introduction

Using a participatory approach to education and the performing arts, Seenaryo works with marginalized communities in Lebanon and Jordan. We focus on equipping refugees and host communities living in uncertainty with the tools not only to survive, but to thrive.

Our vision is a world in which all people are able to express themselves in order to reach their full potential.

Using a participatory, arts-based approach, our mission is to equip all people in Lebanon and Jordan with the tools to think critically, collaborate, and become resilient as individuals and in their communities.
Our aims are to:

- Facilitate the creation of powerful, high-quality theatre and art by marginalized communities
- Train young adults and women 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
More than 5 million Syrians have been externally displaced since the war began in 2011, leaving Lebanon & Jordan as the countries with the highest per capita proportion of refugees worldwide. These host countries and communities have welcomed and supported huge numbers of refugees, but many feel they are worse off. The refugee crisis has hit the most vulnerable people hardest.

Jordan is host to the second highest share of refugees per capita in the world.

Lebanon hosts the most refugees per capita of any country in the world.

1 in 4

Half of these are children, of which 59% do not attend school.

We also do UK exchange projects to challenge assumptions about - and advocate for - refugees.

Syrian refugees in Jordan live significantly below the poverty line. 48% of these refugees are children and nearly a third of these children do not attend school.
2018 in numbers

- **1028** Direct Beneficiaries
- **11,190** Indirect Beneficiaries
- **270** Trainees
- **103** Paid Opportunities for Refugees
- **3017** Social Media Following
- **38,065** Video Views
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ORIGINAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS

MY FRIEND THE ALIEN
YOUTH THEATRE
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

TEACHER’S PARTY
CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

SHAJARAT AL DURR
NABAD | YOUNG FACILITATORS
Directed by | Chrystèle Khodr
Funded by | Team Archie

LANA THE GIRAFFE
CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Partner | Caritas Lebanon

OUR LITTLE ADVENTURE
CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Partner | Caritas Lebanon

THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM
YOUTH THEATRE
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

THE MUSICAL PARTY
CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

Toured to 5 refugee camps and schools across Lebanon, with thanks to: Kayany Foundation, Al Andalos School, Yaabad Scout Troupe, SB Overseas & Women Now

Toured to Alwan Festival
Commissioned for Lebanon’s first European Theatre Festival hosted by the European Union and premiered at Al Madina Theatre in Beirut. Went on to tour Ishbilia Theatre & Art-Hub in Saida as well as Beirut Art Center with further tour plans for 2019.

PERFORMED **27** TIMES ALTOGETHER

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**WORN OUT FROM TRAVELLING**
SHOWBUILD
Partner | Yaabad Scout Troupe
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

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**THE KINGDOM OF SWEETS**
SHOWBUILD
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

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**THE METAMORPHOSIS**
INTEGRATION PROJECT
Partner | Goethe-Institut Libanon
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

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**LIFE AND PEN**
YOUTH THEATRE
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

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**JOURNEY IN TIME**
CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Partner | Women Now
Funded by | The Linbury Trust

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**THE VILLAGE WITHOUT COLOUR**
YOUTH THEATRE
Partner | Hamzet Wasel
Funded by | Norton Rose Fulbright

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**THE DIFFICULT JOURNEY**
CHILDREN’S THEATRE
Partner | Hamzet Wasel
Funded by | Norton Rose Fulbright

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**STAGING SISTERSHOOD**
WOMEN’S THEATRE EXCHANGE
Partners | Women Now, Women for Refugee Women, Southbank Centre
With funding from | Arts Council England & Lily Harriss

Photo credits include:
Alia Haju, Dara Masri, Yassin Msallakh
ARTISTIC PROJECTS PRODUCED

FOR REAL
HASSAN AKOUL
Short film

TWENTY FIVE MINUTES
SAMER KHWIS
Short film

DIARY
HAMZA KHAROUF
Short film

DETAILS IN A PICTURE
YASSIN MSALLAKH
Collection of digital photo collages

HEARTBEAT
OMAR MESLEM
Audio piece

THE ROAD FROM DAMASCUS TO HOMS, BEIRUT TO TRIPOLI
RAND SHAMAA
Short film

VIA OUR YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DICTAPHONE GROUP

Funded by | Arthur & Holly Magill Foundation
Aswat Seenaryo rehearsal at the Women Now centre

Photo by Hadi Bou Ayash
our programmes

ARTS & EDUCATION

CHILDREN
- Showbuilds
- Youth & Children’s Theatre
- Aswat Seenaryo Choir

CREATIVE ENGLISH
- Creative English

CHILDREN

YOUNG ADULTS
- Young Artists
- Nabadi: Young Facilitators
- The Metamorphosis: Integration Project

SEENARYO PLAYKIT
- Seenaryo Playkit

TEACHERS

WOMEN
- Staging Sisterhood: Women’s Theatre

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“She used to come home smiling and would wait impatiently for the workshops every week.”

Children’s Theatre parent
ARTS

Participating, collaborating, making, performing

*The Metamorphosis* at
Al Madina Theatre, Beirut

Photo by Alia Haju
CONTEX T | A third of refugee children in Lebanon and Jordan are not in school. Out-of-school activities support reintegration. (Lebanon & Jordan Crisis Response Plans)

“Seenaryo changed our attitude towards ourselves, and our vision of school. I used to hate school but Seenaryo has given me ambition so now I love school and am committed.”

Shahed, Youth Theatre participant
2 SHOWBUILDS
10 YOUTH & CHILDREN’S THEATRE CYCLES
4 CHOIR CYCLES

234 children evaluated
41 parents evaluated (about their children)

- greater personal & emotional strength
  - felt more **confident** and capable **96%**
  - felt more able to **face** their **worries and fears** **95%**

- increased social skills & life skills
  - learnt how to **cooperate** in a team **98%**
  - felt better at **expressing** their **feelings and ideas** **96%**
  - felt better at **understanding** the feelings of others **94%**

- higher academic success
  - felt they have their own **ideas** and can **think more for themselves** **91%**
  - felt they are doing **better in school** now **85%**

Partners | Women Now, Yaabad Scout, Caritas Lebanon, and Hamzet Wasl
Funded by | The Linbury Trust, Norton Rose Fulbright, and Anonymous
“Haytham was really hyperactive – he couldn’t concentrate and would constantly annoy his friends. But when he started working with Seenaryo he fell in love with it. It made him feel happy and safe doing these activities. And then at school, he started being much calmer with his friends, and generally more focused with everything.”

Safaa Hafez, Aswat Seenaryo Co-facilitator
ARTS YOUNG ADULTS

CHTAURA-HAMMAMA-BEIRUT: A DISCOVERY JOURNEY YOUNG ARTISTS

Mentoring aspiring artists to produce their own projects in film, photography and sound.

Partner | Dictaphone Group
Funded by | Arthur & Holly Magill Foundation
With thanks to | Women Now, Hammama Artist House and Mansion
Photo collage by | Yassin Msallakh

NABAD YOUNG FACILITATORS

Training young adults in theatre-making and facilitation with children.

Direction & training by | Chrystèle Khodr & Hadi Deiabess
Funded by | Team Archie and Create Syria (a project by Ettijahat Independent Culture and the British Council)
With thanks to | Mansion and Koon Theatre
Photo by | Ali Shaikh

THE METAMORPHOSIS INTEGRATION PROJECT

A devised theatre piece with Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese young people.

Partner | Goethe-Institut Libanon
With the support of | Intersos, Social Welfare Institutions - Dar al Aytam al Islamiya, UNHCR Lebanon and Yaabad Scout
Photo by | Alia Haju

6/6 young adults evaluated

100%

felt more confident in presenting their ideas

89%

felt more confident applying for a job in theatre or education

100%

felt more confident in working with children

8/10

was the average score for new performance techniques learnt

100%

felt they have their own ideas and can think more for themselves

13/13
"I learnt how to express myself confidently in a male dominated environment. I learnt how to listen to others, and to work hard to achieve what I want. The trainers were very supportive, they enhanced my self-esteem and taught me how to be a leader."

Young Facilitator

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)
I feel more able to express myself physically. The project has helped me understand the situation of people I’ve never met before. I learnt something new from this project about refugee women around the world. I have more of my own ideas and can think freely for myself. I am more accepting of other people’s different opinions and views. The project has helped me understand the situation of people I’ve never met before.

“When I took the flower from another woman via the internet, at that moment I felt the London team could understand us. I felt we were united as one.”

STAGING SISTERHOOD
WOMEN’S THEATRE EXCHANGE

A cross-border theatre exchange programme with a group of women living in Lebanon’s Bekaa Valley and a group of refugees and asylum seekers living in London, with collaboration facilitated via Skype and WhatsApp.

16/16 women in Lebanon evaluated

100% of women agreed with the following statements:

- I feel more able to express myself physically
- I have more of my own ideas and can think freely for myself
- I am more accepting of other people’s different opinions and views
- The project has helped me understand the situation of people I’ve never met before
- I learnt something new from this project about refugee women around the world

Lebanon partner | Women Now
UK partners | Women for Refugee Women & Southbank Centre
With funding from | Arts Council England & Lily Harriss
“It was interesting to meet people over Skype and to know that no one is better than the other. No matter where we are, we are all human.”

Women’s Theatre participant
Transforming refugee education through a holistic approach

Creative English workshop
Photo by Mohammed Masalmeh
“There’s a big difference using Seenaryo’s interactive stories. They understand the ideas much faster now, and they also share their ideas better afterwards.”

IRC (International Rescue Committee) teacher post Seenaryo Playkit teacher training

CONTEXT | Arts education is absent despite evidence that holistic approaches are essential for academic and psychosocial success. (International Rescue Committee research)
CREATIVE ENGLISH

Improving English language through games, songs, role-play and improvisation.

Partner | Danish Refugee Council
Funded by | The Simpson Family

22/30 participants tested across 2/2 groups

After a ten-week cycle, the following changes were recorded:

**Phrases** from songs & games used *spontaneously* with peers
**Quicker** & **more fluent** responses to target questions
Significant increase in **volume** & **confidence**

Full **participation** in entirely English-led activities
**Improved comprehension** of English **stories** on familiar topics

**19%** average improvement in scores across pre/post tests

**28%** average improvement in scores across pre/post tests
“It’s easy to remember new words when we play games or put them in sketches.”

Creative English participant
A book & CD by Seenaryo to transform the way early years teachers deliver the curriculum – through student-centred approaches. Delivered via intensive 4-day training.
“The song ‘dbeyn itneen’ [Two Teddies] has really helped them with their small numbers up to ten – as well as with adding and taking away.”

IRC (International Rescue Committee) teacher post Seenaryo Playkit teacher training
SEENARYO PLAYKIT

directly post training

55 teachers evaluated

- gained new ideas for engaging students: 100%
- learnt new techniques to manage behaviour: 98%
- learnt new methods to teach their curriculum: 96%
- was the average score for usefulness of training compared to others: 9/10

3 months post training

73 teachers evaluated

- say their children’s learning has improved since using the Playkit: 94%
- say their children are more engaged with learning: 98%
- use Seenaryo songs every day (with 68% using them twice a day or more): 92%
- use Seenaryo games to help assess their children’s progress: 87%

Training with World Vision teachers in Azraq Refugee Camp, Jordan
We delivered the Seenaryo Playkit to

7 NGOs

in 51 schools

for 205 teachers

reaching 5760 children
SEENARYO PLAYKIT: THE APP

Seenaryo have been working with digital agency WonderEight to turn the Playkit into a mobile phone app.

We tested a prototype of the app in 2018 and full development begins in early 2019. The app will allow teachers across Lebanon and Jordan to access all of our content in the palm of their hands.

In 2019 we aim to train 500 teachers in the Playkit, reaching 15,000 children.
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- $200 pays for one child to take part in a summer Showbuild course
- $300 pays for 10 children’s transport for a whole term between refugee camps and our workshops
- $600 enables one aspiring arts facilitator to be mentored for a whole year
- $2000 pays for an entire school staff to take part in the Seenaryo Playkit training course
- $6500 pays for 30 children to take part in Aswat Seenaryo choir for one year
- $13,000 allows us to initiate a brand new programme in Jordan or Lebanon

The Metamorphosis at Al Madina Theatre
Photo by Alia Haju
The Abdalla Foundation | Anonymous | Arthur & Holly Magill Foundation | Arts Council England | Create Syria (a project by Ettijahat-Independent Culture and the British Council) | The Galashan Trust | Goethe-Institut Libanon | The Fore | Laura Kinsella Foundation | The Linbury Trust | Norton Rose Fulbright | St James’ Place | Team Archie | Wadham College Student Union


Jennifer Allsopp | Lily Harriss | Oliver Paterson | Zoe Tyndall

Lama Amine | Naqiya Ebrahim | Victoria Lupton | Lara McIvor | Oscar Wood

Hassan Akoul | Saeed Al Shanteer | Amani Burhan | Ahmad Dalati | Hadi Deaibess | Safaa Hafez | Ghida Hashisho | Maria Hassan | Jihad Hendawi | Nidal Hendawi | Hashem Kabreet | Chrystèle Khodr | Farah Maghrabey | May Malhas | Yassin Msallakh | Maher Safar | Hanadi Shabta | Manal Shakhashirou | Nour Shamaa | Rand Shamaa | Yasmine Shurbaji | Abdallah Smaik | Anas Tello