



Review of the annual progress reports (n=31) of the children with multiple special needs (MSN) about their school year September 2024 – June 2025

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The program enabling MSN children to enjoy special education and rehabilitation started 2009 and runs already 16th year. Every year social workers in the Family Guidance Centers compile the progress report for the sponsors. In school year (2024-2025) 31 MSN children were sponsored (18 from Finland, 3 from Italy, 10 from Switzerland). There are 12 social workers who work in 5 Family Guidance Centers (in El Buss 3 and Saida 3, in Beirut 2, Beddawi 2 and Nahr El-Bared 2). They belong to the Azima-project, “Promoting mental health in refugee camps in Lebanon” (Azima). Azima-project is supported by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Finland (MFA). FiPSR work is based on voluntary work and fund collection of FiPSR (va-um-2024-2-2024; updated 04/2025)



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Philosophy of the Mental Health Program of NISCVT/BAS

This programme has adopted a holistic bio-psycho-social framework of analyses and care, offering a wide-ranging, comprehensive and responsive package of care and intervention in a community-based rehabilitation approach (Strategic Plan for the Mental Health for Beit Atfal Assumoud NISCVT 2020-2024, August 31, 2020). ICF, International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health is based on bio- psycho-social framework indicating both health conditions and contextual factors.

The 12 social workers in the Family Guidance Centers report to the sponsors about the progress of 31 sponsored children with multiple special needs. One item in the questionnaire is “What kind of objectives the Family Guidance Center (FGC) wants the child to achieve?” In broad terms FGC wants to support children’s development in basic academic skills, reading and writing. Among personal factors, Social Workers follow-up development of self-confidence, independence, life skills, ability to express emotions in social interaction.

The context for the community outreach working model includes families who have children with special needs.

Table 1. Age groups in the sample of 31 children

Age group	Fr
3-12	22
16-18	8
18>	1

Ten children were sponsored since 2012-2019 (6-13 years), 21 children during 2020-ies (1-5 years).

All families need continued support for the schooling of their children according to the reports. It means for social workers and FGC teams to accompany children and families with special needs longer time. "Child with severe autism, any progress, regardless how minimal, is considered a success."

Table 2. Home visits and meetings in the Family Guidance Center by the social workers from Sept 2024-June 2025

Center	Social workers	Home visits	Meetings in FGC
El Buss	3 sws	47	6
Saida	3 sws	54	36
Beddawi	2 sws	10	missing
Beirut	2 sws	26	39
Nahr elBared	2 sws	4	missing

The community- and family approach are running well. Social workers report, how actively the mothers are volunteering in the program. They participate in the awareness sessions and campaigns e.g. Autism Day, organise activities, offer peer support to other families with MSN-children. Some FGCs have parents' committees. Mothers are also responsive and appreciated in cooperation with schools.

Table 3. Quality of cooperation between three actors around the child with special education and rehabilitation needs is most important and indicate the success of family and community approach.

Cooperation between FGC and school/institution (n=30) Very good 73 % Good 27 % Fair -
Cooperation between FGC and child's family (n=29) Very good 93 % Good - Fair 7 %
Cooperation between child's family and school/institution (n=30) Very good 70 % Good 20 % Fair 10 %

The "fair" classification under "Cooperation between child's family and school/institution" is in one case due to the child's very old parents, who are unable to understand the situation of the child. But social workers have recruited the child's brother to compensate for this weak situation, and now they communicate with him the MSN-child.

In another case it is the mother who does not accept the medical support for the child.

Environmental factors during the school year 2024-2025

Unfortunately, the war and displacements started in September 2024 causing severe difficulties to the MSN-families. "house completely destroyed", "fear of sounds and explosions", "unstable situation in the country".

Because of the poverty of the families, the high costs for school fees and school transportations are mentioned in several reports.

Respect and thanks to the schools and institutions who offer service for Palestinian children with multiple special needs

Table 4. Special schools, special education 2024-2025 in MSN-project

FGC Saida	Lebanon International College 4 children
FGC Saida	Al Moasat Association
FGC Saida	Saida International School 2 children
FGC Beddawi	Tharwat Association for Social & Psychological Care
FGC Beddawi	Roots of Knowledge - Mini Miracle
FGC Bared	Tharwat Association for Social & Psychological Care
FGC Bared	Community Based Rehabilitation Association CBRA
FGC Al Buss	Al Hanan for children with Special Needs
FGC Al Buss	Lwah School of Excellence 2 children
FGC Al Buss	Steps-Tyre
FGC Al Buss	Mousawat Center for Communication and Education 2 children
FGC Al Buss	Al Hanan for children with Special Needs
FGC Beirut	Ajial Modern School
FGC Beirut	International High School
FGC Beirut	MIS School
FGC Beirut	CIS College
FGC Beirut	Rasel Association
FGC Beirut	Al Tanmeya Al Fekreyah
FGC Beirut	Dar Al Helem 3 children
FGC Beirut	Sidon Technical Institute for Young Women
FGC Beirut	No school - Medication
FGC Beirut	Ghassan Kanafani 2 children
	31 children in 22 special schools Due to the variety of reasons 8 children changed the school.

We wish to the brave children all the best in their studies.

Kuntoutuskummitoiminnan vuosiraporttien yhteenveto 19.11.2025

Lukuvuonne 2024-2025 tuettujen 31 erityislapsen tilanneraportteja oli 31 raporttia, joista suomalaisten 18, italialaisten 3 ja sveitsiläisten 10 lasten. Kuntoutuskummilapsia on kaikkien viiden perheneuvolan huollossa.

Erityistarpeiden syitä

Kaikilla tukiohjelmaan päässeillä lapsilla oli joko kehitysvamma, oppimisvaikeuksia tai neuropsykiatrinen häiriö. Autismikirjon diagnoosi mainittiin olevan lapsista 29 %:lla. Harvinaisempia tuen tarpeita liittyi muun muassa CP-vammaan, epilepsiaan ja synnynnäiseen kuulovammaan.

Yksi kysymys seurantalomakkeessa on ”Mitä tavoitteita perheneuvola on asettanut lasten kuntoutumiselle?” Perheneuvoloiden sosiaalityöntekijöiden mukaan tavoitteita ovat luku- ja kirjoitustaidon oppiminen. Lisäksi halutaan tukea itseluottamisen, itsenäisyyden, tunteiden ilmaisun ja sosiaalisen kanssakäymisen taitoja.

Lasten edistymisestä

Lapset edistyivät pääasiassa hyvin (55 %) seuranta-aikana. 13 %:n kohdalla edistyminen oli erinomaista ja 32 % osalta kohtalaista/ok. Hyvää muutosta tapahtui myös lasten kotitilanteissa (74 %). Muutos oli erinomaiseksi arvioitua kahdessa perheessä ja kohtalaista 19 %:ssa. Kaikkien lasten tuentarpeet olivat pidempiaikaisia (yli vuosi).

Suomalaisia kuntoutuskummeja ja -ryhmiä oli 2024-2025 yhteensä 70 henkilöä. Kiitos kaikille.

Keräystili

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