

## **Empowering Women to be Actors in Local Development**

The Community Based Academy for Women's Empowerment was established in 2006 in the Old City of Tripoli, Lebanon. The goal of the Center is to offer women from marginalized areas support through education and training that are designed to address the comprehensive and holistic nature of issues impacting women's participation in society at both the local and national levels. In addition, the Center seeks to elevate women's roles in their families and communities.

Mohammad A. Safadi, Founder



The Center is the hub of Safadi Foundation's programs targeting women and children. It provides a safe space free-of-charge to the local community, servicing over 500 beneficiaries annually. The facility is managed by a group of social workers and social animators. In addition, a local committee of volunteers boosts the Center's outreach in the community, by assessing local needs and tailoring interventions to meet them.

Programs are designed to foster a combination of socio-economic empowerment and a spirit of active citizenship and participation at both the individual and collective levels. Some highlights from our latest activities include:

- Educational support through expressive arts and support for public schools
- Personal empowerment
- Psycho-social support
- Conflict resolution, peace-building and life skills
- Women's health awareness
- Nutrition and parental skills
- Environmental protections
- Accelerated vocational training in handicrafts, sewing, cosmetology, and social entrepreneurship
- Entertainment and sports activities

The mission of Safadi Foundation is to empower vulnerable communities in Lebanon, with a specific focus on women and youth, to find sustainable solutions that will enable them to play a participatory role in the country's national development process. Our aim is to reduce socio-economic regional disparities, decrease the gender-gap, and narrow the vacuum between citizens and their governing institutions. Through developing innovative strategies we will reduce poverty, increase access to labor markets and educate local communities to play an enhanced role in civic engagement.



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