The main objective of René Moawad Foundation is to promote education, social, economic, health and human development.

**Education**

In the belief that education is a prerequisite for sustainable economic and human development, RMF is proud to be a leader in combating child labor throughout Lebanon through the ACCESS Project funded by the US Department of Labor.

Through its center in – Bab El Tebbaneh – Tripoli – RMF helps 140 working children and their families on a yearly basis. It helps reintegrate working children into the community and supports children at risk of dropping out of school. Bab El Tebbaneh is considered the poorest and most over-populated neighborhood in Lebanon according to a recent UNDP study.
Different educational sessions for working children at the RMF’s center in Tripoli

During the end of year ceremony in Tripoli - School support project, funded by the US Embassy in Beirut - Small grants program
Inaugurated in 2012, the soccer court is a project funded by RMF USA and CMA CGM Corporate Foundation. Located in Mejdlaya over 800 m², the covered outdoor court with artificial grass turf allows youngsters from Zgharta-Zawyeh Caza and various parts of North Lebanon to enjoy sport activities all year long. The court also offers the children from the Bab El Tebbaneh Center a chance to enjoy various activities in a secure and healthy environment.
**Vocational/Technical Institute**

In response to the poor level of education in the rural areas of the North, RMF established a technical Institute to help the youth join the labor market.

The René Moawad Technical Institute opened for the school year 2012-2013 and signed a joint venture agreement with the Ministry of Education. Practically, this means that the students only pay registration fees (from $180 to $310) while the Ministry covers running costs including teacher salaries. The building that is being currently used is on the campus of the Foundation and is located midway between Zgharta and Tripoli, which is accessible to students from the North of Lebanon, including Minnieh, Denniyeh and Akkar.

So, we are proud to say that young Christians and Muslims students study together within 19 technical specialties of varying degree certifications ranging from pastry cooking, medical equipment maintenance to heating and cooling. They get to know each other and develop friendships reinforced by organized sport activities.
Health Care

With an agreement with International Medical Corps (IMC), RMF maintains three mobile clinics that serve more than 200 remote villages in the North of Lebanon by providing free health care and basic medications. We treat nearly 32,000 patients a year including those visiting our clinic in Zgharta in North Lebanon.

More than 18,000 patients have benefited from the mobile clinic services among which some are Syrian refugees. This makes the average of patients examined and treated by the mobile team almost 300 patients per week. The examined cases are reported monthly by RMF to IMC and subsequently to UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees).
**Habitat For Humanity Project**

With the help of Habitat for Humanity, RMF is renovating dilapidated houses for poor families in Zgharta Caza while ensuring safe and healthy practices.

*A before and after pictures of the renovated houses*
**Rural and Agricultural Development**

We have been very active in rural and agricultural development knowing that more than 40% of the Lebanese make their living from this sector.

RMF believes that developing agriculture is key to keep people living in rural areas and prevent farmers from migrating to the cities, where they end up living in poor conditions. We encourage farmers to raise livestock to increase their income by offering training sessions to teach them how to enhance the quality and quantity of their dairy products and improve the milk processing.

RMF provides farmers ongoing technical assistance and purchases their daily production which is processed in RMF’s dairy factory which was established with the support of USAID and EU. The dairy products are sold on the local market under the name of “Marj”.

"Marj" dairy product - Production Facility
The USAID-funded BALADI Program

(Building Alliance for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment)

Baladi focuses on promoting local development through municipalities and civil society by teaching good governance and leadership with the different actors in their constituency. BALADI gives the people and the municipalities the opportunity to improve their own community by submitting projects with both economic and social benefits. This is one of RMF’s largest and most important projects.

In 2013, BALADI project announced a first call for municipal applications for needed community development projects and selected 17 projects (out of 145 submitted) for receiving USAID assistance. Out of the 17 selected projects, nine (9) projects were executed by RMF and implemented in partnership with 36 municipalities and villages collaborating with 43 local organizations to benefit and improve the livelihoods of more than 160,000 persons by 2017. This is done through:

- **Income generation activities in rural tourism** under the Barouk-Freydiss rural-tourism project in Chouf, the Bentael Green Shell eco-park project in Edde Jbeil and Kousba public park project in Koura;
- **Socio-economic activities** through the economic hub established for Jounieh fishermen in Keserwan;
- **Agri-business activities** through the Ehmej cold storage facility in Jbeil and olive table processing facility in Jezzine;
- **Improved irrigation infrastructure** like the Bazbina water network in Akkar;
- **Improved public services** such as youth vocational training center in Abra, Saida; and,
- **Improved health services** like the Deir Eimar blood testing laboratory in Minnieh-Dinnieh.

BALADI project announced the second call for municipal applications on January 15, 2015 and received 118 applications from 213 municipalities (more than 20% of all municipalities in Lebanon). Out of the 18 applications, 69 proposed projects fall under RMF portfolio. Under the second round, RMF will assist at least 20 municipal-led community development activities that respond to the program’s criteria.
Some pictures of various projects under USAID BALADI Program implemented by René Moawad Foundation.

"Green Shell" The Ecological Adventure Park - Bentael Nature Reserve

Deir Eimar blood testing laboratory in Minnieh-Dinnieh
“Promoting Rural Tourism in Barouk-Fraidiss” project comprises the rehabilitation of the existing Rashid Nakhle center to host an information desk and cultural library, the development of a 19 km-hiking trail called the “Barouk-Fraidiss Patriotic Trail” to allow hike lovers to discover the beautiful sceneries of the Barouk-Fraidiss area; “Shouf Lebnen Bil Barouk” festival that includes a big exhibition for local products and handicrafts, in addition to several entertaining, cultural and culinary activities that help promote rural production and revive the economy of the Barouk-Fraidiss village and neighboring villages.
**SUDEP (Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects)**

RMF is also pioneering the use of renewable energy in the North thanks to **SUDEP (Sustainable Urban Demonstration Projects)** Funded by the European Union. RMF is working with five villages in Zgharta district (*Ardeh, Harf Ardeh, Beit Awkar & Beit Obeid*) to install solar panels to produce hot water leading to energy saving, energy efficiency and more use of renewable energy sources. **SUDEP** helps poor households, but also assists middle class families by giving them access to low interest loans to install solar energy panels.

We are encouraging other municipalities in the North to implement the same system.

René Moawad Foundation also tackled the water shortage issue and implemented a successful project in the village of Meryata, North Lebanon titled “Coping Efficiently with Water Scarcity and Empowering people to Effectively Manage Water”. RMF eased the water access to Meryata via pipelines to stop water scarcity and helped 8,500 beneficiaries (4500 Syrian refugees and 4000 affected Lebanese) where 55% of them are women. RMF also instructed the residents of Meryata about the rational consumption of water and delivered 500 aerators to 500 households in order to sustain the project’s activities.
**BIAT (Business Incubation Association in Tripoli)**

Another very important project for RMF is BIAT (Business Incubation Association in Tripoli), which was funded by the European Union in partnership with the Tripoli Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, together with Mutual fund, product research & development plant (PRDP) and under the supervision of the Lebanese Ministry of Economy and Trade of Lebanon. BIAT’s mission is to identify, incubate, host, and support new business start-ups by helping them develop sound business plans and find funding to grow their businesses.

*For more info and details on Rene Moawad Foundation kindly check:*

- [http://www.rmf.org.lb](http://www.rmf.org.lb)
- Facebook/René Moawad Foundation – LB

One of Lebanon’s worsening challenges is the limited public services and insufficient local development initiatives the government provides to citizens. Municipalities throughout Lebanon are straining their resources to provide basic services for citizens and Syrian refugees.

The USAID-funded Building Alliance for Local Advancement, Development, and Investment (BALADI) project, which started in September of 2012 and expected to end in September 2017, is providing in-kind grants and technical assistance to enable municipalities implement local development activities based on a national competitive process for solicitation of municipal applications. RMF/USAID assistance is up to $200,000 (in-kind) with a required 20% contribution from counter-part communities.

Rene Moawad Foundation [RMF] is a lead implementing partner of BALADI national project. Under this project, RMF is targeting 502 municipalities in 12 districts in Lebanon [constituting half of the municipalities in Lebanon].

To date, the BALADI project has helped municipalities partner with local NGOs and the private sector to creatively maneuver and overcome financial and human resource constraints when planning and implementing local development activities. Since 2014, RMF has implemented 9 local development activities as a result of its first call of municipal applications.

In January 2015, RMF launched a second call for municipal-led local development projects and received 69 municipal applications. RMF selected 22 new local development activities for receiving USAID assistance in 2016 in the following economic sectors which will improve the sales of more than 3,000 microenterprises by 2017.

As such and in 2017, RMF would have completed 31 out of 31 activities:

**Akkar**

Improvement and rehabilitation of the irrigation water conveyance network in **Bazbina** [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Generation of electricity for **Menjez** village through photovoltaic panels [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Improvement and rehabilitation of the irrigation water conveyance network in **Tal Aabass** [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establishing a center that hosts back offices for private companies to employ people from **Akkar** [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establishing a community events area and equipping a computer center in the public school of **Hrar** [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Generation of electricity for fishing market and poor shop owners in **Bebnine El Abde** village through photovoltaic panels [RMF/BALADI Round 2]
**Batroun**
Enhancing recreational youth activities and rural tourism in Douma [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Reviving the cultural and ecological sites in the Tannourine village [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

**Bcharre**
Improving ecotourism in Bcharre region [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establishing a community garden and a space for events in Hadath El Jebbeh [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

**Jbeil**
Establishment of an eco-touristic activities park at the Bentael Natural reserve [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Establishment of a cold storage, sorting and packaging facility for apples and other fruits in Ehmej [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Establishment of an eco-tourism area in Fatri [RMF/BALADI Round 2] [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

**Jezzine**
Establishing an olive table processing facility in Roum, Jezzine [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Improving ecotourism in Jezzine [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establishing a chocolate production workshop in Kaitouly to provide working opportunities and income for the local village residents [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

**Keserwan**
Building an entrepreneurial hub for the fishing sector in Jounieh [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Establishment of a socio cultural and rural tourism center in Yahchouch [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

**Koura**
Establishment of a community public park [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Generation of electricity for the Beshmezzine village through installation of renewable energy [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

**Minnieh - Dinnieh**
Establishment of a blood testing laboratory in Deir Amar [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Improvement and rehabilitation of the irrigation water conveyance network in Bhanine [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Improvement and rehabilitation of the irrigation water conveyance network in Korsayta [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establishing a potable water network for Imar village [RMF/BALADI Round 2]
Shouf

Promoting Sustainable Tourism in the Barouk-Freydiss area [RMF/BALADI Round 1]

Establishment of a center for converting pruned branches into briquettes for heating homes in Batloun [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establishing an ecological and tourist Area in Bshatfine [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Installing irrigation canals and rehabilitating an artificial lake in Maaser El Shouf [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Saida

Establishment of a youth vocational, IT training and job placement center and rehabilitation of an event venue to host local products exhibits and festival [RMF/BALADI Round 1].

Zgharta

Generation of electricity for the Kfaryachit village through renewable energy [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Establish a socio-economic and sports center in Toula [RMF/BALADI Round 2]

Although great impact has been already noted in BALADI areas, the need for such initiatives is still crucial especially with the high level of centralization, deteriorating socio-economic conditions, increased pressure of refugees and hence increased demand on public services.

RMF is daily approached by municipalities, unions and villages to extend the program to allow them to benefit from the program similarly to other selected municipalities.