

The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)

Baabda - Lebanon

The Annual Report 2019

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 2019

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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-Brasilia, Lebanon, is to provide quality services 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 person, 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.

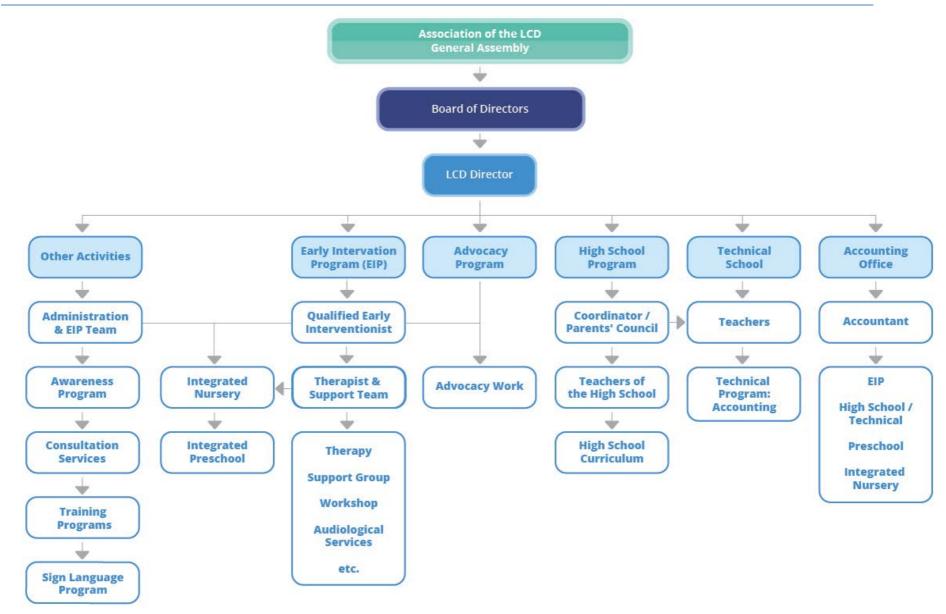
Other components of the Early Intervention Program are incorporated as follows:

- 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. Technical School for the Deaf (New Program), which provides technical education such as accounting, computer sciences (graphic designs, AutoCAD, Architecture, etc.) allowing the deaf to have a choice other than academic education. This program lasts for 3 years and leading for Baccalaureate Technique issued by the Lebanese Ministry of Education.
- 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.** *Consultation*, which provides consultations and advice for families of deaf children, as well as to deaf adults.
- **8.** *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, 2019 (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, Consultations, and Advocacy	

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



5. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2019)

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			
7. Assistant Early Interventionist	Mrs. Karine Momdjian			
8. Occupational Therapist	Ms. Hiba Saad			
9. Domestic Helper / House Father	Mr. Elias Bou Mansour (deaf)			
10. Nursery Teacher for Deaf Children	Mrs. Waddad Daher			
11. Nursery Teacher Assistant Teacher	Mrs. Josephine Momdjian			
12. Nursery Teacher	Ms. Cosette Melko			
13. Preschool Teacher – English	Mrs. Sarine Simonian			
14. Preschool Teacher – Arabic	Mrs. Darine Nakour			
15. Preschool Assistant Teacher	Mrs. Roula Jammous			
16. Specialist/Teacher for the Deaf	Ms. Hanna Tahan			
17. Cook	Mrs. Sabine Nakour			
18. Biology & Chemistry Teacher	Ms. Zeinab Al Zarief			
19. Socials, Arabic Literature Teacher	Mrs. Rozana Zaklit			
20. English Teacher	Mr. Habib Fawaz (deaf)			
21. Math and Physics Teacher	Mr. Hrag Hagopian			
22. Accountant subjects Teachers	Mrs. Lena Zammar			
23. Computer Sciences Teacher	Mr. Habib Fawaz (deaf)			
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	

6. Statistical Data of the number of beneficiaries during 2019

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries	
Early Intervention Program		
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents The Support Group	36 (average - in house children)90 approx.6 - 9 families	
Integrated Nursery	22 (average)	
The Preschool Section	19 (average)	
The Outreach Program	Unspecified	
The Resource Room	Unspecified; open for all professionals	
Advocacy	National Level	
Educational Activities for the Deaf		
Sign Language Class	46 participants	
High School Education for the Deaf		
First Year	6 students	
Second Year		
Third Year	4 students	
Graduated (July 3 rd 2019)	4 students	
Technical School First Year - Accounting	3 students	
Awareness Programs about Deafness	Unspecified; National level	

The Learning Center for the Deaf Beirut – Lebanon



News & Activities of the LCD during 2019

7. News of the Learning Center for the Deaf



Introduction

The year started with a huge swift that has turned Lebanon up-side-down. Some of you may have heard of the "revolt/revolution" and the recent developments in Lebanon. It may appear that there are many emerging challenges, but strangely and despite all difficulties hope is conquering all fear.

There is more hope because the people of Lebanon who seemed to be numb earlier, due to a prevailing sense of hopelessness towards the high level of corruption and youth immigration, have surprisingly revolted like a dormant volcano which unexpectedly exploded. Continued eruptions will endure until there is a guarantee that there will be no turning back, with a conviction that nothing can be worse than the previous system, which stole hope and dignity from the people of Lebanon.

It gives a sense of pride to see those who were supported by politicians for survival (finding a job, getting into a hospital, passing a test, etc.) turn against these leaders for a more dignified, civilized and patriotic life opportunities, with a greater sense of awareness and positivity. They are seeking a system of justice and equality that promises to work for the good of all.

A positive result of the revolt can already be seen, which is unity among people who were divided, regardless of the different religious and geographical backgrounds. Also, people who were in the background before, feeling hopeless, are now in the forefront taking amazing initiatives to fight the system of segregation and to request a country for all.

We are especially excited at the LCD, because we were among the few who paid the highest price for not belonging to this system of affiliation, where the absence of a back-up of a political and/or religious system, puts you in the zone of those who are overlooked, or even stepped on.

Young children with hearing loss in all our programs

Exciting to see the development of children with hearing loss in the preschool. E. G. (name of deaf child) who took time to settle during the summer activities had a hard time in the beginning of the year.



It is not easy for a regular teacher to understand the amount of loneliness that deaf children may experience, especially when the child is sensitive. Luckily E. G. cries to express her discomfort; other children may internalize sadness and depression, without being noticed really. This is where the presence of a teacher of the Deaf in the team helps link E.G. to the persons surrounding her and vice versa. This in fact has made a tremendous difference, and E.G. is now expressing a different personality altogether; much more confident and happy, and with no crying when arriving in the morning.



We are therefore very glad to have the main teacher of the preschool class come back, with the promise to have a suitable salary, in order to assure stability. Stability is crucial in our programs because there are many skills to learn, which most professionals do not have when they join our team.

In the Early Intervention Program, there is a need to have an in-depth knowledge in relation to deafness and its implications, and to adopt the family based approach

required at the LCD. This not only focuses on the child's family and surroundings but also on their relationship with other families of young children with hearing loss.

In the Nursery and the Preschool, the qualified teachers and the teachers who do not hold a teaching diploma but are trained by us, all need to learn to work with the children in an approach that regards the children and their needs individually through the Montessori Method. They also need to learn to work with children with hearing loss, or are having other challenges, as we often have children with different learning difficulties that are not related to hearing loss. Added to these challenges, is the fact that we have a good number of foreigners enrolling their children in the Nursery and Preschool, from different nationalities, requiring more attention to adapt and settle in a new culture.



However, when we have stability, allowing teachers to learn how to deal with these challenges, the results are quite rewarding. In such circumstances, we see an atmosphere that can be a model, not only for inclusive education, but also for a good model in education that feeds all areas of development in the child, and regards each child as a human being worthy of great respect.

Voice message from Nursery child's mum

There have been a few changes in the Preschool and Nursery which are quite promising. If this continues it means that we won't need to invest as much time compensating for the missing elements as we usually do, and there would be assurance of a healthy nurturing and peaceful atmosphere.

The best way to share with you about how the parents feel towards the Jip & Janneke integrated Nursery and Preschool is by sharing a personal testimony.

One of the children's mums said the following a few days ago, while thanking us for the Christmas symbolic gift which the children received before the holidays, among other activities, to spread a merry and joyful Christmas spirit before the holidays:

"Thank you "Jip and Janneke" for thinking of (name of child) in December and giving her this beautiful Christmas gift which she loves. Your atmosphere is truly amazing and we're very, very, very lucky to have (name of child) with you. So, we just want to thank you for taking such good care of our children, of their souls, their hearts, their bodies, and everything. We're so lucky to have you. Thank you and Happy New Year."

It is touching to witness that our mission does not only touch families of deaf children and children with special needs but also all children and families.



It is right that parents of hearing children are paying fees for their children to be in our Integrated Nursery and Preschool, which help lessen some of the administrative expenses at the LCD. This allows us the privilege to be a good role model in Education generally, and particularly in inclusive education. The atmosphere of serenity and joy of learning and developing brings us great joy.

Though it is not easy to guarantee in a stable manner but when available, this atmosphere is a great reward for our initiative to provide a healthy place for the children and their families.

Hearing aids for Faysal, the writer

We were very happy to be able to help Faysal have hearing aids in great condition, thanks to the collection of used hearing aids by our friends in Switzerland.

Our heart is always filled with joy when we receive these hearing aids; being able to see the joy on the faces of the people who receive them, who would otherwise have great difficulty purchasing them.

The priority for donations of hearing aids for profound hearing loss usually goes to young children because they are at an age where they are developing language and because these hearing aids for profound hearing loss are in short supply. Faysal the writer was one of the exceptions.



We heard of Faysal's need from a deaf man whose family is into journalism. He conveyed to us the great need of this man for hearing aids. We received a copy of the audiogram and found that we had suitable hearing aids. When he visited us to meet him in person and assesses whether we could provide him with one or two hearing aids, we were convinced to give him two.

This is not because we still had a surplus of hearing aids for profound hearing loss which we usually keep for young children, but because we discovered the writer and artist that he is; and the older man with a young spirit despite health issues who lives on communicating with people. His life depends on his word which he transmits to others. With little formal education, he has written a number of books which he tries to sell to individuals to make a living.

Despite his need, he offered a few of his books to the library of the LCD; allowing his dignity to be kept intact. We arranged with the hearing aid dealer to fit the hearing aids, and to make ear-molds which usually the person we provide the hearing aid to needs to pay for.

Faysal expressed that he was not able to pay for the earmolds then; he said he'll wait until he sells a few of his books to do so. When we saw him again to check on the results, we were

quite pleased to know that he was very happy with his hearing aids and that the hearing aid dealer has also offered him the ear-molds for free.

Faysal is a person with a character whom we will not easily forget.

The language of people today

Often, overhearing people's conversations in the street gives an impression of the highlighted events and developments of a country.

This was the case when the number of Syrian refugees was increasing in Lebanon until reaching almost half the number of the Lebanese population, with the implications of this occurrence.

Nowadays, wherever we go, at any time of the day, we cannot avoid hearing people speak about either the banks and economic situation, or about the revolutionaries and the government. People are finding it hard to get their money from those who have money. There is growing distress over a long time which has culminated in a social explosion leading to this revolution, which people believe will determine their fate.



High School and the Technical School

During October 2019 we have opened a new high school class of 6 students who came from different schools for the Deaf. They are majoring in Life Sciences and will stay with us for 3 years.

Also, during October 2019, we have opened a new program called the Technical School for the Deaf, majoring in Accounting. 3 Students registered in this program, and it requires 3 years of studies and preparations leading to a final qualification.

Graduation Ceremony for the 4 High School Students

We are very thrilled to see that the students who sat for the Official Examination set for by the Lebanese Ministry of Education have graduated on July 3rd 2019 from the High School Program of the LCD.

The graduated students aspire to continue towards university levels. One of them will study Electrical Engineering, one will major in Event Management, one in Nursing, and the final one will study in Photography and Graphic Design.

We pray for the success for these students.



LCD collaborating with the Lebanese Federation of the Deaf (LFD)

The Lebanese Federation of the Deaf (LFD) is a daughter association of the LCD, although it functions independently. The work of the LFD is in the LCD.

During the year 2019, the LFD and the LCD have attained numerous achievements to support the Deaf adults in Lebanon. The main achievement was relating to the free WhatsApp bundle of 3GB (equivalent to \$36) for the Deaf allowing them to have a free mode of communication. Also, we have provided some lectures and workshops for the Deaf, and some speakers come from different countries relating to mental health, human rights, job opportunities, etc.

The LFD and the LCD are still lobbying with the stakeholders at Government level to provide minimum rights for the Deaf.

LCD's Collaboration with the ProAbled regarding job opportunities for the Deaf

We're very pleased with the collaboration with ProAbled (and the Lebanese Federation of the Deaf). ProAbled is working to provide job opportunities for the Deaf. They have held workshops for the Deaf and then for other persons with disabilities to prepare them to apply for jobs (how to prepare CVs, get ready for interviews, etc.); each workshop lasting for 2 weeks.

We have already started to see good fruits for this partnership where a few deaf persons have found jobs due to this partnership and hopefully, with good organization networking and collaboration, this partnership may lead to further chances for the Deaf.

Training program for teachers of the deaf in Cairo, Egypt



Upon the request by our supporting organization—Embrace the Middle East, UK—Nadine and Hussein visited the School for the Deaf, called Deaf Unit, located in Cairo, Egypt, to deliver workshops for teachers of the Deaf. They stayed there for 3 days. The first day was observation in each class, with 2 consecutive days of training and workshops.

Marathon 2019

Hussein has been practicing for a Marathon run of 42km, which was supposed to be held on Nov. 10th, 2019. The purpose was to raise money to support the LCD's work, as he had done that during the previous year (2018), when he collected \$2.070. But due to the unrest that Lebanon experienced since October 17th, and for the security reasons, the Marathon was unfortunately cancelled.

Sign Language classes

Several sign language courses were offered at the LCD, across 2 levels (beginners and intermediate levels) for interested persons of different professions. One of the courses was assigned for parents of deaf children and they had learned this language in order to communicate effectively with their children. We were privileged to have them present as



they were eager to learn this language and made a lovely atmosphere in the class. We wish more parents would be interested to register for this course again in the future.

Also, Hussein and Elias had the opportunity to teach this language to children at Preschool Section. This was a fun learning experience for these children.

Integrated Nursery and the Preschool

It is indeed lovely to see young children around the LCD. A great blessing. We are happy that the hearing children could come to the Center for the Deaf, and that they can benefit from our services and that sign language is also provided for them. Parents expressed their joy and satisfaction about these programs.





On the average, Integrated Nursery had 22 children in one class, and the Preschool had 18 children. There were between 1 and 3 deaf children in the Nursery, and 3 deaf children in the Preschool during the year 2019.

We were, and still are, happy that these deaf children do well with other hearing children. These hearing children acted as a reverse integration into our program. We praise God that everything in these programs is going well and through these programs we are able to gain some necessary financial contributions.

Common Trainings: Benefit for All



As part of the Joint Training Program, a training session took place at the Learning Center for the Deaf, holding workshops (April 15th till 18th) for teachers, therapists and parents of the Deaf.

The first day was on Communication

and Language for Children with Hearing Loss.

The second day was on Children with Hearing Loss in the Classroom.

The third day was on Individual Therapy for Children with Hearing Loss and their Family Members.

The 3 days training was conducted by AVT expert Ms. Elizabeth Tyszkiewicz from the UK, nicely assisted by her audiologist friend Haifa Al Hajjaj who translated core messages in Arabic.



The fourth day, which was open for interested individuals, tackled the subject of Deaf/Blindness, and was conducted by Swiss CEO of the Deaf/Blind Federation in

Switzerland, Pastor Joachim Schmidt and Ms. Nathalie Wenger Youth and Child Care worker in the school for the Blind, Zollikofen, Switzerland.

A group of professionals nicely joined us for the whole training from Deaf-Unit Cairo.

Lectures and workshops for the Deaf

Aside from teaching to hearing professional, numerous activities for the Deaf, including workshops and lectures, were held during 2019, of which 2 main events are described as follows:

1. One lecture was given by a Deaf/Blind lady

A lecture made by a successful Deaf/Blind lady, Janice, whose husband, Bill, is a Sign Language interpreter. She has a guided big dog, Rocco. This lecture was held at the LCD which was for any interested Deaf adults as well as for parents. More than 50 participants came and they have enjoyed and learnt a lot from her.

2. A Workshop given by a Mental Health Specialist



The workshop on Mental Health was held during the month of June 2019, for 40 Lebanese Deaf persons. This workshop was conducted by an English Deaf person who specializes in this field, Mr. Herbert Klein, and was arranged by Ms. Nadine Ardati (BSL interpreter) with her colleague, a PhD candidate Ms. Reem El Baba. After the fabulous and interactive workshop, the Deaf participants were invited to have an Iftar Dinner at a restaurant in Beirut.

We had a great time in both the workshop and the dinner. We expressed our great appreciation for Herbert and Nadine for this great opportunity.

Visitors

During the year 2019, likewise during the past years, we have several visitors attending to the LCD. These visitors were from Lebanon, from the Arab world, and from the rest of the world.

Advocacy for the Deaf

Several campaigns and advocacy programs were performed during the year 2019. Some of which were highlighted as follows:

- 1. Driving License for the Deaf to change the Law which allows the deaf to obtain the driving license as their hearing peers.
- 2. Hearing detections across different levels, at Syndicate of Nurseries and at the Ministry of Health one
- 3. Collaborating with the Lebanese Federation of the Deaf (LFD) to empower the Deaf
- 4. Flyers were developed for the Arab Deaf Week, thanking the companies that hired the Deaf.
- 5. Participated to the several meetings on the issue of human rights, at local and government levels.
- 6. Providing lectures, workshops, seminars, on the issue of deafness to different settings (Syndicates, government departments, etc.). Also, the LCD prepared a special video with the input of the professors who couldn't attend to the workshops.
- 7. Worked and promote captions (subtitles) on major TV programs for the Deaf to understand the programs.
- 8. Job Opportunities for the Deaf
- 9. Brining the voice of those unseen: awareness through Haitham's case for children who have no institutions to support them.
- 10. Among others.

Conclusion

The work at the LCD is going well despite some challenges as described in the introduction section above. The LCD is like an island, of peace, of solidarity, of sharing, etc., amid the chaos that Lebanon experienced during the months of 2019. We praise God, as it is in our desire to serve the beneficiaries with all our capabilities to have them received better quality services and programs, thus leading them to a better future.

We are very grateful for the support from various individuals, locally and internationally. Special thanks go to organizations that support our work—Embrace the Middle East of UK, Circle-Friends of the LCD in Switzerland, and AMT in Holland, for without their support, our programs and services would be at stake, and not flourish.

8. Master Account 2019

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

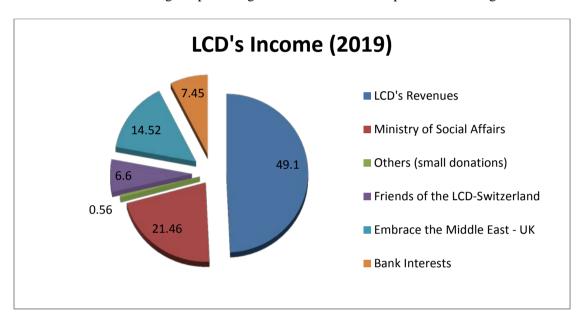
E-mail: <u>lcd@lcd-lebanon.org</u> Website: <u>www.lcd-lebanon.org</u>

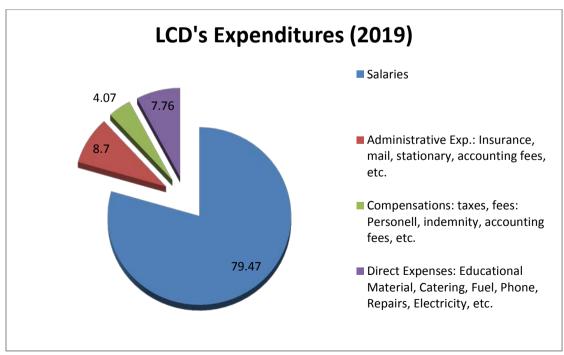


Summary of the Financial Report 2019

Description	US\$
Total Income	295,425
Total Expenditures	292,992
Surplus	2,433

The Tables below showing the percentages of the income and expenditures during 2019





The Learning Center for the Deaf

Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2019



Music Session given by a volunteer



A session in the Early Intervention Program



Training with Nursery teachers



Graduation Day for the High School Students



Potato Barbeque



Teaching Sign Language to the Children

The Learning Center for the Deaf Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2019



Activities in the Preschool



Workshop on Deaf/Blind



Painting Lesson in the Garden



Nursery Activities in the Summer



Activities in the Preschool



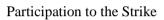
Educational Material in the Classes

The Learning Center for the Deaf Baabda – Lebanon

Photos during 2019



Technical School







Agricultural Lesson for Nursery Children



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.