

# BibleLands

## .....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:  
£17,724 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 and so the support given to a child can often continue.

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*

Although the 15-year civil war in Lebanon finished before these children were born, its long lasting effects still continue to be felt. Years of tension have affected most families and many parents are unemployed. In the years following the war, Lebanon began to rebuild itself and there was an optimism for the future, despite huge international debts and high unemployment. However, the war with Israel in 2006 left the country unstable once again. Levels of poverty and unemployment have risen and many people fear a second civil war. Therefore, sponsorship is greatly appreciated by the children and the staff. Thank you for helping a child to feel secure and to have a Christian education.

### **Contact us:**

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