

April 11, 2019

Dear partners,

We walked together during the Syrian war as partners in Christ to alleviate the pain of people and encourage them to stay in Syria or close enough in the hope of return. Over the years, our ministries among the Syrian have grown through your support and engagement. As we have always been ready to communicate with our partners on these ministries, we will share with you today about the present and future of our Refugee schools in Lebanon. Those schools have reached their peak this year despite the threat of closure due to lack of financial resources.

After three years of remarkable success in managing our six refugee schools, the number of enrolled students reached 750 children in total at the beginning of the current academic year. Now, however, we are in a position where we believe that self-sustaining that success is a task that is growing ever more difficult by the day. Help in saving some, if not all, of the schools is of prime importance. In spite of the financial woes that led us to end 2018 with a deficit of USD 127,144, we are still tirelessly trying to carry on, as keeping 750 students in the classroom remains one of our more unyielding goals.

Alas, the current hardship is getting no better. As of now, we are unable to pay April salaries and other related expenses, let alone the two additional months that are to elapse before the current academic year comes to an end.

Our plea is by no means about having the deficit above covered. What we sincerely are asking for is your support to enable us to see the current academic year through successfully. That is saving the remaining four schools after having taken the hard decision to close Rayak and Anjar refugee schools at the end of this month.

As for the next academic year, we are endeavoring to devise a proactive strategy to avoid running into the same ordeal. You will, therefore, find below the expenses about each of the four schools separately. We humbly seek your input, so we can better manage expectations and chart a path forward in terms of what schools to maintain:

School	Expenses / Month	Expenses / Year
Miniara	\$ 6,780	\$ 67,800
Kab Elias	\$ 8,850	\$ 88,500
Tyre	\$ 7,520	\$ 75,200
Tripoli	\$ 7,350	\$ 73,500
Total	\$ 30,500	\$ 305,000

As we would surely appreciate, an urgent decision must be taken rather immediately since time is of the essence and financial implications would only multiply as a result of inaction. Your support - on which we continuously count - will now more than ever be integral to our relentless efforts to rescue as many schools and shield as many students as possible.

Therefore, I would like to leave with you two crucial items for the continuation of this vital ministry:

- 1 - We need an amount of USD 122,450 to close this school year until the end of June.
2. During the next six months, we will work together to determine the number of schools that can continue for the school year 2019/2020, depending on availability of funds.

It is a great pity to see these children return to the streets of camps, deprived of the opportunity of education and care as children of God who deserve human dignity and rights.

Joseph Kassab