“I like these programmes more than school because here I can speak and say whatever I want”

Children’s Theatre participant
introduction

ABOUT US
Seenaryo is an arts and education charity that works with refugees and local host communities in Lebanon. Our artistic projects and holistic approach to education support personal development, academic achievement and social cohesion - and allow people’s voices to be heard.

CONTEXT
Lebanon hosts the most refugees per capita of any country in the world. 1 in 4 people in Lebanon is a refugee. Half of these are children, of which only 59% attend school. Using a participatory approach to education and the arts, Seenaryo allows refugees and host communities living in uncertainty not only to survive, but to thrive.

MEASURING IMPACT
Seenaryo is committed to on-going evaluation of its work – using both qualitative and quantitative participant questionnaires, facilitated evaluation within workshops, ad hoc interviews, and partner organisation feedback – to better understand how we are benefitting our beneficiaries across Lebanon. This report is a summary of our impact in 2017.
Our Aims are to
Facilitate the creation of powerful, high-quality theatre and art by refugees
Build capacity amongst refugee communities by training young adults in facilitation, leadership, and artistic skills
Embed new models for learning by developing creative resources and training teachers to use them
Foster social cohesion within and between refugee communities and host groups
Challenge audiences locally and internationally to reassess cultural assumptions about refugees – and to promote international dialogue in solidarity with them

Our Vision is a world in which refugees have an autonomous voice and feel empowered to use it

Our Mission is to transform the life chances of refugees by using the arts as a tool for personal development, academic achievement and community building

Vision, Mission, Aims
theory of change

The problem is

1 in 4 people in Lebanon is a refugee. 50% of these are children, 59% of whom are not in school.

Refugees suffer trauma such as PTSD. Children specifically endure long-lasting 'toxic stress'.

Drop-out rates & barriers to Lebanese schools are high.

Our activities are

Participants attend rehearsals & workshops
Participants create new pieces of art
Participants share & perform publicly

This achieves

Participants take ownership of work
Participants persevere to achieve final goals
Participants improve performance skills
Participants cooperate & collaborate

Beneficiaries develop

Confidence & self-worth
Resilience
Communication skills
Empathy

Long term goals are

Greater personal & emotional strength
Increased social skills & life skills

Systemic change is

Refugees have better life chances

Participation

Training

Advocacy

Arts education is absent despite evidence that holistic approaches are essential for academic & psychosocial success.

Teachers are inexperienced: schools are unable to attract professionally-educated teachers & relevant training is rare.

Out-of-date teaching pedagogies (e.g. rote-learning) are common place in schools.

Refugees have better life chances

Local facilitators are mentored to lead workshops
Schoolteachers & facilitators train in participatory teaching methods
Schoolteachers access Seenaro’s teaching resources

Local facilitators lead arts programmes themselves
Schoolteachers & facilitators implement student-led learning
Schoolteachers use the arts to help deliver the curriculum

Refugees have better life chances

Independent & critical thinking
Higher engagement & better behaviour
Professional empowerment
Employment opportunities

Increased professional capacity

Increased academic success

Refugees have better life chances

Social cohesion between host communities & Syrian refugees is severely lacking.

Discrimination is rising against refugees in Europe & the West.

Communities take part in local & international exchange
Local & refugee communities participate in & share work together
International & local artists & audiences collaborate on or share work

Acceptance of differing nationalities, ethnicities, religious views, etc.
Appreciation of each others' lives & situations
growth in 3 years

- 278 indirect beneficiaries in 2015
- 640 indirect beneficiaries in 2016
- 1030 direct beneficiaries in 2017
- 5685 indirect beneficiaries in 2017
2017 in numbers

1030 Direct beneficiaries, &
302 Trainees
84 Paid opportunities for refugees
18 Showcases
2400 Audience members
11 Local partnerships
348 Certificates of achievement awarded

5685 Indirect beneficiaries
Drop-out rates and barriers to Lebanese schools are high (Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017). There is a recognised need for non-formal education in (re)-integrating refugees into school (Ministry of Education, Lebanon).
"I saw a different side of the children's personalities."

Children's Theatre parent
Weekly workshops for Syrian children and young people in the Bekaa Valley

- Participants create their own theatre piece from scratch
- Funded by the Linbury Trust (Autumn 2017 onwards) and delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development

**108 beneficiaries**

**5 trainees**

**700 audience**

- **THE LOST POWER**
  YOUTH THEATRE | Apr 2017
  Three royal siblings are pitted against each other on a quest for their father’s throne

- **COOPERATION**
  CHILDREN’S THEATRE | Apr 2017
  A sisterhood of aspiring doctors go on a mission to save their brother from a sorceress and her dragon

- **THE LOVE TREE**
  YOUTH THEATRE | Jul 2017
  A group of friends fight to save memories that have been held captive by a monster

- **THE CHOCOLATE CITY**
  CHILDREN’S THEATRE | Jul 2017
  The citizens of a Chocolate City band together to save their kingdom

- **FIND THE GROWN UPS**
  YOUTH THEATRE | Dec 2017
  A group of teenagers wake up to find that all the grown ups have disappeared…

- **NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN**
  CHILDREN’S THEATRE | Dec 2017
  An old woman seeks inspiration for a new career path; will she choose medicine, sport or the arts?
My parents told me that I’m much stronger now. They’re not worried about me any more.

Children’s Theatre participant

CONTEXT | Refugees in Lebanon suffer trauma such as high incidences of PTSD (Science Direct) and children specifically endure long-lasting ‘toxic stress’ (IRC research).
**youth & children’s theatre**

**MASHARAKA | PARTICIPATION**

81 children & young people evaluated over 6 cycles, said they had progressed in:

**ARTISTIC OUTCOMES**

- 100% acting
- 86% devising
- 70% dance

**PERSONAL & SOCIAL OUTCOMES**

- 96% confidence
- 91% new friends

50 parents evaluated over the year said their children had gained skills in:

- 94% teamwork
- 100% communication
“Here I learnt that everyone has their own point of view and their own perspective. I’ve started to enjoy this difference.”

Youth Theatre participant
Weekly choir sessions for Syrian & Lebanese young people in the Bekaa Valley
Participants sing high-quality music from around the world, as well as writing songs collaboratively
Delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development

This includes 100 Syrian & Lebanese young people integrating in Lebanon, as well as 150 UK young people who participated with us in a choir exchange in Newham
aSwat Seenaryo choir

MASHARAKA | PARTICIPATION

ARTISTIC OUTCOMES

100% learnt to sing with nicer sound

99% learnt to sing in two parts

97% learnt new musical genres

ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

95% increased concentration

PERSONAL & SOCIAL OUTCOMES

100% gained confidence

92% made new friends

98 young people evaluated over 3 cycles said they had:

50 parents evaluated over the year said their children had:

Photo credit: Jaafar Rostom
“I love going on stage. Once I step on stage I forget everything.”

Aswat Seenaryo participant
IN FOCUS: Ali

Ali is a 15 year old Syrian boy who lives in Bar Elias. He came to Lebanon with his family after his father was killed in an air strike by the Syrian regime. His behaviour at first was challenging – as was that of his four friends from his refugee camp. Over the course of the year, that particular group have become the keenest in the choir: they insist on standing at the front, even chiding other children if they aren’t listening. Every Friday for choir, Ali dresses in an immaculate white collared shirt, a small indication of the pride he takes in Aswat Seenaryo.

“Ali used to be violent. Do you remember, in that first term he was really angry because his father died in Syria? He used to get into fights. The songs helped him. He started seeing people, hanging out with friends. He’s improved in school a lot and is studying much more. Now he stops other kids from messing around. He wants to be a singer now! Really! You can see how happy he is on his face when he sings.”

Safaa Hafez, Trainee Facilitator
“Aswat Seenaryo is something that stays with me beyond the classroom. Even my little sister and my parents know the songs now because I sing them all the time at home.”

Aswat Seenaryo participant
IN FOCUS: Sumaiya

Sumaiya is a 16 year old Syrian girl who lives in Bar Elias. In her first year in Lebanon she had to leave Lebanese public school because her level of English wasn’t high enough. At this point she began attending Aswat Seenaryo. She has since sung solos in the choir, and asks to sing solos every term. She recently started attending training to become a kindergarten teacher.

“Sumaiya used to be very silent. She didn’t like sharing or participating in front of other people. When she got kicked out of school, she disengaged with everything: she just stayed in the house. When she started with Aswat Seenaryo, it was the only activity she was doing. She became very happy. She started talking again. Her parents are very happy that she’s coming too.”

Safaa Hafez, Trainee Facilitator
**Showbuilds**

**MASHARAKA | PARTICIPATION**

- **52 beneficiaries**
- **8 trainees**
- **400 audience**

- **Weeklong intensive holiday projects:** 1 in the Bekaa Valley and 1 in Shatila camp
- **Participants create an original piece of theatre:** including script, songs, dances and design
- **Delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development & Yaabad Scout Troupe**

**ALL BECAUSE OF THE BANANA**
Delivered in partnership with Yaabad Scouts
SAIDA | Mar 2017

A look at what happens in a city where humans start behaving like animals

This show was produced in 2016, but toured to four locations in Lebanon afterwards, with one performance taking place in 2017

**THE LEGEND OF THE VOLCANO**
Delivered in partnership with Yaabad Scouts
SHATILA | Aug 2017

A volcano that erupts gold – a tale we tell our children? They say there’s no smoke without fire…

**THE ENCHANTED KINGDOM**
Delivered in partnership with Women Now
BAR ELIAS | Aug 2017

An enchanted ring, mermaid and dangerous taxi driver come together during a terrible drought
“Our own opinion is important”

Malak, Showbuild participant

CONTEXT | Refugees (especially women and children) lack agency over their own discourses and futures; there is a need for ‘resilience-based’ not ‘humanitarian-based’ support (Jordan Crisis Response Plan).
IN FOCUS: Hanan

Hanan is a 16 year old Syrian girl who took part in our first ever Showbuild in 2015. Her family succeeded in fleeing to Lebanon but her father, a dissident journalist, was kidnapped and taken back over the border. Hanan hasn’t seen him for four years.

When we first met her, Hanan would barely say her name in the circle and was visibly anxious. Once she realised we were making a play, she started leading her small group in making a sketch; by day three she had decided to do a solo, and on the final day she was in tears because the week was over. Hanan has since gone on to participate in other Showbuilds, Creative English and Aswat Seenaryo.

“Hanan always says that in Syria she couldn’t do theatre or music. She has changed her personality completely since Seenaryo. She didn’t used to be able to act in front of an audience. Her mum even says she’s doing better in school - wanting to study more and get better grades so they let her carry on with the plays. Her family didn’t used to listen to music but now they have started!”

Yasmine Shurbaji, Psycho Social Support Worker, Women Now for Development
“The relationships between the boys and the girls changed. Now we don’t see a difference between the two.”

Bilal, Showbuild participant
Women’s theatre

**MASHARAKA | PARTICIPATION**

- 8-week theatre process for Syrian women aged 16-42 living in the Bekaa Valley
- Participants devised a theatre piece from scratch, facilitated by Lebanese theatre director Farah Wardani
- Delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development

**3 performances**

SOURIYEH

Love, death, hope, imprisonment, and success in the time of war. Inspired by the women’s own experience of living through war and migration before finding refuge in Lebanon.

- 15 beneficiaries
- 350 audience

2 performances at American University of Beirut’s West Hall (with thanks to AUB Theater Initiative) and 1 performance at Ahliyah School for secondary school children

Photo credit: Anas Tello
“I felt like I was doing something for my country even though I’m not there. I was representing the issues of Syrian women everywhere.”

Women’s Theatre participant

Photo credit: Anas Tello
women's theatre
MASHARAKA | PARTICIPATION

8 of the 9 women who saw the programme to completion were evaluated. Of them:

5 of 8 strongly agreed they gained acting skills | 8 of 8 agreed

7 of 8 strongly agreed they gained movement skills

6 of 8 strongly agreed they gained teamwork skills | 8 of 8 agreed

6 of 8 strongly agreed they gained communication skills | 8 of 8 agreed

6 of 8 strongly agreed they gained confidence | 8 of 8 agreed

8 of 8 strongly agreed they made new friends

8 of 8 strongly agreed they developed new career ideas
“I’ve changed a lot. I’ve become more self confident and can now face any problem. I discovered I am more capable than I thought and I appreciate myself. When I stepped onstage I realised how powerful theatre is as a tool to express everything inside us.”

Women’s Theatre participant
women’s theatre
MASHARAKA | PARTICIPATION

AUDIENCE FEEDBACK

97% felt the performance had an emotional impact on them

92% felt connected to the actors

81% reflected on their own experience

78% saw something from a new perspective

54% thought about an issue they don’t think about often

“A giant achievement! Very sincere, tells truths that many don’t want to hear. Brought tears to my eyes. The rap song was amazing! Should be diffused professionally worldwide.”

Audience member
Weekly workshops for women and children in the Bekaa Valley teaching English in a creative context in order to:

- Develop confidence in speaking English in an enjoyable, relaxed environment
- Improve vocabulary, listening & speaking skills in real-life & role-play situations
- Celebrate English as a language for enjoyment & practical usage – not simply for school/work
- Still benefit from lesson-based practice (e.g. reading & writing plus assessment & homework)

Additionally, Seenaryo supported Women Now for Development & Gharsa School in their year-round, standard English teaching via: lesson observations, team-teaching, one-to-one feedback and top-up training.

Delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development.

51 beneficiaries

Beneficiaries include 37 young people who participated over three 10-week cycles & 14 women who participated over one 20-week cycle.

6 trainees
There was an average 34% improvement in test scores, pre and post a 10-week course.

17 young people evaluated over 3 cycles, said they had progressed in:

**ACADEMIC OUTCOMES**
- 82% vocabulary
- 100% listening
- 82% grammar
- 76% writing

**FURTHER OUTCOMES**
- 76% felt more confident speaking English
- 100% enjoyed learning through theatre
- 100% enjoyed the programme overall
- 100% wanted to attend another cycle
“Here in Lebanon English is so important. If you want to travel or speak with people, English is key. In school it’s all about grammar, but with Seenaryo it’s much easier to learn and speak because we do lots of fun games and exercises.”

Maryam [pictured], Creative English participant (young people’s group)
1 long-term job opportunity

- Via our work supporting Women Now for Development & Gharsa School in their delivery of standard English language lessons, Seenaryo has engaged one of Women Now’s teachers, Amani Burhan, as our translator for all communications.

“The job you offered me made me able to afford good education for [my daughter] Lina as well as many other essential things, as I’m the only breadwinner for my family.”

Amani Burhan, Seenaryo Translator
“I feel that I have a purpose now - I am not only serving my family and my children, but also doing something for myself.”

Creative English participant (women’s group)
Cultural trips for young people to Beirut Art Center (BAC), which include:
- guided tour by BAC
- accompanying workshop in response to the exhibition

Some trips formed part of BAC’s initiative *Let’s Talk About Art* with the goal of bringing together Syrian, Palestinian, Iraqi and Lebanese participants.

Delivered in partnership with BAC and Junk Munkez.

Participating organisations include: Women Now for Development, Uruguay School, Wellspring Learning Community, Yaabad Scout Troupe, and United Lebanon Youth Project.

190 beneficiaries
4 visits and accompanying workshops

“I liked meeting new people. I’ve never met anyone from Syria before.”

Lebanese participant from Wellspring Learning Community.
Arts education is absent despite evidence that holistic approaches are essential for academic and psychosocial success (IRC research); these approaches are recommended by regional experts such as UNESCO in Beirut.
A resource book, developed by Seenaryo, of songs, games and sensory stories that support the kindergarten curriculum.

2-day trainings (with follow up visits) for kindergarten teachers in:
- songs, games and sensory stories from the book
- student-centered learning through participatory practice
- classroom engagement
- inclusive learning environments

- 87 trainee teachers and 15 education officers working in 15 schools via 3 NGOs (IRC, Caritas Lebanon & Ana Aqra)
- 1740 indirect beneficiaries

Curriculum topics covered in the book:

**mySelf**
- Identity
- Family & Friends
- Feelings
- Senses
- School transition

**health**
- Hygiene
- Food
- Body

**maths**
- Counting
- Add & Subtract
- Shapes
- Time-telling
- Measuring

**arabic/english**
- Letters
- Nouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives

**human world**
- Transport
- Jobs
- Celebrations

**natural world**
- Animals
- Habitats
- Plants
- Seasons
- Weather
9.5/10 was the average score given for the quality of training.

95% scored 9 or 10 (out of 10) for the usefulness of the training compared to others.

ATTITUDES TO PEDAGOGY

20% decrease in those who believe information is best absorbed when sitting at a desk.

88% said they will tell sensory stories (i.e. while acting them out as a class): a 71% increase from pre-evaluation.
I taught early childhood education for eight years before becoming an officer, and I have never seen anything quite like this training.

Maysa, Senior Education Officer at International Rescue Committee (IRC)

CONTEXT | Teachers are inexperienced and schools are unable to attract professionally-educated teachers. Relevant professional development and training for teachers is rare (Ministry of Education, Lebanon).

Picture: IRC kindergarten in a refugee camp in the Bekaa Valley
APPLICATION IN SCHOOL

81% use Seenaryo games every day

91% tell a sensory story once a week or more

92% use Seenaryo songs every day

“Bilal wasn’t involved in language lessons much and was shy and isolated. But the game of trying to find the letters with the boxes helped him to start liking literacy.”

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Teacher
“The Playkit has had a great impact on how the teachers communicate with the children. It’s changed the school atmosphere, it’s become more child-centred.”

Rasha Mohsen, Ana Aqra Education Officer

CONTEXT | **Rote learning** and out-of-date teaching methodologies remain commonplace: solving Lebanon’s lack of ‘**learner-centred pedagogy**’ is the primary, quality-based goal of UNHCR and the Lebanese government.
54 teachers evaluated two months post training said:

**IMPACT IN CLASS**

- **94%** children’s *learning has improved* since using the Playkit
- **100%** *behaviour management* has become easier
- **98%** students are *more engaged* with learning
- **91%** are now *enjoying teaching more*
Ibrahim Ghazoul hired as a Support Facilitator on Seenaryo’s Youth & Children’s Theatre programmes

Dania Tello hired as a Support Facilitator on Seenaryo’s 2017 Summer Showbuild in the Bekaa Valley

10 trainees
40 indirect beneficiaries
2 job opportunities

- 16-week training programme for aspiring Syrian facilitators in learning how to apply art forms in an educational context
- Young Facilitators additionally observed Seenaryo’s Participation programmes and led their own workshop supported by Seenaryo staff
- Funded by The Asfari Foundation and delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development

Course subjects include:

- Theatre facilitation
- Workshop planning
- Classroom pedagogy
- Behaviour management
- Protection & Safeguarding
- Jobs & Employment
- Leadership
- Collaborative practices
100% gained confidence in working with children

100% learnt new techniques for classroom education

100% felt more confident applying & interviewing for a job

9/10 was the average score for the quality of Seenaryo’s training

“I’ve learnt to work towards learning objectives using activities and games”

Young Facilitator
“I’ve learnt a structure for planning workshops – how to spread time to avoid boredom and how to connect activities so they can all be used for the purpose of the session”

Young Facilitator
applying theatre
TADREEB | TRAINING

- 6-week programme training schoolteachers in theatre devising
- Culminated in teachers creating their own performance with their class
- Seenaryo supported teachers in creating original music for the show, with lyrics written by the children
- Delivered twice in 2017 to a series of emergency schools
- Funded by the The Asfari Foundation, delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development

30 trainee teachers working in 10 schools via 5 NGOs (Sawa for Development & Aid, Kayany Foundation, Jusoor, Jesuit Refugee Service, Dammeh)

600 indirect beneficiaries

24 trainee teachers evaluated

93% are using theatre exercises with their class

100% would recommend the training to other teachers

100% learnt new techniques for managing behaviour
IN FOCUS: Noor

Noor is a Grade 1 teacher working with Kayany Foundation. She described her main problem as the lack of enthusiasm from parents with their children’s studies. Lack of parental engagement is a widespread issue as many adults struggle with basic needs (food, water, clothing) and place a low value on education.

Noor supported her students in writing song lyrics about this very subject – addressed from the children to their parents. She went on to produce a touching and funny play about growing up and needing more help from Mum and Dad. She performed the show to the whole school, and separately to an invited audience of parents. After the performance she hosted a discussion group with parents to increase their engagement with their children’s studies.

Trainee asked for her name to be changed
Creative Toolkit

TADREEB | TRAINING

- One-off workshops for an entire school’s staff introducing them to theatre games and exercises in a classroom context
- Funded by The Asfari Foundation, delivered in partnership with Women Now for Development

107 trainee teachers

- Working in 7 schools via 4 NGOs (Sawa for Development & Aid, Kayany Foundation, Gharsa and Jusoor)

2140 indirect beneficiaries

94% learnt new techniques to teach the curriculum

99% gained new ideas for engaging students

100% want more training with Seenaryo

“Teachers are using exercises from your handbook everyday”

Abd Al Rahman, Headteacher at a Kayany Foundation school in Saadnayel
“The class made a basic story, and acted it out using your tableaux exercise. Their writing was so much better than normal - it generated so many more ideas! Children who normally only write a few lines wrote an entire page.”

Samia, teacher at a Kayany Foundation school in Bar Ilias
Discrimination is rising against refugees in Europe and the west (European Network Against Racism).
A unique cross-cultural experience where people from around the globe party with refugees in Lebanon via a video livestream in order to:

- Bring together music lovers from different sides of the world
- Challenge audiences locally and internationally to reassess assumptions about refugees
- Promote international dialogue in solidarity with refugees

Delivered in partnership with the Southbank Centre as part of the 2017 Meltdown Festival (curated by hip-hop artist M.I.A)

Approx 200 partygoers across 2 countries

2 parties

‘Beirut party with Seenaryo’, hosted at Riwaq Café and livestreamed to the Clore Ballroom

‘Iftar party with Seenaryo’ hosted at the Hendawi family home in Shatila refugee camp livestreamed to the Clore Ballroom
“A random group of people in London had a window onto life in Shatila: finishing iftar, laughing, dancing. Probably the first time they’d seen a refugee camp full of dance and dignity, rather than misery. The kids in Shatila exchanged and led. And they taught the group of strangers in London quite a few moves! For a few moments, it was beautiful and connected.”

Party attendee & Seenaryo volunteer
The scene from the Bekaa

MUNASARA | ADVOCACY

- A showcase in Canterbury, Kent of the artworks produced via our 2016 Young Artists training programme where we mentored 6 aspiring Syrian Artists.
- Original project delivered in partnership with Dictaphone Group & Women Now for Development, part-funded by Ettijahat-Independent Culture within the framework of Create Syria.
- UK showcase delivered in partnership with Kent Refugee Help as part of their I Live Here exhibition at Conquest House.

6 Syrian artists showcased internationally:

- HASSAN AKOUL
- MOHAMAD AL JUNDE
- MAHABBA GHARZEDDINE
- SHAHD KHETO
- ABDEL RAHMAN MORAD
- MOHAMMED SHURBAJI

1 week run for the exhibition, including an opening private view:

- approx 100 visitors

£420 raised for the artists in sales.
the scene from the bekaa

MUNASARA | ADVOCACY

6 artistic projects

OPTIMISM
FILM
HASSAN AKOUL

OUR DAILY LIFE
PHOTO COLLECTION BY YOUNG PEOPLE
FACILITATED BY MOHAMAD AL JUNDE

MY CHILDHOOD IS MINE
PAINTING COLLECTION BY YOUNG PEOPLE
FACILITATED BY MAHABBA GHARZEDDINE

REUNION
FILM
SHAHD KHETO

I HAVE TO CHANGE MY ROUTE
SONG
ABDEL RAHMAN MOURAD

I MAKE MY OWN FUTURE
FILM
MOHAMMED SHURBAJI
"I have seen the exhibition twice and brought friends to see it. The work is amazing and the videos so poignant and powerful."

Exhibition attendee

Photo from Our Daily Life, facilitated by Mohamad Al Junde
Two choir groups – Aswat Seenaryo in Lebanon and Newham Voices in London – learnt the same song with lyrics in both English & Arabic, including new material by the participants.

Groups shared video messages during the process.

Delivered in partnership with Newham Music.

- **40 Syrian & Lebanese** young people integrating in Lebanon
- **150 British** young people participating in an exchange
- **3 performances**
- **450 audience**

Aswat Seenaryo performed at Seenaryo’s Summer Festival and Newham Voices performed at Newham Music’s Festival of Youth.
“Special thanks to the kids in Britain. I’d like to be with them and sing with them. Even though they live in the west, they can still understand me.”

Aswat Seenaryo participant (Lebanon)

“The fact that their refugees are the same age as us is quite extraordinary, [as is] knowing that they’re actually enjoying music as they’re going through this tragedy in their life.”

Newham Voices participant (UK)
Greater social cohesion locally was also achieved by bringing together different communities in many of our Participation programmes.

**CONTEXT | Social cohesion** between host communities and Syrian refugees is severely lacking (World Vision).

"I am Palestinian and I heard horrible stories about Syrians. But after coming here I felt differently. We are all close friends now. If you mix with people, you might change your perspective. As well as English we’re learning communication skills by interacting with others. I have moved past my prior prejudices. I assumed Halaa would be close-minded because she wears the niqab but now we are good friends, I’ve realised I shouldn’t be afraid because of her attire."

Creative English participant (women’s group)
What next?

- **Continuation** of the following programmes:
  - Youth & Children’s Theatre (funded by The Linbury Trust)
  - Aswat Seenaryo Choir
  - Showbuilds (funded by The Linbury Trust)
  - Kindergarten Playkit
  - Young Facilitators (funded by Team Archie)
  - Young Artists (funded by Arthur & Holly Magill Foundation)
  - Party with Seenaryo (in partnership with The Barbican)

- Launching pilot programmes in **Jordan** from September 2018 (enabled by core funding from The Fore)
- Delivering two **new Children’s Theatres** in partnership with Caritas Lebanon
- **Sourcing funding** to continue other successful programmes, e.g. Women’s Theatre
- Creating a **mobile app** of Kindergarten Playkit to increase its accessibility as a resource for teachers across the region
- **Sourcing funding** to create a mobile app of our other teaching resources, e.g. Creative English & Creative Toolkit
- Seeking **new partnerships** for Advocacy programmes
- The Asfari Foundation
- Arthur & Holly Magill Foundation
- Ettijahat-Independent Culture (within the framework of Create Syria)
- Galashan Trust
- The Linbury Trust
- Syrian Peace Action Centre
2017 gold Supporters

Anonymous
Sawsan & Ayman Asfari
Saker & Noordin Ebrahim
Hania Farrell
Daniele Genadry
Béatrice & James Lupton
Sophie & Nigel Meek
Mustafa Mohamed
Ann & William Monk
Claire & Jamie Pike
Juliet & Charlie Simpson
Mary Rose & Charles Wood

Photo credit: Vanessa Myho
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