

مركز مُسان لذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة

Mosan Center for Special Needs

Location :

Borj Al-Shamali – Sour (Tyre)
District, South Lebanon

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Rural Development Association
Mosan Center for Special Needs



مُسان Mosan
Special Needs Center
مركز لذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة

Comprehensive Overview
and Background

2025 - 2026

Mosan Center — Overview & Background

Mosan Center continues to play a central role as an active community institution in Borj Al-Shamali, Sour (Tyre) District, Lebanon. Since its establishment, the Center has dedicated its efforts to promoting sustainable development, empowering local communities, and delivering impactful social programs. Under experienced leadership and in close cooperation with the Municipality of Borj Al-Shamali and local and regional partners, the Center works to improve social and economic conditions and strengthen community resilience. The Center remains committed to its mission of supporting vulnerable groups and contributing meaningfully to regional development.

❖ History of Mosan Center

Mosan Center is a specialized educational institution with a long-standing history of more than 30 years. The Center was established in 1993 by the Rural Development Association, a non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting communities in Sour and surrounding districts and promoting inclusive education. From its inception, the Center's primary objective has been to provide educational support to children and young people with special educational needs, recognizing the importance of inclusive education in fostering community development and individual empowerment.

Over the decades, Mosan Center has evolved by integrating innovative teaching approaches and expanding its services to become a vital resource for people with disabilities in the Sour district. The skilled multidisciplinary staff and a supportive environment have helped many students develop essential skills, gain independence, and improve their quality of life. The Center's commitments extend beyond education through collaboration with families, local authorities, and regional partners to advocate for the rights and needs of people with disabilities.

Today, Mosan Center upholds its founding principles while adapting to emerging needs to ensure that every individual receives the necessary support to thrive in society.

❖ Establishment & Relocation

Mosan Center was founded in 1993 within Al-Jaafariya institutions in Sour. In 2003 the Center moved to its new premises in Borj Al-Shamali, Sour District, South Lebanon, occupying a strategically located property between 5 and 20 minutes from various areas across the district. The center was built on a plot of approximately 4,200 square meters generously provided by the Municipality of Borj Al-Shamali.

❖ Target Group

Approximately 175 students benefit from the Center's programs. Students' ages range from 3 years to over 35 years, with diverse educational and rehabilitation needs.

❖ Mission & Focus

The Center provides specialized educational and rehabilitation programs designed to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities, enhancing their abilities, promoting independence, and supporting social integration.

❖ Support & Funding

Since its foundation, the Center has received support from foreign governments, international and national NGOs, and in-kind contributions that helped establish and equip its current premises. Mosan Center relies on support from the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) to ensure the continuity of its services and the development of its programs.

The Center has a contractual agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs through which the Ministry covers a portion of the expenses for students registered with MoSA.

❖ Our Vision

To create an inclusive society characterized by awareness, education, and acceptance — a community that embraces diversity and understands disability with respect and inclusion.

❖ Our Mission

We aim to raise awareness and empower people with disabilities through education, rehabilitation, and employment, thereby enhancing their independence and full integration into society. Our specialized team delivers training, educational and awareness programs for individuals, families, and communities to develop capabilities, promote a culture of acceptance, and advocate for their rights.

❖ Management & Supervision

Mosan Center operates under the patronage of the Rural Development Association and in cooperation with the Municipality of Borj Al-Shamali. The Association is a civil society organization officially registered with the Lebanese Ministry of Interior under registration number 174/Ad – 1963.

Management Team

General Director: Eng. Ali Charafeddine — +961 3 612582

Director Manager: Ms. Najat Sekmani — +961 3 800158

HR / Personnel: Mr. Sami Sulaiman — +961 70 317218

Core Commitments

Mosan Center is committed to the following principles to promote the independence and social integration of its students:

- Respecting students' rights and ensuring professional confidentiality in all aspects of our work.
- Conducting thorough, evidence-based assessments.
- Developing individualized, organized, and goal-oriented treatment and educational plans.
- Providing specialized, high-quality and comprehensive therapeutic services to meet students' needs.
- Actively involving parents in the therapeutic path to ensure the best outcomes.
- Offering family guidance and support to maximize benefits from the therapeutic process and achieve educational and professional goals for the students.
- Arranging awareness and educational programs to raise community and family understanding and acceptance.
- Delivering awareness programs in schools to promote understanding and acceptance of diversity.

Staff Composition

Mosan Center depends on qualified and diverse staff who work together within a specialized system that includes teachers, therapists, administrators, support staff, and volunteers.

Specialized Teachers

Special education teachers play a key role in serving individuals with special needs, including assessing abilities, identifying individual requirements, designing and implementing individualized educational plans, developing life and social skills, providing psychosocial support, and facilitating inclusion in educational and community settings. Teachers work with families and stakeholders to ensure comprehensive development.

Methodologies include initial and periodic assessments with validated tools, flexible curriculum design based on measurable objectives, continuous documentation and review of progress, individual and group sessions, coordination with multidisciplinary teams, parental involvement, and the use of multi-sensory and practical learning strategies.

The curriculum integrates pre-reading and pre-writing developmental preparation, functional literacy and numeracy taught according to each student's level and learning plan, with the ultimate goal of increasing independence.

Therapists

The Center offers an integrated set of therapeutic and rehabilitation services delivered by a multidisciplinary team designed to improve beneficiaries' quality of life through tailored programs implemented according to international standards. Therapists coordinate closely to design effective individual programs that enhance students' independence and community integration. Most of the therapeutic teams hold accredited licenses and are trained in standardized assessment tools.

Therapeutic services are delivered flexibly — in groups or individually — according to the needs of each case, across the following therapy areas:

- Social health and community work
- Psychotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Speech and language therapy
- Psychomotor therapy
- Remedial education
- Physiotherapy
- Family counseling and guidance

Administrative & Support Staff

An administrative team manages planning, coordination, resources, partnerships, and daily follow-up, alongside staff responsible for general services and maintenance.

Volunteers

Volunteers support center activities through educational assistance, extracurricular activities, and diverse support services, and are an important part of the community spirit.

Our Strategic Goals

- Rehabilitation and community education: Promote community acceptance and support for people with disabilities.
- Awareness & Media: Use media channels to educate and reach diverse segments of society to foster inclusion.
- Capacity building & Institutional development: Train staff, NGOs, and schools in best practices for working with people with disabilities.
- Employment support & economic development: Help people with disabilities access suitable employment and develop productive capacities.
- Cultural, social & sports participation: Encourage active participation of people with disabilities in cultural, social, and sporting events.

Services & Programs

The Center provides high-standard therapeutic, educational, psychological, and social services by applying modern and continuously updated programs. The team actively participates in scientific training to improve service quality.

- Family counseling to help families cope with daily challenges, strengthen family cohesion, and support people with disabilities psychologically and socially in a supportive family environment.
- Family empowerment by involving family members as partners in therapy to increase the effectiveness of interventions.

- Community empowerment through awareness-raising programs to increase societal understanding of disability and mental health and promote inclusion.
- Training placements for university and vocational students under supervision of the multidisciplinary team, providing official certificates of completion.
- School student training programs to raise awareness and teach students how to communicate and interact with people with special needs.
- Volunteer opportunities for individuals interested in participating in social and service activities.
- Diagnostic assessments using standardized tests to diagnose learning difficulties, academic delays, developmental delays, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and other conditions. Assessments are carried out by experienced specialists with accredited certifications.
- Advanced educational and therapeutic programs including early intervention, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, ASD, learning difficulties, and the use of assistive technologies.
- Individualized treatment planning based on measurable goals and regular monitoring.
- Dedicated therapeutic clinics and rehabilitation services supervised by a multidisciplinary team.
- Remedial education and behavior modification programs based on Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) were appropriate.
- Implementation of Montessori principles to support holistic development in early childhood stages.
- Integration of technology in education through computers, interactive smart boards, and educational applications.

Types of Disabilities

Down Syndrome
Mild Intellectual Disability
Moderate Intellectual Disability
Severe Intellectual Disability
Cerebral Palsy
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Program Levels

Kindergarten level
Basic academic and light vocational training
Intensive academic and vocational training
Care program for severe disabilities

Supporting Programs for Educational & Therapeutic Curriculum

Health & Preventive Programs:

The Center implements a nutritional awareness program for all students through educational circles, videos and stories within the daily schedule, as well as workshops and awareness sessions for families. The Center emphasizes seasonal, locally produced foods and natural sweets prepared at Mosan Restaurant and baked goods from the Mosan-affiliated Sonbola Bakery.

Family Programs:

We offer family support, empowerment, and consultations to train families on communication and acceptance strategies, including awareness sessions, lectures, and field visits to support and follow-up with students and their families.

Sexuality Education Program:

A program designed to educate students about age-appropriate sexual health and personal boundaries from childhood through adolescence into adulthood, delivered through educational sessions, stories, and individual sessions where needed.

Civic Education Program:

This program teaches students about their rights and responsibilities, fosters personal development, and reinforces values such as ethics, respect, and patriotism.

Academic Program:

The academic program addresses cognitive, psychological, and intellectual skills to help students improve concentration, memory, and foundational reading, writing and functional mathematics skills.

Computer Program:

Using computers to strengthen literacy and to teach basic technical skills according to the established curriculum.

Smart Board Program:

Interactive smart boards are used to enhance cognitive and motor skills, encouraging participation through tactile and sensory activities.

English Language Program:

A simplified English program to teach daily expressions and basic language concepts that support social integration.

Theater Program:

Theater is a key platform for showcasing students' abilities, breaking societal barriers, and promoting social inclusion. Performances and rehearsals help release energy, modify behavior, stimulate imagination, enhance perception, and encourage cooperation.

Inclusion Education Program:

A program aimed at introducing students with intellectual delays to broader school and community environments, fostering acceptance and preparing future generations to appreciate differences.

Physical Education Program:

Physical education aims to achieve overall development according to each student's abilities through sports, games, and competitions adapted to various disabilities. Beneficiaries undergo comprehensive medical screening that includes laboratory tests, hearing and vision checks, and cardiac/circulatory assessments.

Mosan launched a football team for individuals with intellectual disabilities on April 30, 2018, and a girls' basketball team in 2018. The Center participates in many sporting events with foreign organizations, local clubs, associations, and schools.

Life Skills Training Program:

The life skills program develops beneficiaries' abilities to perform daily tasks independently, including personal care, time management, social communication, and household skills to build confidence and autonomy.

Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Targeting students aged 14 and above in the mild and moderate categories, the Center provides vocational training to develop physical, mental, social, and professional capacities to enable independent work and dignified living. Training is provided with parental consent and in coordination with families to select suitable trades and set individualized work plans. Training is divided into three stages:

- Vocational orientation: Introducing trade, tools, and basic skills along with positive work attitudes.
- Practical application: Hands-on training to reach a professional level of performance.
- Workplace training and market exposure: Teaching workplace etiquette, social relations, and participation in exhibitions and events under direct supervision.

Training Workshops & Craft Units

- Sonbola Bakery
- Carpentry workshop
- Soap-making workshop
- Crochet & embroidery workshop
- Sewing workshop
- Handicrafts workshop
- Secretarial skills training
- Food preparation and catering training
- Etiquette training

These workshops aim to provide practical training and income-generating skills. Trainees also take part in the daily activities and programs of the Center.

Sonbola Bakery

A German association supported the establishment of a fully equipped bakery for professional training and rehabilitation. The bakery produces healthy whole-grain bread and serves multiple purposes:

- Vocational training for students.
- Welcoming visitors from the local community to engage with the Center and boost morale.
- Employment of some trainees within the bakery under supervision.

Mosan Restaurant

The Center operates a daily restaurant for students and events. The restaurant provides lunch for all students with the dual purpose of training them in table manners, meal preparation, and the use of adapted utensils for those with motor, sensory, or cognitive difficulties. Special utensils such as ergonomically designed spoons, plates with raised rims, and adapted cups are used to facilitate

independent eating. The restaurant is supervised by a professional chef, a support team, and an etiquette instructor.

Students receive training in food preparation, vegetable sorting and cleaning, packaging, table setting, and social etiquette. Produced foods and baked goods are also marketed through the Center's permanent exhibition and external fairs.

Carpentry Workshop

The carpentry workshop focuses on wood recycling and crafting wooden items such as trays, models, signs, and educational tools. Some of the Center's therapeutic and educational equipment is produced in this workshop. Products are displayed in the Center's permanent Mosan Exhibition and at outside events.

Crochet & Embroidery Workshop

A group of female student's train in embroidery and crochet. Homework assignments are sometimes given for practice at home, which encourages family participation and increases motivation toward independence.

Sewing Workshop

This workshop provides textile items needed by the Center and produces costumes for theater and special occasions. Female students are trained in sewing skills, buttoning, and basic garment finishing.

Handicrafts Workshop

Students aged ten and above learn to create models from natural materials, paper folding, recycling crafts, greeting cards, ceramic decoration, plaster models, and decorative basket weaving.

Soap-Making Workshop

A small soap workshop produces natural herbal soap using the cold-process method. Soaps are made from natural oils such as olive oil, laurel oil, coconut oil, and shea butter, providing therapeutic and cosmetic benefits. Students participate in formulation, packaging, and decorative finishing.

Secretarial Training

Reception & office training includes:

- Social etiquette and professional manners.
- Welcoming visitors and fulfilling their requests.
- Answering and directing phone calls.
- Document photocopying and handling.
- Internal correspondence management between reception and departments.
- File organization and basic clerical duties.

Trade Training

Commercial skills training is provided through the Center's shop and participation in external exhibitions.

Center Structure & Facilities

The Center is located in Borj Al-Shamali — Al-Housh Triangle, Sour, South Lebanon. It stands at an intersection linking south to Naqoura, east to Qana / Bint Jbeil, north to Sidon / Beirut, and west to the city of Sour.

The facility consists of four floors, indoor and outdoor activity areas, a garden, a dining hall, and a kitchen.

Ground Floor

Includes the General Director's office and Executive Director's office, reception and information desk, accounting office, HR and archives, social assistance office, guest lounge, storage, bakery, a shop for displaying products, guest restrooms, student restrooms, an electric elevator, and a small kitchen.

First Floor

It contains five kindergarten and basic academic/vocational classes, each with a teacher and assistant, an occupational therapy room, psychomotor therapy room, remedial support room, educational coordination room, materials room, and restrooms.

Second Floor

Contains six academic and vocational classes, a psychotherapy and behavior modification room, the speech and language department with reception area, a small kitchen, five therapy rooms, two restrooms, a physiotherapy hall, and male/female restrooms.

Basement

Houses the theater, computer lab, carpentry workshop, sewing and handicrafts workshop, soap workshop, crochet workshop, wardrobe room, laundry and ironing room, indoor play area, restrooms, and an access ramp to the Center's restaurant.

The restaurant is fully equipped for cooking, cooling, and freezing, and contains a large hall that can accommodate up to 250 people for meals, activities, and events. The garden includes play equipment and facilities for small animals and a small planting area managed by students.

