and overcome obstacles in order to continue providing essential services to the community.



# ANNUAL REPORT

## THE WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Annual Report of the Lebanese Center for Human Rights for the year 2023. This report highlights our achievements, challenges, and the impact we have made in our community over the past year. Our mission is to advocate for the enforcement of human rights for all, denounces human rights violations, and fights impunity by providing legal and rehabilitation services, and we are committed to making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to our mission and are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. We envision a country free from human rights violations and discrimination and work tirelessly to achieve our vision.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our supporters, staff and volunteers, and partners. Your unwavering support and dedication have been instrumental in our success. Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact in our community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

**WADIH AL ASMAR**  
PRESIDENT

# OUR OFFICES

CLDH's decentralized operations approach is reflected in its offices, which are located in several regions in Lebanon. This has been evident to have a more impactful reach to the most vulnerable populations. CLDH offices are located in Beirut, Tripoli, and Beqaa. These offices operate independently, delivering all of CLDH's activities with the support and guidance of experts presented as heads of departments.

The Beirut Headquarters Office is located in Dora, a bustling and dynamic center in Beirut. It serves as a key hub for our operations in Beirut and connects all our other offices, acting as the headquarters. The Beirut office houses rehabilitation services, in-house legal services, and program desks. It serves as the central hub for overseeing the implementation of services across all locations and directly offers comprehensive support to beneficiaries. Additionally, a children's playroom has been added to help comfort beneficiaries' kids.

This office plays a pivotal role in coordinating and managing the organization's activities, ensuring the seamless delivery of services such as social services, psychotherapy, psychiatric aid, general medical consultation, and physiotherapy.

It also facilitates legal services, hosting regular meetings for lawyers and serving as a venue for training sessions, workshops, and organizational meetings. Led by the Programs Manager and Programs Officer, the office is staffed by a team including social workers, psychologists, lawyers, and an administrative assistant who handles administrative tasks. Overall, the Beirut HQ stands as a beacon of support and service excellence, dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of our beneficiaries and fostering a nurturing environment for their well-being and progress.

The Tripoli office primarily focuses on legal and social services, specifically catering to walk-in and detention cases. It provides a conducive meeting space for internal coordination and external engagements. The office plays a critical role in overseeing operations and directly serving beneficiaries, offering legal awareness sessions through fieldwork. Led by the center coordinator and supported by an administrative assistant and implementation staff, the team ensures the seamless delivery of services.

Comprising a diverse array of professionals including social workers, therapists, and lawyers, the office places a strong emphasis on fieldwork and community legal education, exemplifying our commitment to empowering communities and facilitating access to justice.

The Bekaa office, despite its relatively smaller size, plays a crucial role in community engagement and legal assistance. With a primary focus on fieldwork, it provides vital legal awareness sessions and consultations, prioritizing legal and social support for the local population. The dedicated Bekaa team is committed to community outreach and legal assistance, working closely with local populations to address their needs through comprehensive legal education and support services. Operated by a compact team comprising two social workers, four lawyers, and an administrative and finance officer, the office ensures the effective execution of field activities, reflecting our unwavering commitment to serving and empowering communities in the Bekaa region.

## ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2023, CLDH embarked on a transformative journey of organizational development, aimed at fortifying its foundations and operations to enhance its efficiency, effectiveness, and impact. Central to this endeavor was a comprehensive review of the structure, strategy, policies, and mechanisms.

Under this in-depth review with the support of several partners, we could identify three main components to work on:

1. Human resources' capacity building,
2. Review and development of policies and mechanisms, and
3. Development of managerial internal tools

Through tailored internal training and workshops, we fostered a culture of continuous learning, skill development, and enhanced communication. Additionally, CLDH resorted to capacity building through external training, which equipped staff members with the skills and knowledge required to excel in their roles. This approach increased the organization's efficiency by integrating knowledge, skills, and formal and non-formal learning exchange.

Acknowledging the value of policies and mechanisms in advancing the work environment, challenging unbalanced power relations, and ensuring accountability, CLDH led a policy review and assessment, followed by a phase of policies and mechanisms drafting. These processes ensure alignment with evolving regulatory requirements and organizational best practices. Similarly, these policies and mechanisms help concerned staff navigate conflicts, promote work efficiency, and uphold integrity, ultimately enhancing trust and achieving sustainable growth.

As a result of an assessment of CLDH's work, the archive of work, the data analysis, and its link to program design, CLDH advanced its monitoring and evaluation department by adopting a new database. The new database minimizes human data error, provides better data management, and ultimately lays out data-driven decision-making to optimize outcomes. This has helped enhance the implementation process, reflected in ongoing communication and coordination between different departments. Moreover, this step has improved the department's capacity to measure outputs, assess impact, and adapt strategies in real-time.

## LEGAL AID PROGRAM



### **The Program and the Services Provided**

CLDH offers legal aid services to vulnerable individuals through walk-in consultations, assistance, and mediation. Our legal aid program ensures access to justice for individuals who are unable to represent themselves in detention facilities, spanning from Lebanese prisons to detention centers.

### **Who are the Beneficiaries?**

The legal aid program extends its services to individuals of all nationalities and backgrounds without discrimination. Benefiting from the program is streamlined and facilitated using diverse tools. However, budget constraints and an excessive number of cases that exceed the department's capacity pose limitations. Most of the beneficiaries are Syrian refugees, migrant workers, and vulnerable Lebanese individuals, among others.

In detention, beneficiaries of the legal aid program typically have no more than two charges. They are selected without discrimination, focusing on the most vulnerable individuals, such as women, children, and migrant workers. Those who have lacked representation for over a year are also allocated priority. Beneficiaries are identified through various channels, including referral systems, hotline calls from beneficiaries or their families, and direct identification by lawyers during visits to prisons and detention centers.

## **The Process of CLDH's Legal Services: Legal Consultations, Legal Assistance, and Legal Representation**

**Legal Consultations:** Outside of detention, consultations often begin with a referral, a hotline call, or through outreach efforts. An appointment is scheduled with a lawyer to identify their needs and demands. Sometimes, consultations alone resolve the case through advice, while other times, representation is required. In detention, detainees/prisoners seeking legal advice receive information on the services CLDH provides, ensuring they have access to legal representation if they lack it.

**Legal Assistance:** Legal assistance services target individuals both inside and outside of detention. For "out of detention" cases, consultations are provided, followed by the request for a Power of Attorney (POA) and other relevant documents as needed. The time required for resolution varies by case, during which lawyers regularly visit relevant courts and keep beneficiaries updated until resolution. Upon completion, all documents are provided to the beneficiary.

For "in detention" cases, lawyers review case details with detainees/inmates and present a defense plan. Coordination with the detainee/inmate or their families is sustained throughout the legal process. Representation concludes post-trial ruling.

**Legal Mediation:** Mediation is employed when beneficiaries face disputes with others. Lawyers intervene to expedite resolution. Mediation may occur between citizens or officials.

### **Challenges and Limitations**

Outside of detention, notable challenges include strikes, delays in court processes, increased court fees, shortages of stamps, and delays caused by beneficiaries not promptly providing necessary documents. While some challenges are unavoidable, mitigation tactics are adopted as needed.

In detention, challenges include disruptions caused by strikes and instances where beneficiaries are already represented by legal counsel. Additionally, beneficiaries sometimes cease communication with lawyers after progress in their case, complicating ongoing support.

Insufficient funding and escalating fees further strain resources, exacerbating operational constraints. Moreover, the sluggish pace of legal processes and a lack of accountability mechanisms contribute to delays, impeding the program's effectiveness in delivering timely assistance to those in need.



**Legal Aid in Numbers**  
Outside of Detention

**TYPE OF LEGAL SERVICE**

**NUMBER OF  
CASES**

Legal Representation

756

Legal Consultation

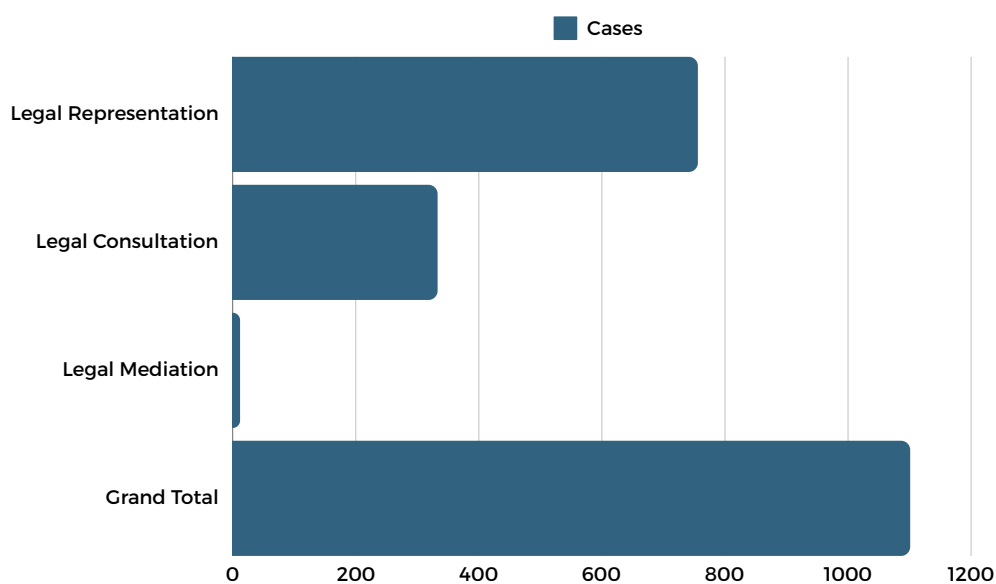
333

Legal Mediation

12

**Grand Total**

**1101**

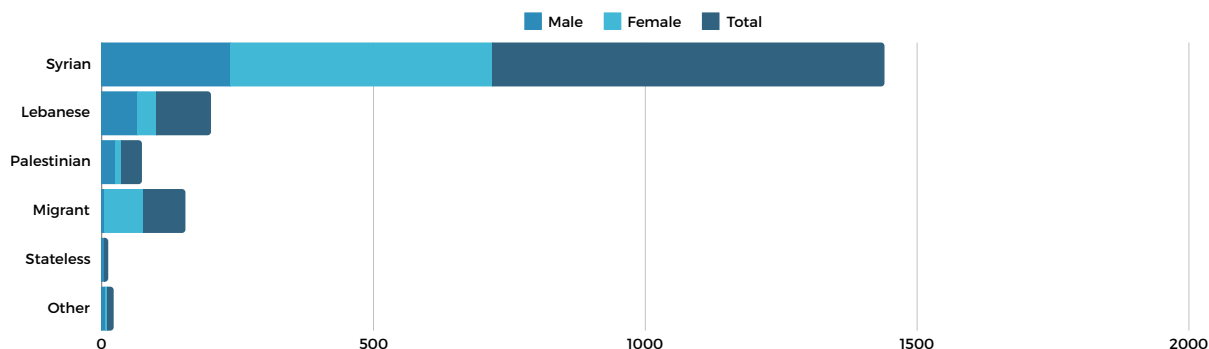


**TYPE OF CASE**

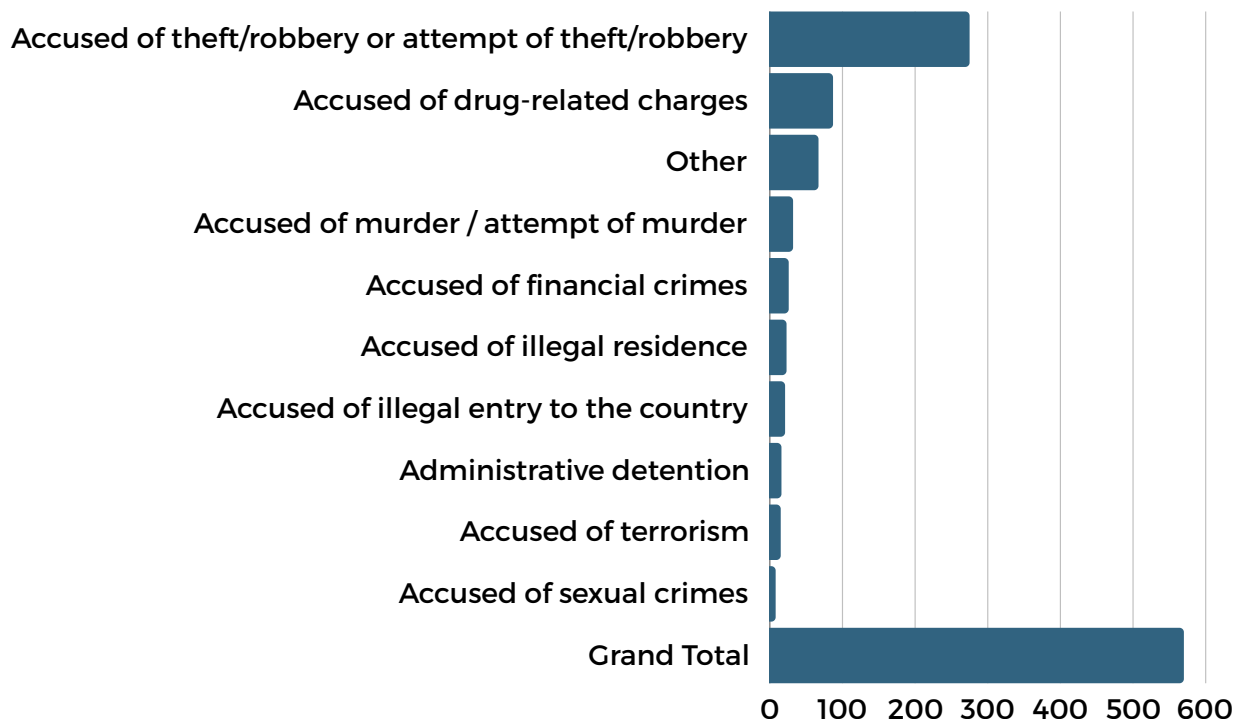
**NUMBER OF CASES**

Wants to File a Complaint	10
Divorce Case	34
Wants to Return to Home Country	47
Other (Alimony, Custody, Facing Threats...)	103
Marriage Registration	145
Residency Renewal	281
Children Registration	481
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1101</b>

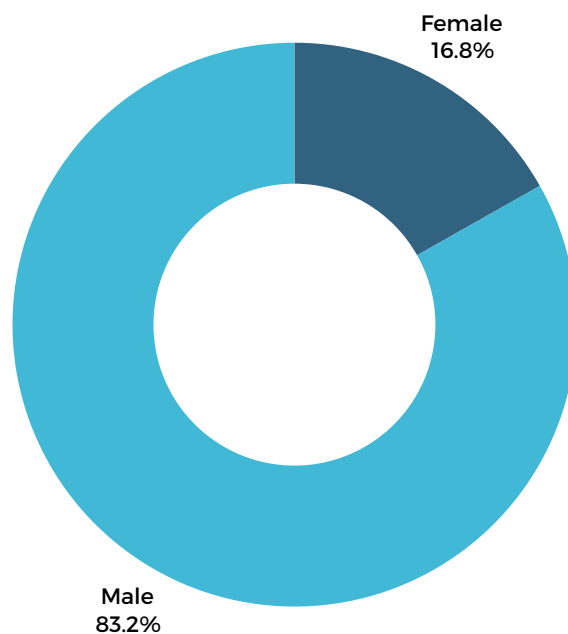
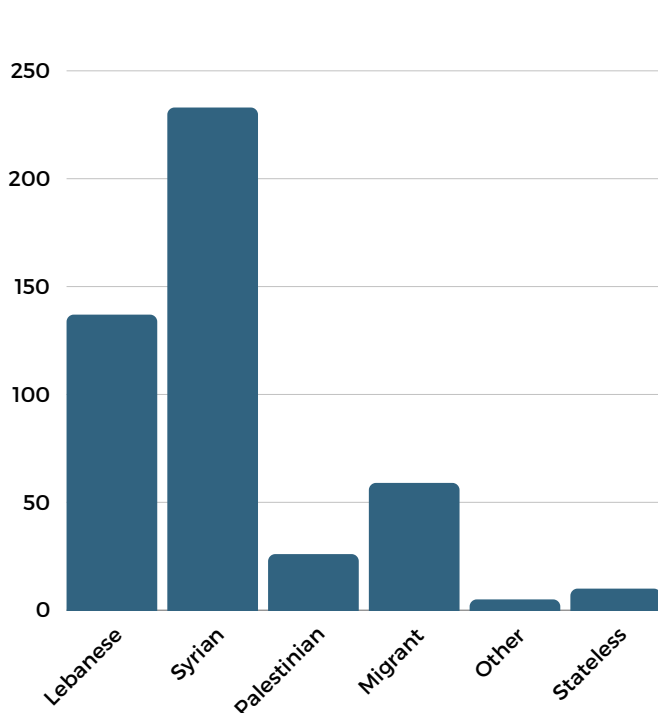
Nationality	Male			Male Total	Female			Female Total	Other	Other Total	Grand Total
	Age Group				Age Group				Age Group		
	5-17	18-63	64+	5-17	18-63	64+	18-63				
Syrian	6	228	3	237	14	458	10	482	2	2	721
Lebanese		60	5	65		34	1	35	1	1	101
Palestinian		25		25		10	2	12			37
Migrant		5		5		71	1	72			77
Stateless		6		6							6
Other		7		7		4		4			11
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>953</b>



<b>TYPE OF CASE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF CASES</b>
Accused of theft/robbery or attempt of theft/robbery	275
Accused of drug-related charges (consumption, trafficking, promotion)	87
Other	67
Accused of murder / attempt of murder	32
Accused of financial crimes (including fraud, counterfeiting currency, and forgery)	26
Accused of illegal residence	23
Accused of illegal entry to the country	21
Administrative detention (No Charges)	16
Accused of terrorism	15
Accused of sexual crimes (including sexual harassment, rape, forced prostitution, domestic violence)	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>570</b>



Nationality	Female		Female Total	Male			Male Total	Grand Total
	Age Group			Age Group				
	5-17	18-63		5-17	18-63	64+		
Lebanese		9	9	5	118	5	128	137
Syrian	1	9	10	24	195	4	223	233
Palestinian		2	2	2	21	1	24	26
Migrant		56	56		3		3	59
Other					5		5	5
Stateless		2	2	1	7		8	10
Grand Total	1	78	79	32	349	10	391	470



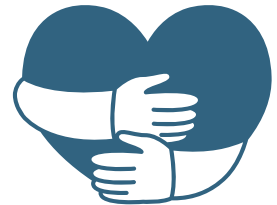
## **Achievements and Impact**

Our legal services have demonstrated significant achievements and observable impacts both outside of detention and in detention. Beneficiaries consistently express satisfaction with the assistance received. We diligently follow up on cases that may have been overlooked and are in dire need of assistance, ultimately fostering trust in our work. Notably, our services in detention have successfully aided individuals arbitrarily detained and those wrongfully accused. Outside of detention, our services have helped individuals facing deportation, those in need of official documentation, and those dealing with personal issues.

## **Relationship with Governmental Entities**

CLDH's legal department maintains communication channels with key governmental entities and security forces. Our impactful work has fostered excellent ties with the Sharia Court in Lebanon, even resulting in case referrals. Similarly, communication with the General Security Office (GSO) streamlines our work processes. Our diplomatic relationships with governmental entities and security agencies are largely attributed to the progress and effectiveness of the legal services provided.

# **NASSIM PROGRAM**



## **The Program and The Services Provided**

Established in 2007, Nassim Rehabilitation Program is dedicated to delivering comprehensive rehabilitation services. Our services encompass social and psychological support, general medical consultations, diagnostic tests, medication administration, psychiatric care, and physical therapy sessions.

## **Who are the Beneficiaries?**

The beneficiaries served by Nassim Rehabilitation Center encompass a wide range of individuals facing various challenges and vulnerabilities. This includes victims of torture and their families, vulnerable populations in detention such as sick or elderly inmates, and refugees who have experienced deportation or displacement to unsafe areas, especially those lacking support from the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). The center also assists internally displaced persons, human rights activists facing persecution, and stateless individuals, along with those unable to obtain identification documents or whose legal papers have been arbitrarily confiscated.

Migrant workers under the Kafala system, individuals with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ individuals experiencing inadequate protection in Lebanon seek refuge at the center. Additionally, refugees facing discrimination based on nationality or status, women whose status is undermined by Personal Status Laws, and parents of children subjected to labor or abuse benefit from the center's services. The center also supports juveniles lacking proper rehabilitation projects in detention, individuals requiring Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) without access to private care, and those in need of legal aid but lacking financial means. Victims of the Beirut Port explosion on August 4, 2020, individuals arbitrarily arrested or detained, including those with expired sentences, as well as low-income families, marginalized individuals, and those with disabilities facing eviction risks, all turn to Nassim Rehabilitation Center for assistance during times of vulnerability.

### **The Service Provision Environment**

Nassim Rehabilitation Program meticulously follows a comprehensive service provision process tailored to each beneficiary's needs and requests:

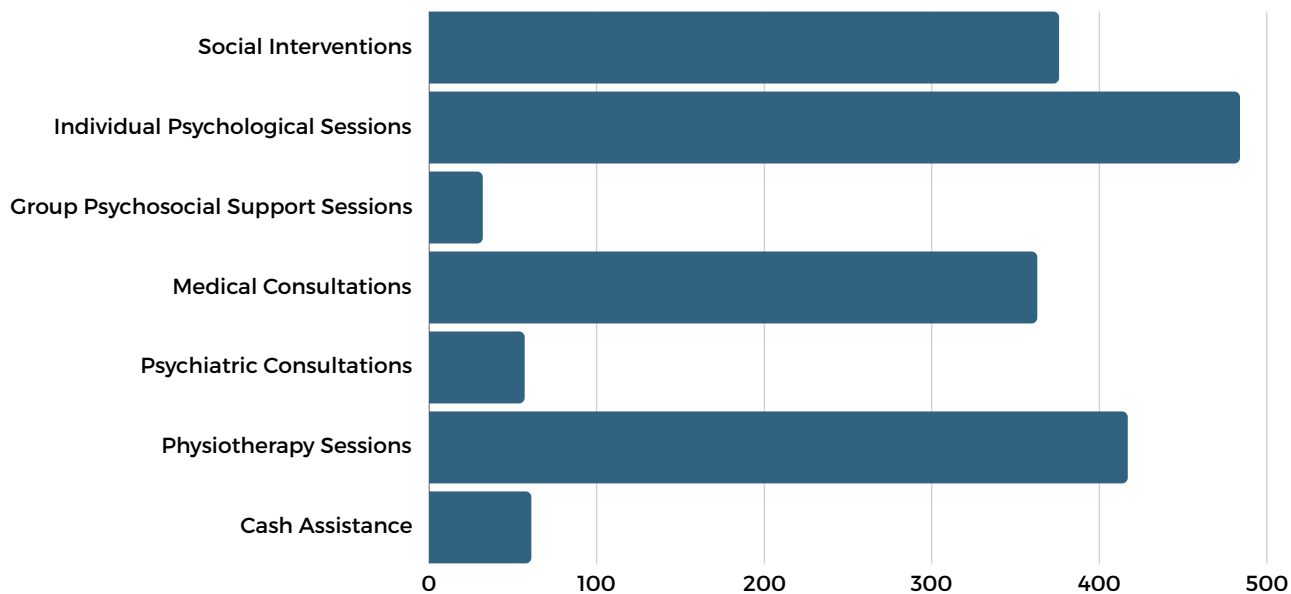
- **Social Services:** The journey begins with an in-depth social assessment conducted by experienced social workers. Through a methodical intake process, cases are identified, and needs are carefully discerned. Social workers collaborate with beneficiaries to establish short and long-term rehabilitation goals, serving as the foundation for their action plan. This plan guides the referral process to specialized services within the center. Throughout the rehabilitation journey, social workers provide ongoing support, conducting sessions with individuals and their families to monitor progress and address emerging needs.
- **Psychological Services:** Our dedicated team of psychologists, operating both within the center and detention centers and prisons, offers vital psychological support. Referrals to these services are initiated by social workers, ensuring confidentiality and a supportive approach. Psychologists conduct comprehensive assessments to determine the needs of beneficiaries. Collaborating closely with individuals, intervention plans are developed, serving as a roadmap for subsequent sessions to enhance psychological well-being.
- **Medical Services:** The integration of general medical services into the rehabilitation plan is overseen by our experienced general practitioner. Social workers facilitate referrals for medical assessment and treatment, ensuring a holistic approach to rehabilitation. Beneficiaries receive thorough examinations, prescribed medications, and necessary tests to address their medical needs effectively.

- **Psychiatric Follow-up:** Specialized psychiatric evaluation and treatment are facilitated through referrals initiated by psychologists or the general practitioner. Upon referral, beneficiaries undergo comprehensive assessments conducted by psychiatrists. The assessments aim to diagnose cases and develop a treatment plan accordingly, in collaboration with the interdisciplinary team.
- **Physical Therapy Sessions:** Recognizing the physical toll of trauma on the body as much as on the mind, our rehabilitation plans may include physiotherapy sessions led by highly experienced physiotherapists. These sessions are designed to address physical impairments and promote recovery, whether conducted in clinical settings or within the comfort of the beneficiary's home environment.
- **Legal Aid Services:** Legal needs identified during intake or throughout the rehabilitation process are addressed through consultations and representation if needed. Social workers diligently refer cases to our legal team for assessment. If deemed eligible, beneficiaries may receive comprehensive legal representation to address legal challenges, effectively enforcing their right to access justice.

It is important to highlight that an active line of communication is maintained between the social workers and the rehabilitation service provider(s) to track the service provision plan and the progress, enabling them to track, amend, and adapt the action plan accordingly.

### Rehabilitation in Numbers

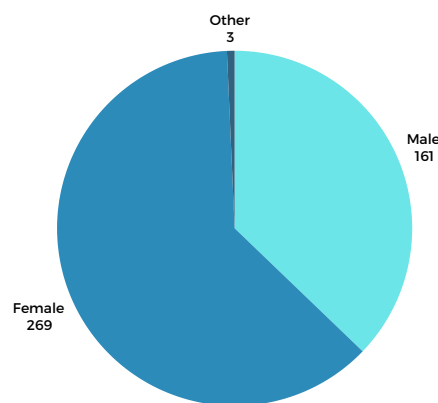
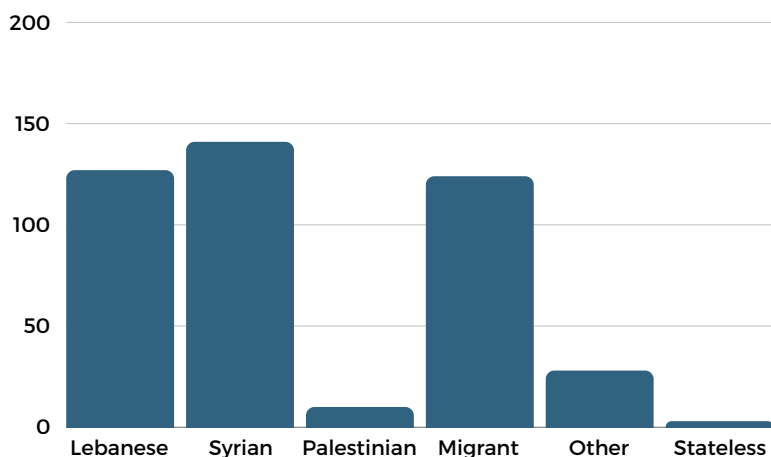
Service	Number of Sessions
Social Interventions	376
Individual Psychological Sessions	484
Group Psychosocial Support Sessions	32
Medical Consultations	363
Psychiatric Consultations	57
Physiotherapy Sessions	417
Cash Assistance	61 allocations



The number of unique beneficiaries of rehabilitation services is portrayed in the table below, along with the age groups, sex, and nationalities they belong to:

Nationality	Female				Female Total	Male				Male Total	Other		Other Total	Grand Total
	Age group					Age Group					Age Group			
	1-4	18-63	5-17	64+		1-4	18-63	5-17	64+		1-4	18-63		
<b>Lebanese</b>	1	50	8	3	62	3	55	3	3	64	1		1	127
<b>Syrian</b>	4	59	8	1	72	2	55	9	1	67		2	2	141
<b>Palestinian</b>		3	2		5	1	3	1		5				10
<b>Migrant</b>	5	106		1	112	1	10	1		12				124
<b>Other</b>	2	12	3		17	2	7	1	1	11				28
<b>Stateless</b>		1			1	1	1			2				3
<b>Grand Total</b>	12	232	21	5	269	10	131	15	5	161	1	2	3	433





### Impact

The services provided by Nassim Rehabilitation Center yield significant achievements and impacts:

- **Reintegration into Society:** Through comprehensive social support, consistent follow-up, socio-educational group sessions, and assistance with education and employment, survivors are aided in rebuilding their social networks and reclaiming independence.
- **Physical Recovery:** Medical services play a pivotal role in managing pain and restoring functionality, thereby enhancing the quality of life for survivors. Treatment modalities may include medication, physical therapy, rehabilitation exercises, and other tailored interventions to address individual needs.
- **Psychological Recovery:** Psychological support and ongoing follow-up aid survivors in coping with trauma-related symptoms and fostering resilience.
- **Access to Justice:** Legal aid empowers survivors to report human rights violations endured and pursue avenues for justice.

### **Notable Challenges and Limitations**

Nassim Rehabilitation Center faces significant challenges despite its impactful services. Limited resources for medical coverage and testing and the lack of affordable or free specialized medical services present formidable obstacles. Moreover, the high demand for support surpasses the capacity of available service providers, straining resources. Overcrowded facilities further exacerbate these challenges, impeding the delivery of effective services. Furthermore, security concerns within prisons often restrict service delivery, hindering the provision of comprehensive care. Additionally, policy and regulatory restrictions pose barriers to service implementation. Limited access to healthcare within prison settings compounds these difficulties, leading to delays in treatment and unmet medical needs among inmates.

### **Referral Mechanism**

The following pathways ensure that referrals are conducted efficiently and ethically, facilitating seamless access to essential services for beneficiaries seeking support:

- **Self-Referral:** CLDH provides beneficiaries with contact information for relevant service providers, empowering them to actively engage in their rehabilitation process. This encourages beneficiaries to take ownership of their journey toward recovery and seek assistance as needed.
- **RIMS (Rehabilitation Information Management System):** As a RIMS-partner organization, we utilize this system to receive and send referrals to other NGOs. Before sharing any beneficiary information, we obtain explicit consent to ensure confidentiality and respect for privacy.
- **Email Correspondence:** Leveraging the Interagency Referral Form, we facilitate referrals through email exchanges. Before sharing any beneficiary information, we secure consent to maintain confidentiality and uphold ethical standards.

### **Relationship with Governmental Entities**

The relationship between CLDH's rehabilitation team and governmental entities is characterized as diplomatic. Drawing upon CLDH's focus on community improvement, we continuously invest our efforts in identifying best practices and opportunities within lobbying and advocacy activities. Through this partnership, we leverage supportive policies and resources to enhance the effectiveness of our rehabilitation services.

### **Cooperation between the Legal Aid Program and the Rehabilitation Program at CLDH**

The symbiotic relationship between the legal aid department and the Nassim Rehabilitation Center is pivotal in delivering comprehensive support to beneficiaries facing legal challenges. In cases where beneficiaries receiving rehabilitation services require legal assistance pertaining to residency status, documentation, or matters concerning Personal Status Laws (HPL), internal referrals are made to the in-house legal department. Here, a meticulous legal assessment is conducted, and tailored assistance is provided accordingly. Additionally, individuals seeking legal aid at the Center undergo an initial intake process facilitated by social workers. This process ensures a thorough understanding of available services and enables the identification of non-legal needs. Furthermore, collaboration between the legal aid department and rehabilitation centers in detention facilities, such as Roumieh Central Prison and Baabda Prison for Women, underscores a multidisciplinary approach aimed at rehabilitating individuals while safeguarding their human rights. Mutual follow-ups and referrals exemplify a holistic endeavor to seamlessly address legal and rehabilitation needs. This coordinated effort ensures that detainees receive comprehensive support, integrating legal assistance with rehabilitation services to promote their overall well-being and reintegration into society.

Outside of detention, coordination between the legal aid department and rehabilitation center is carefully managed to ensure comprehensive support for beneficiaries. Initial assessment by a social worker evaluates if beneficiaries require rehabilitation assistance alongside their legal needs. This coordinated approach maintains privacy and cultivates a safe environment for beneficiaries to receive all necessary services comfortably.

In detention, cases are referred to Nassim Rehabilitation Center via the hotline, through which lawyers and the protection officer inform detainees/inmates about available rehabilitation services. Conversely, social workers may refer cases to the legal aid program during their visits, facilitating a collaborative approach to addressing beneficiary needs.

### **Capacity Building Program - Bridge**

Bridge is a training center under CLDH that aims to train and build the capacities of institutions and individuals on human rights. With over 25 years of expertise in legal and human rights topics, CLDH is currently leading a skillshare strategy by expanding its activities to capacity building.

Bridge Center was created to support institutions and individuals in enhancing their capacities and increasing their legal and human rights knowledge using different tools and approaches.

CLDH's mission is to advocate for the enforcement of human rights for all, denounce human rights violations, and fight impunity by providing legal and rehabilitation services.

By enhancing Bridge's work and building the capacities of individuals and entities on human rights and law topics, the center strives to empower the application of a human rights culture in the country.

### **How Does Bridge Work?**

The main activities under Bridge are the following:

- **Internal Training:** Internal training sessions targeting CLDH human resources are conducted regularly and on a needs-assessment basis. On the one hand, they aim to familiarize staff with internal policies and regulations. On the other hand, trainings are provided under the "Training the Trainers - ToT" module, which aims to equip CLDH staff with the relevant skills and knowledge to facilitate effective training sessions internally and externally.
- **External Training:** CLDH has carried out numerous external training targeting different entities. The main objective of external training is to provide individuals and various institutes with competencies related to law and human rights. External trainings target governmental entities, university students, humanitarian aid workers, media institutes, community members, and the Tripoli Bar Association. Some of the training topics that Bridge works on are:
  - Fact-checking;
  - International human rights law and its application in the domestic setting;
  - Legal status of refugees in Lebanon;
  - Training on the legal and psychological aspects of investigation;
  - Labor law;
  - Non-violent dialogue;
  - Civil law and civil documentation;
  - Mental health and self-care;
  - Safe identification and referral.

### Capacity Building Activities

Training topic	Target audience	Number of Participants
Training the Watchers: Media Monitoring and Fact-Checking of Human Rights Violations	Members of political parties, journalists, youth, activists,	22
Introduction to Human Rights / Introduction to Mental Health / Safe Identification and Referral Mechanism	Community	5
Safe Identification, Referral Mechanism, Non-Violent Communication, and PSEA	Community focal points	6
Training the Watchers: Media Monitoring and Fact-Checking of Human Rights Violations	Members of political parties, journalists, youth, activists,	19
State Security Refresher Training: Law 65, Law 62, Law 47, Self-Care, Emotional Intelligence, Accountability	State security officers	18
Violent-Nonviolent Dialogue, Human Rights Approach, Communication, Safe Identification and Referral	Youth community focal point	19
Emotional Intelligence and Communication Skills	Tripoli Bar Association Lawyers	20
Human Rights, Violent and Non-violent Dialogue, Communication Strategies, Safe Identification, and Referral Mechanisms	Youth and community focal points	20
Violent-Nonviolent Dialogue, Human Rights Approach, Communication, Safe Identification and Referral	Youth and community focal points	21
Human Rights Principles, Labor Law, Law 422, Civil Documentation, Introduction to Mental Health, Self-Care Fundamentals	Youth and women's groups supported to lead on community-based initiatives	16
Human Rights Principles, Labor Law, Law 422, Civil Documentation, Introduction to Mental Health, Self-Care Fundamentals	Youth and women's groups supported to lead on community-based initiatives	17
Training of Trainers	CLDH Staff	18

### **Capacity Building: Movement Strengthening - Free to Be Me**

Free to Be Me is an advocacy program dedicated to promoting socio-economic justice and is currently active in 12 countries. The program has multiple pathways under which activities' objectives are set. The program operates through various pathways, each with its own set of objectives for activities. These pathways are implemented through collectives, with CLDH providing tailored capacity-building plans. The aim is for these collectives to take the lead on advocacy projects, ensuring the program's impact and sustainability.

On another level, Free to Be Me includes a sub-granting component whereby some selected projects are funded. CLDH provides continuous support and guidance throughout the implementation phase.

### **Advocacy**

CLDH monitors the human rights situation in Lebanon, denounces human rights violations, and advocates for policy change. Our advocacy activities include lobbying with official stakeholders and joining efforts with key stakeholders to enforce needed change. The advocacy program leads on research, daily media monitoring, online and offline campaigns, roundtable discussions, and one-on-one meetings to combat violations and raise awareness on legal and human rights.

The following is a list of outputs carried out under the advocacy program:

**Research Papers:** The research process at CLDH begins with the formulation of a research plan at the onset of each year, taking into account the projects slated for that year and internal research suggestions. This plan undergoes review and refinement in consultation with the research committee before being finalized. Subsequently, each research endeavor, policy paper, and position paper adhere to a systematic procedure. Initially, terms of reference (TOR) and an inception paper are reviewed by the research committee consisting of the head of the legal department, the executive director, the programs manager, and the president.

In the year 2023, the following research activities were undertaken:

- A new research paper on juvenile justice,
- A revision of an existing research paper on the Beirut Blast which was subsequently published,
- A comparative analysis on civil documentation accompanied by a presentation and follow-up meetings with stakeholders to facilitate collaborative efforts,
- A mapping paper on services provided in prisons,

- A report/action plan concerning migrant domestic workers,
- And the development of a position paper focusing on migrant domestic workers in Lebanon.

**Human Rights Briefs:** Human rights briefs are weekly short documents covering all documented human rights violations or developments in Lebanon. These briefs are shared with key audiences including donors, partners, stakeholders, embassies, journalists, frontliners, and monitoring bodies. They are also shared on social media for public dissemination.

**The Rights Observer Newsletter:** Throughout their fieldwork, CLDH's front liners monitor and report several human rights violations and developments monthly. CLDH's Communications and Advocacy team compiles these updates and violations to create "The Rights Observer" newsletter.

**Videos:** CLDH's communications and advocacy team works on reflecting the work the organization does, raising awareness, and disseminating accurate information through various types of videos and visuals.

**Media Campaigns:** CLDH relies on media and social media campaigns to enhance its impact, using these platforms to reach the target audiences. These campaigns are crucial for raising awareness, promoting dialogue, and mobilizing support for prominent issues.

**Letters:** CLDH uses letters to advocate for change, report human rights violations, and request a response or action. These letters are a tool for influencing decision-makers, raising awareness, and promoting accountability for human rights issues.

**Statements:** When a human rights violation occurs in Lebanon, CLDH is committed to monitoring, reporting, denouncing, and advocating for change. We fulfill this duty by drafting statements that meticulously detail violations of the Lebanese constitution and international treaties and conventions to shed light, promote accountability, and advocate for justice.

**Press Releases:** Through drafting press releases, our team highlights the organization's events and activities, aiming to amplify the impact of its initiatives and bridge the gap between its work and the public.

**Advocacy Meetings:** CLDH's executive director and advocacy department engage in advocacy meetings to strategize, coordinate actions, and strengthen partnerships with other organizations and relevant parties, including members of parliament. These meetings help drive collective efforts to address human rights violations and achieve common goals.

**Media Interviews:** By being featured in media interviews and articles, we aim to influence public opinion, policymakers, and other stakeholders to support human rights causes and drive meaningful change. This advocacy helps amplify the voices of those affected by human rights violations and brings attention to pressing issues.

**Roundtable Discussions and Events:** CLDH's advocacy team regularly organizes roundtable discussions and events, engaging with stakeholders, decision-makers, and other organizations to address human rights issues, share insights, and advocate for policy changes. These activities provide platforms for dialogue, collaboration, and action to advance human rights and social justice.

**Freedom of Expression Coalition:** CLDH is an active member of a national coalition, the Freedom of Expression (FoE) Coalition, that strives to defend freedom of expression, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech, by denouncing violations, and inducing change on the policy level. CLDH forms an integral part of this coalition and has been its facilitator since September 2023.

**Refugee Protection Watch:** CLDH is part of the Refugee Protection Watch (RPW) coalition, which monitors the situation of refugees in Lebanon, as well as the violations and discrimination they are subjected to, while simultaneously advocating for change on the local and international levels. This coalition also produces an annual report and utilizes its analysis and findings as a basis for its advocacy efforts.

**Training the Watchers:** As a component of our project funded by the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), the communications and advocacy team conducted two specialized training sessions focused on monitoring and fact-checking human rights violations. The objective was to enhance collaboration with journalists and professionals capable of assisting us in monitoring the human rights landscape in Lebanon and verifying the accuracy of news reports.



### Advocacy in Numbers

<b>Research Reports</b>	6
<b>Human Rights Briefs</b>	48
<b>The Rights Observer Newsletter</b>	5
<b>Videos</b>	13
<b>Letters</b>	29
<b>Statements</b>	35 (18 Individual, 17 Joint)
<b>Press Releases</b>	9 (7 Individual, 2 Joint)
<b>Advocacy Meetings</b>	127
<b>Media Interviews</b>	12
<b>Roundtable Discussions/ Events/</b>	12
<b>Followers on Facebook (Increase in 2023)</b>	313
<b>Followers on Instagram (Increase in 2023)</b>	605
<b>Followers on X (Increase in 2023)</b>	123

### Impact

- **Organizational Impact:** The advocacy department aims to enhance CLDH's visibility and reputation, presenting the organization as a reliable source of information.
- **National Impact:** Through its advocacy component, CLDH seeks to positively impact state security personnel and stakeholders, influencing policy change and raising awareness on specific human rights topics among the public.
- **Impact on Beneficiaries:** CLDH's advocacy department aims to highlight beneficiaries' stories, amplify their voices, and advocate for their rights.

### Challenges and Limitations

- **Backlash and Threats on Social Media:** CLDH has received threats and negative backlash on posts discussing refugees or LGBTQ+ issues.
- **Establishing a New System for Reporting and Fact-Checking Human Rights Violations:** Establishing this system has been a gradual process, requiring collaboration from various departments.
- **Political Instability:** Political instability in Lebanon affects CLDH's advocacy with officials.
- **Judicial Strikes:** Strikes have raised many challenges in organizing roundtables with judges and lawyers, impacting CLDH's advocacy efforts.
- **Limited Reach on Social Media Due to Shadow Banning:** Posts on Israeli violations in Gaza and South Lebanon are suppressed and influenced by media bias amid regional conflict, restricting our reach on social media.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

With a commitment to initial planning and impact-driven work, the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) department serves as the source of information to assess efficiency, impact, internal accountability, and learning.

CLDH's adoption of a new database could advance its data collection, analysis, and interpretation, offering insights that drive informed decision-making to optimize our impact.

The trial phase of the new database has provided the M&E department and other departments with several lessons. These lessons have helped us amend our database, data analysis, and program design to better fit the organizational capacities and operations. This was achieved through ongoing formal and non-formal communication, training, and workshops on the best uses of the database.

Through quantitative and qualitative reporting, the M&E department plays a pivotal role in fostering transparency both internally and externally. This helps frame the organizational profile and track record for the public and stakeholders. It also provides CLDH with an insight into its operations, challenges, and achievements, and a better understanding of its best practices and mitigation tactics.

Reflecting on the past year's achievements, we acknowledge the M&E's role in making this happen through continuous communication, learning, and enhancement.

## **Success Stories**

### **Success Stories from The Rehabilitation Program**

#### **Finding Hope: A Transformative Journey**

A young Syrian refugee born in 2000 sought protection and support from Nassim Rehabilitation Center in October 2021. They received tailored services under the team's guidance until December 2023.

During this period, they received comprehensive assistance, including social support, psychological intervention, medical follow-up, and legal consultations addressing protection-related issues, all crucial components of their rehabilitation.

Nassim Center became a regular refuge for the beneficiary, who sought psychosocial support amid the challenging situations faced by both Syrians and local citizens in Lebanon, especially in light of several episodes of deportations of refugees.

Hindered by residency issues, the beneficiary struggled to secure employment, further impacting their mental well-being, prompting the Nassim team to refer their case to "Couloirs Humanitaires" to explore resettlement opportunities.

After a series of interviews spanning a year, the beneficiary successfully resettled in Italy in December 2023. This accomplishment was facilitated by CLDH and the FEP team's collaborative efforts.

Thriving in their new environment, the beneficiary embraces the opportunity for a fresh start and a brighter future, prioritizing their journey by dedicating time to studying Italian for integration and success in their new home.

#### **Nassim Center: Stories of Resilience and Hope**

In the heart of Baabda Prison for Women, a touching story of resilience and reunion unfolded. A single mother serving time in prison yearned to see her two beloved children, ages 6 and 8, who were staying in a shelter. Despite receiving consent from the juvenile judge, the road to reuniting this family was difficult.

Initiating numerous conversations with the shelter's management, the social workers were persistent in making this reunion happen. Their perseverance paid off around mid-term when the mother finally reunited with her children and experienced a significant transformation.

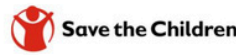
This reunion had an impact on the lives of everyone involved. The children's mental well-being improved following the reunion, as they were in desperate need of interaction with their mother. Furthermore, the mother's psychological well-being witnessed a drastic change.

This success story exemplifies the importance of determination and mediation. The social workers' dedication to regular follow-ups and constant communication with the shelter was critical in bridging the gap between all parties involved. Their determination resulted in significant improvements not only in the mother's and her children's lives but also in the conditions they faced. This heartwarming reunion serves as a light of hope.

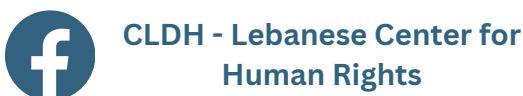
## Finances

CLDH Income 2023	\$ 1,627,284.00
CLDH Expenses 2023	\$ 1,580,270.39
CLDH Division of Expenses - 2023	
Rehabilitation Center - Nassim	\$ 248,483.75
Service Provision Staff: social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists	\$ 162,468.18
Doctors: physiotherapy and general practitioners	\$ 23,208.49
Cash Assistance - Cash for Protection	\$ 21,443.82
Medical tests, treatment, and medicines	\$ 22,095.04
Transportation for beneficiaries	\$ 19,268.22
Legal Aid Program	\$ 348,771.73
Lawyer's fees	\$ 249,661.59
Lawyer's transportation - Prisons and detention centers all over Lebanon	\$ 24,356.19
Protection and detention	\$ 23,038.12
Legal fees	\$ 51,715.83
Activities	\$ 265,256.64
Workshops, training, Awareness sessions, roundtables, well-being activities, tailored individual trainings, etc. (including consultants, locations, accommodations, transportation for attendees, etc)	\$ 205,800.64
Subgranting	\$ 59,456.00
CLDH staff & consultants	\$ 503,945.65
Staff, consultants, interns (including transportation, NSSF, TAX)	\$ 500,864.25
Cost of living	\$ 3,081.40
Admin Costs	\$ 151,804.05
Offices rent	\$ 20,074.06
Car rent and transportation (including taxi services, fuel, etc.)	\$ 52,722.64
Office consumables/utilities/stationary/cleaning/etc.	\$ 30,246.20
Communication	\$ 12,456.66
Electricity & water	\$ 18,414.49
Equipment	\$ 4,418.93
Maintenance and repair	\$ 13,471.07
Others	\$ 54,808.57
Self-care for the team - retreats	\$ 10,656.27
Financial audit	\$ 11,151.30
Bank charges	\$ 3,694.50
Bank interest	\$ 202.15
Penalties	\$ 124.95
Donations	\$ 7,465.00
Travel & tickets (including per diem)	\$ 14,913.54
Subscriptions/memberships	\$ 1,434.63
Other services	\$ 3,921.93
Stamps and taxes	\$ 1,244.30
Euro-Med Rights	\$ 7,200.00

## PARTNERS



## FOLLOW US ON





## OUR OFFICES

### **Dora Office**

Bakhos Center, 7th Floor, St.  
Joseph Hospital Street, Dora,  
Lebanon

### **Bekaa Office**

2nd Floor, Awada Building, Ayn  
Bourday Street, Doures, Baalbek,  
Lebanon

### **Baouchriyeh Office**

2nd floor, Garden Gate Bldg,  
Hankache Street, Baouchriyeh,  
Lebanon

### **Tripoli Office**

Al Qalamoun Building Facing  
Central Bank, 1stFloor, Tripoli  
Boulevard, Lebanon