

## .....Overseas Partner Fact Sheet..... **Armenian Evangelical Guertmenian School**

### How it all started

Many Armenian refugees fleeing from the massacres in Turkey in 1915 and 1922 settled in camps on the outskirts of Beirut. Conditions in some areas were appalling, with a lack of medical care and sanitation, and with large families crowded together in ramshackle shelters. In 1931, an Armenian family visiting the country from America saw the needs and was convinced that the best way to help was through education. The school they helped to start was called the Armenian Evangelical Guertmenian School. The current Principal, Sahag Dedeyan, has shepherded these children for over 30 years.

### **Key facts**

Founded: 1931  
 Location: Beirut, Lebanon  
 BibleLands' Grant: £13,296 p.a.

### Current Activities

The school began with three kindergarten and three primary classes, but over the years has increased to six primary classes, with about 400 students, after which many children, at the age of 12 or 13, go on to one of the Armenian Evangelical secondary schools also supported by BibleLands.

The children come from local Armenian families and study the usual government curriculum, with an additional emphasis on their Armenian culture, history and language. Because of the high level of unemployment in the area, the school only asks for nominal fees from the children's parents.

*Left: One of the children in the school's kindergarten class playing with the toys*



Lebanon's recent history has been deeply unsettled. Just as the country was emerging from a 15-year civil war, she was plunged into renewed turmoil by the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri in 2005 and war with Israel in 2006. However, successful parliamentary elections in 2009 led to the formation of a coalition government which, it is hoped, will usher in a period of stability, unity and co-operation.

The latest news, prayer points, and other information are all available from BibleLands.

### **Contact us:**

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