



Annual Activity Report

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1. Introduction

In 2016, the war in Syria entered its sixth year. The numbers of stakeholders multiplied, the combats became more complex and the bombardments continued furiously. The fleeing of Syrian people nourishes media debates and smugglers. The reality, however, is that in Syria the majority of towns and villages are devastated and it is estimated that 13.5 million desperately need humanitarian assistance¹. Furthermore, many urban and rural areas are under siege, which complicates the delivery of any form of humanitarian aid, which has triggered famine in these zones.

Faced with this unprecedented humanitarian crisis, the millions of civilians who had found refuge in neighbouring countries had no hope of returning to their country, and even more came to join them. Of the 4.8 million Syrians who have left their country since the beginning of the war, 2.8 million are currently in Turkey and 1.02 million in Lebanon² (MSF estimates the number of refugees to be more than 1.4 million in Lebanon). Half of the people fleeing Syria are civilian women and children. This emigration inevitably poses significant logistical challenges for neighbouring countries and relevant international and local organisations. The role of SB Overseas in this turbulent context is to identify the needs of the refugees and partner organisations working on the ground, to develop and activate assistance. We use, inter alia, the tools and instruments provided by the UNHCR and its partners to address the scale of the crisis and its multiple impacts.

In Lebanon and Turkey, 2016 was a year during which we consolidated our actions on the ground to help our beneficiaries face a daily life that remained full of danger and challenges. We analyse the needs and conceptualise our activities based on a "Resilience" approach, because the situation in which our beneficiaries find themselves in is extremely complex and difficult: they find themselves in a "transit" situation where they must wait for the end of the conflict in order to be able to return to their country – however, they have to do their best in the meantime to integrate themselves into their new host society, whilst dealing simultaneously with insecurity and social tensions. In order to enable our beneficiaries to integrate and to regain hope of a better future, we focus on four areas: education for refugee children, vocational training and empowerment of refugee women, psychosocial support and distribution of food and non-food items.

Whereas 2015 was characterised by a marked increase in arrivals of people fleeing the war to find a refuge in Europe, in 2016 there was a significant drop in arrival of refugees, due mainly to the signing of the EU-Turkey treaty in March 2016. However, despite this decline,

¹ <http://syrianrefugees.eu/>

² <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php> January 2017
<http://www.msf.org/en/where-we-work/lebanon>



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the needs of those who arrived in 2016 and 2015 are still just as important, especially in terms of psychological, legal and social support so that they can smoothly integrate into their new host society. To face this situation, SB Overseas supports refugee families by distributing clothing and food baskets amassed from donations. In addition, we have partnered with a law cabinet to provide legal assistance to families. We have also set up educational activities every weekend for refugee children, with the aim of promoting and facilitating their integration in Belgium. At the same time, we are managing two civic engagement programmes for young Belgians to raise their awareness and to explore with them issues of citizenship and global solidarity.



2. Our principles

SB Overseas was founded on three main principles: **Humanity, Impartiality and Independence**. Each employee and volunteer who is part of the association shares these principles and integrates them into his or her behaviour and way of communicating. In addition, SB Overseas promotes **cultural and social diversity** by integrating people from different origins and social backgrounds into its teams of volunteers and employees.

Principle of humanity

Our teams of field specialists and volunteers on site aim to combat the devastating consequences of current conflicts in the Middle East that are inhibiting human development. Indeed, bombings, confrontations, and sieges imposed on towns and villages have accelerated the displacement of thousands of people and have caused significant human, material and environmental damage. Moreover, the psychological, social and moral dignity of the victims has been deeply affected by the conflict. The provision of material and psychological support is a critical element to help the victims rebuild their lives and to prevent them from turning to bitterness, hatred and violence.

Principle of Impartiality

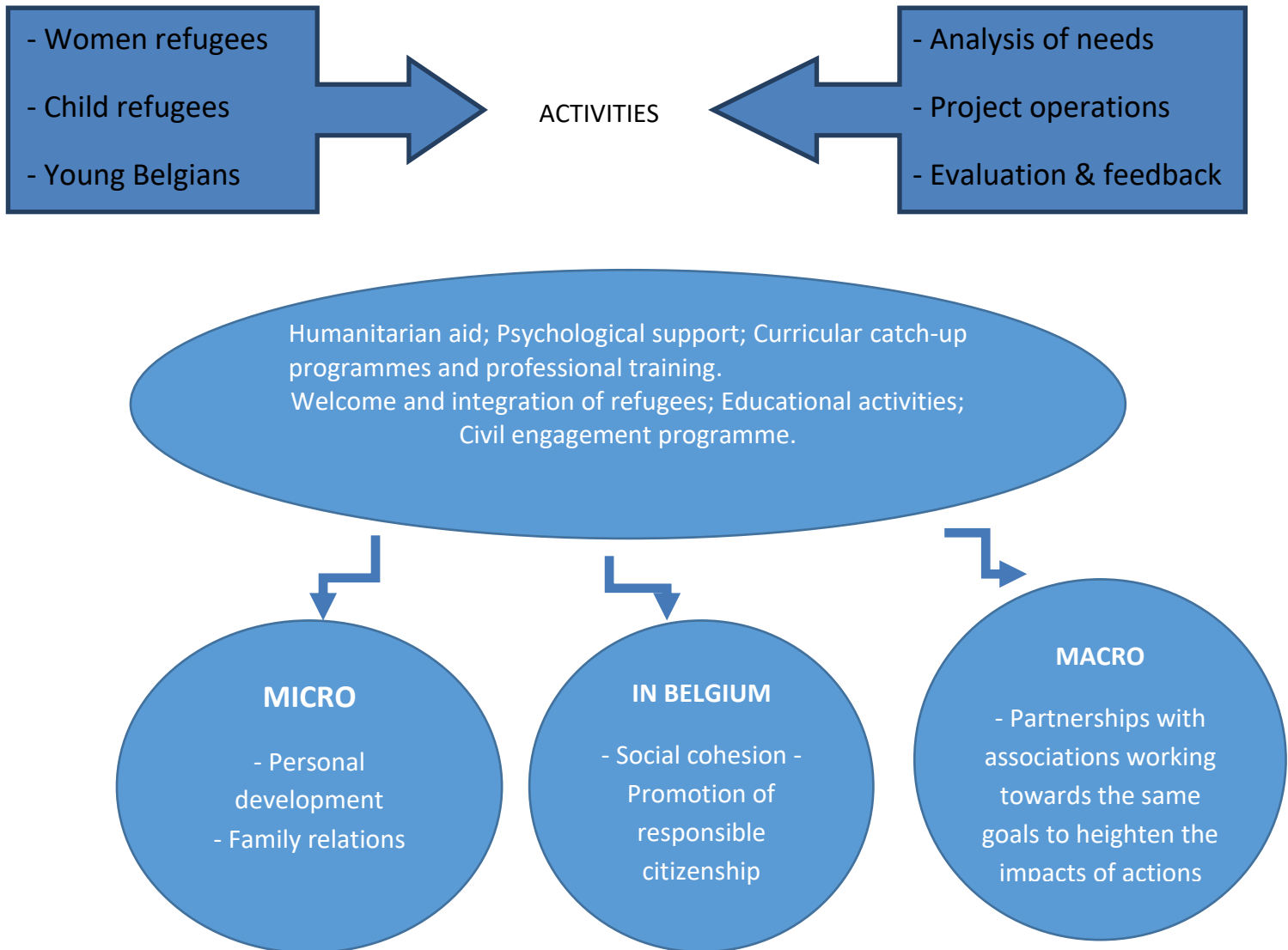
SB Overseas helps **all victims** of the Middle Eastern conflicts, irrespective of their origin, ethnicity, religion, gender or belonging. We do not interfere in the political sphere and do not take any **ideological or political position**. Thus, we are able to work in different urban and rural areas at risk. We do, however, have to prioritise. Priority is given, where necessary, to orphaned minors, or to children separated from their immediate family.

Principle of Independence

SB Overseas Belgium is a non-profit organisation. Thanks to our **regular partners and donors**, and especially to the **investment and compassion of our volunteers**, we succeed in carrying out our projects successfully and independently. We therefore do not accept support from sources that could compromise the independence and impartiality of our organisation.

3. Operations and objectives

3.1. 2016 Work plan



The diagram above allows one to see how the various activities of SB Overseas are articulated in order to create an interactive logic. The benefits of this approach can be seen at three levels:

- for the individuals concerned: beneficiaries and volunteers;
- in the national context (Belgium);
- for our collaborations with other NGOs overseas.

In this way, SB Overseas Belgium is able to develop a strategy where human resources, solutions and expertise are multiplied, enabling us to achieve our objectives.



Transparency, evaluation and feed-back

As the main headquarters, SB Overseas Belgium oversees the activities organised by our partners in the Middle East. We conduct quarterly visits to observe our projects, welcome containers, and attend events organised in the schools and centres.

In order to ensure the efficient and continued evaluation of our projects, teaching staff in each school and centre of SB Overseas are obliged to report monthly on their operations. These reports enable SB Overseas Belgium to have a **holistic view** of the progress of activities and to identify any needs and/or problems. This practice also allows us to constantly improve our projects and to anticipate future activities.

In addition, in every school, we collect information about each student at the outset, during, and after each cycle of teaching. In this way, we can evaluate the progress of every child as well as the evolution of the groups. This then allows us to adapt our teaching methods, so that they are the best suited to the many specific needs of the children.

We also undertake surveys to gather feedback from our beneficiaries on our activities. At the end of each teaching cycle, the children and their parents have the opportunity to tell us anonymously what they think about the course and they can share their suggestions for improvement. In the vocational training centres, adolescents and women also complete evaluation questionnaires every two months. This information is crucial for maintaining the smooth running, and the quality of the training and of the services we offer them.

In Belgium, the volunteer team leaders draw up a detailed report for each activity organised (every weekend). The Director of SB Overseas also speaks individually with the refugee children who participate in our activities on weekends, to collect their impressions and ideas for the future.

3.2. Objectives

The main objective of our organisation is to promote human development and to provide humanitarian aid to our beneficiaries through a range of complementary projects carried out by our partners and volunteers.

The specific objectives for the year **2016** were:

Reinforcement of our actions in Lebanon and Turkey

In 2016, SB Overseas educational outreach programme supported **two schools**, located in Beirut and Aarsal in Lebanon. In addition, our empowerment and emancipation programme included a centre for refugee women in Turkey (Kilis), and three women's centres in Lebanon (one in Beirut and two in Aarsal). In fact, we were very pleased to have been able to open a



new women's centre in Aarsal (the second one), following very high demand for enrolments in our first centre.

We also launched a “**collective kitchen**” in Aarsal which ran from March until December 2016, thanks to which we distributed 500 meals morning and evening to refugee families living in the camps near the town. We also set up a new “**collective kitchen**” in Kilis to feed the refugee families living on the streets, distributing 250 meals a day. These two projects would never have been possible without our network of partners and our volunteers who are active on site and who help us bring these projects to fruition. To reach more and more refugees, we work tirelessly to broaden our network of partnerships, formulating agreements and projects with partners on the field, in Belgium and elsewhere.

Increased mobilisation of resources to provide assistance to refugees

In 2016, we developed our network of partnerships and increased the number of actions organised, to generate more funds to finance our activities. As a result, we coordinated more collections in Brussels (food aid, clothing, shoes, school supplies, etc.). We also organised more **fundraising events** to collect more donations (a charity swimming tournament, the annual gala, etc.). We also stepped up our funding requests to various national foundations, organisations, and programmes.

Professionalisation of the educational and social teams

One of SB Overseas' assets, and its core strength, is the group of volunteers who mobilises to help the most vulnerable people in this humanitarian crisis. The management of volunteers and their integration into our projects requires special skills in human resources management and **specific technical/vocational training** so that they can offer appropriate support to our beneficiaries. To achieve this, SB Overseas provides training to the teachers and volunteers in the Middle-East and Belgium, alongside the implementation of the projects.

Awareness-raising activities

This year, we organised even more actions to promote intercultural and intergenerational encounters and to raise public awareness about our work in the Middle East and Belgium. Among other things, we participated in the "March for Peace" on the 1st of January 2016; we organised a dinner to promote exchanges between women from different cultures; we participated in a charity swimming tournament organised by the Lion's Heraldic Club of Brussels; we organised our Annual Gala with, attending as guest of honour, Mr Frans Timmermans, the First Vice-President of the European Commission; we participated in a solidarity meal organised by the *Saint'Egidio* association; and we organised an *Iftar* to present our projects.

All these events allow families and citizens from different backgrounds to meet, discuss, and become acquainted with our organisation. They also enabled us to raise awareness of our



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humanitarian and development actions, and to raise funds for our projects in Belgium and the Middle-East.

Promoting responsible, aware and altruistic citizenship

SB Overseas retained its objective from 2015 to welcome and support newly-arrived refugees in Brussels, and to help their children integrate into their new host society. By means of the educational activities we organise every weekend, we also try to emphasise the values of a responsible and cohesive citizenship, just as we do with young Belgians who participate in our programmes "*Engage for Peace*" and "*Dream Team*".

4. SB Overseas in Belgium

4.1. Assistance to refugees

Following the arrival of a greater number of refugees in Belgium at the end of 2015, we immediately mobilised to welcome and help those people who had suffered so much trauma and loss in their country of origin and throughout their journey to Europe. We observed that these refugees needed **administrative, legal, and psychological assistance**, but also had **material needs**.

Thus, from the end of 2015 and throughout 2016, SB Overseas has undertaken various actions to support refugees in Belgium: identification of medical cases, distribution of hot meals three times a week, psychological support, and general guidance. Once refugees were housed in centres, SB Overseas continued to distribute food baskets and clothes to families. We also partnered up with a law firm to refer refugee families to them for legal support.

4.2. Young Belgians

Belgian society, like most European societies, has long been plagued by social divisions. The economic crisis that hit Europe in 2008 has exacerbated this problem further, by increasing social inequalities and polarising European communities even more. Many individuals thus feel excluded from the "system," and therefore radicalise themselves in various ways. One of the main groups affected by this phenomenon is young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Faced with the lack of opportunities for the future, and witnesses of events and conflicts at international level, a growing number of young people become extremist in their way of thinking and in their behaviour, sometimes even going as far as fighting for military groups. This phenomenon has aroused concern in many of our society and has restarted the debate on education and the integration of young adults into society.

In order to address this need, SB Overseas Belgium launched, three years ago, the "*Engaging for Peace*" programme for girls aged 12 to 16, and the "*Dream Team*" programme for boys aged 14 to 18 years. The aim of these two programmes is to accompany young people as they broaden their vision of society and to enable them to value solidarity and peace. We show them that they can help the victims of war more effectively by contributing from a humanitarian perspective in Belgium.

Each year, participants are increasingly numerous and enthusiastic. In 2016, the "*Engaging for Peace*" team had 25 girls, with a team of 15 volunteers to accompany them, and the "*Dream Team*" had 12 boys with four volunteers to supervise them. These programmes run throughout the year and cover a wide range of activities including recreational activities, organising and participating in events to promote peace and solidarity, and collecting donations to distribute them to the refugee families.



4.3. *SB Weekend*

In 2016, SB Overseas launched a volunteer programme to meet the needs of refugee children recently arrived in Belgium - alongside the programmes designed for the youth. Indeed, we rapidly realised that the centres for asylum seekers stayed closed during the day over the weekend, which meant that the children had to stay on the streets for most the day, until they could return to their dormitories (during the week, they go to school). We therefore set up an integration and citizenship programme for these children, with the help of a team of volunteers. The year was divided into six cycles of two months. During each cycle we received 20 children, for whom we organised pedagogical and play-based activities every Saturday and Sunday. In total, our integration programme welcomed **120 refugee children**, thanks to the participation of **48 volunteers** who took turns to organise activities every weekend throughout the year.

4.4. *“SB International Volunteers” Programme in Lebanon*

In October 2016, we launched a new volunteer programme, which is open to volunteers (aged 20-35) from any country in the world. We have many goals. We want to give young motivated citizens the opportunity to do **humanitarian work** and to help the victims of war. Moreover, we want to give them the possibility of a field experience in the Middle East, which is not always easy to access without contacts on the ground. As such, we hope to **raise** awareness of the situation of refugees in the Middle East. Thanks to our long-time presence and experience in Beirut, we are very well placed to offer this opportunity to young people who want to do humanitarian work.

On the other hand, we want to offer the possibility of **learning a foreign language** to the children in our school (*Bukhra Ahla - Beirut*) and to the women who attend training in our centre (*Bukhra Ahla - Beirut*). Indeed, English is one of the courses required for children to have access to the Lebanese public school system, and this assistance is therefore essential. For women, learning English gives them an extra tool to succeed in their professional advancement and to become independent. More generally, we aim to **promote intercultural encounters**.

We send the international volunteers for a period of two-months to the *Bukhra Ahla* centre in Beirut. For the first cycle that began in October until November 2016, we hosted four volunteers: three of them taught mathematics and English in our children's catch-up school, and one taught English in our women's centre. For the second cycle which began in December 2016, we again welcomed four volunteers, who were distributed in the same way. So far, feedback from beneficiaries and volunteers has been extremely positive.



4.5. *SB Event*

SB Event is a team of **volunteers (23 in total)** who help us organise events throughout the year, to collect donations, and to bring our actions in development and humanitarian aid to the attention of the Belgian public. Thanks to this team, we organised three major events in 2016:

- i. **21 February – “Gala dinner for women”**: The purpose of this event was to bring women from different cultures together to spend an enjoyable moment of exchange, entertainment and relaxation together. We took the opportunity to present and sell the artistic creations from our women's support centres. We also proposed to our guests fashion collections, henna stands, jade stone massages, workshops of Menziana (algototherapy), acupuncture, and kinesiotherapy, as well as an auction and a raffle. All proceeds were donated to the women in our centres in Lebanon and Turkey. 350 people attended the event.
- ii. **24 May – Annual Gala**: In 2016, we organised our third Annual Gala to present the activities of SB Overseas and to fund-raise for our association. We had the honour of welcoming Mr Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission and his family, as guests of honour. It was an exceptional evening thanks to all our guests and volunteers who were present to celebrate our third year of activity.
- iii. **24 June – Iftar**: We organised a big dinner to which we invited families of refugees, Belgian families, our volunteers and colleagues from other NGOs. During this event, we also presented the projects of SB Overseas. There was also a Quiz of religions organised.

4.6. *SB Campaign*

SB Campaign is represented by our team of 45 volunteers who are responsible for one of our most important activities in Belgium. It is this group that takes care of collecting donations all over Belgium, and who helps with the logistics of sending containers to Lebanon and Turkey. Thanks to their hard work, we were able to send 16 25-tonne containers in 2016.

5. SB Overseas in Lebanon

In 2016, about 25% of the population in Lebanon are Syrians. Many Syrian children are born and grow up in Lebanon, and half of the children under the age of 15 have no recollection of their life in Syria - **they only know life as refugees**. Although the absolute numbers of refugees in Lebanon are smaller than in Turkey, the impact on the country's economy and the local population is even greater because of the country's modest size and population.

Regarding its operations in Lebanon, SB Overseas shares the UNHCR's action plan and prioritises:

1. Collection and distribution of food aid;
2. Access to education for refugee children;
3. Organisation of vocational trainings to promote access to the labour market for refugee women;
4. Support for the winterisation program (distribution of heating etc.);
5. Identification of medical needs, coordination with primary care services, immunisation programmes.

5.1. *Catch-up schooling for children*

Because of the very high numbers of refugee children in Lebanon (one child in three is a refugee), the Lebanese state has not been able to place all these children in the public-school system. Because of this, many refugee children either lag behind in their schooling or have never had the opportunity to attend school at all. Even with the support of UNHCR and its education programmes, there are still thousands of children who do not have access to schooling. To tackle this problem and to prevent these children from becoming a "*lost generation*", SB Overseas is making every effort to set up non-formal schools and extracurricular activities **to fill the years of lost education for refugee children in Lebanon**.

In 2016, SB Overseas maintained operations in its two catch-up schools, one located in **Beirut** called *Bukhra Ahla* and the other located in **Arsal** (near the Syrian border), called *Kalam Wa Ibra*. The year is divided into two cycles of six months, and for each cycle we welcome a new group of children to prepare them to pass the entrance test to enter the public school. We also offer these children the opportunity to learn English thanks to our international volunteers. A few evenings a week, we also organise educational support classes for young teenagers who have never had the opportunity to go to school and who are above the age limit for compulsory education. In addition to this, we offer a **psychological support service** to help children overcome their trauma. Children have relatively little difficulty in participating in the programme. During the assessments, we can

see that the progress of the children in school compares very favourably with that of children of the same age in Beirut.

2016 in figures:

1. Bukhra Ahla School, Beirut:

- Total number of children: 250 children
- Educational catch-up programme: 150 children.
- Educational support programme: 100 children.

2. Kalam Wa Ibra School, Aرسال:

- Total number of children: 230 children
- Educational catch-up programme: 150 children.
- Educational support programme: 80 children.

Extracurricular Activities ³ <i>Number of children benefiting from extracurricular activities in Lebanon, 2016</i>	<i>Bukhra Ahla school, Beyrouth</i>	<i>Kalam Wa Ibra school, Aرسال</i>
Psychological support programme	250 children	230 children
Social Awareness and assertion programme	300 children	285 children
Play-based activities with children	996 children	740 children
Collaborative activities with the children	1853 children	

As we unfortunately receive more applications for enrolment in our schools than we can accept, we are obliged to prioritise the selection of students according to criteria. We give preference to older children for the literacy courses, and for the catch-up schooling courses we apply a system of "first come, first served".

5.2. Women empowerment centres

Apart from material needs, we have observed that women and girls living in refugee camps are suffering from trauma and bereavement. They need psychological support to be able to cope with their new daily lives. In addition, many of them have lost their husbands or close family members and are now alone and responsible for their families. When engaged in discussion, these women and girls express the need for training as a priority so that they can work to support their families.

Faced with these needs and in response to the demands of refugee women living in Lebanon, in 2014 SB Overseas started a project of support centres and training for girls and women. These centres function in parallel with our schools, in Beirut (one centre) and in Aرسال (two centres, next to different refugee camps). In Aرسال, our operational model was so

³ For the extracurricular activities, we also integrate the kids who do not follow our tutoring or our catch-up schooling programmes. These activities take place mostly on weekends.



successful that we opened a second centre for women and girls called “Lahuna” to meet the needs of another refugee camp near Aarsal.

Our goal is to make refugee women and girls more **confident and independent** by giving them the skills to accomplish this independently and by reminding them about **their rights**. To achieve this, we offer general vocational training for girls, and more specialised training for adult women (sewing, jewellery making, embroidery, hairdressing etc.), which enables them to **develop skills and to earn a modest income**.

Furthermore, we participate actively in events to expose and sell their creations. In our centres, we also organise clothing and food distributions. Through the activities we propose, we encourage encounters between beneficiaries, as we believe that the sharing of common experiences and stories can have a therapeutic effect. In addition, we support our beneficiaries psychologically by organising home visits, and by managing individual and family cases. For very complex cases, we transfer it to local, international specialised associations. Finally, we offer a free kindergarten service at the Bukra Ahla and the Lahuna centre, so that the women and young girls can follow their courses knowing that their children are taken care of.

Below are the figures for 2016:

1. “Bukhra Ahla” Centre in Beirut:

- **"Empowerment and Self-Development" programme** (includes social awareness training, creation of accessories, hairdressing and beauty) **for girls from 14 to 18 years of age:**
 - Total: 98 participants

- **"Empowerment and training" programme for adult women:**
 - Decorative sewing: 580 participants
 - Advanced sewing: 140 participants
 - Professional tailoring : 56 participants
 - Accessories: 102 participants
 - Embroidery: 24 participants
 - Wool crafts: 261 participants
 - Literacy program: 36 participants
 - Empowerment Program (launched in 2016): 40 participants
 - Plastic arts program (launched in 2016): 40 participants
 - English lessons: 80 participants
 - *Childcare centre (managed by Save The Children): 72 children*

2. “Kalam Wa Ibra” Centre, Aarsal



- **"Empowerment and training" programme for adult women:**

- Decorative sewing: 200 participants
- Accessories: 15 participants
- Embroidery: 200 participants
- Wool crafts: 50 participants
- Literacy programme: 36 participants

3. **"Lahuna" Centre, Aarsal**

- **"Empowerment and Self-Development" Programme** (includes social awareness training, creation of accessories, hairdressing and beauty) **for girls from 14 to 18 years of age:**

- Total: 256 participants

- **"Empowerment and training" Programme for adult women:**

- Hair-dressing: 384 participants
- Wool crafts: 320 participants
- Sewing : 192 participants
- Embroidery : 144 participants
- Accessories : 240 participants
- Beauty: 192 participants
- Literacy programme : 194 participants
- *Childcare centre: 360 children*



6. SB Overseas in Turkey

As in Lebanon, the unexpected arrival of 2.8 million refugees in Turkey since 2011 poses enormous organisational, security and survival challenges for the refugees as well as for the Turkish state with its already partly fragile population. As a result, the living conditions of refugees in Turkey vary from place to place. For those who have arrived in one of the 21 camps run by the Turkish government, there is shelter, a measure of food security, and a place in school for about 60% of school-age children. Apart from these organised refugee camps, however, the situation is much more precarious and complex.

Several United Nations agencies (UNHCR, IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF) are working with the Turkish Temporary Protection Regime and local and international NGOs to assist refugees living in these informal camps. Despite this, SB Overseas has observed that women who have just fled Syria are particularly vulnerable. In Kilis, in particular, where a large number of refugees have regrouped and are living in makeshift shelters, the situation of refugee women living alone with their families is very precarious and dangerous. Thus, we support a women's centre in Kilis, which offers the same type of services as our centres in Lebanon (see above). They can follow vocational and crafts training courses, which give them the opportunity to earn an income for their subsistence. Moreover, they have the possibility to follow literacy courses and have access to psychological support if they wish. Our centres benefit between 70 and 150 women in total every 6 months.⁴

In Kilis, we have also set up a "communal kitchen" operated by volunteers, who prepare 250 meals daily to feed the refugees living on the street.

⁴ Because of this particular context, we cannot provide the exact number of participants. Effectively, familial pressures and the very delicate social- and economic situation of most of the families have as an effect that many women and children abandon their schooling mid- way.



7. Partnerships and support

The **Ingersoll Rand** foundation has supported us by organising a collection of clothes for Syrian refugees in October 2016.

We collaborate with **Help Refugees UK** for the collection of donations in Calais, which we then send in containers to Lebanon and Turkey.

Save the Children supports us in Lebanon. They provide a free childcare service for the children of the women who follow our empowerment programme in our "**Bukhra Ahla**" centre in Beirut. In this way, the participants can focus on their training knowing that their children are being taken care of in a safe place.

Our partnership with the international NGO **Right To Play** has continued successfully since 2015. With their expertise, we are able to train our teachers and volunteers through play-based educational methods that help children improve their learning skills.

Thanks to the support and expertise of the **Himaya** Women's Rights Association, we are able to provide "empowerment" and "social awareness" courses to our beneficiaries in the **Bukhra Ahla** centre.

We also received valuable support from the **Lion's Heraldic Club of Brussels** that helped us fundraise at their annual charity-swimming tournament, which supports charitable causes.

Thanks to our collaboration with **Eid Charity**, we were able to open our second centre for women and girls in Aarsal.

We are also grateful to the Belgian Federal agency for refugees, **Fedasil**, and in particular to the "**Petit-Château**" centre, for allowing us to organise activities in their centre during the weekends with refugee children. We are equally very grateful to the **Service Social de Solidarité Socialiste** in Brussels for collaborating with us for collecting food and clothes donations for our containers.

We also had the honour to receive the support and the encouragement from multiple people for our work in Belgium and in the Middle East, namely from **H.R.H. King Philip of Belgium** who invited us to a classical music concert at the Palais Royal in October 2016; from **Mr. Timmermans, First Vice-President of the European Commission**, who attended our annual gala as guest of honour; and from the governor of the **Lion's Club**.



8. 2016 at a glance

1st January: Walk for Peace

21st February: Intercultural dinner for women

13th March: Splash-Day, organised by the Lion's Club

24th May: Annual Gala

15th June: A meal for peace organised by Sant' Edigio

25th June: "Iftar" charity dinner

20th October: Invitation from H.R.H. King Philip of Belgium to the Royal Palace for a concert of classical music

22nd November: Invitation to the Lion's Club charity Dinner

10th December: Charity sale of cookies for fundraising

Thanks to our events and our various actions, we are very proud to have seen our **visibility** increase in Belgian and international **media** in 2016.

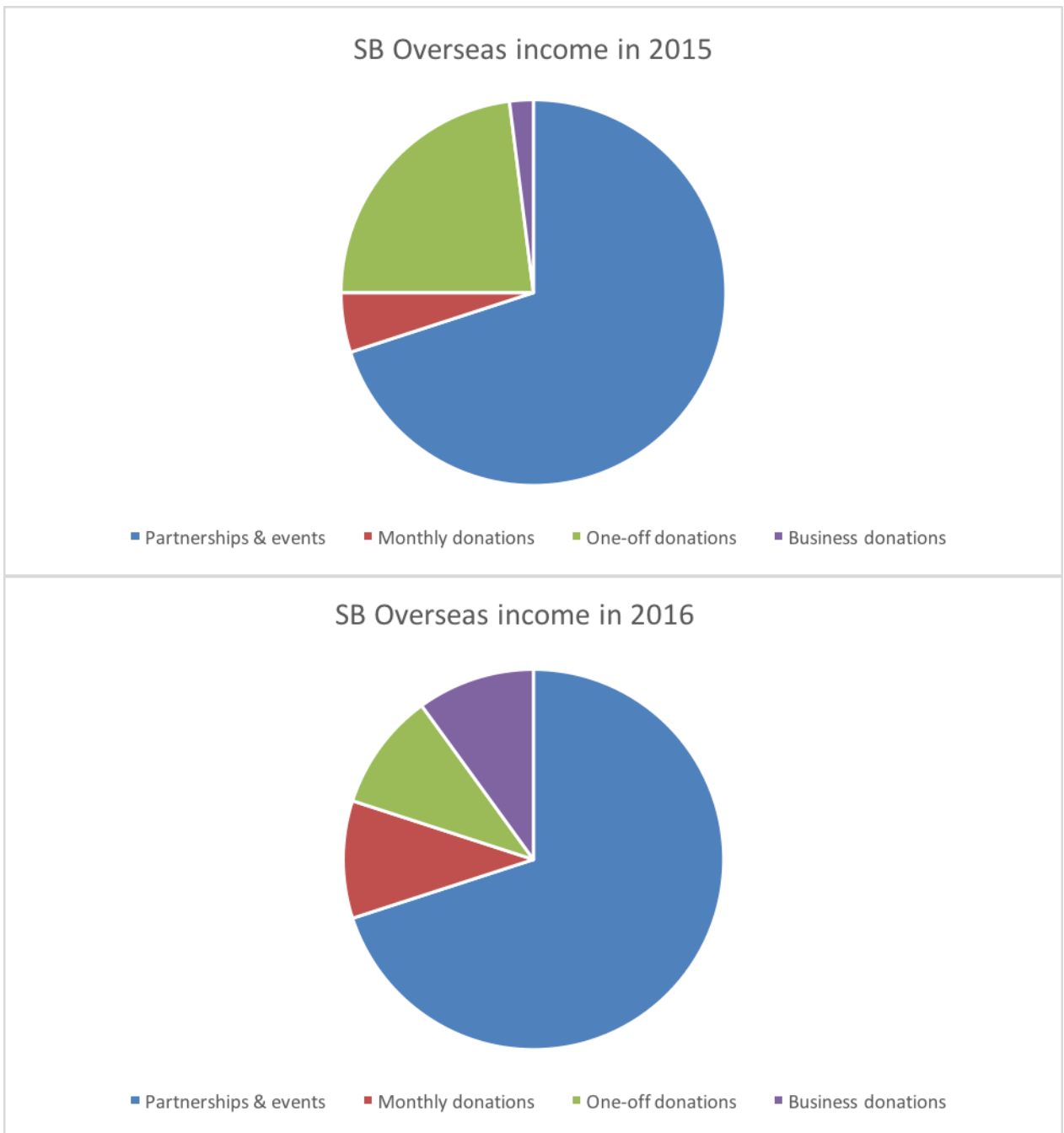
To view all the articles and videos that have appeared this year, please visit our website at:

<http://sboverseas.org/press/>

9. Financial Report

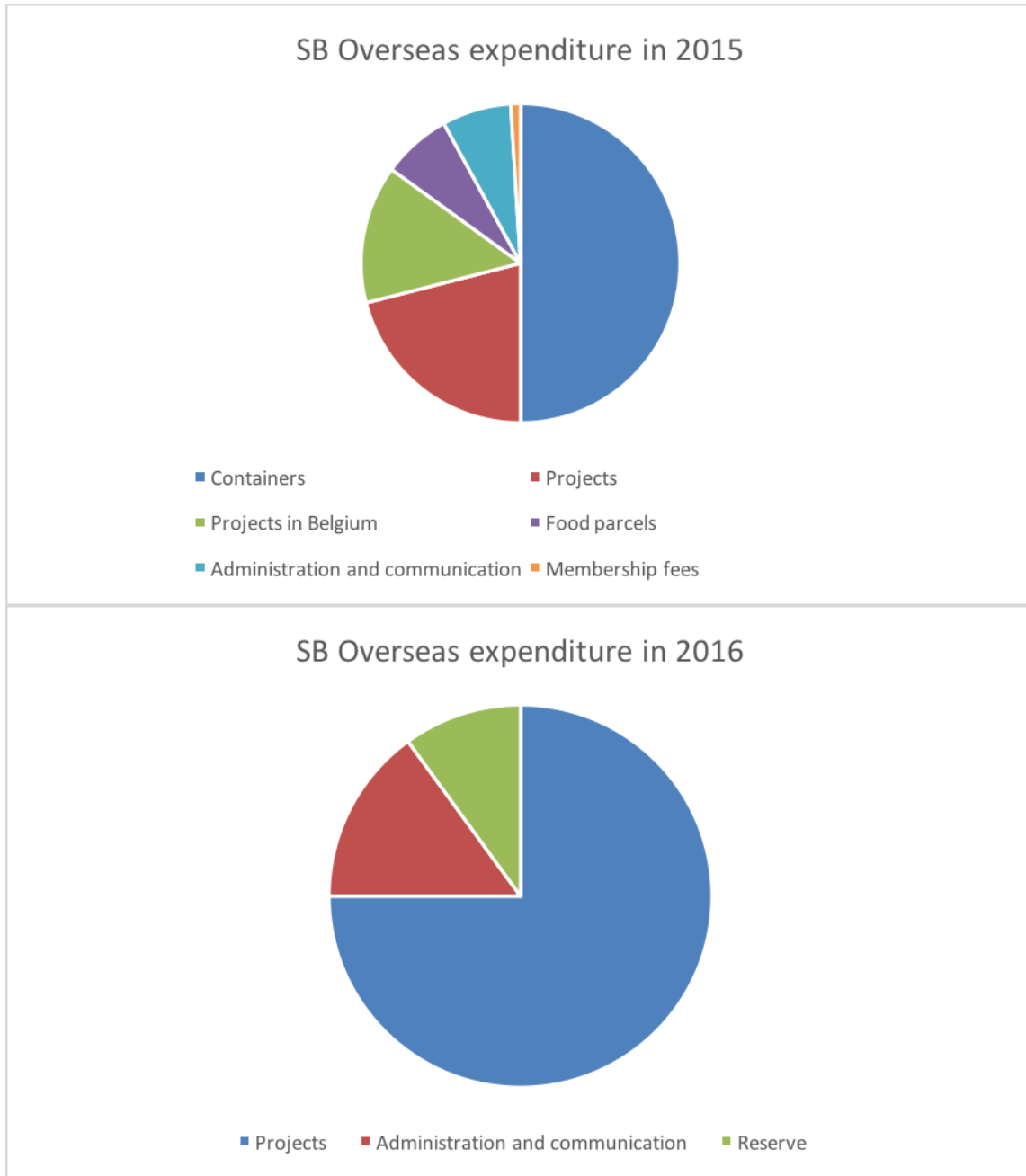
9.1. *Income*

In 2016, SB Overseas' revenues increased by 20% from the previous year. 70% of our funding came from partnerships or were donations raised during our own events; 10% came from monthly donations; 10% came from one-off donations via the website www.sboverseas.org or from our social networks; the remaining 10% came from one-off donations from private companies.



9.2. Expenditure

In 2016, 75% of our income was spent on projects (centres, schools, distribution campaigns, containers); 15% was spent on administrative costs, accounting costs and rental of premises. The remaining 10% of our revenues have not been used and constitute a security reserve.



For the full assessment, please contact info@sboverseas.org



10. Ambitions for 2017

SB Overseas Belgium has multiple advantages: our teams are present in different contexts (in countries bordering zones of conflict, including red zones where few other actors operate, and in Europe), and our projects are operated by a large network of volunteers according to a multidisciplinary support model.

Given these advantages, and the experiences and lessons learned in 2016, our goals for 2017 are:

10.1. Reinforcement of our network of partners

Even though we established new (and maintained) a number of partnerships in 2016, we would like to launch more collaborations with more organisations and foundations in 2017, so that first of all, we can consolidate our existing projects, and second of all, so that we can launch new projects if the opportunity arises.

10.2. Reinforcement of our network of volunteers

Even though we already have a large network of volunteers who help and support us in all our actions, we are also looking into widening this network – this would allow us to have a positive impact on our beneficiaries, but also on the people who engage in our voluntary actions. We think that it is crucial to widen our voluntary programs, because it is through these that we can promote our civic values which are essential to SB Overseas, namely solidarity, equality, and respect.

10.3. Unaccompanied minors (MENA) in Belgium

In addition to our integration programme for refugee children who arrived in Belgium recently, we wish to extend this programme to also include newly arrived Unaccompanied Minors in Belgium. This group is one of the most vulnerable among the refugee population; these minors have travelled alone from their country of origin to Belgium. They travel alone because they have lost their families, because their parents sent them to Europe by themselves, because they got lost on the way, or because they wanted to join their families already living in Europe. In any case, these young people are mostly boys between 14 and 18, who have had overwhelming experiences during a period in their life where they are transforming into adults, which can have disastrous consequences on their personal development.

10.4. A new centre in Saida

Thanks to the success of our model of support in our schools and centres in Lebanon, and thanks to the consolidation of our local association/partnership network, we are planning to



open a new catch-up school in Saida for refugee children and a new vocational training centre for women and girls. This new centre in Saida is expected was opened in December 2016. We aim to welcome up to 720 children and 480 women and girls in this centre.

10.5. Re-opening of the collective kitchen in Aرسال

Unfortunately, our “collective kitchen” in Aرسال which opened in March 2016 was closed down in December 2016 due to lack of funds. However, we hope to re-open it in 2017 if new partners or donations are become available. It provides food security for many refugee families.