Country profile: Lebanon

- Strategic in the Middle East
- Lack natural resources → strength in financial sector
- Population of app. 4 million
- Trilingual: Arabic, French and English / Multicultural
- Literacy rate → 87.4% in 2003
- Libraries underfunded due to Civil war
- No National Library
- Public libraries, School libraries, Academic libraries, and spreading → financial sector
BSLA Project Goals

- Governance and structure
- Member involvement
- Communication
- Advocacy

BSLA Chosen Modules

- Building Your Library Association
- Strategic Relationships: Partnerships & Fundraising
- Libraries on the Agenda
- Sustaining Your Library Association
Success Stories

- Amended bylaws to be more up to date with the needs
- Better understanding of the scope and complexity of running an association
- 1st annual conference: April 2012 → 200 attendees
- More competitive elections → 13 candidates standing for 10 places
- Partnerships: Haigazian U / Central Bank
Forthcoming activities – 2012/2013

- Conference 2013
- Reviving newsletter
- Membership committee: retain current members and recruit new ones
- New publications: Portfolio to present to partners & promotion
- Partnering with SLA Gulf for future workshop
- Restructuring website: Task force
- Buildings bridges: French institutions / Lebanese University
Challenges: and how we are addressing them

- Visibility: Restructuring website / Facebook / Publish a brochure
- Membership: Regional representatives / Library visits
- Partners: Assist Haigazain University to acquire funding for cultural projects
- Image: Plan a media campaign / visit schools and present the profession
We offer the library community in our country:

The possibility to develop their professional skills with the resources at hand

Till now the minimum ➔ workshops and seminars

The chance to network and socialize with peers

With all our weaknesses, we hear:

“HAVE NOT GIVEN UP ON LLA”
The future of the association and libraries in our country

- Mission: The LLA provides leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of the library and information sector

- Vision: To be the home of library and information professionals in Lebanon
  - By developing a more professional image;
  - By being recognized as the official representative;
  - By setting national standards in order to improve the status of librarians
THANK YOU
FROM

LEBANESE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

RANDA AL-CHIDIAC
President & BSLA In-Country Facilitator