

Health Care Society Annual Report 2017

Foundation

Health Care Society was founded in 1995 and was registered legally with the Ministry of Interior in 1997, under the registration number AD/156.

Mission

Its mission is to provide health security to the Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon.

Objectives:

- Contribute towards costs of secondary and tertiary medical care for Palestinian refugees while ensuring quality care.
- Support emergency cases that are not covered by any other institution.
- Supporting chronic disease patients such as kidney failure and blood diseases.
- Engage in evidence-based advocacy to promote high quality and more dignified health care of Palestinian refugee.
- Provide health awareness.
- Provide medications and medical supplies according to needs.

Executive Summary:

The Palestinian refugees in the camps in Lebanon suffer from high unemployment rates as they are prohibited from working in many domains in the Republic of Lebanon. The majority are workers on daily or seasonal basis as in agriculture. 11.5% of this population suffers from hardship cases. This is the highest rate compared to refugees in other countries due to the lack of socio-economic integration of refugees in Lebanon. In addition 56% of the Palestinian refugees are under 25 years of age, indicating a young population.

According to UNRWA statistics, more than 32% of the Palestinian Refugees suffer from chronic diseases. Furthermore, the cost of health care in Lebanon continues to escalate leading to further deterioration in the health of the residents.

Since the war in Syria, HCS was the only haven that Palestinian refugees from Syria could find. HCS extended its health projects to cover those refugees, especially in the kidney dialysis free services. This created a burden on the budget as there was no earmarked donation for this emergency project which is still on going.

Health Care Society is committed to promotion of human rights and the right of all people to have access to good health care.

Since 2015 till 2017, HCS continued the project from NORWAC grant to treat Palestinian patients from Syria, with kidney failure and those suffering from thalassemia- sickle cell disease. Also HCS got a grant from WA to treat Palestinians from Lebanon with sickle cell disease and thalassemia.

The number of patients for surgery coverage reached **324** and **1051** kidney dialysis patients, **66** recurrent patients with thalassemia and SCD, and more than **3000** beneficiaries for the in-kind donation of medication and medical supplies. The budget reached **1,010,516.01 USD** in 2017.

A- Projects Details

1- Surgery and hospitalization project

Description of the Project:

Due to the fact that Palestinian refugees are not covered by any health or medical insurance, and the Lebanese MoH refuses to include them in its health plans, in addition to the limited resources of UNRWA and PRCS, the initiative of creating other source of support came by the founders of Health Care Society (HCS).

HCS covers partial cost of surgery or hospitalization to the needy Palestinian community. Its services cover all regions in Lebanon, both genders and all ages with no discrimination.

For the setup of this project, local NGOs are donating services of around 32 social workers. This is in an attempt to cut down administrative costs and to easily channel the money to beneficiaries.

HCS covers 10-15% of the actual cost, noting that assistance does not exceed 1250\$ for one case. Exceptions are made to very severe and hardship cases that are entitled for more support reaching \$2500 where the cost of surgery is extremely high.

For the year 2017, HCS covered the treatment of 5 hardship cases in the amount of 25,000\$ from Ramadan appeal in coordination with PCRF, Taawon and UNRWA.

Objectives of the project:

The aim of this project is to enable the Palestinian community to improve their health conditions by supporting them with partial cost of surgery and/or hospitalization. Many Palestinians are unemployed and are not covered by any kind of medical insurance.

It helps beneficiaries in achieving their basic need of survival, without which it is impossible for them to efficiently resume their productive, reproductive, and community roles.



Success story:

Malak and Norhan Abdel Razek are twins who suffer from epilepsy and needed urgent operation which HCS; PCRf, WA joined efforts to support all the cost at AUMBC. They enjoy now a normal healthier life.





Achievements

Since its establishment, HCS helped more than **12130** beneficiaries in all regions in Lebanon and for all kinds of surgeries.

The contributions cover also the Palestinians from Syria.

For the year 2017 the number of beneficiaries reached **324** and distributed in the table below according to disease:

Type of Disease	Number of Beneficiaries
Cardio- vascular	131
Cancer	36
Kidney problems	5
General surgery	127
Ophthalmic problems	9
Therapeutic /hospitalization	16
Total	324

Results:

1. Palestinian refugees with health problems are supported with partial cost of hospitalization/operation.
2. Access to satisfactory hospitalization and medical treatment for underprivileged Palestinian refugees is improved.
3. Saves lives.

Donors for this project:

1. Welfare Association (WA).
2. Late Rifa'at El Nimer Fund.
3. Fund raising activities.

2- Kidney dialysis project:

A- Hamshari dialysis center

Description of the project:

The Hamshari kidney dialysis center was established in 1996 with the efforts of Late Mr. Hussein Al Tabari and still continuing with additional support from generous Palestinian donors through Welfare Association.

The center provides free kidney dialysis services for around 94 patients per month.

HCS subsidizes the center by providing all the consumable items needed for dialysis such as haemodialysis filters, solutions, blood lines, fistula needles and other supplies.

Palestinians from Syria are still using the services of the center for free.

The grant we received from NORWAC in Oct 2015 is still continuing to cover the treatment of these patients that reached 13 Palestinians from Syria. For the year 2017 around 11215 sessions were performed to benefit 1051 patients of both genders (52% males and 48% females). This service is delivered free of charge and it is the only one available for Palestinians suffering from kidney failure. The patient needs 2-3 dialysis sessions per week. Each session costs minimum 130\$ at other hospitals, this creates a burden on the patient and his family.





Achievements:

1. **11215** sessions were performed
2. **1051** patients received treatment
3. HCS got 2 new dialysis machines, a new chair and a wheelchair scale for special needs patients, a grant from UPA.
4. Health is improved





Wheel chair scale

Patients with special needs are able now to measure their weight before and after dialysis. Without which they couldn't otherwise.

B- Kidney Care Unit/ Beddawi camp:

Description of the project:

The Kidney Care Unit in Beddawi camp was constructed with the support of UNICEF, UNRWA, PCRF, and Islamic Relief. The land is offered by PRCS and the operating running cost is covered by Welfare Association. HCS is implementing and monitoring the project, and developing on it.

The center is run by 4 doctors and 5 nurses that have completed their training at AUBMC. It started operating in February 2017.

There are now 13 patients using the services of the center, where by the beginning of 2018 this number will increase to be 30 patients.



Prevention and health education:

To lower the cost of medical treatment bills and to improve health conditions, HCS with the support of PCRf started an early detection and prevention of kidney failure. For this purpose HCS got an ultra sound machine to test for the kidneys along with health education sessions for the patients suffering mainly from diabetes and hypertension.





Khaled Salim, 21 years old Palestinian from Syria, lives in Beddawi camp and uses the dialysis services of the center for free. He is very grateful.



Meeting with staff and follow-up



Satisfying the needs of the kidney dialysis patients:

HCS got a generous grant from OCHA/ Taawon to provide all the kidney dialysis patients with the urgent needed medication for anaemia. By this grant we are able to get the Epeotin injections for the patients in Hamshari hospital and in the kidney care unit, covering almost 110 patients till now. This will be sustainable for one year.

According to blood tests before and after taking the injections showed great improvement in hemoglobin levels, no more blood transfusions and better general health condition.



3- Medical In-kind Donation Program (MIKP)

Objective:

The aim of this project is to provide the Palestinian community with medications according to their needs. Medicines are very expensive in Lebanon and beyond the reach of this marginalized community.

Another important issue is the health awareness that HCS provides with its partners regarding the rational use of drugs including handling and distribution.

Background:

The main partner of this project with HCS is the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA). The project started in 2003 to fill the gaps and needs of the Palestinian community for medications.

The close collaboration with YMCA led us to sign an agreement where the latter plays the role of the consignee. In 2017 we received 10 shipments of commonly used chronic diseases medications for diabetes, hypertension, mental illness, etc. HCS and YMCA share expenses of release of shipments according to the percentile share of medications of each.

During any emergencies or clashes in the Palestinian camps, HCS and ANERA are always prepared to provide hospitals and clinics in the camps with the emergency needs.



Supporting the kidney care unit in Beddawi camp with medical supplies and disposables

Achievements:

- Regular needs assessment in collaboration with recipient partners.
- Receiving more medications according to needs.
- Preparedness during emergency situations
- Improving health care and access to medications.
- Receiving quality medications and medical supplies.
- More donors are willing to assist in supporting with medications and medical supplies.
- Reaching more areas of the marginalized community.



Field visits to recipient partners

4- Thalassemia & Sickle cell disease:

Among the enduring chronic diseases that the Palestinian community suffer from are Congenital Hemoglobinopathies (Thalassemia, Sickle-cell-Thalassemia and Sickle-cell anemia). The goals of treatment in SCD & Thalassemia are symptom control and management of disease complications.

HCS received 2 grants:

- 1- NORWAC's grant to support Palestinian refugees from Syria (PRS).
- 2- WA's grant to support the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL).

1- NORWAC grant:

NORWAC renewed its grant for thalassemia and SCD from March 2017 till Feb 2018. The amount of the grant for thalassemia is 80,000\$.

Treatment which is covered totally by HCS involves:

- Diagnostic blood tests
- MRI & MRA (brain, skull, etc.)
- Prevention and treatment of infections
- Management of vaso-occlusive crisis
- Management of chronic pain syndromes
- Management of the complications and the various organ damage syndromes associated with the disease
- Prevention of stroke
- Detection and treatment of pulmonary hypertension
- Blood transfusion

Patients in need of medications like Hydroxyurea or chelating medication to lower iron levels in blood (exjade) were also provided for the patients.

Consultations and examination of the patients are done by Dr. Miguel Abboud at OPD- AUBMC.

We could reach 41 patients. 29 patients suffer from either thalassemia or SCD, and the other 12 patients suffer from severe anemia.



department for check up

Majed Shehadeh at pediatric cardiac



Although she is on a medical visit and blood tests, Aya Moussa, 6 years old a Palestinian from Syria, is anxious to be at AUBMC. She has more confidence of herself after feeling better and has less pain crisis. She goes to KG in Borj Al Shamali camp South Lebanon.

2- WA grant:

HCS received a grant from WA to treat PRL with sickle cell anemia or thalassemia. The budget is 71,000 USD and started in September 2016 for one year and hopefully to be renewed. The grant covers only children between 1 – 17 years old.

The number of patients reached 37. Most of them are already diagnosed and followed-up by Dr. Miguel Abboud but couldn't continue due to the high expenses of the treatment, medication and blood transfusion.

Same procedures and protocol for treatment are followed for the Palestinians from Lebanon as those from Syria.



Salah Eddine Jumaa, Palestinian from Lebanon, lives in Beddawi Camp, and visits AUBMC to receive the treatment. He is happy to be cared for and thankful to be provided with the required medication and blood tests.

Results:

- Total health improvement
- Decrease in pain crisis
- Decrease in hospitalization and emergency cases
- Lowered iron blood levels
- Less frequent blood transfusion
- Decrease in strokes



At the lab for blood test

5- Fundraising event:

Iftar event:

HCS conducted its annual fundraising Iftar event during the Holy Month of Ramadan, at Phoenicia hotel. More than 370 people attended the event.

During the event, HCS board members acknowledged Taawon organization and Mr. Faisal Alami for their great contribution to the Palestinian community in Lebanon, Palestine and other regions.

As usual Dr. Zuhair Alami covered all the expenses of the event. We are all very grateful to him.



Mrs. Tafeeda Jarabawi received the shield on behalf of Taawon





Mr. Faisal Alami honored for his great support of the Palestinian community in general and HCS in particular.





Al Kamanjati band from Beit Atfal Assomoud participated in the event

6- Administrative issues:

The General Assembly of Health Care Society met in March where new board members were elected.

Dr. Walid Alami	President
Dr. Rima Nasser	Vice-president
Mr. Rami Nimer	Treasurer
Mr. Qassem Aina	Secretary
Dr. Mona Osman	Consultant
Mrs. Wafa A Yassir	Consultant
Dr. Marwan Refaat	Consultant

Recommendations:

All members agreed to:

- Increase the number of General Assembly members.
- Members should be more involved in activities and plans and developing on HCS projects and budget.

- Emphasis on the importance of all HCS health projects and their sustainability.
- Importance of prevention projects like health awareness and early detection, etc.
- Approach more donors for sustainability.

HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	<u>2017 (USD)</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash At Banks	401,510.23
Automobile/Vehicles (Net)	1.00
Total Assets	401,511.23
Liabilities & Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable:-	
Promissory Note payable (Hospitals)	9,155.00
Hospital Invoices not paid yet	13,596.00
Anera Shipments Clearance	28,551.00
Other payables	35,892.82
Total Current liabilities	87,194.82
Fund Balance at beginning of year	257,330.04
surplus for the period	<u>56,986.37</u>
Ending Fund balance	314,316.41
Total Liabilities & Fund balance	401,511.23

**HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	(\$)2017
Revenues, Gains, and other Support:	
Welfare Association	662,420.00
NORWAC	186,300.00
United Palestinian Appeal	15,000.00
Palestinian Children Relief Fund (PCRf)	12,000.00
Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	25,000.00
Individuals Donations	66,625.00
General Assembly Members Subscription	200.00
NGO's Staff Contributions	6,029.34
Fund Raising	30,300.00
Other Income (Interest & Returned cheques)	6,641.67
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	1,010,516.01
Expenses:	
Program service :	
Hospitalizations and medical Support	226,863.00
Unpaid medical support (promissory notes)	9,155.00
Thalassemia & Mental cases medications	55,097.96
Kidney Dialysis Center- Hamshari & Safad Hospital	529,836.00
Total Program Service	820,951.96
Administrative and Support:-	
Employees' Salaries & Auditing	56,108.00
Office equipment/ Supplies/ printing & Stationary	4,949.35
Employees medical Insurance	7,525.00
Office rental & services	9,047.93
Transportation & Automobile Maintenance	2,690.22
Miscellaneous/ Utilities/Bank charge/telephone bills	6,434.45
Total Administrative and support	86,754.95
Other Expense:-	
Medical In Kind Donation Expenses	28,551.00
Fund Raising Expenses	17,271.73
Total other Expenses	45,822.73
Total Expenses	953,529.63
Year End Balance surplus	56,986.37

**HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017**

	2017(\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Cash received from Welfare association	662,420.00
Cash received from NORWAC	186,300.00
Cash received from United Palestinian Appeal	15,000.00
Cash Received from PCRf	12,000.00
Cash received from Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	50,000.00
Cash received from Individuals Donations	66,625.00
Cash received General Assembly annual subscriptions	200.00
Cash received from Contributions from NGO's Staff	6,029.34
Cash received from Fund Raising Activities	30,300.00
Other Income (Interest & Returned cheques)	10,401.49
Cash paid to Hospitalization Support	(213,267.00)
Cash paid for medical Aid from Previous year	(29,231.00)
Cash paid for Thalassemia & mental cases medications	(55,097.96)
Cash paid For Kidney Dialysis Center-hamshari & Safad	(529,836.00)
Administrative Expenses	(117,991.95)
Cash paid for Fund raising Expenses	(17,271.73)
Net Increase in cash	76,580.19
Cash and Cash equivalents at beginning of year	324930.04
Cash and Cash equivalents at End of year	401,510.23