

# **Foreword**

In times of crisis and places of conflict, what can the arts contribute? At Seenaryo, we measure the impact of our work through its effect in other areas of peoples' lives. We see schoolchildren in Lebanon and Jordan becoming more engaged in their learning, youth building transferable life skills and accessing more diverse employment, and positive interactions between communities in conflict.

But there's a deeper, and harder-to-measure value to arts. Even in the darkest times, history tells us that those suffering turn to creative expression as an essential part of living, not a luxury. Inmates of Auschwitz forwent their food rations to stage plays, operas and a children's choir. Moz Azimitabar, a detainee for 8 years in Australia's Manus immigration detention camp, said:



"Music is a tool for preserving my sense of personhood, it is so I don't forget that I am a human being." And Jordanian Seenaryo participant Buthaina said: "The beautiful thing about this project is knowing who you are and what your path is, where you will be going and why." Participating in arts is an intrinsically dignifying experience.

2022 was the year that we reached the 100,000th person since we made our first play with a handful of children in Shatila refugee camp seven years ago. One of the boys who participated in that play was Ahmad, who's now a 20-year-old Palestinian man. In 2022 he travelled for the first time in his life when we toured his play to Germany: "We got to see a country in Europe and learn how other people live. I learnt from this process how to be free and to feel this freedom on stage."

Every one of those 100,000 people has a different story to tell about Seenaryo: from Farhan, an 11-year-old boy from Syria who works 13-hour days in a supermarket to provide for his family and says that making theatre stopped him from "feeling sad and alone"; to Ghadi, who couldn't focus in his Maths classes until his teacher trained with Seenaryo. "Now she teaches us with songs and games. We're focusing and loving Maths so much more than before."

2022 saw our first international tour, our first project in Palestine and our first time training public school teachers. It was also the year that the world's attention shifted, understandably, to the horrific invasion of Ukraine. Meanwhile, the situation in Lebanon and Jordan continues to worsen, with hyperinflation at 171% in Lebanon and soaring unemployment in both countries.

2023 has a lot in store for us, with a major new programme delivering the curriculum through theatre in secondary schools, investment in our teacher training app and an ambitious women's leadership training sponsored by UN Women. At Seenaryo, we will remain focused on the struggle towards a thriving future for the Arab region, by investing in the skills, resilience and dignity of young people in Lebanon and Jordan.

Because dignity is precisely what Arab youth have been demanding for 12 years. And it's what people around the world have demanded throughout history, even amid the most extreme times of conflict and repression.

Victoria Lupton, Founder & CEO

95 youth and women trained in theatre leadership

85 schools took the Playkit training

886 children, youth and women participated in theatre

17,223

...reaching

people in 2022

3,373 audience members (not included in total reach)

...who reached

668

teachers trained to use

play in the classroom...

15,574 children







# **Mission**

Through theatre and play, we support under-served communities in Lebanon and Jordan to find their voices as powerful agents of change.

#### Who do we mean by under-served communities?

We work with women & girls, refugees, children in care, people with disabilities, migrant domestic workers and communities living in poverty & affected by trauma



# **Aims**

- Facilitate skills development by supporting individuals to build social skills, life skills, critical thinking and wellbeing
- Foster social cohesion by bringing conflict-affected communities into dialogue with each other
- Create wider and alternative employment pathways and professional capacity within classrooms and communities
- Transform teaching and learning to become childcentred, engaging and inclusive
- Advocate globally for play-based learning and participatory theatre in the Arab region

# **Values**



**Meaningful participation** at all levels – including the way we run workshops, work with partners and train teachers – allowing all voices to be heard



**Evidence-based approaches** that use science and research to inform our programme content, delivery and our monitoring and evaluation strategy



Deep rootedness in local contexts and partnerships working with and for communities for the long term



**Agility and innovation** in our use of technology, approach to teaching and learning, and our responses to the changing needs of participants



**Accessibility and inclusivity** in terms of creating spaces and resources that actively engage and amplify traditionally excluded groups



**Effective women's participation** at all levels, including organisational structure as well as programme design and delivery



The intrinsic value of artistic excellence beyond its use as a tool for social impact





# What do we do?



# Seenaryo in communities

Using a participatory approach to theatre, we facilitate the production of powerful, imaginative and collaborative plays, which puts participants at the centre of the creative process. We also train former participants to lead theatre projects in their own communities.

"Culture has the capacity to **open minds by showing alternative perspectives** and thus ultimately strengthening the capacity of individuals to **participate in society as democratic citizens.**"

OECD, VALUE OF CULTURE & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES (2018)



# Seenaryo in schools

Through the Seenaryo Playkit, we transform classrooms to become participatory and child-centred. The Playkit is an app and training for teachers of 3 – 8 year olds, which gives them the skills to teach their curriculum through theatre, games, songs and stories.

Child-centred learning "allows [children] to **take ownership of their own learning**" – meaning they are "taught how to think, problem-solve and **overcome barriers independently**."

BLANDFORD & KNOWLES (2019), BREDTRO & STROTHER (2007)



# In focus | Sama Al Badea

Seenaryo has been working in close partnership with Sama Al Badea since 2019. Sama Al Badea is a community organisation in Mafraq – a city in Jordan where Syrian refugees make up over 25% of the population. Over the last three years we have worked together to introduce theatre and arts to the local community.

Dina – the director of Sama Al Badea – said: "At the beginning we faced a real challenge trying to include the concept of theatre in what we offer at our centre, no one had ever really done theatre in Mafraq before and they had a distorted image of what it was."

We've been running annual Cycles with children in Mafraq. In 2022, we began rehearsals for a Studio production with youth, giving them the chance to develop the skills they learnt whilst making theatre with us as children. Dina added:

"After seeing their children taking part in several performances, the parents were touched by the positive impact of theatre and the clear changes in their children in terms of their self-confidence and breaking the barrier of fear."

Together, we've been building a local cultural scene in Mafraq. The community now has access to the arts for the long term, thanks to the programmes that we offer in partnership with Sama Al Badea, funded by teamArchie.

# Theory of change

This is a simplified version of Seenaryo's Theory of Change, illustrating how our interventions lead to an intended impact.

#### **Problems**

Overstretched public school system prevents a decent education for all children

Teachers are underpaid and undervalued

Mental health crisis is not sufficiently addressed in schools or through other services

Social tensions & discrimination against certain groups

Women's role & rights in the home & society are limited

Shortage of job opportunities especially for certain excluded groups, including refugees & women

Limited access to arts & creative expression

#### **Activities**

Training teachers & youth to deliver the curriculum through play

Developing play-based resources for teachers

Children, youth & women create and perform original theatre

Training & mentoring youth & women as theatre facilitators & leaders

Advocating locally & globally for the power of participatory theatre & play

#### **Outcomes**

Teachers are happier & more inspired, making children more engaged in learning

Children, youth & women develop the life skills they need to reach their potential

Children, youth & women have a creative outlet for self-expression, which improves their wellbeing

Positive interactions increase between divergent communities, making society more cohesive

Women actively participate in & shape their communities

Youth & women have access to more diverse and sustainable employment

Schools and communities are enriched by a vibrant arts scene

Problems are addressed by activities

# Seenaryo highlights 2022



A Showbuild in Akkar attracted an **audience of over 400 people**, who travelled from neighbouring villages to attend the performance. It was one of our biggest audiences to date.



We led a **huge rollout of Playkit trainings** during the summer holidays, training 268 teachers to use music, dance and play in the classroom before school returned in September.



We produced a piece of street theatre in the Chouf region of Lebanon; the ensemble performed their play around the historic streets of Deir El Qamar.



The Playkit reached **public schools** in Lebanon and Jordan in 2022 for the first time. We worked with the Ministry of Education to implement the trainings.



We **toured a Seenaryo production internationally**for the first time. The cast of *I*see my ghost coming from afar
travelled to Esslingen in
Germany to take part in the
Theaterwelten Festival.



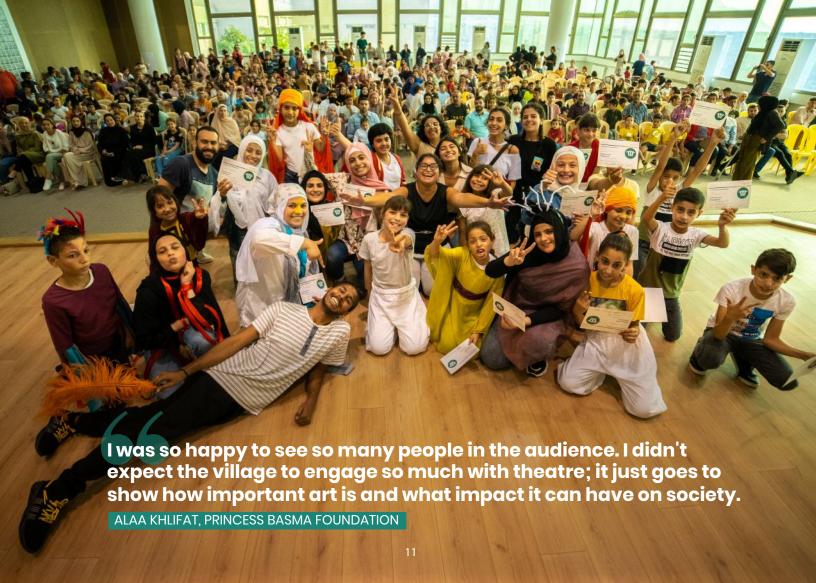
We wrapped production on our **first feature length documentary**, **Tilka**, which we plan to screen widely in 2023.



We gathered for a team retreat in Lebanon – something we hadn't done since 2019 due to the pandemic. We spent three days reflecting, reconnecting and developing our new strategy for 2023 – 2025.



Seenaryo Jordan worked in Palestine for the first time, carrying out Theatre Leadership Training for a group of young theatre makers at Al-Harah Theatre in Beit Jala.



# Seenaryo in communities











# Seenaryo Studios

Seenaryo Studio projects are our flagship theatre productions led by professional theatre makers. They are developed over the course of several months and tour nationally, and sometimes internationally. The actors in our Studio productions usually take training with Seenaryo to become theatre facilitators themselves.

# Seenaryo Cycles

Seenaryo Cycles are shows created with participants who we work with **over regular cycles**, giving the ensemble a chance to develop over time. They are led by facilitators we train and delivered in collaboration with local partners with whom we have a long-term relationship.

# Seenaryo Showbuilds

Seenaryo Showbuilds are theatre productions developed intensively over one or two weeks. They are led by facilitators we train and often take place in refugee camps or outdoors in the summer. The participants write and perform their own songs and paint their own sets.

# Seenaryo Satellites

Seenaryo Satellites are plays directed independently by graduates of Seenaryo theatre projects, often as part of our Theatre Leadership Training. We give them a small budget to run a project in their own community. They are responsible for the full project – from budgeting and planning, to delivery and evaluation.

# Theatre Leadership Training

We train newcomers in participatory theatre practice, as well as offering further training for those with a developed practice. We also provide mentorship to those already leading our projects.



# **CHILDREN**

230 children surveyed

# YOUTH

46 youth surveyed

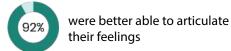
# **WOMEN**

20 women surveyed

#### AFTER PARTICIPATING IN A SEENARYO STUDIO, CYCLE OR SHOWBUILD IN 2022...



of children knew how to work better in a team



understood the feelings of others better



increase in those who felt able to express themselves physically



of youth now have an outlet to express their feelings (compared to 52% before)



felt they gained skills that will be useful in their professional life



made new friends



**9/10** mean score for quality of project overall



of women felt more able to cope with their fears & problems



enjoyed using their body for movement & expression more



felt they have more of an outlet for their feelings (compared to **45%** before)



10/10 mean score for quality of facilitators' instruction & support

# In focus | Germany tour

In November, the cast of *I see my ghost coming from afar* flew to Germany to take part in the Theaterwelten Festival, produced by BDAT. It was the first time Seenaryo had toured internationally and the first time most of the participants had left Lebanon. Their journey had begun three years earlier, but was delayed due to Covid and was then hampered by visa issues. When they finally landed it felt nothing short of a miracle. Ahmad, a member of the cast from Palestine, said:

"When I took my first step onto the airplane it was an amazing feeling – my first time traveling to another country. I learned from the experience how to be free and how to feel this freedom when I'm moving on stage."

During the festival, the ensemble took part in artistic workshops with theatre groups from all over the world. They performed their play to an international audience, many of whom were moved to tears. After the performance, one audience member told us: "The show took me on a journey right from the first second, up until the very end. It evoked many emotions from me – I was so connected to it."

The powerful reaction from the audience made the cast feel as if everyone watching had understood the difficulties they face in Lebanon. Farah said: "It was one of the few times in my life that I felt like someone was really listening to me."



# 39 ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS

**3** STUDIOS

**18** CYCLES

**6** SHOWBUILDS

**12** SATELLITES



NASHR GHASIL

STUDIO | WOMEN | LEBANON

Condemned to work in stifling conditions in an underground launderette, a group of women live at the mercy of their elite clientele. As the laundry spins, they confide in each other and escape their suffocating reality.



TRANSIT DREAM YOUTH | JORDAN



MAN VS NATURE
CHILDREN | LEBANON



BEFORE & AFTER
CHILDREN | LEBANON



MUMMY 22 CHILDREN | JORDAN



WELCOME, BYE CHILDREN | JORDAN



THE WONDER GARDEN
CHILDREN | JORDAN



**GRANDMA & HER FLOWER GARDEN**CHILDREN | LEBANON



**ENCHANTED PRINCE & PRINCESS** CHILDREN | LEBANON



HEAD SPIN WOMEN | JORDAN



TIME COLLABORATION CHILDREN | JORDAN



CELEBRITIES & THE LITTLE GIRL CHILDREN | JORDAN



JUSTICE CHILDREN | JORDAN



MEDUSA & HER FOOD CHILDREN | JORDAN



THE GUILTY MELODY CHILDREN | JORDAN



FRIENDS ERA
CHILDREN | LEBANON



THE APPLE PUZZLE
CHILDREN | LEBANON



THE LOST STICK
CHILDREN | LEBANON



THE SLEEPING GRANDMA CHILDREN | LEBANON



PAROLES EN L'AIR STUDIO | YOUTH | LEBANON

The court is in chaos, the town riddled with corruption. A stranger arrives, accused of a crime committed in the local market. As the villagers head to court to hear the verdict, buried secrets begin to surface.



INSIDE OUT
STUDIO | WOMEN | LEBANON

When human voices become familiar – the voices of friends, sisters, mothers, or even children – it's at that moment that we ourselves become human.



THE OLD BIRD BREEDER CHILDREN | JORDAN



NOT ACTING YOUTH | LEBANON



BLACK & WHITE YOUTH | LEBANON



HELLO IGNORANCE YOUTH | LEBANON



SAVE THE SUN CHILDREN | LEBANON



THE ARROGANT QUEEN CHILDREN | LEBANON



LET'S LIVE THE DREAM CHILDREN | LEBANON



COOPERATION
CHILDREN | LEBANON



LOVE TREASURE
CHILDREN | LEBANON



**DIAMOND DUST** CHILDREN | JORDAN



GRANDMA'S OLYMPIAD CHILDREN | JORDAN



CASTLE'S FESTIVAL
CHILDREN | LEBANON



ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP CHILDREN | LEBANON



**OBJECTS WITHOUT BORDERS** WOMEN | JORDAN



THE BISCUIT OF PEACE CHILDREN | JORDAN



THE CAVE'S STORY CHILDREN | JORDAN



HERE & THERE WOMEN | LEBANON



WOMEN'S HUMS WOMEN | LEBANON

# Theatre leadership training

AFTER TAKING SEENARYO'S THEATRE LEADERSHIP TRAINING IN 2022...



of trainees felt more **confident applying to jobs** in theatre and education



had more of their **own ideas** and could **think more freely** for themselves



felt better able to articulate their ideas



increase in those who will have more conversations with people from **different nationalities** (from **45**% to **80**%)



increase in those who **think of themselves as a leader** (from an average of **8/10** to **9/10**)



**9/10** mean score for **quality of support** provided by Seenaryo

63 trainees surveyed



"I had a beautiful warmth inside seeing how excited the children were for each session. I was so happy to facilitate this Satellite."

RAMIA, TLT PARTICIPANT

# In focus | Aya

Aya took Theatre Leadership Training (TLT) after being in the ensemble of the Seenaryo Studio productions *Nashr Ghasil* and *Inside Out*. During the TLT, she led a Seenaryo Satellite with children from her community in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon.

She told us: "I became a different person during the Seenaryo project." Before, she was distant and easily distracted, but found that Seenaryo's method of leading an exercise step-by-step helped her to focus on each task, one after the other.

Throughout the project – from devising the play and taking the TLT, to leading her own Satellite – Aya learnt to communicate with the people around her. She learnt to hold eye contact when speaking to others and she also said:

# "I learnt to express my feelings freely. I got to know my body better and how to react in a room full of people."

Aya took part in the theatre productions alongside her mother, Mayyada. They had a difficult relationship before, but they both felt that their relationship had grown into something beautiful throughout their time making theatre together. Aya added that devising the show and performing alongside her mother allowed her to step into her mother's shoes and imagine her challenges as a single mother of five.



# Seenaryo in schools

AFTER TAKING SEENARYO'S PLAYKIT TEACHER TRAINING IN 2022...



of teachers use the Playkit app at least **once a week** (38% of them use it every day)



said the Playkit introduced them to **new** techniques and teaching practices



said their teaching practices had **changed significantly** since using the Playkit



agreed that the Playkit is a **valuable resource** for Early Childhood Education (with 63% strongly agreeing)



more teachers understand how to create an inclusive learning environment (from 86% to 98%)



9/10 mean score for **how much teachers learnt** during the Playkit training

514 teachers surveyed



We've developed a **bank of resources and training for teachers** to use in the classroom, supporting them to deliver their curriculum through child-centred and play-based methods. This includes the **Seenaryo Playkit**, a mobile app and training for early years teachers, which gives them the tools to teach through theatre, games, songs and stories.



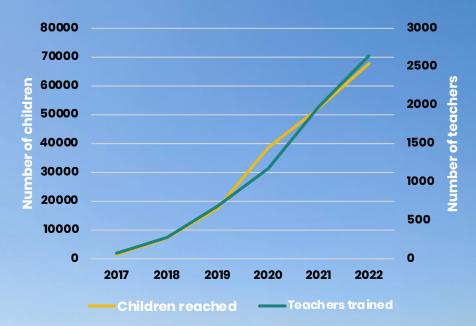
#### Seenaryo Playkit timeline We are selected We pilot as one of 120 Global a 'Creative Toolkit' **Innovators** for Expo We add 80 new programme – training Dubai 2020 and lead music tracks and teachers to deliver the trainings in Azrag and 17 new videos to the curriculum through Za'atari camps – the Playkit app. We finally theatre, with funding from largest refugee camps present the Playkit at Asfari Foundation. in Jordan. the delayed **Expo** Dubai 2020. We are commissioned to run a needs analysis in schools 2022 in Lebanon. We then create the 'Kindergarten Playkit' book and distribute it to 87 teachers in 15 schools. 2021 2019 2020 We work in public schools for the 2018 first time and carry out classroom observations to assess our impact in schools. We lead a huge 2017 We launch the rollout of live trainings, Seenaryo Playkit app. with funding from 2016 During the pandemic, we FCDO. We develop the create I Learn From Home 'Seenaryo Playkit' as a and Video Making Training book and CD, and secure to support carers and funding to develop a teachers to facilitate playprototype for an app. We based activities during deliver our first Playkit distance learning. training to teachers

in Jordan.

### Reach of the Seenaryo Playkit (2017-2022)

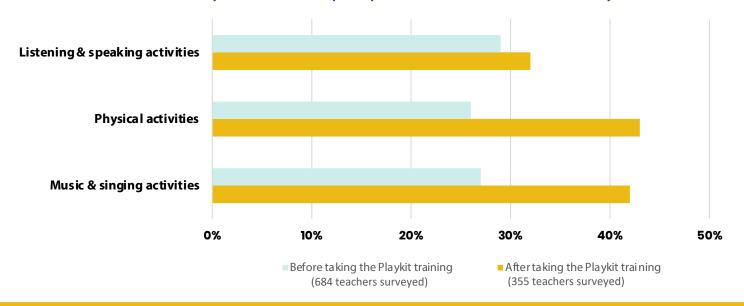
"One of the biggest changes I noticed in my teachers is that their focus has become the student, not the curriculum."

HEADTEACHER





#### % of teachers who say that their children participate in these activities at least once a day (2021-2022)





"We like Seenaryo's feelings song because it helps introduce the children to different types of emotions. They're kinder to each other now – if they know someone is 'tired' for example, they will support that student."

PLAYKIT TEACHER





# 9.4/10

Mean score for quality of the Playkit training

(1,357 teachers surveyed out of the 2,570 teachers we've trained since 2017)

8.9/10

Mean score for how much teachers feel they have learnt from the training

(1,375 teachers surveyed out of the 2,570 teachers we've trained since 2017)

9.3/10

Mean score for usefulness of the Playkit compared to other programmes

(1,213 teachers surveyed out of the 2,570 teachers we've trained since 2017)



All of our aims align with sector-wide and international goals for sustainable development (SDGs). Our work particularly focuses on the following SDGs set by the UN in 2015.



**GENDER EQUALITY** 



**DECENT WORK AND** FCONOMIC GROWTH



REDUCED **INEOUALITIES** 



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



# Looking ahead

In 2022 we reached our 100,000th person since Seenaryo's founding in 2015. We're continuously creating innovative solutions to the changing needs of the communities we work with, and we have a lot of ambitious plans for the vear ahead:



#### **SCENECHANGERS**

We will launch a **new strand of programming**, which will see us working in secondary schools for the first time. We will train young adults to teach the curriculum through theatre.



#### **TILKA DOCUMENTARY**

We're planning to premiere our first feature-length **documentary**. *Tilka* explores the lives of five women creating a Seenaryo theatre production in Lebanon.



#### PILOT ONE-DAY PLAYKIT TRAININGS

We will pilot shorter trainings, with the aim of being able to scale the Playkit's reach to thousands more teachers.



#### **SECOND INTERNATIONAL TOUR**

The Goethe Institut has invited Seenaryo to return to Germany to perform at the Schwäbisch Hall Festival in March 2023.



# How can you help?

As a small and fast growing organisation, we rely on your support to continue increasing our impact. Here are some ways you can help:

#### **DONATE MONTHLY**

The most impactful way you can support Seenaryo is by making a monthly gift to us – no matter the size. seenaryo.org/support-us

#### JOIN OUR GIVING CIRCLE

There are a variety of ways to give. Become a bronze, silver, gold or platinum supporter via a one-off online donation, cheque or bank transfer. seenaryo.org/support-us

#### **KEEP UP TO DATE**

Follow us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. Plus receive our latest updates by signing up to our newsletter.
Follow @seenary0 / seenaryo.org/newsroom

#### **FUNDRAISE FOR SEENARYO**

We're always looking for committed ambassadors to run marathons, bake cakes or host birthday fundraisers to support and advocate for our work. info@seenaryo.org

#### **LEGACY GIFT**

A legacy gift will ensure we can continue to support communities in Lebanon and Jordan, now and for many years to come. info@seenaryo.org

# 2022

#### Institutional & In-Kind Donors

The Arthur and Holly Magill Foundation, The Asfari Foundation, The University of Bath, Bath Spa University, The British & Foreign School Society, Caritas Austria, Caritas Jordan, Caritas Lebanon, Caritas Syria, CFLI Lebanon, CFLI Syria, GIZ/ZFD Civil Peace Service, The Galashan Trust, Goethe-Institut Libanon, Center for International Cultural Education of the Goethe-Institut Schwäbisch Hall, The Haas Family Giving Fund, Institut Français du Liban, Jordan Kuwait Bank, The Linbury Trust, Nommontu Foundation, Pikasso Jordan, Rebecca Dykes Foundation, The Roger and Ingrid Pilkington Charitable Trust, The Schroder Foundation, Siren Associates, The Archie Lloyd Charitable Foundation, UK Aid from the UK Government, Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, Zinc Network























































#### Partners, Collaborators & Clients

Abnaa' Saida, Ain Jarfa School, Ain Qenia Public School, Al Ara'ek Kindergarten, Al Mutamazimoon Sighar Kindergarten, Al-Harah Theater, Al-Rubie School, Al-Shomos School, Angelica Saliba School, Arab Episcopal School Irbid, Atfal Al Somoud, AVSI, Back to the Future (implemented by AVSI, War Child Holland in Lebanon and Terre des Hommes Italy in Lebanon), Baraem Tarbyeh Islamyeh School, Barbican Centre, Bischop & Ahliyyah Kindergarten Al Huson, Bizret Kheir, Bund Deutscher Amateurtheater (BDAT), Caritas Jordan, Collateral Repair Project, College Oriental Zahlé, Commission of the South in the National Scouts, Dammeh, Dar Al Aytam Al Islamiya, Dar Al Hanan, Development for People and Nature Association, Fabrika, Family Flavours, Future High School, Gharsa, Greek Catholic Kindergarten Al Huson, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate Kindergarten Al Huson, Haroun Al Rasheed School, Hasbani Municipality Union, Hasbaya Public School for Girls, Haya Cultural Centre, Himaya, Humanity & Inclusion, Irfan School, Ishbilia Theatre, Islah Intermediate School, Jami'et Souf for Social Development, Jazireh Alnoor Kindergarten, Jesuit Center Amman, Kfeir Public School, Latin Patriarchate School and Kindergarten Al Huson, Lebanese American University, Lebanese Modern School, Lo'lo'a Al-Jeel School, Maarouf Saad School, Majdal Anjar Municipality, Military Culture Schools, Ministry of Education in Jordan, Monot Theater, Mubas Kindergarten, Nasa'em Al-Amal Kindergarten, National High School, Omani School, Qudurat Centre, Questscope, Rosary College School - Shmeisani, Ruwwad, Saida Intermediate School, Saida Orphanage Welfare, Sama Al Badea, Sama Al Alia School, Sarmada, Sawiyan, Sig Center, Sunflower Theatre, Theatrewelten, UN Women, Women Now for Development, WonderEight, World Vision, Yaabad Scout Troupe

























































# 2022

#### **Platinum supporters**

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Robin Agarwal, Bissan Ahmad, Lama Amine, Louay Dawaime, Naqiya Ebrahim, Ayyad El Masri, Sara Ghanma, Becca Hovland, Hiba Hussein, Eleanor Jacob, Rana Jalkh, Victoria Lupton, Lara McIvor, Aya Nabulsi, Dima Nustas, Ali Samra

#### Lebanon freelancers

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#### Jordan freelancers

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#### Intl. freelancers

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