ENVIRONMENT

ACTIVITIES REPORT



Our Earth our source of life, let's protect it

"The environment is everything that isn't me" is one of the famous quotes by the great physicist Albert Einstein. It means that the Environment is everything around us. The Environment is the key to the existence of life on Earth. It is the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we eat. It is our health, economy, technology, and spirituality. It is EVERYTHING!

Caring for the Environment has been one of the main objectives of the Makhzoumi Foundation (MF).

Since its establishment in 1997, the Environment and Development Program (EDP) at MF has tackled 14 SDGs through its activities and projects. As the world races to stop climate change, trees are receiving more attention for their role in cooling the climate, absorbing massive amounts of carbon and releasing oxygen into the atmosphere.

Forests are ecosystems abounding with biodiversity, hosting most of the world's plant and animal species. In 2001, MF founded a plant nursery in Akkar, producing ornamental fruit trees, herbs, and roses. It has distributed more than one million and 200,000 plants countrywide.

In 2022, MF offered trees for the National Commission for Lebanese Women for Hammana and the Ministry of Agriculture for the villages in Akkar affected by the forest fires 2021.





Within this domain, EDP established two green areas in the villages of Izza and Irkay South Lebanon within two projects funded by the European Union (EU).

To date, presentations and tree planting activities about the importance of reforestation, have been organized with the participation of around 13,000 students. Most recently, a group of volunteers joined the campaign for cleansing Horsh Beirut after the fire that erupted in June 2022.



RENEWABLE ENERGY WORKS

On another topic, MF started activities in the field of renewable energy in 2009 through projects that included technical training for science teachers and workshops for rural women on making solar cookers. Activities also included installing 62 solar street lighting poles in the South of Lebanon and the Bekaa and 30 solar thermal heaters in the Bekaa. In 2022, 565 solar street lamps were installed in Beirut, illuminating several dark regions due to the power crisis in the country



THE GREEN DEMONSTARTION ROOM

The Green Demonstration Room project was launched in the educational domain in 2017. It comprises a scientific demonstration space that welcomes students to get acquainted with green buildings and other environmental issues.





YALLA NEFROZ

After the waste crisis in Lebanon, MF launched the "Yalla Nefroz "initiative in 2016 to sort non-organic solid household wastes in Beirut and transfer them for recycling. This project is expanding and includes pharmacies, schools, and shops.

UPCYCLING WORKSHOPS

Since 1999, upcycling workshops have been held for thousands of ladies countrywide. To help them market their products and play an essential role in society, Handy by MF was established: a channel to display and sell their locally handmade products online and at markets and exhibitions.

Presentations about waste management and upcycling workshops have targeted around 7,000 students till today.

BEEKEEPING

Honeybees are the world's most important pollinators of food crops. Beekeeping provides a sustainable, environment-friendly incomegenerating activity.

In partnership with international organizations and embassies, the EDP implements projects on beekeeping skills training, targeting women and youth and providing them with hives and bee colonies to start production.

A total of 582 beneficiaries benefited from those projects in Akkar, Bekaa and the South of Lebanon.







EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (ESD)

MF participated at the World conferences on ESD in Nagoya and Berlin in 2014

and 2022 and implemented several ESD-related projects. Some of the main activities of those projects were:

- Holding workshops for teachers on ESD.
- Production and distribution of ESD toolkits for schools in Lebanon.
- Production of a documentary with recommendations and hints about simple daily changes to sustainably lives.
- Production and diffusion on TV and social media of a spot-on reduction of single-use plastic bags.
- Production of textile bags to decrease the use of plastic bags





OTHER ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITIES

MF has been implementing environmental activities targeting children and youth annually since 1997.

Activities include shore cleansing, seed collection, and nationwide contests on the importance of reforestation, renewable energy, sustainable consumption, upcycling and sustainable development.

In 2022, the contest entitled "My Sustainable Beirut in 2030" took place.

MF participated in more than 50 regional and international conferences where sometimes MF was the only representative from Lebanon, such as the Eleventh World Congress on Forestry in Antalya, Turkey and the World Conference on ESD in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

MF is an Accredited member of UNCCD (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification). It is also a member of The Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED), a strategic partner of The Mediterranean Information Office for the Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE), and a Council and Board member at Global Contact Network Lebanon (GCNL).

Notably, MF is the First NGO in Lebanon to receive a certificate of greenhouse gas audit from V4 company and the Ministry of Environment.

The natural environment is a gift to us, and we need to conserve it for the healthy living of human beings.

Without it, there can be no life on Earth. And Earth is the only home that humans have!



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