

Health Care Society Annual report 2018

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.

The grants from NORWAC to treat chronic diseases, thalassemia /SCD and kidney failure, is still continuing and hopefully for 2019 also, to treat Palestinian refugees from Syria. In addition, the grants from Welfare Association are also continuing to treat Palestinian refugees from Lebanon with end stage renal failure, thalassemia/ SCD and in surgery and hospitalization. ANERA in turn is still supporting our community by providing free shipments of medications and medical supplies that assist the Palestinian clinics and hospitals in the camps in Lebanon.

The number of patients for surgery coverage reached **187** and **1450** kidney dialysis patients, recurrent patients and 66 thalassemia and SCD patients, and more than **5000** beneficiaries for the in-kind donation of medication and medical supplies.

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.

In August 2018, HCS board members decided to change the criteria of selection of patients according to cost and type of surgery and thus increasing the percentage of contribution, which became now 20- 25% of the actual cost.

For this purpose, HCS board members will hire 2 social workers to follow-up with beneficiaries in the camps especially after the medical procedures and to assess their needs, and fill the applications for support and their social and economic conditions.

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. 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.

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 2018 the number of beneficiaries reached **187** and distributed in the table below according to disease:

Type of Disease	Number of Beneficiaries
Cardio-vascular	63
Cancer	15
Kidney problems	3
General surgery	67
Ophthalmic problems	9
Therapeutic /hospitalization	30
Total	187

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 100 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, in addition to maintenance of all equipment and water treatment machine.



Palestinians from Syria are still using the services of the center for free, a generous grant from NORWAC. In 2018 the number of Palestinians from Syria who benefitted from this service was 11-9 patients, less than in 2017 as few of them returned to Syria or travelled to Europe. The center performed in 12,711 dialysis sessions in 2018.

Both PRL & PRS benefitted from the donations to provide them with epoetin injections for anaemia; a contribution from NORWAC (9062 vials) and from MOSAWAT (1140 vials). In addition to 1500 iron vials from NORWAC. These quantities are distributed to both kidney centers in Hamshari and Beddawi camp according to the number of patients.

Health Care Society staff are following up with the patients and their progress and needs. More than 14 field visits were done in 2018. HCS is in process of printing a brochure to be distributed to the patients and their families and to the community, as part of its health awareness program emphasizing on the right and responsibilities of the patient, diet, life style and prevention of kidney failure.



Achievements:

- Performed 12,711 dialysis sessions in 2018
- Treated 1141 patients
- 7460 epoetin injections provided for the patients in addition to 1500 injections of Iron (Feromax)
- Received a grant from UPA to purchase 1 dialysis machine and from WA to purchase 5 dialysis machines to replace the old ones.
- Monitoring & evaluation for quality and hygiene control
- Health is improved & lives are saved



New patient

B. Kidney Care Unit- Beddawi camp:

Description of the project:

The center is run by 4 doctors and 5 nurses that have completed their training at AUBMC. It started operating in February 2017. The number of patients reached 35 in 2018, after they lost all sources of support. They use the services for free. In addition, epoetin injections are provided to all patients according to the need after monthly blood tests.

Comparing the results of tests before and after taking the epoetin treatment, we monitored a great improvement in hemoglobin and hematocrit counts, leading to a general health improvement.

HCS is also following up with the patients and done more than 6 field visits to the center in 2018.



Measuring the weight of the patient



Khalid, 30 years old Palestinian from Lebanon joined in 2018 for treatment

Achievements:

- Performed 3793 dialysis sessions in 2018
- Treated 309 patients
- 2741 epoetin injections are provided for the patients
- Monitoring and evaluation for better performance and quality of services
- General health improvement
- Saving lives

Testimonial:

Mrs. Sawsan. M. is 46 Palestinian from Syria. She has been using the Hamshari dialysis center since 2 years. She performs 2 dialysis sessions per week. She has 3 children. Her husband used to work as a painter, but stopped after suffering from shrinking muscles for some years. Her children are supporting them. Sawsan is very satisfied with the treatment she is receiving at the center and applause the efforts of the nurses and doctors.



Evaluation of the kidney dialysis project:

In September 2018, a specialized team in nephrology-kidney dialysis from France visited the 2 kidney dialysis centers to up-grade the skills of medical staff and for general evaluation. This mission is supported by The Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF). HCS is following-up with all the recommendations that are highlighted in the evaluation reports, along with our donors (WA, NORWAC, and PCRF) and in cooperation with PRCS.

Recommendations:

- Increasing number of nurses at Hamshari dialysis center
- Stressing on hygiene control and the use of disinfectants in cleaning the dialysis theatre.
- Importance of the quality of water coming from the water treatment plant, with daily follow up the pressures, the flows, the maintenance of change of filters ,the test of absence chlorinates, Ca , Mg and bacteriological analysis of the water.
- Training for nursing on vascular access (integrity, protection, etc.)
- Some patients need surgical intervention on the fistula or endoluminal angioplasty.





Training at Haamshari dialysis center



Training at KCU- Beddawi camp



KCU

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 2018 we received 6 shipments of commonly used chronic diseases medications for diabetes, hypertension, mental illness, etc. in addition to consumables that are used for the kidney dialysis centers at PRCS hospitals. HCS and YMCA share expenses of release of shipments according to the percentile share of medications of each.



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.

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). The number of patients is 29. Few patients left Lebanon.

2- WA's grant to support the Palestinian refugees from Lebanon (PRL). The number of patients increased to be 65 in 2018.

Hopefully we can get a continuous grant for the PRL patients from our partners (PRCF, NORWAC or WA) for the year 2019.



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.



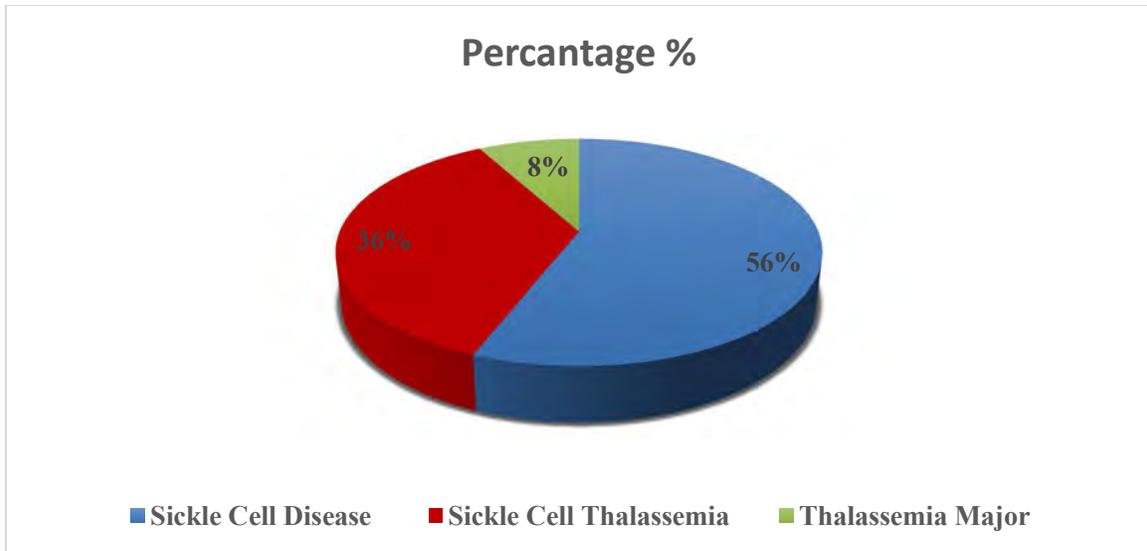
Yasser.H. having blood transfusion at AUBMC

Evaluation of Thalassemia/ SCD project:

Dr. Miguel Abboud, Dr. Farah Kirdly from AUBMC and Bahija Mayassi from HCS worked on evaluation of the project and its impact on the health of the Palestinian patients from Lebanon and Syria.

Findings:

- 56% of the patients suffer from Sickle Cell disease (SCD)
- 8% suffer from Thalassemia major
- 36% suffer from sickle cell thalassemia
- 52% are males and 48% are females



Impact and results:

- The most important was the compliance of the patients showing an 84% improvement regarding the follow up clinic visits with Dr. Abboud.
- 76 % improvement in Patients' education and awareness regarding the disease and the preventive measures
- 70% of the patients did not need to go to emergency unit.
- 88 % decrease in hospitalization
- 84 % decrease in pain crisis.
- 70 % increased Transcranial Doppler (TCD) and echocardiography screening
- 70 % increase in Ophthalmic examination
- 74 % increased Vaccinations
- 60 % medications coverage
- 50% of the patient had less iron overload in their body by receiving Exjade
- 100% prevention of stroke especially for those who had a past experience of stroke.
- Treatment of organs affected like spleen, gall bladder or bone problems have shown 75% improvement in patients.



5- Fund raising events:

Iftar event:

HCS conducted its annual fundraising Iftar event during the Holy Month of Ramadan, at Four Seasons hotel. More than 350 people attended the event.

During the event, HCS board members acknowledged Beit Atfal Assomoud organization and Mr. Kassem Aina for their great contribution to the Palestinian community in Lebanon, and to HCS in particular.

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





Al Kamanjati band from Beit Atfal Assomoud, as usual performed their best of folklore songs

HEALTH CARE SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	<u>2018 (USD)</u>
ASSETS:	
Cash At Banks	482,918.13
Automobile/Vehicles (Net)	1.00
Total Assets	482,919.13
Liabilities & Fund Balance	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable:-	
Promissory Note payable (Hospitals)	35,000.00
Total Current liabilities	35,000.00
Fund Balance at beginning of year	314,316.41
surplus for the period	<u>133,602.72</u>
Ending Fund balance	447,919.13
Total Liabilities & Fund balance	482,919.13

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	(\$) 2018
Revenues, Gains, and other Support:	
Welfare Association	608,500.00
NORWAC	247,706.00
United Palestinian Appeal	9,750.00
ANERA	13,500.00
Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	25,000.00
Basheer Alami family fund	99,800.00
Individuals Donations	71,411.67
General Assembly Members Subscription	533.33
NGO's Staff Contributions	4,158.67
Fund Raising	28,800.00
Other Income (Interest & Returned cheques)	6,888.23
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	1,116,047.90
Expenses:	
Program service :	
Hospitalizations and medical Support	160,283.00
Unpaid medical support (promissory notes)	35,000.00
Thalassemia & Sickle cell Treatment	95,551.71
Kidney Dialysis Center- Hamshari & Safad Hospital	567,408.04
Total Program Service	858,242.75
Administrative and Support:-	
Employees' Salaries & Auditing	57,563.00
Office equipment/ Supplies/ printing & Stationary	3,986.88
Employees medical Insurance	8,602.00
Office rental & services	9,653.25
Transportation & Automobile Maintenance	2,550.00
Miscellaneous/ Utilities/Bank charge/telephone bills	5,377.64
Total Administrative and support	87,732.77
Other Expense:-	
Medical In Kind Donation Expenses	13,613.00
Fund Raising Expenses	22,856.66
Total other Expenses	36,469.66
Total Expenses	982,445.18
Year End Balance surplus	133,602.72

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018

	2018(\$)
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Cash received from Welfare association	608,500.00
Cash received from NORWAC	247,706.00
Cash received from United Palestinian Appeal	9,750.00
Cash Received from ANERA	13,500.00
Cash received from Refa'at El-Nimer family Fund	25,000.00
Cash received from Walid Alami family Fund	99,800.00
Cash received from Individuals Donations	71,411.67
Cash received General Assembly annual subscriptions	533.33
Cash received from Contributions from NGO's Staff	4,158.67
Cash received from Fund Raising Activities	28,800.00
Other Income (Interest & Returned cheques)	6,888.23
Cash paid to Hospitalization Support	(160,283.00)
Cash paid for medical Aid from Previous year	(22,751.00)
Cash paid for Anera Shipment Clearance	(42,164.00))
Cash paid for Other payables	(35,892.82)
Cash paid for Thalassemia & Sickle cell Treatment	(95,551.71)
Cash paid For Kidney Dialysis Center-hamshari & Safad	(567,408.04)
Administrative Expenses	(87,732.77)
Cash paid for Fund raising Expenses	(22,856.66)
Net Increase in cash	81,407.90
Cash and Cash equivalents at beginning of year	401,510.23
Cash and Cash equivalents at End of year	482,918.13