



# *IRFAN* Establishment

Irfan establishment is a Lebanese N.G.O., operating in the educational, health and social relief fields since 1973.

Since its foundation, Irfan branches and services have kept an always ascendant development trend on all, capacity, service quality, and geographical expansion levels. Irfan became today one of the largest NGO's in LEBANON, consisting of five school branches, and one central complex in *EL SHOUF* region of Mount Lebanon, regrouping, a general hospital, a dispensary, a secondary school, an intermediate, primary and kindergarten school( *the main school branch*) and a general management group of offices that form the headquarters of the establishment .

**Irfan's presence in Lebanon, has expanded to three main regions:**  
(*SOFAR and EL BSATINE in ALEY/region, HASBAYA in the south and RACHAYA in the BEKAA Valley*)

Irfan branches, schools and hospital, serve today a large geographical territory of central Lebanon with an approximate sum of 400,000 Lebanese citizens living in hundreds of villages, small towns, and localities.

Irfan schools offer quality education, and cares for some 4,500 students a year while the medical sector of the Establishment puts at the service of the Lebanese public a wide array of top notch medical service without any discrimination whatsoever.

# *IRFAN* Schools

*Semkanieh / Sofar / Dahr El Ahmar/ Hasbaya / El Bsatine*

## ***Evolution and Distribution***

The first Irfan School was the one created in 1973 at Semkanieh / Shouf in the Lebanese central district of Mount LEBANON. That first branch received students from some forty villages in the surrounding region. Five years later and responding to the calls of the public and the community, the expansion of Irfan's services started with the creation of a new school in SOFAR in the casa of ALEY(1978) and a third in DAHR EL AHMAR in southern BEKAA(1979) followed by the fourth in Hasbaya/ south Lebanon(1987). That expansion was renewed later in 1988 with the creation of Irfan's fifth branch in EL BSATINE (CASA of Aley). later in 1993 Irfan succeeded in topping its school development plans with its new secondary school that was erected in SEMKANIEH just few hundred meters away from its oldest and main branch where also sits the Hospital of the Establishment.



Irfan schools are all qualified as N.G.O.'s, as they are parts of the mother Irfan charitable est., therefore, and wherever they exist, Irfan schools implement the same educational and social service strategies drawn by the Irfan Est., and offer to their surrounding regions the same reliable, modern and quality proven educational services even when these services are offered on a non profit basis.

Irfan schools insure top quality education, and offer a large and considerable amount of aids and support to those who can't afford to pay for their children's tuition, thus protecting the unfortunate kids from losing their future chances and opportunities, by becoming lettered at least, or well educated at best, why, in both cases, and between the two extremes, they will have more chances in facing the future and its difficulties on all levels. Irfan works hard on making the new generations become more beneficial to their country and follow citizens.

Since its establishment in 1973, Irfan schools have always kept on improving on all: size, capacity and quality levels, and reached today a well respected position between its similar. Throughout the past ten years, Irfan School's management was able to regroup many of the most known professionals in the education field, and have put them to work in the service of some five thousand school kids and youngsters, of both sexes, in some 250 classrooms, supported by computer and science laboratories, audiovisual rooms and the best possible inside and outside activities programs.

In its continuous effort to realize a better future for our new generations, Irfan schools' management is carefully implementing a wide range of self development techniques, involving all its instructors and most of its managerial cadres, why, and since 1991, Irfan's management has fully reestablished and completely reformed its educational programs and teaching techniques, and has also completed the rehabilitation of many of Irfan's teachers, each in his/her own specialty. This training program is implemented either on local terrains in Lebanon or abroad in cooperation with Irfan's international cultural partners. New teaching techniques and the use of modern supporting utilities in education, added to special emphasis on languages are all items of interest on which Irfan's management fully concentrates and makes available to the students.

### ***IRFAN Schools' Education Support Program***

Responding to the critical economical situation, and to the, unfortunately, always degrading social conditions in Lebanon, even though war has already ended several years ago, Irfan's management keeps on executing its social relief plans as it did during the war, therefore, Irfan school, still takes in, hundreds of poor and unfortunate kids into the classrooms every year as a part of its continuing social support and relief program.

#### **"Approximate" yearly, tuitions reduction and support..**

<b>Number of orphan kids on the Irfan students roll</b>	<b>150 (full grants)</b>
<b>Number of most poor and unfortunate students</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Number of 40 to 60 % tuition grants</b>	<b>700</b>
<b>Number of 20 to 40 % tuition grants</b>	<b>1800</b>

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**Total amount of the grants** > **1500, 000 \$. / Year**

**Irfan schools** (general/ basic info).

<i>Number of Irfan's operating branches throughout LEBANON</i>	<b>006</b>
<i>Number of Irfan schools</i>	<b>010</b>
<i>Number of teachers, coordinators and education counselors</i>	<b>430</b>
<i>Number of other employees, (contractors, drivers)</i>	<b>120</b>
<i>Irfan School seats capacity</i>	<b>5000</b>

**(Irfan plans to reach the capacity of 6000 seats by the year 2010)**

Irfan schools yearly budget is mainly spent on two important and priority sectors, the first is on wages and salaries, while the second is spent on maintenance and for basic supplies and operation back up, especially transport, heating and buildings rehabilitation. Those two elements of the operation exhaust the budget and make it difficult for the management to implement the planned development projects. Therefore, Irfan depends on out of budget sources, like cooperation protocols or other cooperation means with local or international partners every time the need for development arises, or when it comes to major rehabilitation or main equipment projects.

Irfan School accords a special attention to modern technologies used in the teaching process thru the integration of modern audio-visual and computer supporting programs into its regular teaching curriculum, added to a wide range of multidisciplinary science and art laboratories put into the service of its teachers and students. Irfan's museum and art gallery that was inaugurated by the late Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik El Hariri, represents today a focus point of interest to Irfan's visitors, where are exposed hundreds of items, ranging from Irfan students top selection of science projects, to several pieces of artifacts, added to a particularly rare photos gallery showing a line of historic events and people that are, high up, and important in Irfan's history.

### ***The School's Mission Statement***

The founding of Irfan School in 1973 was not a simple coincidence. In fact, it was in response to real needs generated from the absence of sufficient number of schools in the rural regions of Mount Lebanon and southern Bekaa. Schools were then scarce and lacking the necessary cadres and seat capacity as to cope with the needs of the residents. That situation was then, the reason behind high numbers of illiteracy and unemployment in the mountainous and rural villages where agriculture was the main source of income.

Since 1973, Irfan was up to the challenge, why, and in less than 4 decades, Irfan schools' education policies made it possible for Irfan to reach the highest ranks of success in Lebanon. Thousands of students graduated from Irfan schools and hundreds of them already made it to the top on both scientific and professional levels. Irfan is proud of them all and is now preparing a new generation of talented and promising teenagers to follow on the path of success.

Irfan School's management plays today an important role on the national educational reform scene thru a set of advanced cooperation activities shared with the Lebanese governmental and non governmental authorities especially in the reform of the national teaching programs. Irfan specialists have already helped in developing the Lebanese educational system in cooperation with the national bodies and leagues of teachers and schools.

*Irfan offers today, private sector, quality education to the general public in an ambiance of a public school with the cost of an NGO, and that, is a true realization of Irfan's mission.*

### ***IRFAN's Social Action***

The economic recovery in Lebanon keeps on confronting many difficulties since the end of the war thus generating several severe social problems hitting hard and heavy at the doors of thousands of households especially in the rural and mountainous regions where sluggish and



unstable economic situations make it impossible for hundreds of families to recover. Thousands of social cases are generated from such conditions added to a high number of orphans, displaced, or families affected by displacement and war. No exact statistics are made on the national level so as to find out the number or percentage of families living under the line of poverty, and what is the number of orphans, nor is it possible to find out how many are unemployed and have financial problems but, what Irfan is sure of, is what it truly faces, daily, with some 3000 out of 4500 students enrolled in its six branches and are in need for care and support. This number includes orphans, poor and special case students.

*(Orphans and poor kids are in the hundreds, while special cases kids are those who come from families where the working parent is either sick or unemployed, the parents are divorced, etc...)*

Facing such a situation Irfan spends lots of efforts on finding or creating jobs for hundreds of unemployed parents, help in social reconciliation, teaching capable women, and girls over the age of 18 a selection of in-house professions thus creating sources of income without forcing women-parents to leave their households and on many occasions helping in financing equipment and accessories needed for such professions.

In line with this social development and care activity and to meet the requirements of the ministry of social affairs Irfan created a system of internal lodging for orphans and most poor kids to whom the ministry of social affairs offer a share of the needed support that Irfan offers already.

According to Lebanese laws, the Ministry of Social Affairs doesn't recognize the school's request to support orphans unless they are housed in a special home (internat). Irfan thinks that a natural family surrounding and a normal house and family life is more adequate both socially and psychologically for the children but the need for the governmental support presses and made it necessary for Irfan to create such a system of lodging and caring.

This "house for social care" project includes the creation of Six internat residences meant to cope with the basic needs of some 600 orphan and poor kids in the five regions where Irfan operates. Irfan concentrates presently on the good implementation of this most important social development and relief project with the cooperation of the ministry of social affairs and NGO's working in this field.

# *IRFAN* Medical Center

In 1980, seven years after its venture in the charitable educational service field, Irfan took up a new challenge with the creation of a dispensary and a field emergency medical operation meaning to cope with hundreds of war cases resulting from civil war, raging then in the capital and in Mount Lebanon.

Then, came the Israeli invasion of 1982 followed by the widening of the war zone thus creating an absolute need for a full service hospital, why roads to the capital were cut off thus preventing the mobilization of patients and war injured and also making it impossible to get medical supplies to the region.



Irfan's dispensary grew fast and became a general hospital in 1983. As war went on, that hospital project gained a tremendous amount of support from the side of the public who needed it badly, and from the side of the international emergency relief communities, why, Irfan hospital played then, in the Shouf region, the role of an emergency relief platform in the service of war victims of all political and confessional backgrounds without any discrimination whatsoever. IN 1983, Irfan was the only humanitarian hospital operating in the high and low Shouf regions of Mount Lebanon with a residents' count of more than two hundred thousand Lebanese citizens added to thousands of displaced families who fled to the inner Shouf away from war zones in the capital.

Since early 1990, Irfan hospital formally known as "Irfan medical center" was subject to several development and rehabilitation projects implemented by the mother Irfan Establishment in the process of; repairing war damages first, and development later, thus hoping to bring the hospital up to the expectations of the community and to fulfill the needs of the public. Two new floors were added to the hospital with the support of save the children for the first and the European Community, for the second, while the French and the American and the Japanese cooperation programs played a major role in equipping the new floors and some times in the rehabilitation process that was implemented all along the period falling between 1990 and 2005.

Alongside the major projects mentioned above other smaller projects were also implemented with several local and international donors especially YMCA, CARITAS, the international red cross and crescent, world vision, the catholic relief, and many others...

### **Irfan hospital offers the following services:**

- \* *External out patients service (six clinics).*
- \* *ORL, Ophthalmology, endocrinology and dermatology.*
- \* *Gynecology and obstetrics (specialized service)*
- \* *Cardiology, Gastro-enterology, and internal medicine.*
- \* *Pediatrics and neo-natology (specialized service)*
- \* *Physical and functional rehabilitation. (Specialized service)*
- \* *Emergency medical and surgical services.*
- \* *General and orthopedic surgeries.*
- \* *Medical imagery service, Radio, Echo and CT scan.*
- \* *Medical Laboratories*
- \* *A chronic medication dispensing service.*

### **Medical beds, disciplines and disposition:**

**(As per presently available spaces and equipment)**

- *35 beds reserved for hospitalization and surgeries.*
- *8 beds for infants and neo-natology.*
- *3 beds reserved for emergency and observation.*
- *4 day beds reserved for physical rehabilitation.*

### **Irfan hospital monthly service capacity:**

**(As per presently available spaces and equipment)**

- *1200 day/bed hospitalization a month.*
- *300 Emergency interventions.*
- *> 150 surgical interventions and major surgeries.*
- *> 50 deliveries.*
- *1500 out patients' consultations.*
- *1000 Medical imagery acts.( R.X, ultrasound, C.T )*
- *3500 Laboratory tests.*
- *> 180 physical rehabilitation sessions.*
- *Numerous other medical activities (Endoscopies, E.C.G, etc.)*
- *Several hundred chronic medicine dispensing.*

Irfan hospital offers its medical services on a non profit basis while poor and underprivileged patients receive free medical attention added to follow-ups including medications and transportation when necessity is confirmed.

The signed protocols and agreements with the ministry of health, the social security fund and the different governmental and non governmental health insurance agencies have proven to be insufficient to cope with real numbers and types of cases needing medical attention thus making it most necessary for Irfan's own social fund to cover the needs of the citizens for what exceeds the above mentioned protocols.

This situation has negative repercussions affecting the operational budget of the hospital as it limits, if not, prevents Irfan's capability to implement the most needed development and rehabilitation projects, including medical equipment replacement and reconstruction.

Consequent to that situation, and to cope with the needs of the public, Irfan recurs to fund raising and to partnerships with many of its friends and supporters locally and internationally with the aim of developing its services and renewing its equipment when the need arises. This cooperation already helped the hospital in developing its medical cadres thru an important twinning partnership signed with the hospital of ST. Maurice in Paris /France.

Facing the always growing need from the side of the public, and responding to the governmental calls and encouragement by the ministry of health, Irfan and other N.G.O.'s are still trying to offer the necessary medical services to those who need it and can't afford its cost, therefore, and to do so, N.G.O. hospitals like ours, are obliged to spend most of their budgets on covering the cost of the services they offer to the public free of charge thus making it very difficult to develop, expand infrastructures, or to renew the old, aging or broken down equipments presently used.

In front of the above mentioned situation, Irfan still hopes to keep on cooperating with its partners, in order to be able to develop the hospital services' quality and quantity in close cooperation with the Lebanese government and ministries, and according to the overall national future planning, and projected aims and goals set to reach by the ministry of health. We also hope to find new partners in this field, with whom we can cooperate and work together for the sake of those Lebanese who need us on their side, in their effort towards reaching a better future for the new Lebanon and its new generations.

## The Association of “*Friends of IRFAN*”

Facing the numerous difficulties laying ahead of Irfan’s March and mission and in order to insure the necessary support and protection to Irfan’s social role and humanitarian operation, the association of “ Friends of Irfan” was founded in 2004.

This new endeavor was the result of an effort from the side of Irfan’s most trusted and concerned friends under the close care and the aegis of H.E Mr. Walid Joumlatt. This association brought together an elite of most honorable personalities and distinguished dignitaries representing all the Lebanese communities and regions with the task of:



- *Insuring the necessary back up for Irfan to realize its goals, and, supporting the cultural and social role Irfan plays as a national scene for dialogue between the Lebanese communities.*
- *Offering, to Irfan, the convenient support for the realization of its humanitarian and social mission thru a financial support program destined to insure education and care to the underprivileged kids and to offer university scholarships to excelling Irfan graduates.*
- *Supporting Irfan in its relation with the Lebanese governmental authorities in view of insuring the best possible social support and relief contract returns that Irfan signs annually with the different governmental and public insurance agencies and administrations.*
- *Backing up Irfan in its relations with local and international NGO’s aiming towards insuring the needed resources so Irfan can realize its programmed development and rehabilitation projects especially the ones related to professional cadres, materials, and buildings.*

## ***FOR ANY MATERIAL DONATION***

### **1- Please inform us, at least one month ahead of time:**

*a- Type of intended donation*

*b- Items, quantity and quality of the donation*

*c- Source and logistical info related to the donation*

*d- Donor contact and correspondence full coordinates*

**(We prefer receiving what meets exactly our needs and what supports our preplanned development activities)**

### **2- If we find the donation acceptable and needed in any of our fields of service:**

*a- We will call back for approval and will discuss details*

### **3- For shipping by air or sea, please follow this procedure:**

*a- Have the donation packed in the fewest number of packages*

*b- Inform us please ahead of time and alternately:*

*1st: Volume, weight and no.: of packages*

*2nd: Shipping line or agents*

*3rd: Arrival time, date, flight or ship no: or name*

*c- Please include in the shipping file, a letter specifying the following:*

*1- Donor identity information and references*

*2- Beneficiary name and references*

*3- Detailed information concerning the donation and the items it includes, especially name, type, approximate, real time; condition, cost price or value*

*4- Specify exactly that it is given away for no charge and that it is destined to non lucrative use*

**\* Please call us for other type of donations or cooperation.**

*Thanks to all donors and friends.*