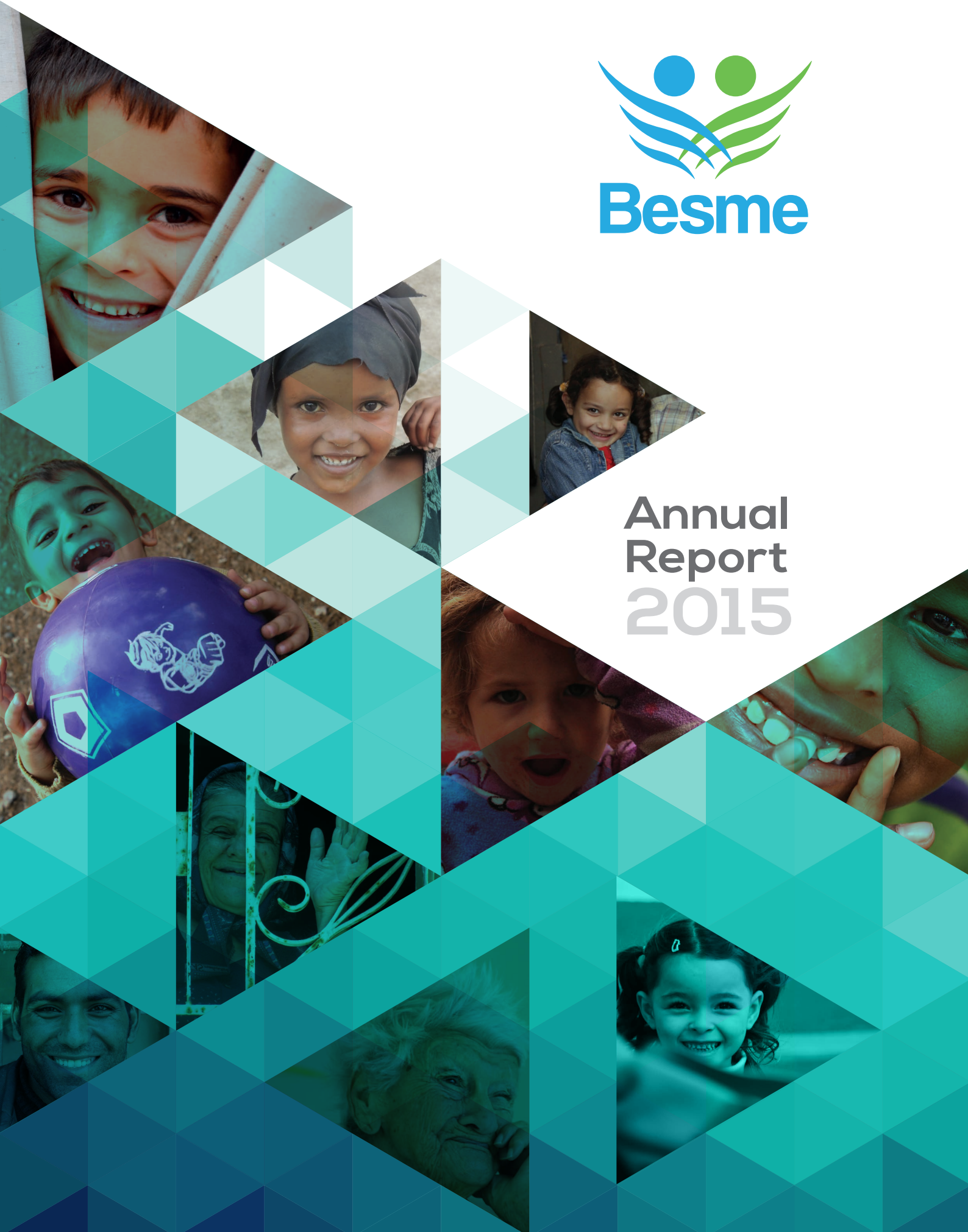




# Annual Report 2015





International  
Group for  
Humanitarian  
Assistance

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## PREFACE

Bringing together the years of regional and international experience within civil society activities, Besme was settled in Lebanon in September 2014, in order to contribute to the peaceful settlement of regional conflicts in Middle East. Through a route, which is full of difficulties, we managed to leave the year of 2015 behind, with successful and effective projects. We reckon 2015 as a year of investment for Besme. Reinvigorating the individual connections of management team at national, regional and international levels, we assume that a great step forward was taken for future. In the road of achieving something good for humanitarian causes, we believe that our courageous steps will be supported more in 2015.

In addition to other civil society actions taken by Besme, with the construction of a community center in South Lebanon, Besme has taken the plunge for the benefit of the people in the south. Besides, Besme intends to help meeting the challenges of local people and refugees at the borderline from South to North Lebanon, including all regions. We aim at carrying smiles to the faces, happiness and joy to the hearts of those who are deprived from them.

Besme will be working harder in 2016, in order to reach more people in need. To this end the research project, concerning the quality of living in Beirut will lead our way in Lebanon. Furthermore, in addition to our involvement in Yemen and Syria, we are planning to be more active in regional countries with conflicts or with the risk of armed struggle.

We are proud to present you the annual report of Besme, which includes all the activities covered by the company in a short span of a year after its birth. We'd like to thank our local, national and international partner organizations, who we mainly rely on while executing an activity, which is not an easy task to finalize without cooperation.

Yours sincerely.

**Gulshan Saghlam**

*General Manager*

Besme Co.



# I. INTRODUCTION OF BESME



## i. Who We Are

Besme is a non-profit company that abides by the principles of an NGO and independent of any governmental, political or religious affiliation. It is operated by a qualified team of professionals who have considerable experience in the humanitarian field in Turkey, Cyprus, Central Asia, and the Arab countries, including Lebanon. Based in Beirut, Besme employs associate experts and consultants working on a project basis.

## ii. Vision

Our vision is to draw smile on people's faces by improving the quality of human life as we provide people with various kinds of research-based humanitarian assistance.

## iii. Mission

Besme endeavors to respond to humanitarian crises and build resilience through sustainable livelihood and social stability projects.

## iv. Values

At Besme, actions are conducted for the sake of the others. All of our work is based on respect for the inherent worth of all people and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is our guideline.

### *Impartiality*

We respect a strict political, religious and ethnical impartiality by operating without any discrimination. Moreover Besme staff is well aware of the sensitivity to the moral values, religions, customs, cultures and traditions of the communities it serve.

### *Accountability*

We take personal pride in being accountable to our partners, supporters and most importantly to the communities we serve. Besme follows the existing framework of the 'Humanitarian Accountability Partnership' and 'Do No Harm Approach' both referred by the UNDP.

### *Collaboration*

At Besme we value experience and knowledge, thus we are always seeking to develop partnerships with other organizations implementing similar or complementary projects in our area of intervention. We believe in the necessity to partner and leverage the global strength of the humanitarian community in order to achieve greater goals.

## v. Scope

The main purpose of Besme is to be present in those areas requiring crisis management as a result of natural disasters and armed conflicts. Being involved in crisis management from the preliminary phase onwards, that is, providing relief supplies to people in need, Besme aims to improve the living conditions of communities in conflict-affected regions. Besme believes that fighting poverty in regions of conflict and crisis, whether stemming from an influx of refugees from neighboring countries or created by unstable internal political and economic conditions, should be the main concern of civil society. However, preventing the crisis in regions of conflict and improving the situation after the crisis, also occupy certain place within Besme activities.

# I. INTRODUCTION OF BESME

Derived from the conventional definition of livelihood, which includes the components of food, water, shelter and clothing, Besme promotes social and cultural means, so as to avoid social exclusion of people below the poverty line. Being aware of the fact that, particularly in the Middle East, social exclusion tends to lead to radicalization of individuals between the ages of 15 and 45, thus increasing the possibility of devoting themselves to certain armed groups on the basis of their religious or ideological beliefs, Besme attaches great importance to the broader concept of sustainable livelihood. To this end, in addition to being prepared for any rapid emergency response, Besme seeks to develop projects related to health care, education and socio-economic development, which, in turn, will also lead to the improved livelihoods of those urgently in need.

## vii. Target Groups

Besme views children, youth and women as its main target groups. In this context, Besme refers to the World Bank's draft document 'Investing in Children and Youth: A Strategy to Fight Poverty, Reduce Inequality and Promote Human Development', which defines the age group 0-14 years as children and 15-24 year as youth.

## viii. Methodology

Besme intends to work on effective and sustainable projects. To achieve our goals, we rely on the results of scientific research in order to make the necessary consultation and to generate tailored solutions for basic humanitarian needs. In addition, Besme thoroughly considers all information collected in the field. We are willing to partner with local organizations, such as municipalities and community associations, in order to make the necessary context adaptations, and hence to work on accurate strategies and implement indigenous programs.

## ix. Location

Besme is centered in Beirut – an important intersection point, both demographically and geographically, in Lebanon and in the Middle East as a whole. Ever since the start of the Lebanese Civil War in 1975, political instability still reigns in the country, particularly now, with the increasing spill-over effects of the current Syrian Civil War. In addition to the Palestinian refugees in the country, the influx of Syrian refugees since 2011 has deteriorated basic living conditions across Lebanon. In this context, concerned with Lebanon as a whole, while focusing primarily on Beirut, the South and Akkar.

In South Lebanon, Besme concentrates on the Hasbaya Al-Arqoub area. The level of socio-economic development is extremely low in this region due to the internal migration towards Beirut and the lack of government engagement, as well as due to the conflict at the southern border of Lebanon. In Akkar, Besme's activities are concerned with the villages of Aydamoun and Kuashra, where Lebanese Turkmens reside. Furthermore, Beirut's poor suburbs are always high on our agenda.

Parallel to developing local projects in Lebanon, Besme seeks to form international partnerships, particularly in the Arab countries, so as to bundle and synergize humanitarian efforts in a region that is subject to on-going turmoil. Until now, Besme has been closely observing the situation in Syria and Yemen.

Through a well-drawn strategy, Besme desires to carry out effective and sustainable activities in Lebanon, as well as increasing its network and visibility at regional level via mutual and bilateral collaborations.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### A. Besme Opening Ceremony

Besme held its opening ceremony at Riviera Hotel in the presence of Mr. Rafic Chlala, advisor of the Presidency, Mr. Fahmi Karami, advisor to the Minister of Social Affairs representative of Mr. Rashid Derbas and Turkish Ambassador in Lebanon Mr. Süleyman İnan Özyıldız on April 14th, 2015. Around 200 invitees representing local and international and international NGOs in Lebanon and a brief presentation about Besme was made by the General Manager Mrs. Gulshan Saglam.



# II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

## B. Besme Support for Empowerment

### i. Empowerment for University Students

Besme believes that art is an important component of human development. Especially during a period of conflict, the need for cultural support increases. It should be noted that, even during a time of armed conflict, intellectual development of people remains critical for the promotion of artistic activities as a means to counter armed actions. Therefore, we consider cultural support as an important aspect of humanitarian assistance and development. In this context, Besme organized a Photography Contest under the Patronage of His Excellency, Minister of Social Affairs of Lebanon, Mr. Rashid Derbas, in March 2015.

The contest was a launching project for Besme, which, moreover, meant to serve as a mechanism to support talented university students. Besides, the contest aimed at directing the attention of youth away from the effects of radical armed movements active in the region and towards artistic creation that will contribute the progress of humanity. Mr. Jamal Saidi, Honorary President of the Lebanese Union of Photographers and chief photographer at Reuters, was the Head of the Jury, and was accompanied by privileged Lebanese photographers Dr. Salih Rifai and Dr. Rania Mouawad. The theme "what besme (smile) means to you" was meant to promote creativity among young photographers with regard to moments that are intrinsically humane.



International  
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Under the Auspices of his Excellency Minister of Social Affairs, Mr. Rashid Derbas

## BESME PHOTO CONTEST

What besme\* means to you?  
ماذا تعني لك  
بسمه؟

\*besme means "Smile"

Conditions	Jury	Prizes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Between 3 to 5 photos</li> <li>Coloured or Black &amp; White, Digital resolution 300dpi</li> <li>No mobile photos</li> <li>No photoshopped photos &amp; no editing</li> <li>The deadline is on 10 March 2015</li> <li>The contest is just for the university students</li> <li>Send the photos with your full name &amp; contact details to info@besme-int.org</li> </ol>	<p>With the Supervision of Privileged Jury Members</p>	<p>1st prize: 1500\$</p> <p>2nd prize: 1000\$</p> <p>3rd prize: 500\$</p>



More than 600 works of 107 students from Lebanese universities all around the country well reflected the idea behind the event. Smiles of Syrian refugee children, Lebanese elderly, Palestinian girls and boys, and many others gathered at the exhibition that was held on 14 April 2015 which was also Besme's launching activity. To encourage youth to engage in photography, Besme presented the top five works with an award.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



### B. Besme Support for Empowerment

#### ii. Women Empowerment

Besme pays particular attention to the empowerment of women. In order to give women the opportunity to start-up their own businesses, Besme is working on a small business program which provides women with crucial start-up equipment. In March 2015 three women in the village of Hebbarieh in South Lebanon were granted kitchen utensils and hairdresser equipment so as to enable them to contribute to their family income. The grants were submitted upon an agreement which states that the grantees will pay back 30% of their annual income so that, in turn, Besme can finance other local micro entrepreneur initiatives for women in the region. We are committed to track the progress of these small businesses for the next three-year period via our South Lebanon Coordinator. The grantees will, moreover, benefit from workshops and vocational training on entrepreneurship and marketing. Our aim is to spread this project to neighboring villages.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



Title	<b>Women Empowerment Through Small Businesses</b>
Duration	36 months
Region	Hebbarieh, Hasbaya Al-Arkoub
Overall Objective	Build and enhance the socio-economic capacity of rural women, support them to gain capacity for economic existence in the market and encourage them to contribute the income of their society.
Target Beneficiaries	50 rural women
Final Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families of these women</li> <li>• Social environment to which they belong</li> <li>• Market</li> <li>• Local authorities</li> </ul>
Estimated Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural women gain awareness on their socio-economic rights</li> <li>• Improving income generation opportunities and livelihood of households</li> <li>• Improving knowledge and life skills after vocational trainings</li> <li>• Encouraging existence of women in markets</li> </ul>
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing project steering committee</li> <li>• Preparing needs assessment report and determining the names of the women who will support financially</li> <li>• Signing agreement with beneficiaries including the statement of paying %30 of their annual profit back to Besme only for utilizing to support another woman</li> <li>• Life skill and vocational trainings for women</li> <li>• Awareness sessions on women rights in civil law and family law.</li> <li>• Training women on food safety, quality control, pricing, drying, packaging, marketing and preservation techniques</li> </ul>
Evaluation of Project	1. April 2015, four women in Hebbarieh were granted with startup business equipments.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### C. Besme Support for Education

#### i. Besme Study on the Quality of the Living

Being aware of the fact that the results of academic field research is vital to develop and implement successful projects, Besme decided to execute a research project in Beirut. To this end, in February 2015 Besme concluded an agreement with Thrakos Research Center to execute a research project which aims to map the prevailing living conditions of Beirutis, particularly in the poor districts. In order to promote the concept of sustainable livelihood in Beirut (the center of the country) and hence to spread the idea to other parts of Lebanon, the study is intended to be a pilot project for Besme.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



Title	<b>Study of the Reality of Living &amp; Health in Lebanon Project</b>
Duration	12 months
Region	Beirut
Overall Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Drawing overall demographic situation of Beirut</li> <li>2. Creating an updated and concrete data for people's real situation</li> <li>3. Clarifying the needs and shortages of the people especially in education and health sector</li> <li>4. Determining the activities for meeting the needs of people</li> </ol>
Contractor	Thrakos Research Center
Target Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor people in outskirts of Beirut</li> <li>• NGOs and other institutions need data</li> </ul>
Final Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living in Beirut</li> <li>• NGOs, local companies and international organizations need data</li> <li>• Public enterprises and government agencies</li> </ul>
Estimated Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updating the overall demographic situation in health &amp; education sectors in Beirut</li> <li>• Promoting the data for government bodies and NGOs about needs and lacks of people</li> <li>• Creating roots and giving right directions for future humanitarian aids</li> </ul>
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Literature review of similar researches made before by NGOs, international organizations and public enterprises</li> <li>• Visiting and collecting data from health centers and schools of sample region</li> <li>• Bringing together the collecting data and literature review results and preparing reports, creating updated maps and tables</li> </ul>

As of October 2015, data collecting and literature review phases of the project is completed and after the evaluation and analyzing of the statistical data, graphics and tables, it is planned to publish the report in the first quarter of 2016.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### C. Besme Support for Education

#### ii. Besme as the Representative of the Near East University and the University of Kyrenia

As a result of Besme's effort to promote and encourage higher education opportunities for Lebanese and Syrian youth, Besme and the Near East University (NEU) – Cyprus signed an agreement. Besme was promoted as representative of NEU and University of Kyrenia, in Lebanon and Syria until the end of June 2016.

Near East University is considered to be one of the most highly regarded academic institutions in the Middle East. NEU offers a world-class education to over 24,000 students from 65 countries with 17 faculties, 92 departments, 5 graduate schools, 4 vocational schools and 28 research centers. On the other hand the University of Kyrenia is the first university of Cyprus specializing the Maritime and Aviation studies with 36 years of background in maritime studies. Beside from maritime expertise, University of Kyrenia with 4 faculties, 15 departments, 1 graduate school, 1 vocational school and 1 academy provides a diverse educational opportunity for students who are willing and are capable to conquer the elements of the sea and air.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



### C. Besme Support for Education

#### iii. Besme Partnership with Lebanese International University

Since Besme encourages education and doing its best to create opportunities for youth in Lebanon, Besme concluded an agreement with Lebanese International University (LIU) and assured 30% and 40% discounts for newly registered students in all its campuses except for the Faculty of Pharmacy.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### D. Besme Support for Health

#### i. Distribution of Medical Insurance Cards

Upon the partnership agreement signed between Besme and Alwake3 Culture and Social Association, Besme became a part of the project, which aims at distributing health insurance cards for unassured workers between the ages of 18-45 in cooperation with UFA Insurance Company.

Installing the concept of sustainable livelihood at the core, Besme is very keen to intervene directly in the livelihood of people, through finding necessary funds. In this context, Besme consigned health insurance cards for 100 Lebanese citizens who have neither state nor private health insurance. In association with UFA Insurance Company which issued the cards, Besme secured 100 people in Beirut and Akkar with crucial health care for a one-year period.

Working together with Jil Mustakbel Association and Kurdish Lebanese Charity Association in Beirut, as well as with Lebanese-Turkish associations in the villages of Aydamoun and Kuashra in Akkar, Besme compiled a list of people who would receive the cards. At two separate events, on 11 June 2015 in Beirut and on 15 June 2015 in Akkar, following a short presentation about their rights and responsibilities drawn in the insurance agreement, assigned card holders received their insurance cards.

Being involved directly with the livelihood of 100 people, Besme helps them reserving a certain amount of their household income, which would otherwise be spent on health issues. Hence, Besme provides these people with an opportunity to allocate this amount to other basic family needs.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



Title	<b>Distribution of Medical Insurance Cards Project</b>
Duration	12-24 months
Region	Beirut, Akkar
Overall Objective	Securing the Lebanese citizens' rights in receiving medical and health services for vulnerable people
Partner	AlWake3 Cultural and Social Association
Target Beneficiaries	100 non-insured Lebanese-Turkish citizens of youth (between the ages of 18-45 years old)
Final Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Families of these non-insured Lebanese citizens</li> <li>• Hospitals, health clinics and medical centers</li> <li>• Insurance company (UFA)</li> <li>• Government agencies</li> </ul>
Estimated Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing medical care for those who has no insurance and in need of health support</li> <li>• Securing the right of healthy living and having medical assistance of 100 people between the ages of 18 and 45.</li> <li>• Promoting medical support and medical consultancy of the families of these selected most needed people.</li> </ul>
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing an agreement with the insurance company – UFA - about providing insurance cards for those people</li> <li>• Establishing eligibility committee to determine the most needed people that meet the criteria for having these cards which are Lebanese citizens, between the ages of 18-45 and economically in need.</li> <li>• Identify the 100 people, who will get medical insurance cards regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, national or social status, political affiliation or any other discrimination.</li> <li>• Public ceremony for distributing the cards to the selected people.</li> </ul>
Evaluation of Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 11 June 2015, 60 medical insurance cards were distributed to needy people in Beirut</li> <li>• On 15 June 2015, 40 medical insurance cards were distributed to needy people in Akkar (Kuashra and Aydamoun villages)</li> </ul>
Final Result	100 people got insurance cards to utilize for any of their health problems for one year
Follow-up Activities	1. Feedback from the beneficiaries.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



### D. Besme Support for Health

#### ii. Psychological Support for Palestinian Children and Women

On 12-13 and 14 August, in partnership with Nashet, Besme organized and financed a three-day long summer program, titled "Peace for Everybody" which provided psychosocial support to 400 Palestinian refugees living in Ein el Hilwee refugee camp in Saida, South Lebanon. The present state of tensions and violent armed clashes between various militant groups within the camp has been worsening the already harsh living conditions of the camp inhabitants. Despite this, happiness is the word that would best define the three-day long activity, and all participants showed extreme gratitude toward Besme team for providing this. People were continuously smiling as they were able to live three days with entertainment, relaxation and family time, while not having to think about the rough day-to-day realities in their camp.

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



Title	<b>Peace for Everyone</b>
Duration	3 days
Region	Litany river- Zrariyeh and Khardaly bridge Mutqa alnahreen Nabaa al safa
Overall Objective	To promote psychological support and rehabilitation for Palestinian refugees who live in an unsafe region. By moving them away from this unstable and stressful environment providing rehabilitation and fun moments for them.
Partner	Nashet Association
Target Beneficiaries	100 Palestinian families
Final Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 300-400 Palestinian children and women</li> <li>• All Palestinian refugees in Ein El Hilweh Camp</li> </ul>
Estimated Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitation of about 400 Palestinian children and women who live under permanent tension and insecure environment.</li> <li>• Supporting them psychologically by moving them away from this environment and providing them with fun outside the camp.</li> <li>• Feedback on needs assessment and security situation in Ein El Hilweh camp.</li> <li>• Psychologically preparing the children for the coming semester of the school.</li> </ul>
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing project management committee</li> <li>• Determining families</li> <li>• First trip to Litany river- Zrariyeh</li> <li>• Trip to Khardaly bridge</li> <li>• Trip to Mutqa Alnahreen</li> <li>• Trip to Nabaa Al Safa</li> <li>• Conducting a survey of the beneficiaries on their social life &amp; security</li> </ul>

## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



### D. Besme Support for Health

#### iii. Distribution of Vitamin D

On 24 August 2015, Besme in collaboration with Best Community Association to Take Care of the Southern Mother and Child, distributed Vitamin (D) bottles at Sowana village in South Lebanon.

#### iv. Support for Medical Care of Pregnant Women

Aiming at contributing the health care of Syrian refugees and Lebanese women in South Lebanon, Besme financially supported a lady in buying an ultrasound machine by donating some part of the cost. Having a degree in health sciences, this lady makes necessary medical controls examination of pregnant women especially Syrian refugee women and their unborn babies through a careful examination, in South Lebanon.

# II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

## E. Besme Support For Sustainable Development

### i. Besme Community Center

From the beginning onwards, Hasbaya Al-Arkoub in South Lebanon has become one of Besme's main concerns. Besme is committed to contribute to the socio-cultural and socio-economic development of this region. Due to its good relations with the villagers of Hebbarieh, Besme has been donated with a piece of land at the heart of the village. The donation, made by Mr. Yasin Youssef, will contribute to the development of the village through our efforts.

After laying the first stone on the land in March 2015, Besme started the construction of a Community Center in June 2015. Funded by Besme's international private donors, the community center is meant to be a multi-purpose facility, in which workshops, training programs and conferences will be held. The center will moreover serve to hold public events not only for Hebbarieh but also for neighboring villages. The center is expected to trigger regional socio-economic progress, which has been in decline for over 10 years.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



Title	<b>Kamal Youssif Community Center</b>
Duration	12 months
Region	Hebbarieh, Hasbaya
Overall Objective	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promoting a social place for gathering to receive condolences where the family of the deceased sit and recite Qur'an</li> <li>2. Providing requirements to make preparations to receive the visitors and offer food</li> <li>3. Providing public hall for all kinds of cultural events, trainings, meetings etc.</li> </ol>
Target Beneficiaries	Villagers in Hebbarieh
Final Beneficiaries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public authorities of Hasbaya region</li> <li>2. Villagers of Kfarhammam, Kfar Chauba, Chebaa, Fardis, Ain Jerfa, El Foukhar, Rachaya, Almeere, Shwaya, Ain Kinia, Abou Kamha</li> <li>3. All NGOs working in South Lebanon</li> </ol>
Estimated Results	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing certain place to gather for those who wish to offer condolences</li> <li>2. Meeting the need for condolence room and bathing for dead body in the village</li> <li>3. Meeting the needs for mortuary service, requirements to make preparations to receive the visitors and to offer food</li> <li>4. Providing public hall for public events &amp; future training activities.</li> </ol>
Main Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concrete Works: Establishing Community Center on the area of 250 m2 out of 675 m2.</li> <li>2. Furnishing:</li> <li>3. Management of facility:</li> </ol>
Evaluation of Project	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. April 2015 first stone for the construction was laid</li> <li>2. June 2015 ground floor finished</li> <li>3. End of July 2015 first floor finished</li> </ol>

# II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

## F. Besme Support for Humanitarian Crises Response

### i. Partnership with Syrian League for Citizenship

Besme and Syrian League for Citizenship concluded a partnership agreement. In line with the Besme Photo Contest, which was warmly welcomed by Lebanese society and the university students, Besme launched another project with the Syrian League for Citizenship. Having women as the target group and taking into consideration the UN Security Council Resolutions of 1325 and 2122, which emphasize the involvement of women in peace building and maintaining the security in conflict-affected zones, Besme and SL4C are working on a photography book. Having been launched in June 2015, the book will include 35 photographs of Syrian mothers along with their stories. These women are selected from different places inside and outside of Syria. Through the photographs in this book, their pain will be conveyed, as will their humble pride through the accompanying words. On the basis of 'seeing is believing', through photography Besme aims to create a channel which allows these women's feelings to be shown and create an awareness for affects of the Syrian Crisis.

### ii. Attendance at International Conference on Yemeni Situation

General Manager of Besme, Mrs. Gulshan Saglam attended an international conference in Istanbul by the invitation of the Islamic world body for lawyers and in cooperation with the Ministry of Human Rights in Yemen during the period from June 9 to 10, 2015. International Conference was about "International law and its applications to enhance the legitimacy and restitution in Yemen" by the presence of many international, regional and national human rights organizations, along with a group of legal experts and international figures and representatives of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The goal of this conference is to highlight the fact of the crimes committed in Yemen, monitoring and documentation as well as to consider acting the best and most successful international mechanisms for the protection of the Yemeni people.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### F. Besme Support for Humanitarian Crises Response

#### iii. Besme Support for Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

Yemeni Human Rights Minister and the president of the Higher Committee for Relief Izzeddine Al-Asbahi visited Besme office, and it has been discussed about Yemen's situation. Being honored with Mr. Minister's visit, Besme staff was glad to receive information on the current situation and to hear his opinions about recent events in Yemen. As the director of Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC), Mr. Asbahi also discussed the humanitarian assistance opportunities for Yemeni people with Besme team. He emphasized the importance of educating youth on human rights and expressed his willingness to work with Besme on this issue together.

Within the state of war in Yemen and the lack of security and stability because of the war waged by the civil war, in which fighting sides have been committing war crimes, the proportion of violations is getting bigger.

This requires civil society to address the task of monitoring and documenting and reporting violations, through issuing periodic reports, and activate the international mechanisms to protect human rights, particularly the reported contractual league committees and the special properties of violations. Upon to Yemeni Minister of Human Rights visit of Besme office and in the light of Besme's one of the most important mission of quick responses to humanitarian crises Besme concluded an agreement between Besme and Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC) in Yemen for monitoring the human rights violation in the country. According to this agreement Besme will do its best together with its partner to monitor and to put this issue on the map for all over the world. In order to promote the success of the project a team of activists will coordinate and follow-up and project management from Riyadh, under the direct supervision of the Yemeni Ministry of Human Rights.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015



Title	<b>Monitoring &amp; Documenting Human Rights Violations in Yemen</b>
Duration	12 months
Region	Yemen
Overall Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detect violence done in all Yemen provinces.</li> <li>• Find database on the situation human rights and the humanitarian situation in Yemen.</li> <li>• Contribute in strengthening the protection of violence victims.</li> <li>• Enable victims to set their issues to local, regional and international judicial authorities.</li> <li>• International organizations refuse to give detailed information and data about the violation that happened.</li> </ul>
Partner	Human Rights Information and Training Center
Target Beneficiaries	Yemeni citizens
Final Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yemeni citizens</li> <li>• International Organisations</li> <li>• Yemeni authorities</li> <li>• International community</li> </ul>
Estimated Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the building of the Yemeni team monitoring and documentation and start their work in a practical, objective and ensure its continuation.</li> <li>• Implement local work plan in various provinces which will ensure a multi-activity in these provinces thus raising awareness and strengthening the role of civil society on an average of seven activities it will benefit tens and hundreds from public and activists in these provinces during the project period.</li> <li>• Issue of monthly and semi-annual and annual reports, including all violations and human rights situation in Yemen.</li> <li>• Support properties, international bodies and human rights organizations copies of the reports and send them on a regular basis.</li> </ul>
Main Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Select 15 observer from the prominent observers of the activists that will be selected from different Yemen provinces.</li> <li>• Select follow up committee and receive various data and information from the observers in provinces.</li> <li>• Select follow up committee and receive various data and information from the observers in provinces.</li> <li>• Issue weekly bulletin and monthly report about violation cases attached with the cases names and statements.</li> <li>• Send all the information and reports to the international organizations in the United Nations.</li> </ul>

# II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

## G. Besme Relief

### i. Besme Aid in Hasbaya

Besme started its activities as of January 2015. Due to the bad weather conditions in South Lebanon, there was a need for fuel and blankets, both for Lebanese villagers and for Syrian refugees. In order to help meet these needs, Besme arranged the distribution of relief supplies. The aid aimed to improve living conditions of local villagers and Syrian refugees, who had been experiencing severe winter conditions since December 2014. On 14 January 2015 Besme distributed a total of 10.000 liters of fuel oil and 320 blankets in the Hasbaya Al-Arkoub region. The villages of Hebbarieh, Cheeba, Kfarhammam and Kfarchouba, which are in the vicinity of the southern border of Lebanon, received the aid. Under the name of Besme Aid 2015, a total of 900 families benefited from this; 500 families received 20 liters of fuel oil, and another 400 families were given blankets and soups.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### G. Besme Relief

#### ii. Besme Aid to Ein El Hilweh Camp

Besme team with the effort of Nashet Association visited Ein El Hilweh camp to observe the situation and find out the needs of people in the camp. With efforts of the director of Nashet association, Besme team had meetings with the 'Popular Committee' and the 'Committee of Palestinian - Syrian Refugees' by which Besme had been briefed with the current situation in camps and negotiated on the cooperation opportunities to help people in need.

When Besme was founded, we were fortunate to receive generous donations from Nestle Lebanon. In December 2014 we received 10 cases of Maggi soup mix. We handed three boxes over to the UNHCR so as to assist them cover the nutritional needs of Syrian refugees. The remaining seven boxes were distributed as part of the above-mentioned Besme Aid 2015 project. Besme furthermore received another package of nutrition supplies from Nestle Lebanon in the end of March 2015. The package included Maggi Beef, Veg. and Chicken Boullions.

Besme handed over these supplies to the Nashet Association upon the meetings that Besme held with them before. The supplies were distributed among Palestinian refugees living in Ein El-Hilweh, where Syrian Palestinians have also been settled.

#### iii. Besme distributed supply boxes for the Ramadan Eid

Besme continues to serve Lebanese people in time of holy Ramadan. In collaboraton with Lebanese Foodbank, Besme distributed 100 food boxes as Ramadan Eid supply to the villagers in need at Hebbarieh and Kfarhammam in Hasbaya Al-Arkoub. Upon the agreement signed with Lebanese Foodbank on 11 June 2015, Besme received 100 food boxes, which were distributed on 12 July 2015. The Muslim population of the very south of Hasbaya Al-Arkoub in southern border of Lebanon, benefited from the supply boxes, which involved staple food products. The distribution was coordinated by Mr. Louay Youssef, the South Lebanon Coordinator of Besme. The lists were made meticulously to convey the products properly. Certain amount of boxes was distributed at the center of Hebbarieh village, where the Besme Community Center is rising, whereas most of them were delivered to home of villagers in need. In this way we believe that Besme promoted the core value of Ramadan, which is sharing with destitutes.



## II. BESME ACTIVITIES IN 2015

### H. Visits of Besme

#### i. Besme Visit to Wadi Khaled region

Besme team visited Wadi Khaled region upon the invitation of the ex-Member of Parliament Mr. Jamal Ismail. Besme was received very warm in the region. Following the visit to Wadi Khaled Health Center, supported by Al Makassed Charity Association and Wadi Khaled Vocational School, Besme was briefed about the current situation in the region. Cooperation opportunities to help people in need, especially Syrian refugees coming from just a few miles away, were also negotiated.



# III. LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT COOPERATE WITH BESME

1. <b>Alwakea Cultural and Social Association</b>	Medical Insurance Card Distribution
2. <b>Anadolu Agency</b>	
3. <b>Human Rights Information &amp; Training Center (HRITC) / Yemen</b>	Monitoring Human Rights Violations in Yemen
4. <b>Jil Mustakbel Association</b>	
5. <b>Kurdish Lebanese Charity Association</b>	
6. <b>Lebanese Food Bank</b>	Distribution of supply boxes for Ramadan
7. <b>Lebanese International University</b>	
8. <b>Lebanese Turkish Cultural Association</b>	
9. <b>Nashet Association</b>	Psychological Support for Palestinian Children & Women in Ein El Hilweh Refugee Camp
10. <b>Near East University/North Cyprus</b>	Agency Agreement
11. <b>Organizer &amp; Co.</b>	
12. <b>Syrian League for Citizenship</b>	Syrian Mothers Photography Book
13. <b>The Embassy of Republic of Turkey</b>	
14. <b>Thrakos Research and Development Center</b>	Study of the Reality of Living & Health in Lebanon Project
15. <b>Turkmen Association in Lebanon</b>	
16. <b>University of Kyrenia / North Cyprus</b>	Agency Agreement
17. <b>United Nations Organizations</b>	