



**The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)**  
**Baabda – Lebanon**



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

**The Annual Report 2013**

Prepared by Hussein Ismail, Ed.D.  
Director



## **Mission Statement**

The LCD is 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 & Luke 6:31**

# **The Annual Report 2013**

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## **1. The Mission Statement of the LCD**

### **Purpose and mission of the LCD**

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](http://www.lcd-lebanon.org)

And for the continuous updated information, please visit to our Facebook page:



[www.facebook.com/Learning.Center.Deaf.Lebanon](https://www.facebook.com/Learning.Center.Deaf.Lebanon)



## 2. The Programs Offered at the LCD

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 which has been initiated beginning of October 2013 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 diplomas

### 3. The Basic data about the LCD

<b>Name</b>	<b>The Learning Center for the Deaf (LCD)</b>
<b>Date established</b>	January 2002
<b>Legal status</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charity Registration Number: <b>AD 89</b>, established 2002 with the Lebanese Government</li> <li>2. <b>Presidential Decree No.: 15798</b>, established 2005</li> <li>3. <b>License # 2/294</b>, 2013 (the Integrated Nursery)</li> </ol>
<b>Visiting address</b>	Sacre Coeur Hospital Crossing, Presidential Palace Road, Near Evangelical Church, Brasilia – Baabda
<b>Contact person</b>	Hussein Ismail, Ed.D. Director
<b>Telephone numbers</b>	00961-5-954584 / 00961-3-700584
<b>Fax number</b>	00961-5-954584
<b>E-mail address</b>	<a href="mailto:lcd@lcd-lebanon.org">lcd@lcd-lebanon.org</a>
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.lcd-lebanon.org">www.lcd-lebanon.org</a>
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Learning.Center.Deaf.Lebanon">www.facebook.com/Learning.Center.Deaf.Lebanon</a>
<b>Type of organization</b>	The LCD is 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
<b>LCD's Motto</b>	Based on the Lord Jesus's essential statement: <i>"Do for others what you would like them to do for you"</i> . Matthew 7:12
<b>Main areas of activity</b>	Educational



#### 4. The Structure of the Learning Center for the Deaf (2013)

<b>Board of Administration</b>	
<b>Chairman of the Board</b>	Ms. Caroline Haykal (deaf)
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ms. Nouha Sultan (deaf)
<b>Secretary</b>	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
<b>Accountant</b>	Dr. Raed Mohsen
<b>Members of the Board</b>	Mr. Sleiman Abi Nader Ms. Najah El Hamad (deaf) Mrs. Charlotte Khalil

<b>Staff List</b>	
<b>1. Director / Instructor</b>	Dr. Hussein Ismail (deaf)
<b>2. Head of the Early Intervention Program</b>	Mrs. Nadine Badreddine
<b>3. Accountant / Auditing Office</b>	Mr. Antoine Faddoul
<b>4. Office Manager / Secretary</b>	Mrs. Arzeh Lteif
<b>5. Speech Therapist / Early Interventionist</b>	Ms. Wafa Nawar
<b>6. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist</b>	Ms. Diana Ghawi
<b>7. Speech Therapist / Assistant EIP specialist</b>	Ms. Christelle Mnessa
<b>8. Domestic Helper / House Father</b>	Mr. Elias Bou Mansour (deaf)
<b>9. Nursery Teacher for Deaf Children</b>	Mrs. Waddad Daher
<b>10. Nursery Teacher</b>	Mrs. Garine Nakour
<b>11. Nursery Assistant-Teacher</b>	Ms. Roupina Khandjian
<b>12. Nursery Assistant-Teacher for Deaf Children</b>	Mrs. Roula Jammous
<b>13. Preschool Teacher</b>	Mrs. Karine Momjian
<b>14. Preschool Assistant Teacher</b>	Ms. Shaden / Mrs. Carla Karkajian
<b>15. Specialist/Teacher for the Deaf</b>	Ms. Hanna Tahan
<b>16. Cook</b>	Mrs. Margo Khandjian
<b>17. Biology &amp; Maths Teacher</b>	Mr. Mohammad Abboud
<b>18. Socials, Arabic Literature Teacher</b>	Mrs. Miriam Bou Antoun
<b>19. History, Geography Teacher</b>	Mrs. Rozana Zaklit
<b>20. English Teacher</b>	Mr. Levon Momdjian
<b>21. Chemistry and Physics Teacher</b>	Mr. Vaskin Sarkis / Ms. Aline Cherfan
<b>22. P.E. Teacher</b>	Mr. Elie Abi Rached / Ms. Nour Ghraib

<b>Volunteers</b>	
<b>24. LCD's legal advisor</b>	Mt. Rayan Kouatly
<b>26. Psychologist – Family Counselor</b>	Mrs. Charlotte Khalil
<b>27. Hearing-Aid Technician</b>	Mr. Joseph Zeidan
<b>28. House-Mother</b>	Ms. Young Choi / Arzeh Nakhle (deaf)

The Learning Center for the Deaf  
Beirut - Lebanon

**5. Statistical Data of the number of beneficiaries during the year 2013**

Programs offered at the LCD	Number of Beneficiaries
<b>Early Intervention Program</b>	
Rehabilitation for Deaf Children with their Parents	<b>39</b> <b>95 approx.</b>
The Support Group	<b>7 – 11 families</b>
Integrated Nursery	<b>32</b>
The Preschool Section	<b>8</b>
The Outreach Program	Unspecified
The Resource Room	Unspecified; open for all professionals
John Tracy Clinic's Correspondence Books for families of deaf children	<b>11 families</b>
<b>Educational Activities for the Deaf</b>	
Sign Language Class	<b>6</b>
<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Over 90 families of deaf children as well as deaf adults</b>
<b>High School Education for the Deaf</b>	
Graduating Students (2013)	<b>3 students</b>
First Year	<b>10 students</b> 4 boarders and 6 day school
Second Year	<b>10 students</b> 4 boarders and 6 day school
<b>Awareness Programs about Deafness</b>	Unspecified; National level

**The Learning Center for the Deaf**  
**Beirut – Lebanon**



**News of the LCD 2013**

## 6. News of the Learning Center for the Deaf

### Introduction

While the country lives an atmosphere of commotion and great stress, due to the pressures of life, the bad economy, the dominant ways of corruption and connectivity, added by the needs of the great numbers of refugees from Syria, the LCD still manages and even more than before to be an oasis where people find empathy, compassion, and love while being served in a professional manner. It is a blessing indeed.

The challenges are surely in the scene, and our report will shed the light on some of them, but the beauty is in the fact that despite of all challenges we still manage to have a family atmosphere which is growing more and more.

### Starting the day with a prayer



There is nothing nicer than starting the day with a prayer. The teachers of the Nursery have a small prayer for the day and the days to come, the first thing in the morning before starting to receive the children.

Margo, the cook, who is the big sister, the mother, and the grandma for the Nursery kids showers us all with prayers especially in times of challenges, and these are many. This is a great encouragement, especially coming from a loving

heart of a great woman.

### No social difference at the LCD

It is a blessing to see that the Integrated Nursery as well as the Preschool, receive children from the higher society, and from the most humble. All of them are equal in our eyes and are served in the same way, are loved and loved by, and all of them bring great joy to the LCD.

One mother from the Philippines, who works as a maid, was surprised by the way we received and welcomed her and explained the program to her. It is something unusual in Lebanon, especially when she is not paying the same fees. But, for us it is the most natural thing to do; on the contrary she is one of the people we admire most, who work hard abroad in order to support their family.

### The Preschool

It has been Nadine's dream to have a pre-school at the LCD for several reasons. Besides the fact that she is a teacher and this is her area of strength and passion, the



preschool is a place that gives enough time for parents of deaf children to decide what is the best educational placement for their child and enough time to accept the hearing loss of their child. The preschool also protects the child from being in a regular school setting which does not respect his/her special needs and only realizes that the child has difficulties when these are accumulated and it is too late to compensate for the weaknesses.

While there were no signs that this dream could be fulfilled yet, the Embassy of Japan accepted the project of providing glass curtains for the balconies of the LCD's premises, while they were reluctant about the necessity of this part of the project. Also Karine, the teacher who was with us in the Nursery, had just finished her education and was looking for a job. She told us that she gives priority to the LCD, otherwise she will work elsewhere. Having in mind that the space will be provided and that such a devoted and talented teacher can lead the class, these were signs that this was God's timing for this project. Karine is now with us despite of the better offer she had in another school.



The preschool started on the first floor in one room and the closed balcony, in the beginning of October 2013. There are eight children, two with hearing loss and six hearing.

It is great to have Karine back in the preschool; it is rare to find a teacher with her qualities, passionate for teaching and having the spirit of the LCD; love, humble attitude and devotion, while being professional at work.

### **The Early Intervention Program**

During the year 2013, we have served at least 39 deaf children, along with their family members, in the Early Intervention Program. Some of these children could not personally come to the sessions, as they are living in remote areas; consequently we were only able to provide these families support in terms of phone calls, providing John Tracy Clinics Correspondence books, so that they can implement the basic principles at home.





## The Integrated Nursery



At the average, during the scholastic year, the integrated nursery has 20 children, among of whom 3 and 5 are deaf.

Many scholars talk about the integration programs for deaf children into the regular schools, with hearing children. But in our integrated nursery, it is reversed integration program—meaning that hearing children integrate into a nursery of deaf children!

## The High School

During Summer 2013, three students (Zeinab, Hiba and Elie) presented their official examinations and they have all passed with distinction. Each of these went to different universities. Zeinab is studying Medical Laboratory, Hiba in Banking, and Elie in Computer Literature. They all are doing well.



During October 2013, the LCD opened a new class of 8 students for the high school program. These students came from different schools for the deaf in Lebanon when accomplishing their 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In the End of November, we have admitted another 2 students for this new class. These students were registered in another technical school and were not happy and therefore asked us to enrolled at the LCD. They had to catch up with the lessons they missed during the previous 2 months, with extra lessons and private lessons.

Currently, the total number of the high school students is 20, divided into 2 classes.

## The Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony took place on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013, in conjunction with the inauguration ceremony by the Ambassador of Japan. 3 students—





Zeinab, Hiba, and Elie—who have studied with our High School Program and who have passed their official examination during the summer 2013, were part of the commencement. We are all very proud of them. They are now enrolled at different universities, fulfilling their educational dreams.

### **Sign Language Courses**

6 hearing students, of different professional backgrounds, and one deaf person who used to live in England, took a first level sign language course, which lasted for 3 and half months, and have shown remarkable ability. They would continue to take the second level during February 2014.



### **Lectures for deaf adults**

Several lectures for deaf adults were conducted during 2013, mainly related to the Law 220/2000 and the rights of the Deaf for the purpose of the empowerment.

### **Subtitling for Arabic programs**

As indicated in the report of 2012, regarding the subtitling for Arabic programs, which is among the different activities the LCD, a trial to provide subtitling for some Arabic Programs (open captioning) has been undertaken. The Ambassador of Japan showed interest in this project, as well as the Ambassador of Holland, who in both shared their ideas and prospective to attain this project. We hope that the project may be successful in the near future.

### **Bayan's family**

One of the most involved families in the Early Intervention program is the family of Bayan. Bayan has a special personality and his baby sister is a character. Bayan's parents did not give the impression in the beginning that they would be such an involved family. But slowly they were into applying the objectives for the home faithfully and the father had a great supportive role. Often this responsibility is left to the mother; we are very happy when we see involved fathers and we see a few who are.

Bayan's sister was also involved in the therapy since the family had no place to leave her. Therefore, whenever we were working on an objective with Bayan she would also participate automatically. This was great fun for all to see. When given the sound of barking she would repeat it after the therapist as well as Bayan; the same applies to other objectives. Luckily, this was not disturbing to the work with Bayan; the therapist was clever how to guide the therapy session and to respect the presence of the sister while responding to the needs of Bayan.

The family of Bayan wanted him in the new preschool of the LCD, but transportation was a problem. Unfortunately the LCD has a van but no driver; it would be too costly to provide the service of transportation even when the families contribute to it.

## **Nour**

Nour is an Arabic name which means light. This name can be used for both boys and girls but it is mostly used for girls in Lebanon. Recently we have had two girls with the name Nour at the LCD.

One is a 11 years old girl whom we supported in the Early Intervention Program until last year. Unfortunately due to the separation of her parents and being under the custody of her father he did not wish her to benefit from our support despite the difficulties she was facing in the regular school she was in. He also refused to move her to a school where there is less rote learning and more encouragement for the student. But hopefully Nour would grow strong through these challenges of life. We pray that she would have a good life.

Our second Nour is in her second year at the High School Program of the LCD. She is quite sportive and her mother is a Physical Education teacher in a state school system. Last year the schedule of the sports teacher did not match the LCD's and therefore we were about to cancel physical education session until we found a teacher. Nour suggested to lead the class and indeed succeeded. This scholastic year, she is taking over the job again, and is quite respected by the other students. Nour is one of the boarding students and missed Zeinab a lot; Zeinab graduated last summer and supported by the family Scheele in Holland, she has entered University to study Medical Laboratory.

## **Special thanks to the People of Japan**

We are blessed at the LCD to still find supporters in days where the world does not know the meaning of giving in the same way it used to. The world economy is surely not helping, nor are some policies related to the rights of people with disability. There is a lot of talk about rights of people with disability but very little application on the level of the Government. Meanwhile, people with disability are neither benefiting from the approach of pursuing their rights yet since application is still far from taking place even if valued, nor are they benefiting from the charity approach which used to help provide them some essential services. Therefore, the situation in developing countries is not improving for people with disability but is rather getting worse year after year.

Whatever the reasons, the meaning of giving has much greater value when we ourselves are in need. This reminds us of the story of the widower whose gift the Lord Jesus appreciated more than the rich people's because she gave the only small coin she had, and it was all she had.

Fortunately, there are still people who consider supporting people with disability through organizations like us. The Embassy of Japan has supported the LCD twice before and this year has offered an important sum to change the old aluminum doors and windows to make them more insulated and sound proof, and helped us use the balconies

Project Works supported by the Embassy of Japan during 2013



Glass Curtains with sun shades for 3 balconies



One of the closed balconies turned to a class



Electrical Works at the Main Outlet, completed



Windows & Doors with Sound Proof System



New Audiology Room



Maintenance works: painting

by installing glass curtains and sun shades, they provided the setting of the audiology room with all necessary equipment, among other projects. We are indeed blessed by their support.

### **Other initiatives at the LCD**

We have already informed you about the other services which the LCD tries to provide within its team's capacity. Any extra services are usually taken care of by Hussein and Nadine, assisted when possible, by Rosie the office manager, and now Wafa the Early Interventionist who is with us on a full time basis.

One of the initiatives is triggering the launching of the Early Detection project on a national level. This long term project started last year and for months now, we have been contacting the Ministry of Health to have a meeting with the General Director. So far, there is no date despite the fact that the partners working on this project are highly respectable and influential. However, we will keep on with our efforts to make this project successful. The aim is to make awareness campaign mainly for pediatric doctors, and to seek to apply the early detection tests in the hospitals and dispensaries all over the country.

The subtitling project for the Deaf on TV is on hold in order to make the right steps for its accomplishment.

For the Driving License project, we thank all the friends who have helped us find documents that prove that the Deaf have no problem driving in many countries in the world. In fact, there is no reason related to hearing that should deny the deaf this right. We had to convince the Lebanese Government, and in order to reach the Government we were in contact with an organization called YASA which works on providing "safe traffic" through many activities who are very well known in Lebanon. We have succeeded to convince them that there is no danger in driving related to deafness, and we gained them as a partner who will help change the law for the benefit of deaf people. Presently the situation does not permit further steps, but hopefully the future will bring good news for this matter.



We also thank our friends in Switzerland and Holland who have provided us with good quality second hand hearing aids. Many individuals benefited from them and hearing aid dealers were cooperative in fitting the hearing aid according to the audiogram. Last time we received the largest number of hearing aids and indeed they came in the right time with the flow of Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Many Syrian children and grown-ups have benefitted from these hearing aids. What a

wonderful gift just in time.

In the area of advocacy, besides the role of the LCD in the National Council for the Rights of the Disabled representing Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs), Hussein



has been invited to a first Arab Conference for the Deaf in Tunis, on September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, as he is part of the organizing committee for the conference. On the first day, he took a chair of a session, and as well as part in the panel to give a comment to a speech of the president of the World Federation of the Deaf. On the second day, Hussein held a workshop on sign language and linguistic where he eventually drew some points for the recommendations. There were about 70 deaf persons from different Arab countries participated.

## **Rosie**

When Marie left, we lost a sister around us who is very devoted to the LCD. Aline replaced her, but despite the fact that Aline was a very good hearted person who can be very faithful, she did not have the skills needed for the job despite the long training we tried to provide her.



Meanwhile a friend told us that Rosie, a mother of four, who did not work earlier, was looking for a job. We accepted her on a probation basis, and luckily she quickly picked up her responsibilities and lessened our burden again. Rosie is now another sister we gained, who has a good spirit and loves doing charity. She took the role of distributing clothes which usually Elias and Nadine perform, and she added to it finding means to

support some families in need through her church, when possible.

This was one of the elements that added to the possibility of truly being a connected family at the LCD, with one heart full of love and ready to serve others.

Margo the cook is an important key element in this aspect, who has a motherly feeling for all and works on connecting staff members from the different programs. The feeling she has of belonging to the LCD adds to the value of the atmosphere around us at the LCD.

## **The Inauguration Ceremony by the Ambassador of Japan**

The inauguration ceremony conducted by the Japanese Ambassador Mr. Seiichi Otsuka was held at the Learning Center for the Deaf, on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The following article was downloaded from the Internet depicting the coverage of the media regarding this event:

*“The Japanese Ambassador to Lebanon, Mr. Seiichi Otsuka inaugurated the Learning Center for the Deaf in Baabda after its renovation was financed by the Government of Japan through its Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects (GGP).*

*The project of 113,110 USD was implemented in accordance with a contract signed by*

*the Embassy of Japan and the Learning Center for the Deaf on March 12, 2013. It covered electrical work, painting and rehabilitation work for the sound proof room and improved the learning environment of the Center. Particularly, the sound proof rooms have been desired for a long time in order to secure the educational environment for the hearing-impaired pupils.*

*The Learning Center for the Deaf is a non-profit association located in Baabda that provides adequate programs and education in response to urgent needs of the deaf in Lebanon. The Japanese Embassy emphasizes the importance of supporting the socially vulnerable people and their families.*

*The director of the organization, Dr. Hussein Ismail affirms: "The tests and activities carried out in the sound proof room are highly important. These kinds of facilities are usually costly and hard to set up and thus we are very happy and grateful that the Government of Japan fulfilled our needs and brought an important contribution to the well-being of the individuals suffering from hearing impairment."*

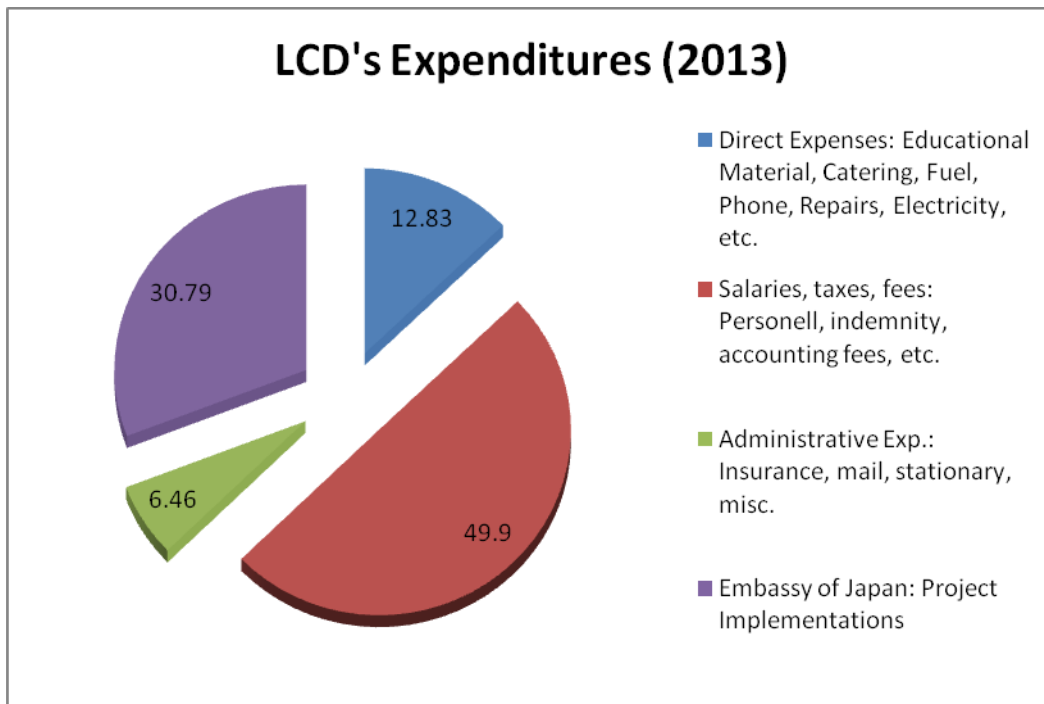
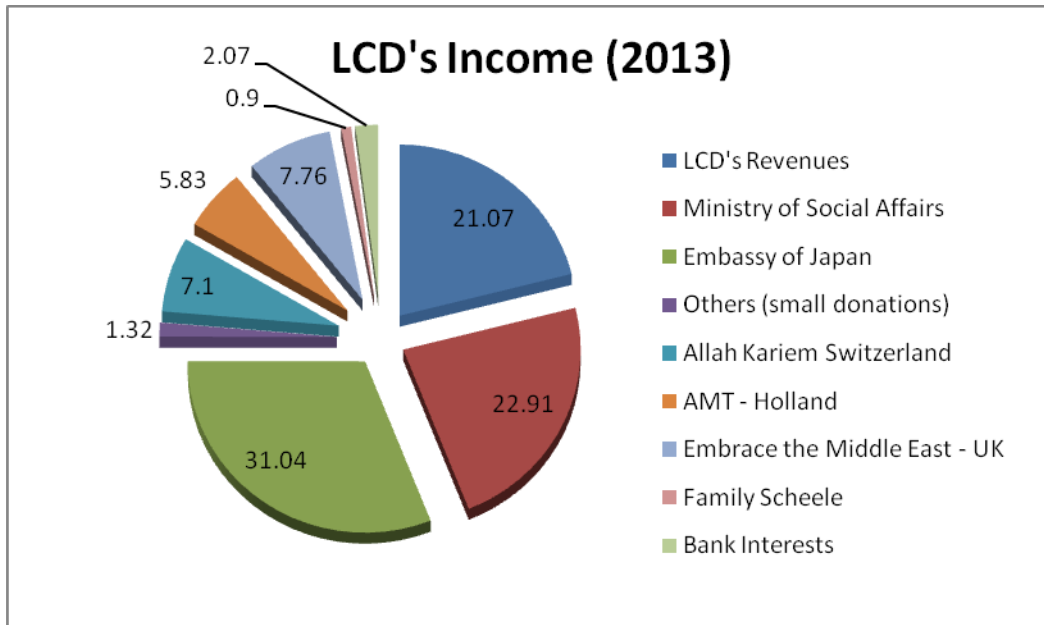




## Summary of the Financial Report 2013

Description	US\$
<b>Total Income</b>	364,436
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	367,249
<b>Deficit Balance</b>	<b>-2,813</b>

The Tables below showing the percentages of the income and expenditures during 2013



**The Learning Center for the Deaf**

**Photos during 2013**



Two different group generations



Observing the EIP Sessions



Drama lessons conducted by a deaf instructor



Certificates issues by the Red Cross



Participating a Marathon fun run



Experiencing a new hearing aid



Please visit us at the [www.lcd-lebanon.org](http://www.lcd-lebanon.org), for detailed information about our services and activities during the past years.

**Thank you for your continuous prayers and support for our humanitarian work.**

**God bless you !**