



# Annual Report 2019-2020

A crazy year,  
a year of love,  
a year of miracle!





في الحياة بعبلة أنت أخي  
• أنت عني  
• أنا منك  
• أنا بفكرتك  
• أنت مهم نظري  
• غدا ما فعلت معي  
• نأنا حتى الحياة بعبلك  
• سوري مسرور وسرور  
جزء عيلة  
كل واحد بعبلة حياة التالي  
رعاية

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# Editorial

## To hope is to give life to life

Witnessing hope can in no way be the fruit of a scientific, mathematical calculation, but rather the fruit of an experience lived in gratuity and self-giving: gratuity of presence, gratuity of encounter, of prayer, of gift and generosity.

The year that has just passed leaves strong wounds in the hearts of the people of Lebanon and of the whole world, psychological, economic, sanitary and loneliness after-effects...

Like all the associations, like each and every Lebanese, Anta Akhi has lived a difficult and challenging year, but also a miracle year, a year filled with hope.

Having lived this experience of hope encourages us to transmit it to others: **"Freely you have received, freely give." (Mt 10:8)**

In these difficult times, **"hoping against hope"** becomes today the ultimate mission of Anta Akhi. Yes, this is our challenge today!

We have decided to love life despite all odds, to learn to fight with confidence, to put things into perspective by thinking of the many supports we have received, to reanimate our faith and never forget that **Jesus is the first sower of hope**, Jesus who becomes incarnate every day through all those who open their hearts to him, in order to come to meet all men.

Many thanks to all of you, dear friends from Lebanon and elsewhere; by your presence at our side, you have inspired us with hope, you have transmitted to us the love of our Lord.

Together with you, we have been able to live and survive this year; **together with you, we continue in confidence and faith.** Faced with all your initiatives of love, self-giving and generosity, Anta Akhi can only give thanks to God for you and with you.

Roula Najm  
Présidente Directrice Générale



# What is our mission ?

A path of fidelity, to live the family, and create a Community of Life !

## With young people with disabilities

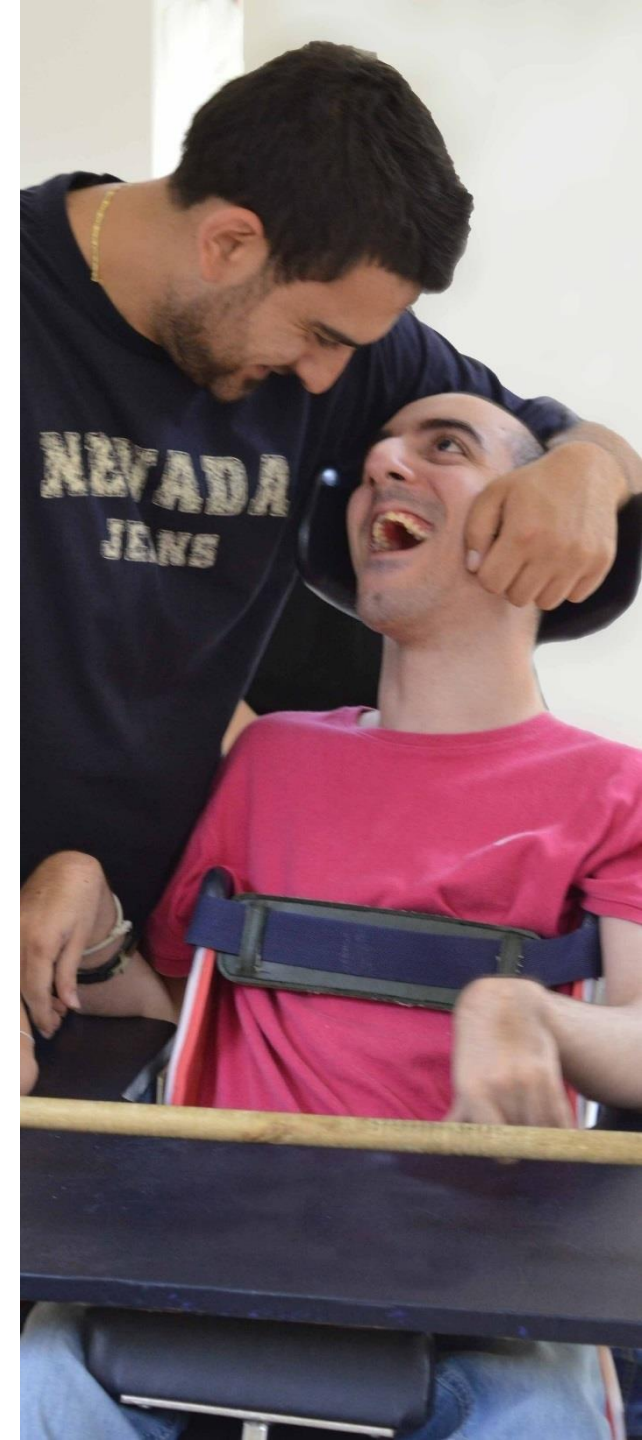
- Managing the demands of their life journey on a daily basis, **for a life of dignity** ;
- **To accompany their lives**, and express to them by our presence their importance and value ;
- To help develop their potential for responsibility and **discover the meaning of their lives**.

## With the families

- **Accompany the family** in preventing the exhaustion of its members ;
- **Preparing with the family**, the demands of the adult's future after the parents' departure.

## With the society

- **Rehabilitate the able-bodied to the world of disability**: Inform, raise awareness and mobilize to achieve a change in outlook and values ;
- **Create a network of friends** and collaborators to accompany their life journey with us.





They have preceded us to the bosom of the Father this year...



**Barbara Zgheib**  
28-12-1974 | 11- 11- 2020

Barbara, who has Friedrich's Ataxia, along with four of her siblings, lived fully, in a total yes to Jesus. Her whole life was an overcoming, a search for God, a testimony of love.



**Tony Zgheib**  
16-05-1967 | 27-12-2020

This young man, brother of Barbara and suffering from the same handicap, was a member of Anta Akhi's family for some years. He now rests with his two brothers and his sister.





## Rita Mounzer

22-03-1984 | 15-11-2019

It is with great joy that we remember Rita, who loved life, and expressed it with her grateful heart always ready to say thank you, her presence to others, her smile, and her dance...

She kept in all those who knew her a memory of purity and simplicity.



## Christine Antoun

08-03-1986 | 26-08-2020

"Kiki" with multiple disabilities and epidermolysis bullosa used to come to Anta Akhi for weekends.

Because of her regression, she could no longer leave her parental home ; despite great suffering, she never lost her malicious smile and her love of life.



## Paul Akiki

08-11-1989 | 19-12-2020

Suffering from multiple disabilities and requiring permanent assistance at his side, Paul was a source of joy and peace to all those who knew him, especially to his parents who accompanied his life journey.



## Georges Bou Saba

31-06-1977 | 25-12-2020

By his joy of living, his enthusiasm, his presence to others, and by all the love he carried in his heart, Georges was a witness of a joyful living together despite all the difficulties. He embodied in his life one of the foundations of Anta Akhi: "Life is beautiful and worth living as a celebration. "



## Jocelyne Khoueir

A member of the "Set el Beit" community, of our General Assembly, and a great friend of Anta Akhi, Jocelyne joined the bosom of the Father on July 31, 2020 after a struggle of almost 2 years with illness.

She marked all those who knew her with a deep love for our young people with disabilities, for Lebanon and for the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. Her memory remains very much alive in the hearts of everyone.



# A crazy year! In Lebanon and Anta Akhi

As a direct consequence of a multifaceted crisis (financial, economic, social) that brought the Lebanese people out into the streets in the fall of 2019, Anta Akhi has been going through 2019-2020 like a sailor going through a storm. Amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic that brought the country to a standstill for several weeks, our usual activities were challenged.

But with the confidence we have in Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, mother of our house, we have kept our lamp burning. It is called: Hope.

# A year like no other in Lebanon...

2019

Beginning of  
the economic  
crisis

Revolution of  
October 17, 2019



- Roadblocks ▪ School closures  
= Impossibility to organize school visits,  
movements...
- Cancellation of numerous self-financing operations
- Cancellation of youth outings

From Fall 2019

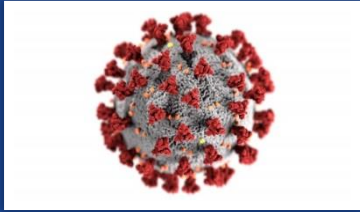
- Very high devaluation of the Lebanese pound
- Drastic increase in the cost of living
- Limitation and subsequent cancellation of dollar withdrawals

# ... so not like the others in Anta Akhi

March 12, 2020

Covid-19 Pandemic

= Closure of the "Home of Tenderness" to visitors



- Cancellation of daytime and weekend youth hosting.
- Cancellation of all self-funding operations.
- Cancellation of all recreational activities and camp.
- Inability to host Lebanese and foreign volunteers, schools, groups and movements, priests and seminarians, friends and sponsors.
- Existential formation cancelled and then resumed online.



August 4, 2020  
Explosion  
in the port of Beyrouth

September 2020  
18 coronavirus cases  
in the  
« Home of Tenderness »

# A year of love !

Exceptional situations call for exceptional reactions: **The entire** Anta Akhi team has adapted to meet the needs of the young people and the house.

Some members of the team have adapted their jobs or changed functions in order to guarantee the sustainability of Anta Akhi's action.





## Companions who do not hesitate to give of themselves...

It took a lot of love to decide to lock themselves up for several weeks with our young adults with disabilities! To limit the risks of Covid attacks, some of them were confined for several weeks, sometimes up to 33 days without leaving the house, working day and night, without seeing their families, while some of them have young children. They competed with ingenuity to continue to animate the house, to keep the link with the outside world and to allow everyone to experience joy despite the difficulties.



Many of them also offered shifts during the first part of the confinement. Thank you for so much love and commitment!



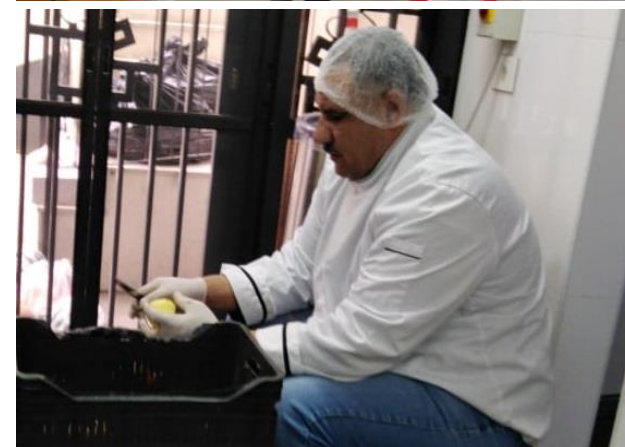


## And a team fully mobilized around our youth

**The General Service team on deck:** Adapting schedules, changing jobs, working remotely or at the “Home of Tenderness”, all the necessary adjustments were made to ensure the smooth running of the house without forgetting good hygiene and good food.

**No respite for the Fundraising and Donations Unit:** Despite the cancellation of all the fundraising activities and the numerous interruptions due to the blocking of the roads and the confinement rules, the 3 collectors continued to criss-cross the roads of Lebanon to collect donations and sponsorships.

**The search for international support continues:** With calls for donations, the preparation of crowdfunding operations, the presentation of new funding projects and the maintenance of close relations with our donors outside Lebanon, the Communication and Projects Unit has worked tirelessly to ensure the sustainability of our income and to relay our action on social networks or through circulars.





## Spiritual and existential accompaniment online, so as not to leave the youth without answers

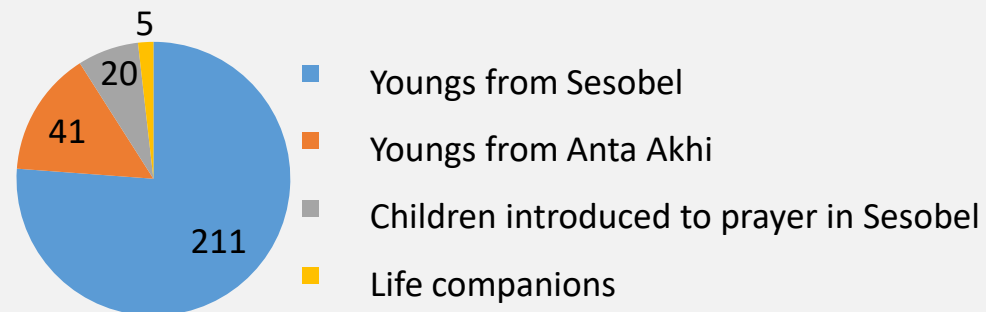
After a period of latency, linked to the uncertainty of the aftermath of the confinement and to organizational imperatives, the individual and group follow-up of our youth with disabilities was able to continue by videoconference from June onwards ; a new method which, against all expectations, allowed us to do a more interesting work with each individual.



Also trainings for the able-bodied could take place with our visitors (before the confinement) and with various groups online, notably with the students of the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (through a multi-year collaboration in the framework of a civic engagement course).

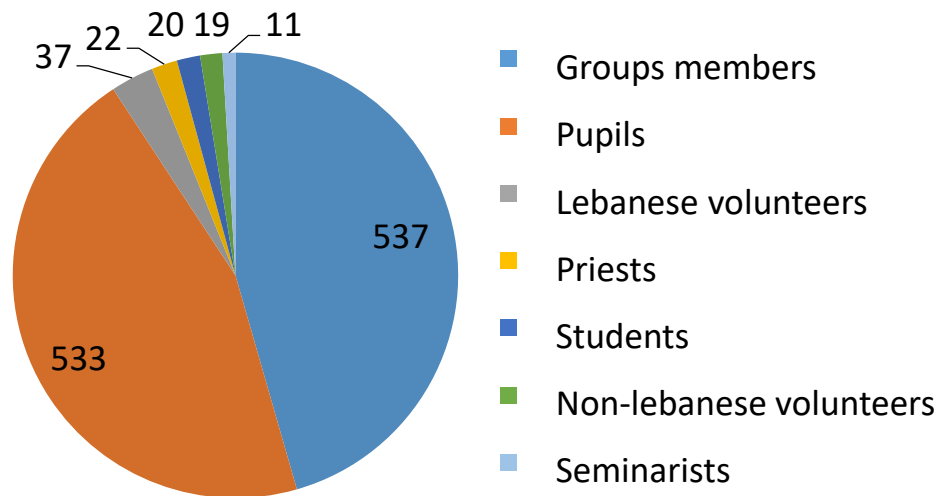
The spiritual accompaniment reached **229** children with disabilities in 30 groups.

Existential accompaniment reached **277** people as shown in the graph opposite.



Our action has been aimed at our young people with disabilities, but also at our visitors for a peaceful and joyful living together despite all difficulties. Their number went from 2200 last year to 1179 this year.

Who are they?





# A year of miracle !

In spite of all the difficulties of the country and in spite of a strict confinement at Anta Akhi, we were able to allow our young adults to continue their life path in dignity.

With a lot of faith and confidence, while we only had prayer as a weapon, our "Home of Tenderness" became more than ever a small living "Cenacle" of prayer.

The result was not long in coming: thanks to the generosity coming from Lebanon and the 4 corners of the world, and while the situation of Anta Akhi remains fragile, we can attest to having lived a miracle year!

The adventure never stops with Marie; trust is a sure sign of the path of life!

## New and unexpected initiatives to support us

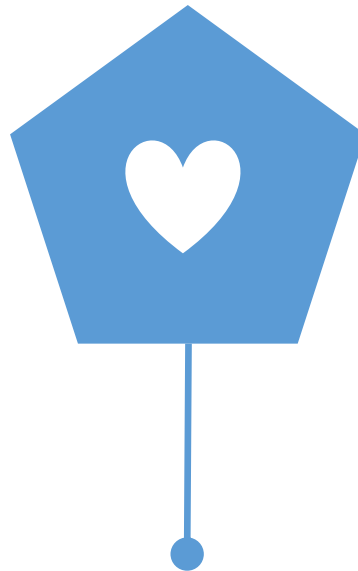
If many operations have been cancelled, significant help has come from all sides to support our action. Thus, couples have collected funds for the association on the occasion of their wedding or the baptism of their child. Here are some examples:



Little Alphonse gave us all the money in his piggy bank!



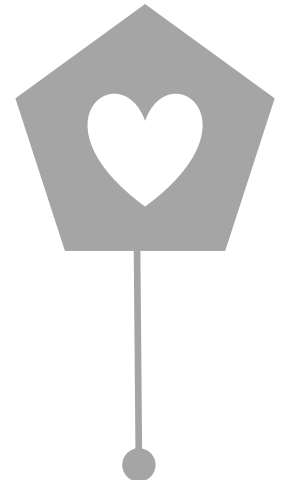
Kaya's baptism gifts have been given to us!



The community that gathers for the "World Day of Prayer" has chosen us among many other associations.



The MTV, through its telethon, and in particular its CEO Mr. El Murr, gave us a donation.



The Fitness Academy did not hesitate to help us during this difficult period.

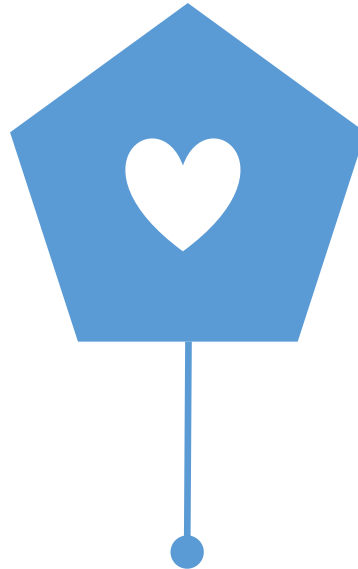
## Without forgetting all our friends living outside the country...



Lionel, a DCC volunteer at Anta Akhi, mobilized his entire entourage to help us raise funds.



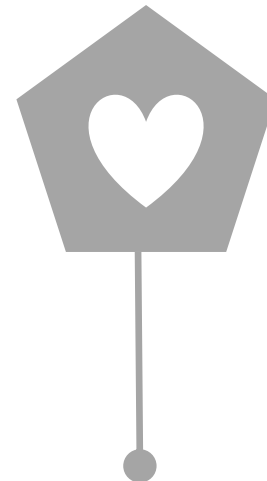
The Provictimis Foundation has agreed to change the use of the funds to help in the support of the youth



Our friends from the Fraternité Franciscaine de l'Est have blessed us with their messages of friendship and their donations.



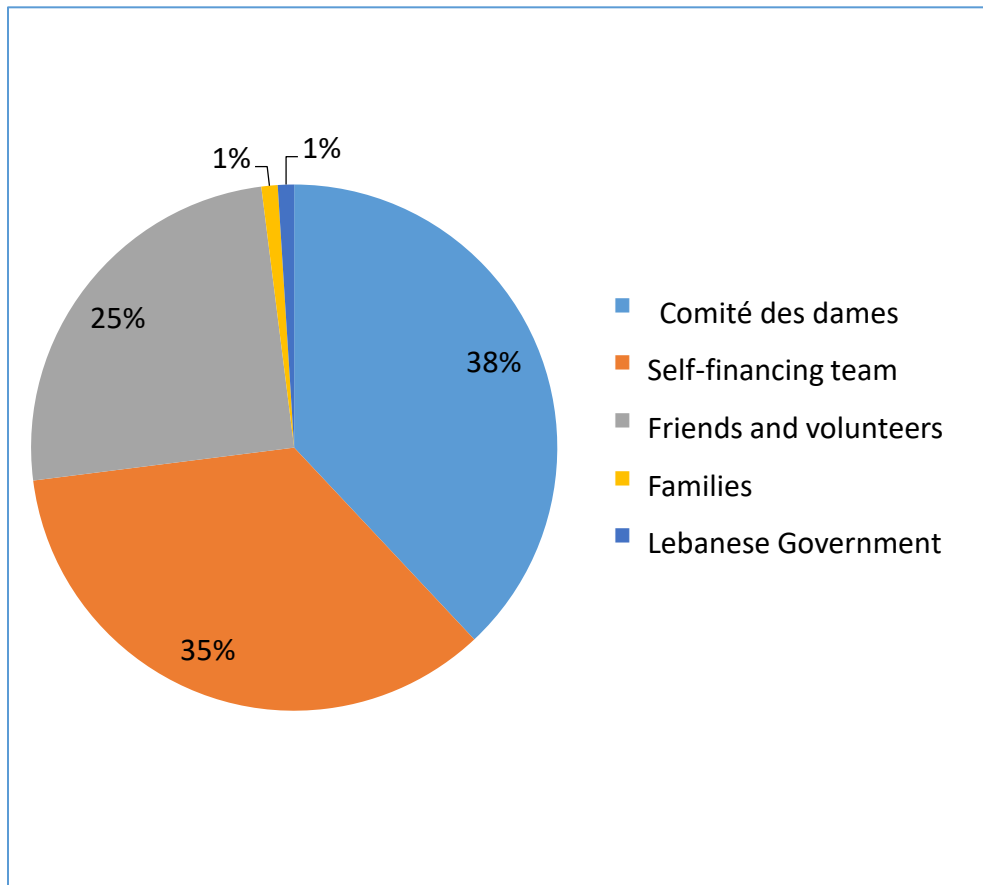
Our friends, Lebanese-French volunteers of Anta Akhi France, are constantly mobilized to find new ways to help us.



We were overwhelmed by the presence of our French volunteer friends, especially during the "Giving Tuesday" operation.



# A focus on the financial resources from Lebanon...



## « Activities » from the « Comité des dames »

Breakfast La Marina, November 2019 :	Cancelled
Cinéma, January 2020 :	Cancelled
Gala Dinner, 2020 :	Cancelled
Breakfast La Marina, Mars 2020 :	Cancelled
Wedding Liste, May 2020 :	Cancelled

All the activities planned by the Ladies' Committee were cancelled for different reasons. But with their energy and the Lord providing, the committee appealed for donations (in lieu of all activities) and was able to secure: donations for operations and for the medical fund.

Thank you dear friends for your faithful and loving presence at our side!



# .. and focus on resources from elsewhere

## By answering "YES" to projects presented



## Spontaneously



Ambassade  
EAU au Liban



Nonciature  
apostolique

L'association  
allemande  
FBML

## By sending us volunteers



## New support for 2020-2021

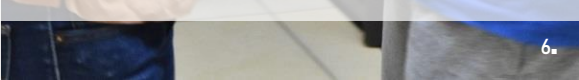




1. Fête de la Sainte-Barbe 2. Marianne, Joseph and Nicolas Bakish Field Day (september 2019) 3. Concert of the internal security forces in September 2019 4. With Patriarch Bechara Rai at the Disability Awareness Event (December 2019) 5. The only breakfast of the year (December 2019) 6. Manual activity during lockdown (March 2020) 7. Music night during lockdown (April 2020)



1. Prayer time on the patio (summer 2020) 2. Video call session to check in with the family during confinement 3. Observation game (Fall 2019) 4. Visit from the Apostolic Nuncio of Lebanon Msgr. Spiteri (December 2019) 5. Group Snoozelen session during lockdown (April 2020) 6. Dance activity (September 2019) 7. Improv theater night during lockdown (May 2020)

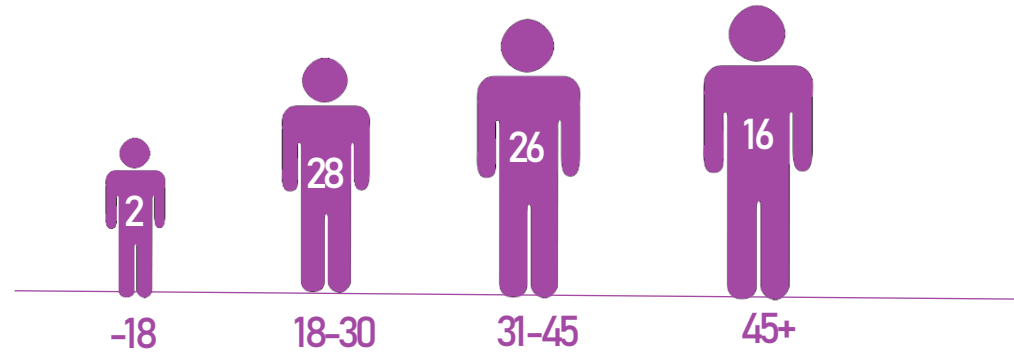


# Our « youngs » in 2019-2020



74  
persons

## By age



## By type of disability

Cerebral palsy  
(with or without mental retardation)

30

Mental retardation

15

Degenerative disease

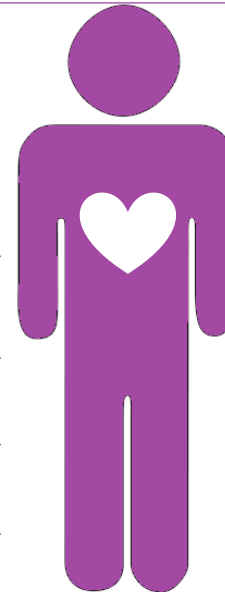
12

Multiple disabilities

10

Others

5



## By type of reception

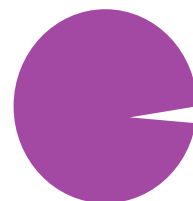


## By level of motor function



Non autonomous	32
Limited autonomy	24
More or less autonomous	4
Autonomous	12

## By type of communication



Ordinary communication	39
Difficult communication	20
No verbal communication	13



# Follow-up of the youth's health

Our main objective is that our young people live a life of dignity on a daily basis, and this objective also includes health; we are always present with them so that, beyond all the planned programming, they can maintain their skills.

This year, the following activities were carried out:

- 41 health check-ups
- 24 consultations + 21 by phone
- 5 emergency consultations
- 5 hospitalizations for Barbara, Pierre, Marcelle and Samo
- 458 acts of physiotherapy
- 1033 acts of respiratory therapy

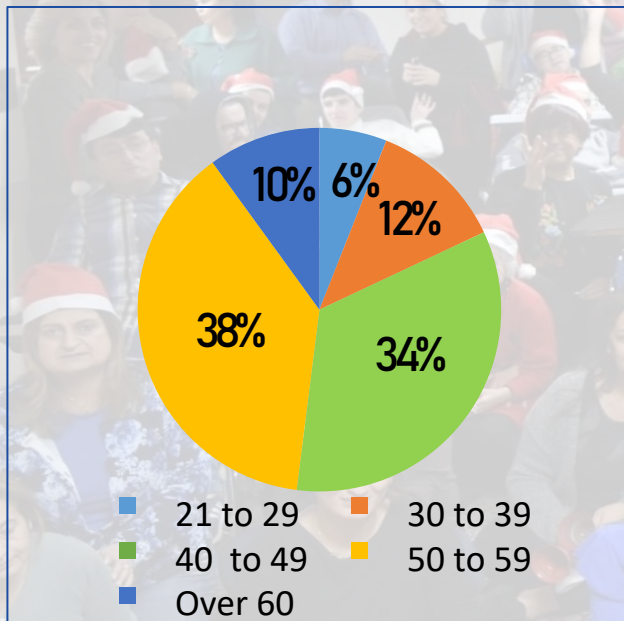
For our young people with disabilities living in their homes and unable to come to Anta Akhi physiotherapy sessions at home have been carried out by the physiotherapist, from June 2020.



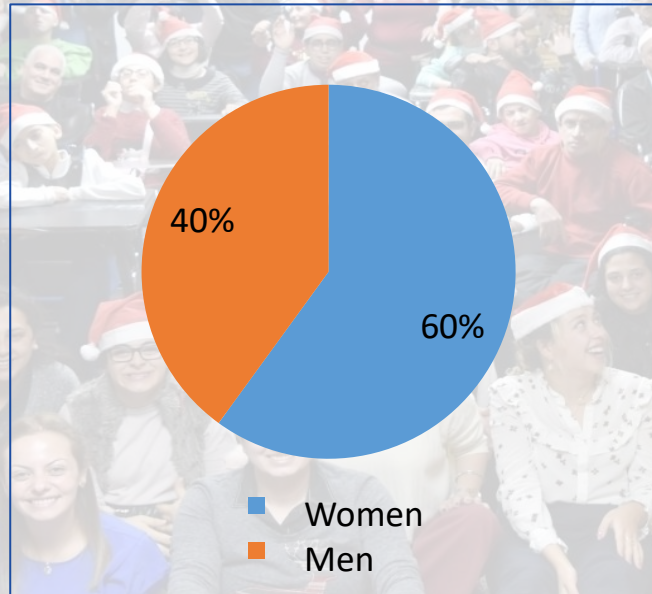
# Our team

To ensure a 24/7 presence all year round  
**60 people at the service of our youth**  
of which 50 are full-time.

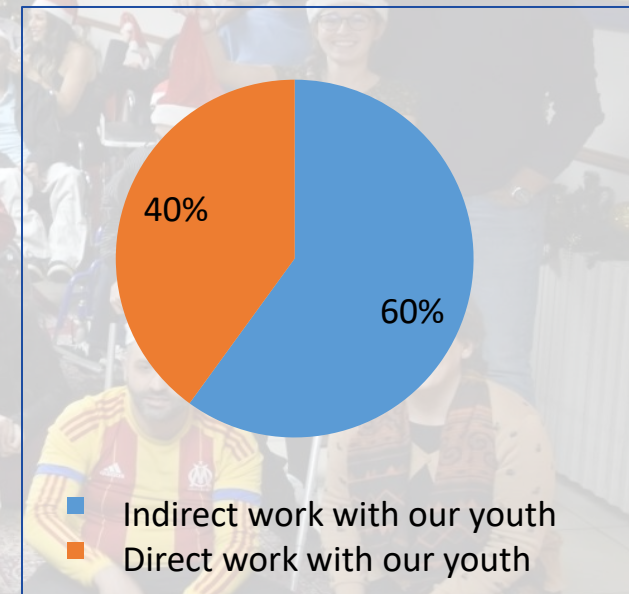
Age distribution



Gender distribution



Direct/indirect work



In order to carry out a beautiful and engaging action at all levels, a team is gathered around our young people with disabilities. Their driving force? A great love for our young people and a commitment to our mission.



Marie-Thérèse



Marwan

## Goodbye and Welcome !

We would like to thank Marie-Thérèse, Marwan, Danièle, Roger, Chantal and Peguy for their multi-year commitment to our family and wish them the best for the years to come.

And we welcome with great joy Pauline and Charbel, nurse and physiotherapist, for a beautiful adventure of love in the big family of "Anta Akhi".



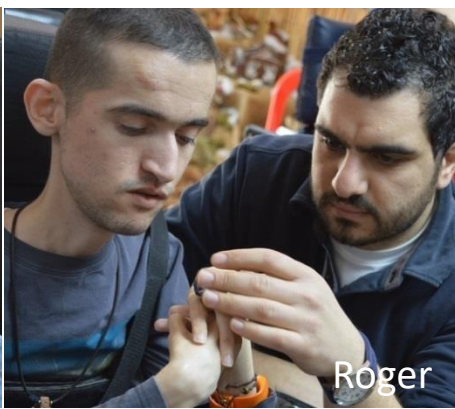
Pauline



Charbel



42 Danièle



Roger



Chantal



Peguy







# Acknowledgements



"Thank you Mary, thank you Jesus for all the love! Thank you for being always present in our joys and in our sorrows, especially during those moments when everything falls apart, when we lose our footing, when everything becomes blurred. In this period, when the whole world is suffering from disease, violence, corruption, pain, convert our hearts so that we may be human beings who carry your peace and keep faith and hope. "

Roula Najm



**For your donations**

Online payment : [www.antaakhi.org](http://www.antaakhi.org)

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Account number €: 165208 -0035

IBAN : LB48 0056 0000 0000 0016 5208 0035



There is no life without problems. We are not seeking for problems, but for solutions. But let nothing disturb our joy, our serenity. Are happiness, peace and serenity the most important things for me? If we answer yes, we can face anything that disturbs this joy, this peace, this serenity. This choice is part of the struggle of life.



Yvonne Chami  
Founder

