

DPNA Annual Report

Fiscal year 2004

Development for People and Nature Association is a Lebanese nongovernmental, nonprofit secular association that stands against all forms of discrimination.

It is founded by youth in order to identify and respond to the needs of the local community and those of children, adolescents, youth and women.

DPNA has been established at the end of 2003, and been working for one year aiming at stepping forward in achieving its vision mission and goals.

We started our work by empowering the team work on strategic thinking and planning skills, so they can work with our volunteers in discussing and deciding our vision, mission and goals.

→ Our programs implemented during our first year of work 2004:

- **Youth Advocacy Process:**

DPNA is held the secretarial of the youth advocacy process for the fiscal year 2004.

Goal: The youth advocacy initiative goal is to have youth friendly policies in Lebanon.

Description: The youth advocacy initiative aims at lobbying the government and the parliament in order to develop and put in practice laws and policies that addresses youth in Lebanon and open up opportunities for them to participate in public life as decision makers.

Today the youth advocacy process includes 33 partner organizations that work together and complement each other in a variety of youth advocacy sectors.

Objectives:

- To identify youth needs as youth and organizations working on youth development see them
- To categorize youth needs into sectors, which came out to be as follows: democratic freedoms, citizenship, health, social issues, education, Palestinian youth in Lebanon, and economy, and then to form task force (TF) around each sector.
- To develop youth policy recommendations based o youth needs under each sector
- To present these recommendations to the Ministry of Youth and Sports
- To lobby decision makers: to plan and implement lobbying activities in each sector.

Activities implemented:

- The education task force held a meeting with the minister of education and presented the issue of social inclusion of people with special needs in public schools, stressing on the issue of equipping the schools building especially of the new reconstructed buildings. In addition, the task force presented the economical cost of their demand and how it would be cheaper to the ministry to do so.
- The Palestinian youth in Lebanon task force held an important meeting with the student body at USG (representing the Christian point of view on the Palestinian issue).
- The Citizenship task force Planned for a hide park at the see side with the participation of ministries, political parties and NGOs on the Law of election and how youth have been marginalized by the existing law.

- **Youth and Municipalities Program:**

DPNA has initiated, promoted and implemented the “Youth and Municipalities” program.

The objectives of this program are:

- Raise community, youth and adolescents’ awareness to the role of municipality in local development.
- Raise municipality and community awareness to the importance of youth and adolescents’ participation in municipality life.
- Raise youth and adolescents’ awareness on the significance of their participation in municipal life.
- Raise youth awareness on the effectively of their involvement in the upcoming municipal elections in May 2004.

Activities:

- Holding 2 national workshops on" youth and Municipalities" targeting all the above mentioned objectives and by the participation of youth from all over Lebanon.
- Holding 3 regional workshops, in Tyre, Eble El Saki and Bekfaya on "Youth and Municipalities.
- Forming a youth well trained team from all over Lebanon.
- Holding several meetings in different villages all over Lebanon by youth them selves.

- **Community Youth Development :**

Description: This program aims at mobilizing youth and empowering them in order to work with children, trying to develop themselves and their communities. In other words, it encourages youth to participate in decision making in issues that affect their lives and take initiative towards positive change.

Activities:

- Holding 10 summer day camps in 10 villages at the south and Bekaa.
- Holding 2 summer camps on "participation of youth in public life" with the partnership of Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union, Youth Association for Blind and Secours Populaire Libanais.

- **Providing youth with a space at Old Saida:**

DPNA planned and implement "providing youth with a space at Old Saida" which is poverty square at Saida city.

Goals:

- Assuring the sustainability of "Old Saida Youth Club".
- Increasing children and youth participation.
- Improving the economic situation of youth in Old Saida.
- Turning the "Old Saida Club" into a safe and democratic space.

Activities:

- Training workshops on strategic thinking and planning.
- Training workshops on environmental awareness and activities.
- Training workshops on conflict resolution, peace building and democracy.
- Training workshops on gender and discrimination.
- Training sessions on proposal writing.
- Training workshops on advocacy and lobbying.
- Training workshop on scientific applications.
- Training workshop on "how to organize illiteracy sessions".
- Training workshop on "how to organize remedial classes".

- **Guide "Youth of Today":**

DPNA published and distributed the guide youth of today with the partnership of Save the Children Us. This guide is a documentary of youth community initiatives in all over Lebanon.

DPNA covered the following geographical areas during 2004:

Bekfayya: Bekfayya, Mrouj

Tripoli: El mina, Bab Tabbani

Akkar: Halba, Bibneen

Al Iqleem: Barja

Saida: Old Saida, Villet , Taameer, Kayyea

Zahrani: Maghdoushe, Sarafand, Loubieh, Adloun, Zrariyeh

Jezzine: Rihan, Aychiyyeh, Jezzine, Bkassine, Kaytouli, Benwata

Bint Jbeil: Rmaysh, Aytaroun, Ain Ibl, Bint Jbeil, Barachit

Marjeoun: Deir Mimas, Hasbayya, Ain Kinya, Hibbarieh, Kfarshouba

Tyre: Siddikeen, Bazourieh, Zibqueen, Tyre, Masaken, Ain Baal, Old Tyre

Feikha: Feikeha, Labweh, Al Ain, Ersal

Baalbek: Baalbek