

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

A good start in life for the deaf ... for a better future

Dr. Hussein Ismail Director



The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)

Baabda – Lebanon

The Annual Report 2017

Prepared by Hussein Ismail, Ed.D.Director





Mission Statement

The LCD is a non-profit Charitable Service Organization, non-secretarian, and non-governmental Association established to promote, facilitate, and empower Deaf men and women through education throughout Lebanon.

Motto of the LCD

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

Matthew 7:12

The Annual Report 2017

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The purpose of the "Learning Center for the Deaf" (LCD), which is a non-profit, non-political, and non-sectarian association, located in Baabda, Lebanon, is to provide quality programs to respond to the urgent needs of deaf persons in Lebanon, with emphasis on education, in its broad meaning, as a tool for change and advancement of the deaf community.

The team (management and teachers) of the LCD fervently believes in the empowerment of the Deaf in general, including the family of the deaf persons, and reaches out to the world of the hearing with information that helps spread awareness about deafness and how to deal with the Deaf.

Therefore the LCD has initiated challenging services and programs which were not available in the country before, in order to complement the existing programs and provide better possibilities and opportunities for the deaf and their family members.

The LCD today presents many important services to the deaf community in relation to the Disabled Persons Law 220/2000 and advocacy, to the development of Lebanese Sign Language, and other services. These were added to the two major and unique programs which were consecutively initiated by the LCD in 2001 and 2003, being the family based Early Intervention Program and the High School Program. The High School aims at providing the deaf young people the choice of passing the official Baccalaureate (High School) exams and heading to University, like their hearing peers. The Early Intervention Program which is a rich comprehensive program prior to school-age, is a stepping stone that empowers the family and provides them the tools to surround the child with a rich environment supportive to his/her general development, with a greater emphasis on language. This stepping stone preeminently determines the quality of the future life of many Deaf children.

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:



www.facebook.com/Learning .Center.Deaf.Lebanon



To respond the needs of the Deaf, there are programs offered at the LCD, which are incorporating as follows:

1. The Early Intervention Program (birth to six years), which assists families of deaf children from babyhood, to prevent delay in development and mainly language, and especially to restore the relationship between the child and parents, as well as to empower the family to provide the child a healthy, nurturing and loving environment.

Other components of the Early Intervention Program are incorporated as follows:

- 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, which provides the only secondary program in Lebanon, and allows the deaf to have the same right to enter University of their choice, thus promoting the image of the Deaf.
- 3. *The Preschool Section (3 to six years)*, which is a regular school setting from KG 1 till KG 3, in preparation to enter the first grade level. This program that has been initiated beginning of October 2017 incorporate for deaf and hearing children.
- **4.** Educational Activities for the Deaf, which designs to promote adult deaf people to learn and improve specific subject matters, such as English language and computer literacy, as well as socialization and a chance to empower the deaf. Also, Sign Language courses for all interested concerned are provided in this program.
- 5. 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.
- **6.** *Consultation*, which provides consultations and advice for families of deaf children, as well as to deaf adults.
- Sign Language Courses, which provide courses for teachers of the deaf, specialists, students of the universities, interested persons, among others, mainly for communication access for deaf persons.

3. The Basic Data about the LCD

Name	The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)	
Date established	January 2002	
Legal status	 Charity Registration Number: AD 89, established 2002 with the Lebanese Government Presidential Decree No.: 15798, established 2005 License # 2/294, 2017 (the Integrated Nursery) 	
Visiting address	Sacre Coeur Hospital Crossing, Presidential Palace Road, Near Evangelical Church, Brasilia – Baabda	
Contact person	Hussein Ismail, Ed.D.	
Telephone numbers	00961-5-954584 / 00961-3-700584	
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	
Type of organization	The LCD is a non-profit Charitable Service Organization, non-secretarian, and non-governmental association established to promote, facilitate, and empower Deaf men and women through education throughout Lebanon	
LCD's Motto	Based on the Lord Jesus's essential statement: "Do for others what you would like them to do for you". Matthew 7:12	
Main areas of activity	Education, Rehabilitation, and Advocacy	

4. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2017)

Board of Administration		
Chairman of the Board	Ms. Caroline Haykal (deaf)	
Treasurer	Ms. Najah El Hamad (deaf)	
Secretary	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)	
Accountant	Dr. Raed Mohsen	
Members of the Board	Dr. Kim Abu Shackra	
	Mr. Habib Fawaz (deaf)	
	Mrs. Nadine Badreddine	

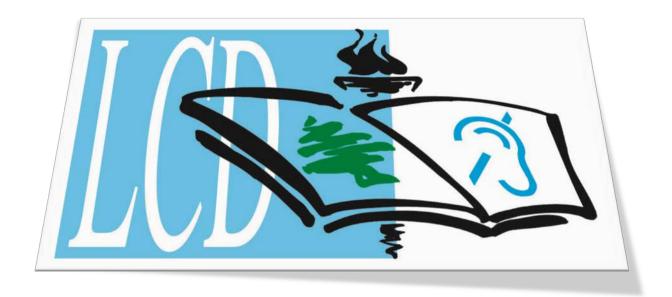
Staff List				
1. Director / Instructor	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)			
2. Head of the Early Intervention Program	Mrs. Nadine Badreddine			
3. Accountant / Auditing Office	Mr. Antoine Faddoul			
4. Office Manager / Secretary	Mrs. Arzeh Lteif			
5. Speech Therapist / Early Interventionist	Ms. Wafa Nawar			
6. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist	Ms. Rita Al Helou			
7. Speech Therapist	Ms. Yara Harb			
8. Social Worker	Mrs. Alaa Hamadeh			
9. Occupational Therapist	Ms. Hiba Saad			
10. Domestic Helper / House Father Mr. Elias Bou Mansour (deaf)				
11. Nursery Teacher for Deaf Children	Mrs. Waddad Daher			
12. Nursery Teacher	Mrs. Roula Jammous			
13. Nursery Assistant Teacher	Ms. Lea Naameh			
14. Preschool Teacher	Mrs. Karine Momdjian			
15. Preschool Teacher	Mrs. Garine Nakour			
16. Preschool Assistant Teacher (deaf)	Mrs. Antoinette Ibrahim (deaf)			
17. Specialist/Teacher for the Deaf	Ms. Hanna Tahan			
18. Cook / Mother House	Mrs. Margo Khandjian			
19. Biology & Math Teacher	Mr. Mohammad Abboud			
20. Socials, Arabic Literature Teacher	Mrs. Miriam Bou Antoun			
21. History, Geography Teacher	Mrs. Rozana Zaklit			
22. English and Physics Teacher	Habib Fawaz (deaf)			
23. Chemistry Teacher	Ms. Zeinab Al Zarief			
24. P.E. Teacher	Ms. Nour Zgheib (deaf)			

Volunteers		
24. LCD's legal advisor	Mt. Rayan Kouatly	
26. Psychologist – Family Counselor	Mrs. Charlotte Khalil	
27. Hearing-Aid Technician	Mr. Joseph Zeidan / Mr. H. Houri	
28. Family Counselor	Dr. Raed Mohsen	

5. Statistical Data of the number of beneficiaries during 2017

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries	
Early Intervention Program		
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents	28 (average - in house children) 90 approx.	
The Support Group	6 - 9 families	
Integrated Nursery	19 (average)	
The Preschool Section	11 (average)	
The Outreach Program	Unspecified	
The Resource Room	Unspecified; open for all professionals	
Educational Activities for the Deaf		
Sign Language Class	28	
High School Education for the Deaf		
First Year (new class Oct. 2017)	-	
Second Year	4 students (4 day school)	
Third Year	8 students (2 boarders; 5 day school)	
Graduated (July 14 th 2017)	2 students (2 day school)	
Awareness Programs about Deafness	Unspecified; National level	

The Learning Center for the Deaf Beirut – Lebanon



News & Activities of the LCD during 2017

Introduction

It is an amazing start of the year, with a great combination of team members in all the programs, forming together an amazing LCD team. We praise God for this precious gift after years of patience, and pray for endurance.

Whilst in the past, much effort was needed to achieve a spirit of unity due to differences in belonging among team members; today it's almost a natural occurrence. The remaining differences are rather minimal and would hopefully be affected by the prevalent atmosphere.

It seems that the frustration that took place in the past with the changes of staff members has finally turned into a great blessing which we pray would last.

Most of us love our morning natural gatherings, before work starts. Some of us read a verse from the Bible, to be inspired by the greatest told unconditional spiritual love story, which gives us the strength to overcome challenges and to learn to live in a less egocentric manner and to be more giving.

We enjoy our Monday morning group prayer of thankfulness, praying for each other as well as everyone we serve, and for everyone supporting us in our journey.

Karine and Hiba

Margo, the cook, has a very important role in this reigning atmosphere; a role now increased by the cooperation between Hiba and Karine. Karine was the kindergarten (KG) teacher last year; and the reason why we were encouraged to start the KG classes. She is someone with great maturity, who is not drawn to negativity around her and lives her faith in practice. Karine is currently engaged for one full day and one short day a week in which she assists Nadine in the Nursery and Preschool; and is preparing to assist families in the newly formed support team of the Early Intervention Program. Her role is to work in parallel with the speech therapists, mainly with new families for a concentrated, specific period of time, in order to make sure that the role of the deaf child's home is supported to the fullest possible.

Hiba, who is an Occupational Therapist studying psychology at present, joined our team on a temporary basis last year. She accepted to replace a teacher of the Nursery for a couple of days a week and has shown a humble but strong and positive personality, in addition to her knowledge, and multiple skills and talents. With her gentle and respectful approach, she is able to connect well with everyone else.



Therefore, though we always wanted to gain the important benefits of occupational therapy in the Early Intervention Program, we never could hire a therapist, due to the priorities in our financial investment. Hiba, with her special input, was our motivation to find a method which would be economical but also helps us gain her on board.

A good part of her role in the 3 short days, is to assist the Preschool and Nursery, and the other part would be assisting families of the Early Intervention Program in the support team together with Karine; both trained by Nadine. As an Occupational Therapist, Hiba gives a plan of work for the families whose children need minimal occupational therapy intervention, and would assist a few of the children with critical cases whose parents cannot afford therapy but some of whom may contribute minimally, or are helped for free. This formula creates a win-win situation.

Karine and Hiba who have much in common with all the children's programs are being a great support for Nadine and are creating a great atmosphere where many new initiatives are taking place even in relation to the LCD as a whole.

Mother of Michele

While Nadine was chatting with a mother from Italy about her hearing child who is in our Integrated Nursery, the mother expressed a great feeling of appreciation for our work and especially for our transparency in mentioning our points of strength as much as our points of weakness. It was quite touching to know that the family looked for a



home in the neighborhood of the Jip & Janneke Integrated Nursery because they admired the atmosphere here.

We were also surprised to see great recommendations of the Jip & Janneke Nursery/Preschool

on Facebook by a page for parents; mainly for foreigners. In fact, it was graded second on a list that was published for the most recommended Montessori schools and nurseries in Lebanon.

This also gives us a sense of greater responsibility, especially in terms of formal matters such as the name and formal expectations. We started the Nursery with a few children thinking it would remain a small off-spring of the Early Intervention Program, we did not realize that one day it would be so well known to the public. The reason we picked the name was for us to honor our loyalty to our second home country, the country of Hussein's foster-father Dr. Arie Andeweg, since he passed away. He pioneered the first services to become available to deaf Lebanese children.

The Jip & Janneke Preschool



We are so blessed to be of help to other children than our children with hearing loss. While the Jip & Janneke Nursery and Preschool are meant to be diagnostic, helping in the referral of children with hearing loss to the right educational setting, we are glad to be able to

help other children with certain difficulties who find it hard in the regular school, especially at this young age and in a big educational setting like the setting of the regular school.

During the 2017, the preschool has 12 children, 3 of whom are deaf children.

Consultations



The numbers of consultations have kept increasing, to almost regular daily occurrences. We receive people who feel lost and do not know where to go for services. Some of them may spend years in the wrong direction because no one gave them the right recommendations or any recommendations at all. Lately, most consultations are related to Syrian families, in great part due to our cooperation with an NGO that supports Syrian and Palestinian

refugees in a neglected area of Beirut, called Tahaddi. We came in contract through a

Family Doctor who works for them and whose son was in our Integrated Nursery and knows the LCD spirit.

In general, we have consultations where there is suspicion of hearing loss, where hearing loss is confirmed but advice is needed, or there is no clear reason for lack of communication, etc.

Recently a psychologist we sometimes refer families to for free or a low cost, is suddenly referring many families to us, especially due to his suspicion in wrong diagnosis of hearing loss.

Because our Early Intervention team has to be highly specialized to better assist the families, we worked a lot on self-training in the field of Audiology and had the chance of gaining some skills here and there until we became quite knowledgeable in the area of testing of hearing, but less so on the fitting of the hearing aids. Recently, one of our EIP staff members trained herself on testing children's hearing, and did much practice with adults before proceeding with children. Therefore, we started testing the hearing of children who could not have the test elsewhere, but quickly discovered that our tests are as valid as the most reputable venues performing the same tests we do. Therefore we have become a referral center for professional friends who do not need formal testing (we still do not feel we have the right to do formal testing) but need to check the hearing of their patients; especially those from deprived socio-economic backgrounds. One of these referring friends is a speech therapist who formerly worked with us.

Mohammed and Shahed



We have received many consultations for Syrian children, many of whom we tested and referred to schools for the Deaf. A few of which are still with us in the Early Intervention Program. Two of these children are Shahed and Mohammed who are now in a school for the Deaf. Shahed was in our Integrated Preschool for a year and a half, and we trained Mohammed for a short time in preparation for school as well as a fewmonths therapy sessions with him and his family. Both children come from caring families with deprived background and are doing great at school.

The support of AVUK and Josephine from Chear, UK

Both Mohammed and Shahed received new hearing aids from Josephine from Chear, UK, a partner audiologist with AVUK (Auditory Verbal - UK). She visited twice already, once with AVUK and once by her own expenses to support our service for children with hearing loss.



Josephine was very touched that Mohammed's father, though being financially challenged, refused a pack of batteries from her, explaining that he then had some and that others may need it more than him. In her second visit, the father of Mohammed who was very appreciative of her services heard that she was at the LCD and invited us to visit their home. We went to their humble home, through the alleys of an Armenian area, and were heartedly welcomed by the family. Mohammed was very excited to see us and was happily playing around us with his two brothers. We enjoyed the hospitality of this beautiful large family, and took a picture showing a great atmosphere of love and joy in a room where in the middle sat nicely on the floor, grandpa and grandma who came recently from Syria to live with the family. Around them were the parents, the four beautiful children, and Josephine with a big smile portraying in her eyes the memory of this special visit.

Hearing aids and batteries: Josephine and Rainer

Josephine, from Chear, UK, brought with her a few hearing aids which she gave for free for some of our children and for whom she fitted the hearing aids herself. She also adjusted the hearing aids which were wrongly fitted of a few children and has just recently sent us a large number of battery packs. Hearing aids are a treasure to us because we know that many cannot afford them yet are in desperate need, and not all families can afford batteries either.

Therefore we were thrilled when Rainer Nobs, the faithful member of the Circle-Friends



of the LCD. Switzerland, visited the LCD with his wife, Gabriela, during their trip to Lebanon in early October and brought with them a bag full of second hand hearing aids. It was amazing to see this number of hearing aids all-together, which we recounted: 416 hearing aids!! We took a picture of Yara and Wafa (early interventionist and

speech therapist) hugging the hearing aids, happy that many people will benefit from them. Naturally, some of the hearing aids may not be in good condition or cannot be programmed, but with such a number many will surely benefit. We are now in the process of checking the hearing aids with the help of the agents in Lebanon who usually help us fit them. Thankfully, Josephine also helped provide old programs to enable the fitting of some of the older ones.



High School Program

On July 14th, 2 students have graduated from the high school program after they have passed the official examinations.

On October 2nd, we started a new scholastic year for the High School Program. This time there was no a new class of 10th grade.



We are pleased that the high school students are pleased with Habib who graduated from this program during 2006, as he taught English and Physics for more than a year. The students love him as he can communicate and convey the lessons to these students without any difficulties.

Another student, Nour, who graduated in 2014, also gives as a Physical Education Teacher. We are indeed blessed to see that the deaf staff members are growing at the LCD.

The community services were implemented by the Ministry of Education during the scholastic year 2016-2017. Each student should serve at least 20 hours of community services per scholastic year. Some lectures took place explaining about the law, and the principles of the services, which was part of the curriculum.



The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow

Hussein took the high school students who passed the official examinations to a university to give them a general idea about the new lifestyle they're about to step into; Pointers and advice were given to them concerning their future and their choice of career.

Orientation is primordial to students this age, the LCD tries to help its youth flourish and enter the world of success.

Community service – The High School won the Prize





61 high schools (regular schools), including our high school program for the deaf, across Lebanon have participated to the competition to be able to win the prize for outstanding community service project. We are pleased to learn that our high school won the prize. The announcement was released on local news and magazines, with a heading "Special Salutations to the High School for the Deaf in Baabda".

Common Trainings: England, and now Switzerland

For a long period, we have wished to work on an idea of common training for the benefit of all professionals working with children with hearing loss in non-profit

organizations helping to improve the level of Education for the Deaf. We even approached the Ministry of Education with the idea, because in part they can contribute to this idea and because of the lack of specialization in the fields of Special Education and Speech Therapy, which also leads to absence of in-depth training in Lebanon.

The idea of common training is to jointly invest in an in-depth training and/or workshop, in great part from abroad, with a minimal cost or for free, a matter which usually many organizations cannot afford on their own.

Our first experience with AVUK last year, and their enthusiasm to support the LCD in its services, encouraged us to start with the common training idea together, which they were willing to do for a minimal cost since they too are a non-profit NGO. Mrs. Josephine Marriage, the audiologist, who in fact works in partnership with AVUK, has arranged to come for free and to start the first common training, for a whole week. The LCD had its contribution to the training too.



Professionals were invited from non-profit NGOs, but also from hearing aid dispensaries knowing that they would surely benefit from Mrs. Marriage's experience and knowledge, knowing that the field of Audiology is quite new in Lebanon. Professionals were audiologist/hearing aid dealers, teachers and speech therapists who highly appreciated the training which was quite professional, helpful, and practical.

Fortunately, we could use the conference room of our neighboring Church because we had over thirty participants sometimes, which is beyond the capacity of the LCD in the multi-purpose room assigned for lectures.

Marathon 2017



This was the first time that the members of the LCD, in collaboration with the Lebanese Federation of the Deaf (LFD) have participated to the Beirut Marathon 2017, and the experience was fabulous. The deaf persons have enjoyed the Fun Run, especially the atmosphere and interacting with other participants, away from the hassle of life we

encounter on a daily basis. The motto on that day was "We Run for Lebanon; We Run for Peace; We Run for Love".

Prior to participating, the team of the LCD and the LFD visited the Beirut Marathon Association (BMA) office to discuss ways to support the LFD, and thereupon they signed an MOU with BMA. Then the Director of the BMA has donated 60 t-shirts, with sign language "The Deaf Run" printed on them.

On the Marathon day, many hearing participants/runners questioned Deaf runners about their sign language and have thus learned some words. The experience was special, not only did we participate, but found the atmosphere great, and also were delighted that many hearing persons became involved with and learned the language of the deaf culture. An awareness and unforgettable experience for many. Thank you BMA for the great opportunity.

A workshop for the Iraqis



A group of Iraqi people from different government departments attended to the LCD on November 1st 2017 for a workshop.

Meeting with the Deaf Adults

Several meetings of the Deaf have taken place at the LCD. A representative of Deaf Persons in Lebanon, Mr. Habib Fawaz and representative of Associations for the Deaf at the National Council of the Handicapped Affairs, Mrs. Nadine Ismail, held meetings for the deaf at the LCD. The main points of discussion were mainly related to the needs and the rights of the Deaf. Recommendations on the needs of the deaf were presented to the Council.

Sign language classes



Sign language classes took place during 2017 with different groups of students, at 2 different levels—beginners and intermediate levels. Some participants were teachers of the deaf, from another schools, and some where professionals.

Visitors

We are blessed to receive so many visitors from Lebanon and abroad, mostly of whom are supporters and friends of the LCD. To highlight some:

Embrace the Middle East: In the beginning of 2017, we received some board trustees, including the then CEO Mr. Jeremy Moodey. Mr. Moodey said goodbye to us as he was planning to leave the Embrace and move into his new job. Mr. Moodey and we still correspond with each other as friends. During that year, we met Sophia and Jamie who are project directors on a number of times.

Circle of Friends of the LCD – Switzerland (CFLCD-CH): Rainer Nobs, who is a board member of the organization CFLCD-CH, came along with his wife Gabriela, and stayed in Beirut for a week. They brought with them 400+ hearing aids, to be distributed for free to needy deaf persons, especially refugees. Their visit was remarkable.

Iraqi Government: Delegations from different departments of Iraqi Government visit us for a day, to attend to a workshop.

Pastor Kang: Pastor Kang is a deaf person from Korea. He stayed at the LCD for a week and we discussed possibilities to send deaf persons to Philippines, where he works, to do training programs. We are still working on this issue.

Lebanon Fund: Members are mainly from Ireland, including Italy and Holland. They are supporting across different projects in Lebanon. They have visited one morning and were impressed with what they saw about our services and programs. We were happy by their visit.

Conclusion

Finally, we are extremely blessed with all our partners who do not only make the effort to collect money for our services, but also provide services and moral support to help us pursue our work in the midst of all the different challenges we face in Lebanon, the hardest of which is not being recognized by our own government and institutions.

Words of thanks

On behalf of the staff members and the students (whether directly or indirectly beneficiaries) I want to thank you dear readers, supporters and friends of the LCD through many ways, whether by giving financial, care and prayers for our work.

We do appreciate that very much, and ask God to bless you and keep you well together with you and your family members.



The Master Accounts are prepared by the Certified Auditors, which include:

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

Please see the following pages, depicting scanned copies of the accounts, with Auditors' stamp and signature





The Learning Center for the Deaf

Charity Registration Number: AD 89, Est. 2002

P.O. Box 40-211, Baabda – Lebanon

Tel./Fax: 00961-5-954584, Mobile: 00961-3-700584

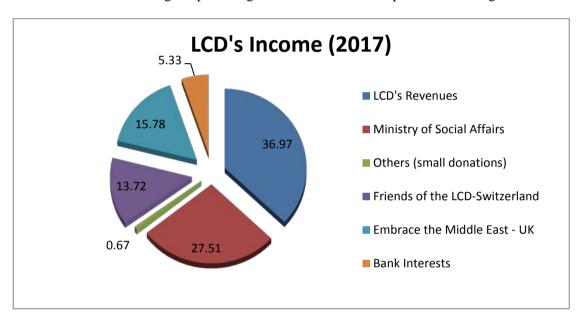
E-mail: <u>lcd@lcd-lebanon.org</u> Website: <u>www.lcd-lebanon.org</u>

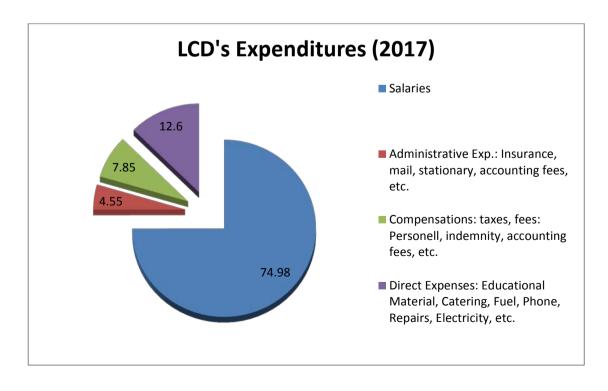


Summary of the Financial Report 2017

Description		US\$
Total Income		297,571
Total Expenditures		319,274
	Deficit	-21,703

The Tables below showing the percentages of the income and expenditures during 2017





The Learning Center for the Deaf Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2017



Preschool child constructing words



Reunion of the High School Students



Nursery and Preschool teachers



A warm visit of the Embrace-UK



Graduation of the High School Students



Teaching Sign Language to Preschool Children

The Learning Center for the Deaf Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2017



Activities in the Preschool



Training by Dr. Josephine from UK



Celebrating Mothers' Day



Nursery Activities in the Summer



Early Intervention Program



Training Session for the LCD's Team

The Learning Center for the Deaf Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2017



Audiology Room



Party time for the children



Early Intervention Program – Older Children



Awareness Activities in a regular setting



Home Visit to Syrian Family



Visiting to a Rehabilitation Center for Addiction



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

Thank you for your continuous prayers and support !! God bless you.

The Learning Center for the Deaf

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