



## Lebanon: Al Janoub Bakery & Debel Soap makers

SSVP Lebanon  
Founded in 1860  
56 Conferences  
1300 members

### Objectives::

- Fighting the rural exodus
- Fighting the exodus of Christians
- Job creation
- Giving thousands access to bread
- Free bread for the poor
- Income to fund SSVP activities
- Market for local farmers, workers and artisans

### The « Al Janoub » bakery at Ain-Ebel



Following the disastrous effects of the war, the SSVP in the Lebanon undertook this project in a village in the south of the country, Ain-Ebel. It was part of the Society's global effort to give independence to families in rural areas, particularly effective in this conflict-ridden region, where whole groups of people, especially Christians, are being driven into exile.

The construction of the oven began after the violence of summer 2006, and with the support of the International Confederation, the bakery was able to start operating at the end of 2007. The « Al Janoub » bakery now has an Arabic bread oven and a European bread oven.

Daily production began at 450 packets (4050 breads) and is now up to 650 packets, with the short-term target being 1200 packets a day.



## 1. Providing a necessary service

Esta panadería tiene una importancia especial, pues no hay ninguna panadería entre Ain-Ebel y Tír. El hecho de proveer acceso al pan, alimento esencial, es un gesto fuerte en el mantenimiento de las poblaciones locales.

## 2. Creating jobs

Local labour was used in the building of the bakery and other work involved, in an area much in need of employment. Six people work at the bakery, recruited locally from three neighbouring Christian villages. A further six people, also from local villages, are employed on a commission basis to distribute the bread.

## 3. Generating revenue for the work of the Society

Although in its first months the bakery was operating on grants from the International Confederation and other SSVP partners in the Lebanon, it is required to become self-sufficient very quickly, and start generating profits. This should allow the work to expand and the Society is planning to set up a cafe there as well. The profits released would also allow the SSVP to fund the development of further projects, thus encouraging economic expansion, to the benefit of farmers, market gardeners and artisans in the region.



## 4. Supplying bread to the poor

In addition, part of the bakery's production is distributed free of charge to poor families, giving them their daily bread.

## The Debel soap makers...



The Debel region is well-known for its olive and bay trees, and the Lebanon SSVP has set up a soap manufacturing plant there, which began operating at the start of 2008. This soap factory has opened outlets, helping the local people throughout the region to sell their bay and olive production. As with the bakery, once it is fully operational the soap factory will generate revenues for funding both jobs in the plant itself, as well as other



humanitarian projects, such as for example micro-credit programmes for farmers and artisans.