

## **BASSMA empowers women through skills' development workshops**



In joyous celebration, BASSMA graduated the first of five groups from an intensive training program of twelve sessions that aimed to enable women to join the workforce, fully equipped. Held at the Primary Healthcare Center in Chiyah (PHCCC), and in cooperation with the Chiyah Municipality, the workshop series was organized by BASSMA in collaboration with leading professional women who gave different sessions covering topics ranging from personal skills' development, orientation and readiness, to numeracy, communication, and organization skills. A special course was also dedicated to micro-credit details. The "Recettes de Vie" initiative, which has supported the training program will continue to do so as the program continues through 2016 with four additional groups of women from BASSMA's families. Graduating from the workshop series symbolizes a new beginning to the participating women, who are now eligible to seek jobs through BASSMA's Employment Office, as well as much welcomed collaborations with companies in the private sector.

The sessions were conducted by experts and specialists from the private sector who volunteered and offered their time and experience to help empower the participating women: Mrs. Bruna Challita and Mrs. Samantha Attieh from Grand Hills Hotel, Mrs. Hala Chammas from Bsynchro, and Mrs. Maya Noun of Beirut Cellar. Workshop sessions were also given by professional speakers and working mothers: Mrs. Joelle Sabella, Mrs. Muzna Chihabi and Mrs. Loyal Yaacoub . Mrs. Sandra Klat Abdelnour, President of BASSMA, expressed her most sincere gratitude to all those who have supported the cause, and stated that "being the essence of every family, enabling women would improve their chances of receiving life-changing, stable, income that would empower the family as a whole."