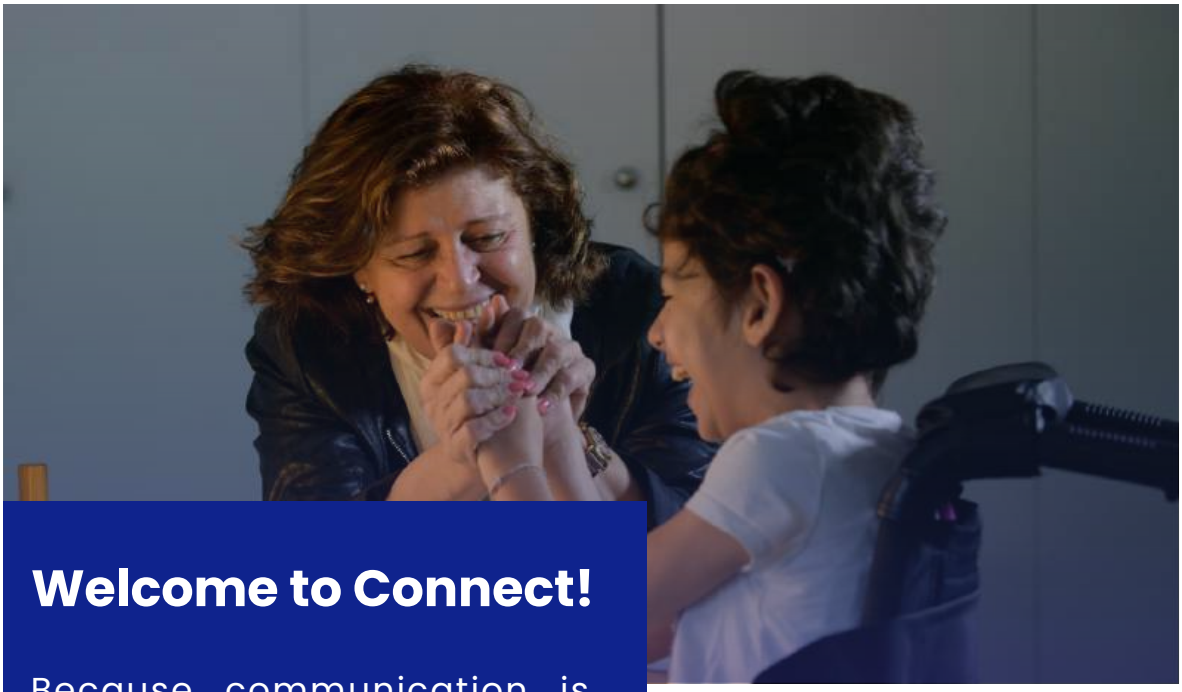
CONNECT.

SESOBEL NEWSLETTER



OCT 25 - JAN 26

Welcome to Connect!

Because communication is at the heart of every strong partnership, we are excited to launch CONNECT, our newsletter for SESOBEL partners and collaborators in Lebanon and abroad. Its purpose is to share news, achievements, initiatives, and special moments from our work and programs.

Through CONNECT, we aim to celebrate milestones, highlight the efforts of our teams, and create a space for inspiration, creativity, and collaboration. This newsletter is our shared voice, bringing you closer to our mission, strengthening connections, and building a community of support and positive impact.





Back to School at SESOBEL

October 1, 2025

SESOBEL joyfully welcomed its children and youth back to school in an atmosphere filled with smiles, laughter, and renewed hope. This year, thanks to the support of a friend, our children now are welcomed four days per week instead of three: one more day to learn and thrive. The start of this new academic year marks the launch of our annual pedagogic theme: **"A Hero Starts at Zero"**.

A reminder that every great journey begins with small, determined steps.

This year, we shine a special light on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, while continuing to advance our commitment to the SDGs **1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17.** Through education, creativity, and daily practice, our children are encouraged to become true "heroes of change," embracing sustainability, inclusion, and responsibility.

We warmly thank À la Sophie by Sophie Hjeij for the adorable mascots that filled the day with joy, and Fusion Animation by Bassam Srouji for the dynamic performance that brought smiles to every face.



This first day of school was not only a celebration of learning but also of conviviality, sharing, and optimism for the year ahead. Together, we continue to nurture resilience, creativity, and the spirit of community, because at SESOBEL, **every hero truly starts at zero.**

Human Rights Day

December 10, 2025

On Human Rights Day, SESOBEL welcomed students from Antonine Sisters School for an engaging and meaningful visit. The students were introduced to SESOBEL's mission by Elias Tawk and attended an insightful session by Maître Maya Tannous Daou on Human Rights and the Rights of Children with Disabilities.

The day concluded with interactive inclusive workshops that fostered dialogue, empathy, and collaboration.

Thank you to Antonine Sisters School for this enriching exchange, reinforcing the values of inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunities.





Introduction to "A moment with Raphael"

The SESOBEL team, who believe that every child and youth have potential and work to help them fulfill their dreams, developed **"Waefeh maa Raphael"** for Raphael, a youth at SESOBEL with a passion for media. Through honest conversations, he invites society to look beyond disability and discover the true abilities of every person.

Raphael, how "A Moment with Raphael" came to life?

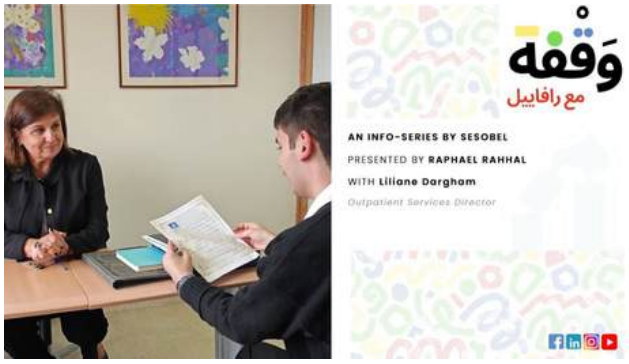
Honestly, I always wanted to become a TV presenter or media personality. But I realized that the traditional way wouldn't really work for me. So, I started listening to podcasts and noticed that many stories sounded alike. That's when the idea of doing a segment on YouTube, with meaningful content, came to me. And later, it developed with the help of SESOBEL team into "A Moment with Raphael."

What does "A Moment with Raphael" mean to you?

To me, it means making sure people's voices are heard. It's a space to highlight real stories and show the true abilities of people with disabilities.

The guests and topics I choose matter to me because they help others see beyond challenges and discover the value in every person.





What kind of topics or moments can we expect to see?

Personally, what I hope for in the future is for "A Moment with Raphael" to shed light on people with disabilities all over Lebanon.

As someone with a disability myself, I want to be the voice of my friends who are like me,

so society can see the truth about who we really are.

وَقفة
مع رافاييل

SUBSCRIBE

On YouTube to watch all episodes

What do you hope people take away from each episode?

I hope every viewer leaves with something meaningful, something that speaks to them, helps them in their life, and brings them closer to our mission.

ACHIEVEMENTS

SUCCESS STORY



Elias Tawk

From beneficiary to role model, Elias Tawk embodies the spirit of growth, inclusion, and possibility at SESOBEL. Today, Elias is a valued member of our team, working as an assistant in the CEO's office and serving as a spokesperson for SESOBEL, warmly welcoming visitors and sharing our mission with passion.

Beyond his role at SESOBEL, Elias is also an entrepreneur, the founder of **Sajjry**, a bakery specializing in saj manakish, and most recently, the host of the YouTube podcast **"Table 3"**. Through his journey, Elias reminds us that with support, determination, and opportunity, potential can truly flourish



Elissa Harik

Meet Elissa, a talented youth at SESOBEL with a passion for photography. She captures the spirit of every event at SESOBEL through her lens, turning moments into lasting memories. Beyond photography, Elissa is an accomplished athlete who loves swimming and has proudly won multiple medals in the Special Olympics. Today, she shares her voice and stories as a co-host on the YouTube podcast "Table 3", inspiring others with her energy, creativity, and dedication.

The Individual Intervention Plan

The Individual Intervention Plan (IIP) is developed in close collaboration with parents, who are considered the primary experts on their child. Each year, a meeting brings together the family and the educational and rehabilitation team to select three essential priorities (Focus Areas) that will guide the child's support.



The IIP brings together the child's personal, medical, and social information and is based on an analysis of their abilities, participation, and environmental factors, in line with the ICF (International Classification Functioning) framework. It then defines objectives across various areas: behavior, communication, autonomy, motor skills, and learning.



This participatory approach ensures a coherent, personalized intervention centered on the real needs of each child, strengthening the partnership between parents and professionals to promote sustainable progress.

FAMILY TIES

PARENTS AND SIBLINGS

Testimony of Adriana Dib

During our workshops, we had the opportunity to explore various forms of artistic expressions from painting and drawing to creating beautiful handmade crafts.

The first few sessions were dedicated to learning how to paint using different techniques such as watercolor, acrylics, and oil paint. Our instructor guided us through the basics, including mixing colors, creating gradients, and applying brush strokes to bring our ideas to life.

We started with simple shapes and gradually progressed to painting still lifes and landscapes. It was exciting to see our progress day by day.

Alongside painting and drawing, we also explored the world of handmade crafts. We learned to create unique items using paper, fabric, and beads. Each project allowed us to express our creativity in a new way.

These workshops are a space for creativity, learning, and self-expression.



CONNECT

THE HEART OF GIVING

DONORS AND SPONSORS

For more than two decades, LCF (Liban Canada Fonds) has been a faithful partner to SESOBEL, offering support that goes beyond borders. In this interview, Mrs. Nicole Abdel Massih President of LCF, reflects on the beginnings of this journey, the deep bond built with SESOBEL's children and youth, and how this experience reshaped her vision of disability, inclusion, and hope.



What does SESOBEL represent to you personally?

My second home. When I come to Lebanon, I visit my family, and for me, SESOBEL is part of that family. My first visit to SESOBEL was in 2006, when I became involved with LCF. During that visit, I was afraid. I didn't know what awaited me at SESOBEL because I had heard that the children's cases were severe, and I expected the worst. Yes, there are severe cases. Yes, I was affected by the cries of children in some classes. But I saw so much love surrounding them that it deeply touched me. The country was at war, yet for me, SESOBEL represented the country in which I grew up. My Lebanon lives within your walls. What happens outside no longer exists when I am at SESOBEL.

How did LCF first become involved with SESOBEL, and what initially inspired it to support the association?

A friend of ours, Najla Malhami, gathered her friends in Montreal and asked them to support associations in Lebanon, among them SESOBEL. This was in the year 2000.

What has enabled LCF to remain committed to SESOBEL over the years?

You. By coming to SESOBEL, spending time with you, listening to you, seeing the joy in the children's eyes, and witnessing their balance even when they cannot stand on their own feet. Through their faces, we read their happiness. It is you who have given us the strength to continue our mission.

What do you hope for SESOBEL's future, in particular?

As much as we can help SESOBEL from abroad, no one can support it better than the Lebanese State. Just as we help certain regions rebuild, priority should be given to citizens who are in need. Rebuilding a person is like rebuilding a house, but in my opinion, rebuilding a person is even more meaningful.

THE HEART OF GIVING

DONORS AND SPONSORS

Are there stories or experiences with SESOBEL's children and youth that particularly touched you?

I recognize many youths I met during my visits to SESOBEL, such as Elie Tawk, who represents SESOBEL's youth; Raphael with his social media segment; Walid with his wonderful paintings... I have seen how they have grown, and seeing them thrive deeply moves me. It is wonderful what they are all capable of doing. While visiting the classes, I saw children working with their hands and showing what they can achieve despite their disabilities. I was so proud of the bracelets made by the youth and sold at the fair in Canada. People were very eager to buy them because they were made by SESOBEL's children.



How has your view of disability and inclusion evolved since becoming a sponsor of SESOBEL?

I used to be afraid of seeing a child with a disabilities. I feared that fear or pity would show on my face. At SESOBEL, I didn't have to control myself because I didn't see disability. You succeeded in showing me the person, not the disability. I saw the sparkle of joy in their eyes and the expression of happiness in their smiles, and I did not see disability. I believe disability exists only in the mind of each person.

What message would you like to share with LCF's friends and collaborators?

I invite everyone to come and visit SESOBEL. Talking about it is not the same as visiting. I am fortunate to visit SESOBEL every time I come to Lebanon, and it brings me great happiness because I draw all my strength from you. We are extremely proud of what you accomplish. We are so happy that there are still people like you in Lebanon, people who work with their hearts in their hands.

THE POWER OF DEDICATION

VOLUNTEERS



THANK YOU, MRS. DIANA ABBOUD!

For so many years, Mrs. Abboud has been more than a friend to SESOBEL, she has been family. With kindness, dedication, and a heart always open to others, she has stood by our children and their families, sharing in their joys and challenges.

Her support has never been just about giving, but about caring, listening, encouraging, and believing in the mission of SESOBEL. With her love and conviction, she even inspired her own family members to embrace SESOBEL's mission, creating a beautiful legacy of solidarity and compassion across generations.

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Abboud for walking this journey with us, for her loyalty and love, and for showing us what true friendship and commitment really mean.

BEHIND THE SCENES

STAFF FEATURES



Global Low-Middle Cerebral Palsy Register meeting *(september 10)*

Dr Abir Massaad, head of R&D Department at SESOBEL, joined the Global Low-Middle Cerebral Palsy Register (GLM CPR) Regional investigators meeting in Africa, where she explored impactful strategies to enhance collecting data, early detection and support services for children with Cerebral Palsy. She successfully completed HNE and GM trainings, key steps toward better care.

The Richness Lies In Every Encounter , A Day In The Life of Julia at SESOBEL" *(September 17)*

Honored to contribute to the international journal Menschen (Austria) with an article titled: *"The richness lies in every encounter - a day in the life of Julia at SESOBEL." by Ghada Kmeid Chbat (Pedagogical Coordinator at SESOBEL and certified trainer in Basal Stimulation - France and Germany)*.
This special issue, dedicated to people with severe and multiple disabilities, shares unique testimonies from around the world. Through Julia's story, we highlight respect, dignity, and the richness each person brings.





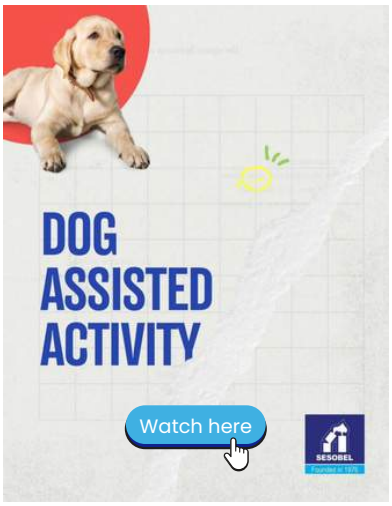
The Oceania Seating Symposium – New Zealand (November 6th)

Our colleague Dr Marie Abou Saab represented SESOBEL at the Oceania Seating Symposium (OSS), presenting a session titled:
«Lessons from Low-Resource Settings: 24/7 Postural Management Shift from Standard to Custom Devices. »
This 15-minute educational session highlighted SESOBEL's experience and innovative approach in providing personalized postural management solutions, even within limited-resource contexts, a testament to our ongoing commitment to inclusion, dignity, and quality of life for every child and youth we serve.

CONNECT

YOU MUST KNOW

EXPERTS INSIGHTS



Dog Assisted Therapy

Welcome to our Dog Assisted Activities program at SESOBEL, where the special bond between humans and dogs creates moments of joy, learning, and growth. These activities are designed to support the social, emotional, and cognitive development of our children, helping them build confidence, improve communication skills, and experience unconditional companionship.

Drama Therapy

Step into the world of Drama Therapy at SESOBEL, where creativity meets healing. Through acting, role-play, and storytelling, participants explore their emotions, express themselves freely, and build confidence in a safe and supportive environment. This video shows how drama becomes a powerful tool for growth, connection, and self-discovery.





Adapted Physical Education

Join us in Physical Education at SESOBEL, where movement and exercise are more than just fun, they build strength, coordination, and confidence. Through engaging activities, our participants develop their physical skills, improve wellbeing, and enjoy the joy of staying active in a supportive and encouraging environment.

FLASH INFO

INTENSIVE THERAPY CAMP

Intensive therapy, now recognized as one of the most effective interventions in pediatric rehabilitation, is based on high intensity and targeted repetition, leading to rapid and measurable functional gains. Supported by strong evidence (Novak et al., 2013; 2020), this approach has proven effective in improving functional abilities, participation, and quality of life for children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

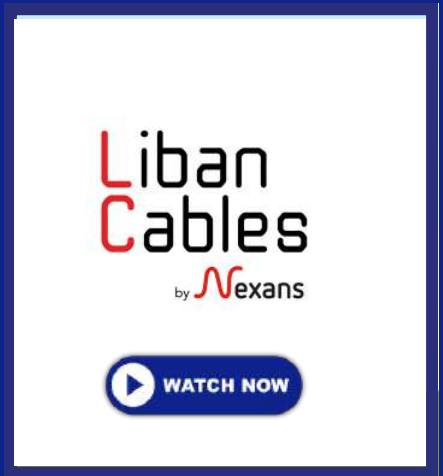
As part of SESOBEL's Intensive Therapy Program, launched in 2022, the Physiotherapy Unit, in collaboration with the Occupational Therapy Unit, organized a summer camp in July 2025 for two children followed in the outpatient service.

Running from July 7–18, with five hours of daily therapy, the camp focused on gross and fine motor skills through playful, functional activities designed to support daily life.

Both children made significant progress in endurance, motor skills, and functional abilities, achieving all goals set with their parents. Families expressed great satisfaction, highlighting the children's engagement and the program's effectiveness.







TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS RESHAPE INDUSTRIES

Thanks to the generous donation from Liban Cables by Nexans, we were able to secure the essential power cable needed to complete the installation of the photovoltaic system at our biscuit and chocolate production workshops.

This step is key to reducing our energy costs and ensuring the sustainability of these workshops, which are at the heart of SESOBEL's self-financing efforts. The proceeds from our products directly support our programs for children and youth with disabilities.

Together, we're turning sunshine into energy and into hope!

YOUR HELP IS VITAL

Together, we can give every child the dignity in care they deserve.

Because when you help a child, you help an entire family live in harmony despite disability.

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CONTACT US

ST. 11 - P.O BOX: 551 / ZOUK MIKAEL, LEBANON
INFO@SESOBEL.ORG / WWW.SESOBEL.ORG/ +961 9 235 435

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(TAX DEDUCTION IS STILL IN PROCESS)
Address: 10 chemin de Jaumeron, 91190 Gif sur Yvette - France
sesobelfrance@gmail.com

AUSTRALIA:VIA AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF SESOBEL
Mr. Tony Khaicy : +61 402478 458

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SESOBEL is engaged to abide by rigorous and transparent management practices: the finances of SESOBEL are regularly monitored by 2 auditing firms, the international Ernst & Young and the Cabinet Antoine Haddad in Lebanon.