



Dormitories at Dr. M. Khaled (Ouzai – Beirut) co-funded by Barclays Bank (through Lebanon United), and Think Lebanon – \$60,000 (07-08)

The Foundation, located in the Ouzai region (Beirut), was established in 1958 by late Dr. Mohamad Khaled. It includes an orphanage that shelters 442 children from the age of 4 to 15, a school that is also open free of charge to a number of non resident children, a clinic and a medical rehabilitation center. The children's facilities are spread over an 8,000m² property.



Dr. Khaled began his social work in the early 30's with the opening of a clinic in the Basta region (Beirut), and later the Makassed where he is remembered for having performed hundreds of operations for free. As per his will, the Foundation was placed in 1985 under the auspices of the Islamic Council, headed by the Mufti of the Republic. The Foundation is financially independent and run by a director nominated by a Board designated by the Council.

In contrast to the environment, which must have prevailed in its early years, the orphanage is now in the midst of particularly populous and noisy surroundings for its 440 resident children. One readily notes the tightness of the accommodation, an impression maybe further influenced by its location. The children are encouraged, when possible, to rejoin their relatives at least twice a month, and during the holiday seasons.

The orphanage has 16 dormitories with areas ranging between 90 m² and 130 m² with on average, 24 children sleeping in each of them. The sleeping area was redesigned a few years back when there were just 5 large very spaces. Although the divisions are now adequate, the set up in each dormitory is very impersonal but most importantly the metal beds and closets are a hazard for the children. They are over 30 years old, need constant repairs and are causes of accidents (falling over, bumping into them etc...). The mattresses also need to be replaced. The positioning of the metal closets is also cumbersome as it occupies too much space.

The plan, worked on by an interior architect, was to bring in bunker wooden beds in an L shape form, incorporate cupboards in the structure itself for ease of access and economy of space, add children decorative element, improve the lighting and paint the walls .

The project was completed in September 2008. Please find below how the dormitories were before and after the rehabilitation. Pictures speak better than words.

Before



After

Girls section



Boys section

