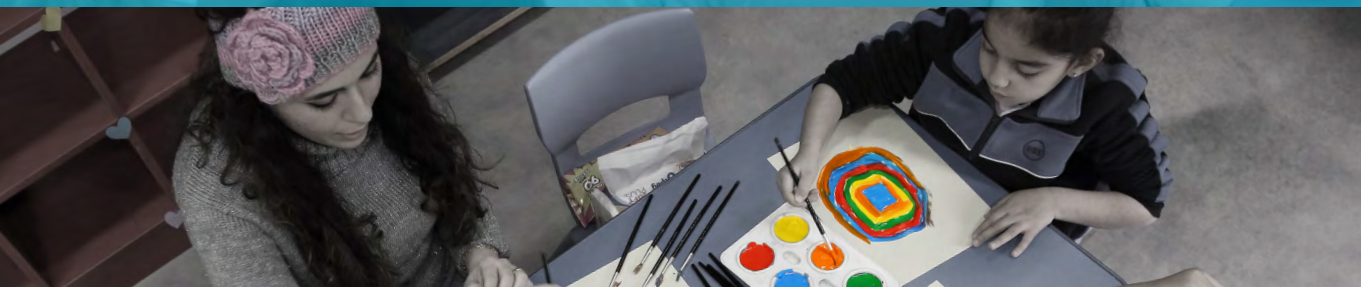




LEBANESE SOCIETY
FOR EDUCATIONAL
& SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



EQUIPPING THE CHURCH



EDUCATION FOR ALL

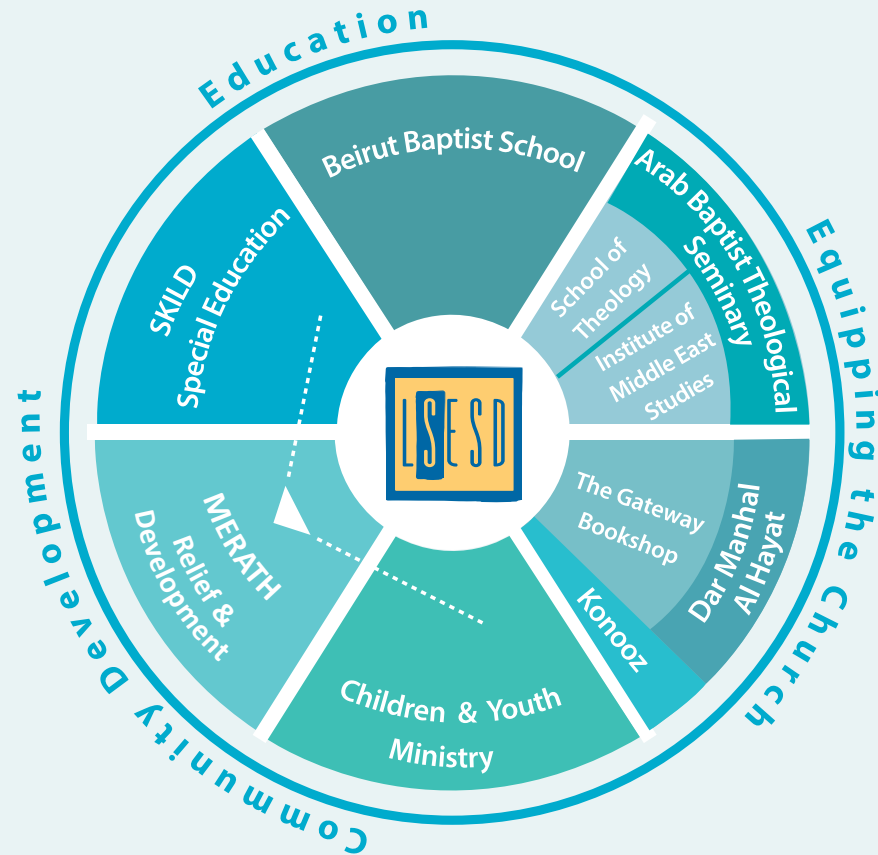


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development (LSESD), also known as the Lebanese Baptist Society, is the parent organization of several educational organizations and ministries working

locally in Lebanon, regionally in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and extending globally. Together these specialized components of LSESD provide a model of holistic ministry, supporting LSESD's mission:

*To serve the Church in Lebanon and the Arab World through **SPiritual, Social and eDucational** development*



MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The Lebanese and Middle Eastern context is a highly religious one where affiliation to one's religion is often stronger than to one's country or any other social ties. In such an environment, religion becomes closely knit with identity.

The challenge, however, is when religious affiliation becomes the only form of identity and unites people of the same faith against others of a different faith. This is when religion, which is meant to bring out the best in people, becomes divisive and a source of much pain and suffering, which is the case in many countries and communities today. Yet, is it not amidst such darkness that our light should shine brighter?

As LSESD, our faith-inspired values exhort us to stand by our brothers and sisters in humanity, regardless of who they are, and to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" and to "defend the rights" of the vulnerable (Proverbs 31:8-9). We communicate our faith and values by addressing the basic needs of vulnerable families in a manner that preserves their dignity; by reducing the future vulnerability of students

with learning difficulties; in our commitment to growing a culture of acceptance and respect for differences; and in raising socially responsible leaders who take an active role towards the common good.

Today, it is estimated that one in four people in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee, and one in three people is a refugee – Syrian, Iraqi, Palestinian or other. While LSESD's community development and relief ministry, MERATH [Middle East Revive And Thrive], takes the lead in our humanitarian response to the Syria crisis, the complexity of the needs have led LSESD's other ministries to get involved too, each within its own area of focus such as trauma support; assessments and personalized interventions for children at social, emotional, and/or academic risks; activities for children; producing accessible resources that carry a message of hope and encouragement...

In parallel, we have new programs that further expand our impact in the community ranging from e-learning, online training, and working with public schools, to education for former street children. I encourage you to read through the pages of this brochure to get a glimpse of our areas of focus today, and the learning opportunities that we offer to visiting individuals and teams.

Thank you.

Nabil K. Costa

EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

Arab Baptist Theological Seminary ABTS

School of Theology

ABTS is a Christian Evangelical theological seminary passionate about training faithful women and men to effectively serve the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). ABTS offers a residential program which attracts individual students, married couples and families from at least ten nations from the MENA region. Students who are dedicated to working in their home countries are encouraged to develop a mindset and skills to help them mobilize their churches to make an impact in ever-changing, challenging and sometimes high-risk environments. To enable ABTS to do this effectively, its leadership visit churches in several MENA countries to better understand their contexts and help them to identify potential leaders. Since February 2015 there has also been an online self-tutored program to reach those who are unable to study at the ABTS campus. The number of online students is expected to grow significantly in the next few years.



Equipping faithful
men & women for
EFFECTIVE SERVICE
MISSION



EQUIPPING THE CHURCH

Institute of Middle East Studies IMES

IMES is a research and resource institute with a clear mandate to bring about positive transformation in thinking and practice between Christians and Muslims in the Middle East and beyond. It has three strategic goals: peacebuilding, education, and human rights and advocacy. IMES runs a multidisciplinary Master of Religion in Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MREL) that seeks to help individuals understand issues in the MENA context. Every June, IMES holds a Middle East Consultation that seeks to equip participants to respond in prophetic and Christ-like ways to the many challenges facing Christians and Muslims in and beyond the Middle East. It also runs in the summer a Middle East Immersion internship program which has proved life-changing for many participants. IMES is developing an initiative called the Feast to build friendships between young people from different faiths. It has its own Arabic language school in central Beirut (Academy of Languages and Practical Skills or ALPS) and a popular blog on Christian and Muslim issues.



Studying at and visiting IMES:

For more information on attending the Middle East Consultation or enrolling in the MREL course or Middle East Immersion program, email information@LSESD.org. For more on ALPS Arabic language courses visit www.abtslebanon.org/ALPS

Dar Manhal Al Hayat DMAH

DMAH is the publishing arm of LSESD. It provides Christian literature and educational resources to Lebanon and the Arab world. DMAH currently publishes between 20 and 25 new titles a year covering a wide range of topics including youth and women's issues, theology, devotions, Christian lifestyle and biographies of Christian leaders. It also produces educational resources on subjects such as leadership and management, written from a Christian perspective. A central part of DMAH's work is providing a range of engaging books and resources to encourage children to read the Bible. Moreover, and in response to the regional refugee crisis, DMAH works on making available and accessible resources to encourage those that have gone through traumatizing experiences.

DMAH is seeking to equip and encourage people in the Middle East through Christian literature. While The GateWay Bookstore is DMAH's primary local retailer for Christian print and media resources, LSESD's KONOOZ e-bookstore and App offers access to a wide collection of digital resources to those who may have access to the internet but not to certain physical books.



EDUCATION FOR ALL

Beirut Baptist School BBS

BBS is a private Christian school for students from nursery age to grade 12. Founded in the 1950s, it has an excellent academic reputation and in 2015 was re-awarded its accreditation by AdvancED. Over 90% of BBS pupils come from families of diverse faith backgrounds, who value the school's excellent academic performance and Christian principles.

BBS' counselling and special education departments play a significant role in supporting the school's unique learning community by advocating cohesion and acceptance. Many BBS teachers are former pupils and it is not uncommon for three generations of one family to have attended the school. BBS celebrates its diverse identity which is a product of the ongoing cooperation of pupils, staff and parents from many different backgrounds.

Supported by Microsoft and the British Council, BBS is developing an interdisciplinary approach to learning. This will increase students' online research capabilities and encourage them to develop 21st century skills such as critical thinking, communication and collaboration. To accommodate this new approach, staff are receiving training and school facilities are being improved; all with an emphasis on strengthening a culture where children feel supported and nurtured to reach their full potential.



Center for Smart Kids with Individual Learning Differences SKILD

SKILD's main goal is to help children with learning difficulties to get the help that they need to thrive in education. Alongside providing individualized support at its Center, SKILD works with private and public schools, offering additional resource and training for educators working with children with special needs. Recently, SKILD's work has further expanded to include the screening and assessment of Syrian children in Lebanese public schools, with the aim of identifying the academic, emotional and social challenges they face. Moreover, SKILD's new multi-sensory area offers more services such as teaching social and life skills, music, drama, art and sensory therapy.

A significant part of SKILD's work involves raising community awareness about the realities of learning difficulties. A major feature of SKILD's awareness campaign has been the National Day for Students with Learning Difficulties, launched in 2013 with the support of the Ministry of Education and the British Council. Held annually on 22 April, the National Day aims to positively transform



perceptions of the issue for teachers, parents, children and the wider Lebanese public. SKILD's work at the Center, with private and public schools, and its awareness campaign fall under the larger goal of establishing inclusive educational communities in Lebanon. It is also a reflection of SKILD's commitment to growing a culture of acceptance and respect for differences.

Volunteering with SKILD

The SKILD Center offers opportunities for individuals or groups with relevant technical skills in music, art, or drama therapy, occupational therapy and teaching children with special needs. Find out more by emailing information@Lsesd.org

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Middle East Revive And Thrive MERATH

LSESD's first emergency relief response was to show Christ's love in action to those displaced by the 2006 war. Since 2011, most of the resources of LSESD's community development and relief ministry, MERATH, have been focused on responding compassionately to thousands of refugees displaced by the horrific conflicts in Syria and Iraq who have been left poor and disadvantaged. Relief support across Lebanon, Syria and Iraq include food aid, hygiene kits, milk and diapers, health care, trauma support and winterization items, all of which are distributed through local church partners and faith based organizations. Partners are given training so they can administer relief and assist as many as possible in a coordinated, accountable and helpful way. MERATH also supports education projects to give refugee children and families a more hopeful future. Once the war is over, there are plans to implement more long-term development assistance as people return to rebuild their lives and countries.



Baptist Children and Youth Ministry BCYM

BCYM is dedicated to sharing hope and God's love to children and young people through its camps and follow-up events. It works primarily with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged – this includes former street kids with whom it engages weekly, as well as refugees from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Increasing each child's self-esteem and building strong relationships with them are key aims of the ministry. Camps held every summer and all year round include music, a Bible based message, games and craft activities. They take children out on occasional visits to farms and other places they would not normally go in order to make them feel special. In churches across Lebanon, BCYM works with children and youth leaders and also hold an annual youth conference. The need BCYM is facing is huge, so it is increasing the number of camps and ways it supports children and young people every year.



Volunteer with BCYM

BCYM welcomes volunteers and groups to help with Bible studies, art and craft, sport activities, games and music at its camps. If you are interested, find out more by emailing information@Lsesd.org

CONTACT US

Learn more about any of these ministries and how they contribute to accomplishing our mission:

Email information@Lsesd.org

Telephone +961 4 400250 | 401922

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Street Address LEBANESE SOCIETY FOR EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT Campus,
Blata Street – Mansourieh El Maten, Lebanon

www.Lsesd.org | Facebook.com/LSESD

To subscribe to LSESD's monthly newsletter: www.Lsesd.org/Signup

For our partners in the United States, the Middle East Bible Outreach (MEBO) is a 501 C 3 corporation and can issue tax deductible receipts.

Visit MEBO at www.mebo.org

Mailing Address: 4780 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Suite A 540 PMB 472, Atlanta, GA 30338-5504

VISIT OUR WEBSITES

- **Academy of Languages and Practical Skills**, www.abtslebanon.org/ALPS
- **Arab Baptist Theological Seminary**, www.abtslebanon.org
- **Baptist Children and Youth Ministry**, www.bcymllebanon.org
- **Beirut Baptist School**, www.bbs.edu.lb
- **MERATH Community Development and Relief**, www.Lsesd.org/MERATH
- **Dar Manhal Al Hayat**, www.dar-manhal-alhayat.com
- **Institute of Middle East Studies**, www.abtslebanon.org/IMES
IMES Blog, www.imeslebanon.wordpress.com
- **Konooz**, www.konoozbooks.com
- **Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development**, www.Lsesd.org
- **SKILD Center**, www.skild-edu.org | [Facebook.com/ SKILDCenter](https://Facebook.com/SKILDCenter)

