

just
childhood
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Annual Report 2023



About Us

Just.Childhood originally emerged from a community initiative of people who primarily wanted to take up educational issues in the Palestinian refugee camps and reform the pedagogical approach, especially in early childhood education, in this context. To this day, the organization understands its work as involving the community, responding to its needs and implementing activities that serve these.

Just.Childhood has been registered as a local, non-profit non-governmental organization (NGO) since 2014. We operate in the education, psycho-social support, and sports for development sectors and are autonomous, as well as politically and religiously independent.

Our main goal is to actively protect the childhood of socially marginalized and traumatized children in Lebanon and to support their right to play, learn and develop in safety. All our programs are based on Waldorf pedagogical methods. Just.Childhood sees education as one of the core issues of its development work: in particular, early childhood education as the foundation of any secondary education. Improving early childhood education not only has an immediate positive impact on further schooling, but also shows positive effects on further education and employment opportunities in the medium and long term. It counteracts possible radicalization at an early stage. For these reasons, access to quality early childhood education is one of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our organization with all its programs is based on social ideals and the conviction that education, and early childhood education in particular, can make a decisive contribution to building a future society that is less violent, more just and more compassionate.





Team

Mission: Just.Childhood's mission is to empower underprivileged children and youth through educational, psycho-social, and sports for development, enabling them to overcome challenges and build brighter futures.

Vision: We envision a world where every child, regardless of their circumstances, has access to quality education, psychosocial support, and opportunities for personal growth.

At Just.Childhood we provide three different programs:

1. Early Childhood Program

At Just.Childhood, we recognize that a strong foundation in early childhood is essential for a child's lifelong development and success. Our Early Childhood Education Program is based on Waldorf pedagogy and designed to provide high-quality, accessible, and holistic education to children aged 3 to 6 in underserved communities and refugee camps.

2. Psycho-social Support Program

Our psycho-social support program aims to address the emotional and psychological needs of children and youth who experienced trauma, displacement, and live under challenging circumstances. We provide counseling, art therapy, and emergency pedagogical activities to help them heal and develop resilience.

3. Skateboarding Program

The Skateboarding Program, originally launched in collaboration with Make Life Skate Life, provides a safe and fun space for underprivileged youth to engage in skateboarding. This initiative promotes physical activity, personal growth, and community integration.



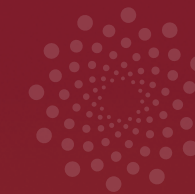


Local Developments

Four years into the economic and financial crisis, Lebanon's macroeconomic framework remains severely impaired. The inflation rate, which has been in triple digits since 2021, was exacerbating the precarity of living conditions for the poorest and most vulnerable segments of the population.

Families in Lebanon are barely able to meet their most basic needs despite cutting down drastically on expenses according to a 2023 survey by UNICEF. A growing number of families are having to resort to sending their children – some as young as six years old – to work in a desperate effort to survive the socio-economic crisis engulfing the country. Mentioned report showed that about fifteen per cent of households stopped their children's education, and 52 per cent reduced spending on education, compared to 38 per cent a year ago. Many families have been forced to send children out to work as a way of coping, with this figure rising to more than 1 in 4 families amongst Syrian children.

Despite these desperate coping measures, many families cannot afford the quantity and variety of food they require, and additionally cannot afford the expenses involved in getting health treatment. Many parents admit the bleak situation causes them to suffer persistent stress, resulting in feelings of anger and violence towards their children. The rising tensions, coupled with the deprivations, are taking a severe toll on children's mental health. In all of Just.Childhood's projects educators recognize increased anxiety, nervousness and extensive worrying.



While looking at the situation in the country and in our direct working environment, it is evident that people have endured a lot of violations of their basic rights on various levels, especially given their challenging circumstances on both social and economic fronts. The harsh economic conditions and exorbitant costs of living, the outbreak of the war in Gaza and its regional implications such as the constant threat of a spillover to neighboring countries leaves children and adults in great distress. Due to the escalating situation in the South of Lebanon more than 90.000 inhabitants have been internally displaced.

Additionally, the psychological well-being of children has suffered as a consequence of the war in Gaza as of the beginning of October, manifesting in behaviours such as even more increased restlessness, altered drawings, bed wetting and constant discussions about the events in Gaza among each other.

On the organizational level, unfortunately, there has been unrest within the set-up and consequently there have been changes in the board and general assembly due to a conflict among the board and the founder that blocked the first five months of the year. While the teams of all three programs upheld all activities for the children despite uncertainty of payment or the future of the organization, the project management worked along with the organization's lawyer on resolving the conflict. In order to avoid these incidents in the future, a consultancy was hired to comprehensively revamp the organizational structures focusing on anti-corruption measures and conflicts of interest.

In this framework, a Governance Revamp Plan embedding the organization's revised structure, roles and responsibilities (including those of the board), decision making processes, and core policies and procedures was developed. The consultants also provided a detailed Implementation roadmap outlining recommended transition paths from existing structures to the developed structures.



Early Childhood Education Program

The Kindergarten Project: Bait al-Shams

Just.Childhood's first and core project is the kindergarten Bait al-Shams, originally located in Shatila refugee camp in Beirut. Due to volatile security situation in the camp, the organization moved to Sabra in October 2021.

Since its establishment in 2015, it has aimed to initiate, as best practice, the reformation of the classical early childhood education approach, which in Lebanon is mainly based on purely academic support, towards an age-appropriate, non-violent, holistic style of education based on Waldorf pedagogy.

For a successful educational upbringing, the families' support is substantial. Therefore, also in 2023, Just.Childhood continued including the parents as much as possible in the planning and executing of activities through quarterly Parents and Educators meetings, and the Mother Child Group twice a week for children between one and a half and three years old. The Mother Child Group offers the opportunity for interested mothers to get to know Waldorf Pedagogy and for the children to get familiar with their potential new kindergarten.



Beside the daily kindergarten routine which builds on the rhythmic daily structure creating a sense of safety and security, children experienced seasonal festivals and activities through educational trips and celebrations like the winter festival, spring festival, Mother's Day, planting, baking, olive harvesting and more.

The unstable situation in the country and the impact of the outbreak of the war in Gaza was one of the challenges for the educators in 2023. Based on Bait al-Shams educational approach, the educators addressed the children's questions and fears openly in their daily work, while avoiding explicit details and refraining from the use of violent language. They made sure to listen carefully to the children, and offered additional recreational activities such as drawing, painting and building. Parents were also offered awareness sessions on monitoring their children's behavior at home and handling any identified behavioral issue including addressing the negative effects of social media on children.

In general, the team keeps working on improving the quality of education as well as the overall working atmosphere within the project. Over the years, the team has managed to establish a Waldorf-inspired holistic early childhood education program/ curriculum that meets the developmental needs of children in the Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings in Lebanon.

One of the additions to the curriculum in 2023 was providing music sessions for the preschool children by our music therapist Zeina. The kindergarten's music program offers weekly sessions, lasting 30 to 45 minutes. These sessions teach preschoolers fundamental musical concepts like rhythm, beat, and basic Arabic rhythms.

Additionally, students will learn to play simple percussion instruments such as the Tabla and Daf by the end of each year. Through engaging in music activities, the children develop musical skills. Vocal training and choir participation are emphasized, and a music performance of a folkloric medley is presented at the end-of-year graduation event.

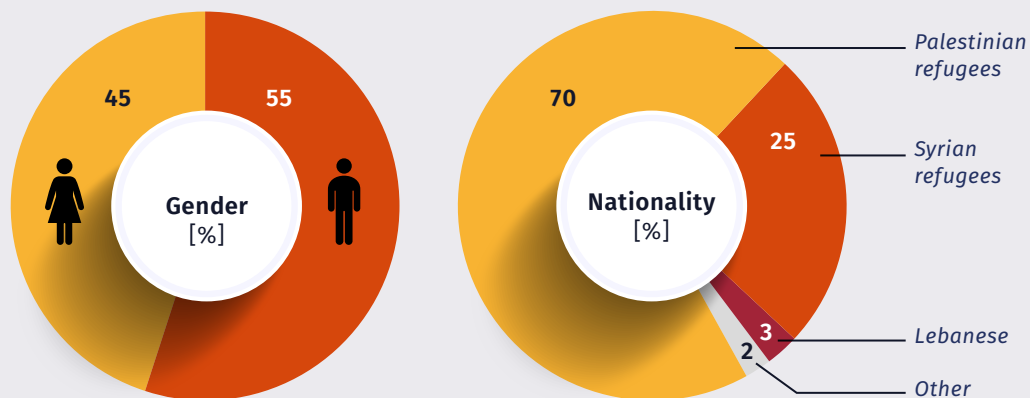




Constant monitoring of the children's development ensures the impact of our activities and offers the opportunity to change or add what is needed for each child. In addition to the child case studies and development questionnaires, the pre-school children are being examined physically and academically. This process is accompanied by a German pediatrician, **Dr. Anne Krohn-Wellhausen**, who is visiting Just.Childhood twice per year. She helped in setting up a test (similar to the German school entry tests), which enables the preschool teachers to monitor the development of the children and to act in case there is any need in order to make sure the children are ready for school. The project has been broadly accepted within the community, we have a long waiting list of children, whose parents would like to enroll their children at Bait al-Shams Kindergarten. At the same time, parents of graduated children keep asking for the establishment of a school embracing the same Waldorf based educational approach.

Impact since inception (2015)

Total kids benefited: **271** Total families benefited: **150**



- ACHIEVEMENTS**
- School readiness
 - Developing social and academic skills
 - Parents' empowerment

Success Story

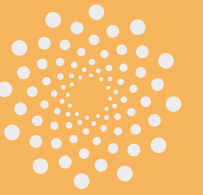
Initially, **Youssef** was quiet and reserved, with limited communication. However, the comfortable and safe atmosphere fostered a sense of enjoyment, joy, and pleasure for the child, allowing him to gradually interact more with friends and educators. Activities like free play and playing with dough encouraged interaction and helped Youssef integrate with his peers.

Youssef has shown significant improvement in several areas:

- **Linguistic vocabulary:** He now expresses himself and communicates more effectively.
- **Social skills:** He cooperates enthusiastically with friends and helps them understand and participate in activities.
- **Physical and motor skills:** His recognition of things and overall physical development have improved.
- **Cognitive skills:** He grasps letters, numbers, and reading concepts readily.
- **Confidence:** He now expresses himself confidently and helps others.

The Waldorf curriculum, with its emphasis on holistic development, played a crucial role in Youssef's growth. The curriculum likely provided opportunities for him to learn and develop in various aspects, including social, emotional, and cognitive.

Overall, the effectiveness of Waldorf approach in creating a nurturing environment that caters to children's individual needs and allows them to flourish. Youssef's progress is a testament to the dedication and care program provided to him.





Teacher Training

In late 2022, we started a 3-year accredited teacher training supported by the International Association of Steiner/Waldorf Early Childhood Education (IASWECE) in collaboration with the Lebanese Step Together Association. The main theme of the training was about Early Childhood Waldorf/Steiner education. During year one in 2023, it was divided into four modules with study groups being held every other Thursday in between the modules.



Throughout the training, the attendees received a general, yet detailed view of what Waldorf education is about. They gained knowledge about child development, imagination and self-directed play in early childhood, objective child observation, drawing with and for children, imitation and the will. Another module tackled the question of choosing and telling stories, Eurhythmy, making therapeutic stories, interpretation of fairy tales, the importance of fairy tales, and an introduction to puppetry. Another focus was on the importance of rhythm and repetition in the kindergarten, daily and weekly rhythms for young children, sharing of discussions, longer rhymes (monthly/seasonal) for young children, sleeping and waking, and ring time for young children. The last module also included a speech exercises.

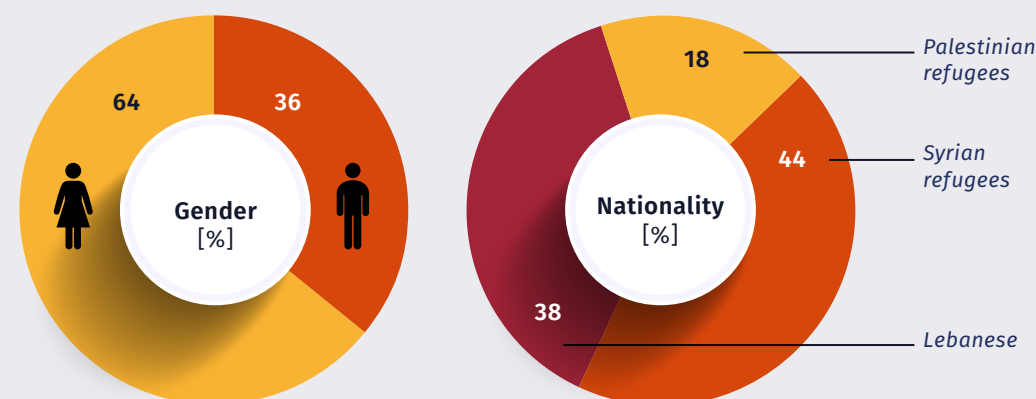


All the five mentioned modules included sessions where songs, movements and games were shared by different presenters, added to the routine of opening the sessions with the starting verse and closing them with the ending verse, and they also included handwork crafts like making a standing puppet, dolls, cushion dolls, painting, weaving, and making a handwork bag.

In addition to the official training, the educators are ensuring to improve the curriculum on a continuous basis. The already individually certified educators are training new colleagues on a weekly basis and are also participating in the three-year module accredited based teacher training along with the new colleagues.

Impact since inception (2015)

Total teachers benefited: **61**



- ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Capacity building
 - Wholistic new approach to education
 - Self - development

Inas al Ajouz, educator

Success Story

“My goal was not just to become an educator but to embrace the holistic approach of Waldorf education, with its focus on early childhood development, rhythm, repetition, imitation, the three and fourfold nature of human beings, observation, senses, and self-development.

First, I began with a deep desire to make a difference in the lives of children. I delved into the philosophy that every child is a unique individual with their own path of development. In the heart of my training, I learned the essence of early childhood development. I discovered that creating a nurturing and imaginative environment fosters healthy growth. Through storytelling, artistic activities, and play, I saw children flourish in ways I could have never imagined.

Rhythm, repetition, and imitation is my guiding principles in the room. That I put daily routine allowed children to feel secure and free to explore. Repetition deepened their understanding; imitation was their way of learning about the world. Waldorf education places great importance on observation and engaging the senses. I learned to observe each child’s individual progress, their strengths, and areas where they needed support. Engaging their senses through nature walks, music, and art enriched their learning experience.

In this teacher training it is not just about nurturing the development of child, it was also about my own growth. The path of self-development, an integral part of Waldorf training, challenged me to become a better person and educator. It made me more patient, empathetic, and attuned to the needs of my children.”



External Trainings

Since 2020, the organization expanded their scope of work by providing emergency pedagogical activities for traumatized children and youth as well as training for staff working in the field of psycho-social support and mental health within the scope of its early childhood education program.

The vision of Just.Childhood to offer age-appropriate learning and playing opportunities in a safe environment regardless of their families' background and the conviction, that a child's early years are the foundation for his or her future development, providing a strong base for lifelong learning and learning abilities, including cognitive and social development resonates with other organisations as well. After attending Just.Childhood's emergency pedagogical training supported by GIZ in 2021/2022, partners expressed the wish to establish Waldorf-based education in six kindergartens in Kelli.

As a result, Just.Childhood was commissioned to offer a short introductory basic training tailored according to the needs of the educators and the children in the kindergartens, respecting limited resources and the overall environment and circumstances in Syria. The aim of the training is to support the already running projects and to further build the capacities of the team. The courses, that stretch into 2024, were taking place online twice a month.

Emergency Pedagogy Program

Background

In 2022, we initiated a new chapter by extending our activities beyond Early Childhood Education and our initial area focus. This included the opening of our second location in the Beirut neighborhood of Karantina, driven by the urgent need for Psychosocial Support (PSS) projects in response to various crises affecting Lebanon.

Building upon the foundations laid in 2022, the challenges of 2023 presented further hurdles stemming from conflicts in Gaza and South Lebanon. These conflicts deeply affected the children and parents we serve, exacerbating trauma and intensifying the need for psychosocial support. Moreover, economic conditions in the region continued to deteriorate, placing additional strain on already vulnerable communities.

Despite these adversities, our commitment to our mission remained unwavering. Expanding our reach and accessibility, we extended our presence to communities in Nabaa and Bourj Hamoud, alongside our existing locations in Sabra and Karantina. Recognizing the importance of ensuring access to support services, we provided transportation for children, facilitating their participation in programs at the Karantina center.

These initiatives reflect our dedication to inclusivity and our ongoing efforts to address the evolving needs of communities affected by adversity. Through perseverance, innovation, and collaboration, we remain steadfast in our mission to provide essential psychosocial support to all those in need, making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and communities across the region.

The program encompasses three main pillars.





Counseling Center

Throughout the year, a total of 117 mothers availed themselves of the counseling services offered at our two locations, Sabra and Karantina. These services encompassed individual counseling sessions, awareness sessions, and focus groups. The sessions delved into various aspects, including aiding parents in comprehending and effectively addressing their children's behavior.

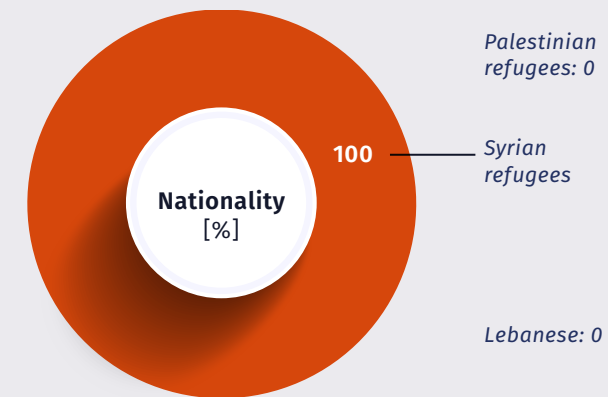
To enhance insight into and expression of children's needs, particularly amidst the backdrop of conflict and war in Gaza, our programs incorporated art-based activities and facilitated discussions. These initiatives aimed to foster a deeper understanding among parents, equipping them with valuable tools to navigate the challenges their children face in such circumstances.

Furthermore, an additional 188 mothers and youths derived benefit from collaborative awareness sessions organized in conjunction with other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Abaad and MSF. These sessions aimed not only to disseminate vital information but also to foster networking opportunities and promote collaborative efforts within the community. Our overarching goal remains to strengthen partnerships and enhance collaboration to better serve the needs of the individuals and communities we support.



Impact since inception (September 2022)

Total parents benefited: 42



ACHIEVEMENTS

- The counseling center positively impacted 42 parents by providing them with valuable insights into understanding their children's behavior and needs through dedicated parent sessions.
- The counseling center focused on promoting non-violent education by equipping parents with the knowledge and tools to address their children's behavior in a constructive manner. This approach contributed to a more peaceful and harmonious family environment.
- Supported parents in managing their own stress and pressure, the counseling center conducted activities and discussions within the focus group sessions. These sessions benefited 22 participants, helping them find effective ways to reduce stress and create a nurturing home environment. The services were offered in both Sabra and Karantina, ensuring a broad reach and maximum impact within the community.





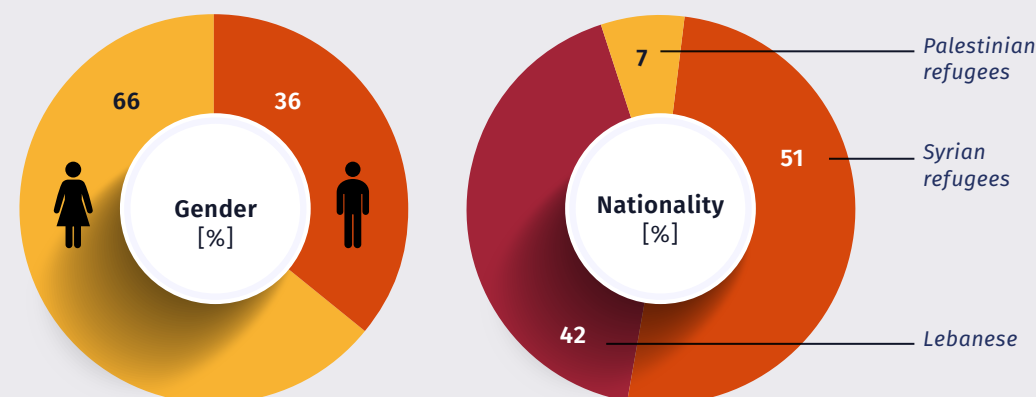
Emergency Pedagogical Activities



In 2023, a total of 440 children between the ages of 3 and 12 benefitted from emergency and trauma interventions across multiple locations including Sabra, Karantina, Nabaa, and Burj Hamoud. Each child engaged in our program for a duration of 6 months, during which a diverse range of activities were provided. These activities included music and art sessions, outdoor activities, storytelling, and theater play. Additionally, we ensured that children had access to refreshments to revitalize themselves, and we celebrated various seasonal and special events together. This comprehensive approach aims to provide holistic support to children who may not have access to any support pedagogical structures, offering them opportunities for healing and growth in safe and nurturing environments.

Impact since inception (September 2022)

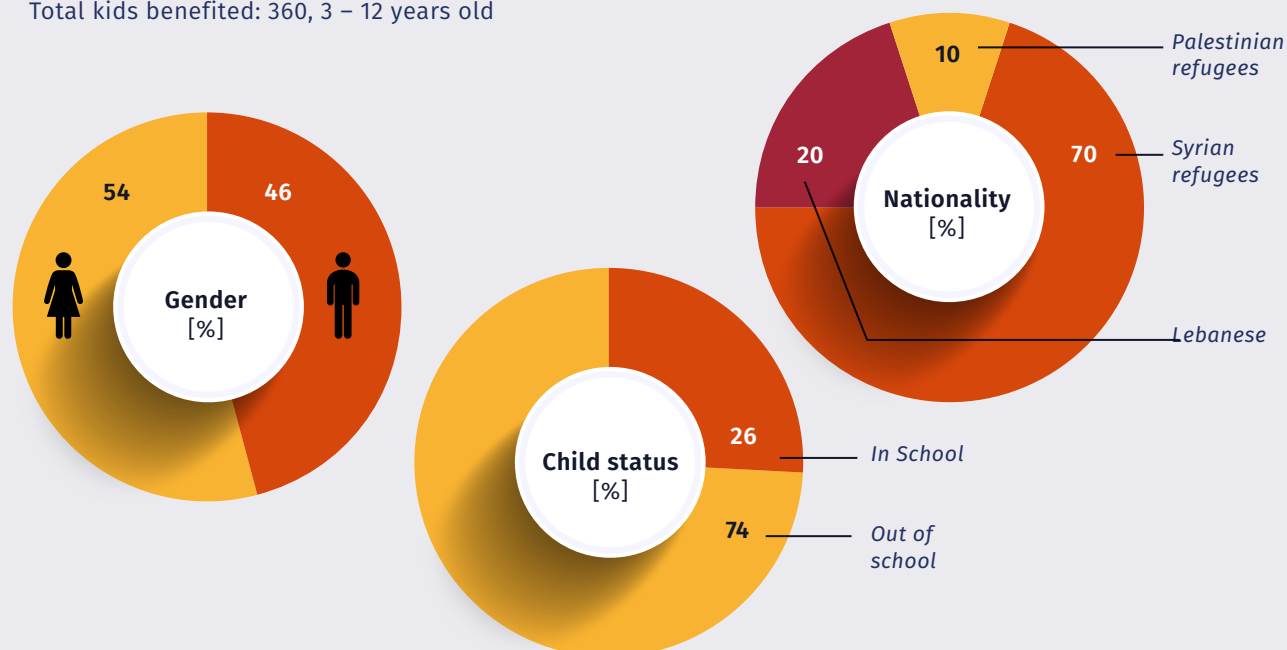
Total teachers benefited: 61, 24 – 45 years old



- ACHIEVEMENTS**
- The capacity building program that is based on 8 modules equipped the educators with specialized skills to provide psychosocial support to children in crisis situations.
 - Enhanced the educators' capacity to address the unique educational and emotional needs of children in emergency situations.

Impact since inception (April 2022)

Total kids benefited: 360, 3 – 12 years old



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Around 400 children from diverse backgrounds in Sabra and Karantina gained advanced psychosocial skills, including resilience, communication, and conflict resolution.
- Participants in both locations developed essential life skills, such as self-care, socialization, inner balance, cooking, and teamwork, leading to a marked decrease in challenging behaviors.
- The children displayed increased acceptance backgrounds, contributing to a more inclusive and harmonious environment, particularly addressing hyperactive and aggressive behaviors.

Capacity Building

In 2023, the Capacity Building program, serving as the third component of the PSS project, continued its vital role by expanding to encompass a total of five modules throughout the year. This program remains open to interested participants from diverse professional backgrounds, including university teaching, pedagogy, medicine, school education, social work, as well as community representatives, NGO employees, and other stakeholders. These modules provide comprehensive training, both theoretical and practical, in emergency and trauma education, equipping participants with the necessary skills to effectively support individuals in crisis. The sessions were designed to accommodate both in-person and online attendance, fostering collaboration among colleagues from local Lebanese NGOs, as well as participants from Türkiye and Syria who joined remotely.





Success Stories

Karantina

In the context of our PSS Emergency Pedagogy Program, and within our group of children aged 3 to 6, one particular child, aged 3 and a half years old, arrived devoid of verbal communication skills. We undertook the responsibility of facilitating her journey toward vocal expression. Recognizing the value of rhythm and music, we introduced more melodies into our circle.

The initial breakthrough came as the child, began to engage with music, notably expressing herself through rhythmic humming. This initial step marked a crucial turning point, signifying the emergence of a newfound avenue for her communication and self-expression.

A pivotal moment arose during our implementation of the „Marhaba“ song, an inclusive ritual celebrating presence and communal engagement. Encouraged to participate, the child confidently rose to her feet upon hearing her name, articulating the empowering declaration, „I am here today! I am here today!“ This instance of vocalization not only showcased her confidence but also signaled a significant improvement in her linguistic development.

Over the next months, her progress was marked by advancements, as she gradually transitioned from single-word utterances to sentences. Notably, she began to actively engage with us, articulating her needs and preferences with clarity and independence. The success of her journey underscores the efficacy of our holistic approach, wherein music catalyzes cognitive, emotional, and social development.

Karantina (2)

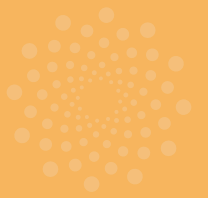
During a focus group session with the parents of the children enrolled in our Psychosocial Support (PSS) program, a poignant moment unfolded. As the mothers engaged in the session inside, their children gathered outside the ground-floor center, watching through the window. Spontaneously, they joined in from the outside when I began singing a familiar song, creating a moving and outstanding moment.

After the session, a young boy approached his mother with a profound statement that echoed the impact of the therapeutic environment. He asked, „Did you feel at home just how I always feel when I come here? Are you relieved just as I feel relief when I come here? I told you that this is the best place!“ The emotional depth of his words resonated, marking a success and a proud moment for us. It became clear that the sessions had not only transformed into a haven for the children but had also instilled in them a desire for their mothers to experience the same sense of comfort and relief.

Sabra

Layan came to the group extremely shy, refraining from speaking, interacting, or playing with others, and harboring a fear of adults. Through targeted efforts to build her self-confidence and communication skills, she gradually started engaging with her peers. Initially intimidated by a more confident child who tended to dominate interactions, she even reported feeling afraid and claimed he was hitting her.

However, through encouragement and support, she learned to assert herself, such as by asking for her turn on the swing and setting boundaries during play. Additionally, she began taking responsibility for cleaning up after herself, a task she had previously avoided. By the conclusion of the program, the transformation in Layan was evident as she joyfully played with her friends, confidently leading activities, and laughing freely, showcasing her newfound comfort and happiness in social situations.



skateboarding Program



We are especially happy to have been able to continue our Skateboarding projects – Skate and Educate and Skate Beirut – within our Sports for Development Program.

Through the support of Kindernothilfe e.V., we were able to upscale our Skate Beirut project to include underprivileged youth from Borj al-Barajneh and Mar Elias Palestinian refugee camps to the already existing group from Shatila. Skate Beirut aims to promote resilience and psychosocial well-being for the 60 children and youth between six and eighteen years old.

Within the framework of the project, a safe space for youth to engage in physical activities, positively impacting their physical and psychological health and integration into the community was provided on a regular basis. A year after its launch, participants have mastered skateboarding skills, showing increased empowerment, confidence, and sociability, while families became more aware of the benefits of sports.

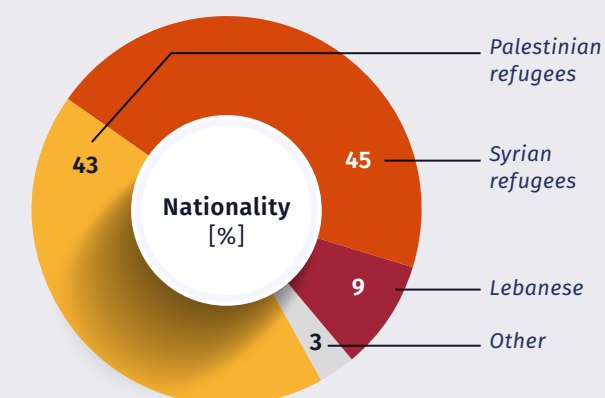
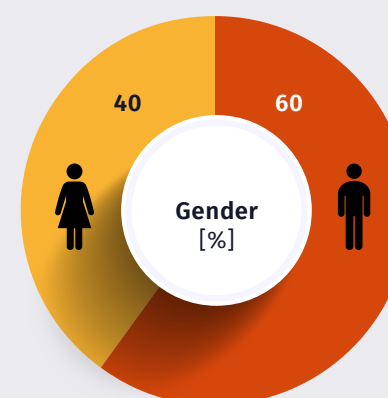
Continuing our partnership with Skateistan, Just.Childhood could carry on providing educational and skateboarding sessions to children who never attended school, had no access to schools, and street kids. The project maintained a group of 60 children, with 40 benefiting from both educational and skating sessions, while 20 focused only on skating. The educational sessions were structured in two-hour sessions per group, facilitated by two teachers for maximum effectiveness, while three coaches handled the skating session for four-hour sessions each week.

The impact of the project as through the educators and skate coaches led to significant behavioral changes among the children, fostering respect, discipline, and self-organization. While creating a safe environment for the children and youth, gender stereotypes were challenged by promoting girls' participation and leadership. In a nutshell, participants gained basic literacy and numeracy, life skills and proficiency in skateboarding.

Just.Childhood's Sports for Development Program focuses on enhancing psycho-social well-being, improving social, emotional, and cognitive skills, self-efficacy, self-esteem, and resilience while encouraging positive health behaviors and community involvement. The overarching goal was to foster a sense of belonging, positive attitudes, and stronger community relationships.

Impact since inception (2021)

Total kids benefited: 460, 6 – 18 years old



ACHIEVEMENTS

- Around 460 kids acquired advanced Skateboarding skills
- All beneficiaries acquired new life skills including but not limited to: Hygiene protocols, socializing, basic literacy, basic cooking, and team working in groups.
- The kids' usual aggressive behaviour decreased and they started to have more acceptance towards kids coming from different and diverse backgrounds.



Success Story

When **Tasnim** talks about her time in the program, she mentioned that skateboarding was a hobby for her before she joined. She asked her mom to buy her a skateboard because there wasn't enough space in the camp she lives in to play and practice. When her mom heard about the program, she asked Tasnim if she wanted to join. Tasnim was excited and said yes because she found a place where she could improve her skills and pursue her hobby. The twelve-year-old girl loves skateboarding so much, that she wakes up early every week to attend the sessions on Fridays – her off day from UNRWA school. Her mom is proud of her and supports her in every way possible.



Outlook 2024



The educational approach of Just.Childhood is sustainable as it is flexible and adaptable – the program director together with the educators keep working on improving the curriculum in order to enhance embedding it into the cultural context we are working in. This gives the community - especially the parents - the opportunity to relate to Just. Childhood and its reformatory educational approach and to endorse it further – by requesting opening another kindergarten or by the expressed wish to establish a school.

Through follow-up with the parents and children that graduated from our kindergarten as well as the UNRWA schools, we have evidence that the children are doing very well and above average in school. This means that we can be hopeful that this will alter the perspective on the traditional early childhood education in the Palestinian Refugee Camps and beyond on the long run towards a more age-appropriate, holistic learning based on the children's needs.

The professional teacher development and training of colleagues from other organizations also play an important role on the sustainability and progress of the structures created and reinforced by the project. We are recognizing a growing interest from the side of organisations that are working in the educational field, which are inspired to take over some basics of Just.Childhood's educational approach such as the postponement of academic learning or the emphasis on free play.

Just.Childhood is actively promoting the parents' involvement by supporting the continuity of the parent committee. However, this needs constant follow-up as parents are overwhelmed with their daily tasks and struggles related mainly to their precarious financial situations. Also, even after all these years, we have not found a way to involve the fathers actively. Their participation is more an exception – for example we only had one father who was willing to be part of the parent committee and who was comfortable to come to cook as part of the healthy meals program. Nevertheless, we are committed to keep trying to activate the father's role in the educational upbringing of their children.



The overarching goal for Just.Childhood as an organization is to gradually achieve financial independence. The early childhood education program recognized by IASWECE (International Association for Waldorf Steiner Early Childhood Education) and the competence center established as part of our emergency education project are to be used to professionalize our unique selling point of cultural and linguistic competence in the targeted regional working contexts and to offer education and training courses, among other things. The project management is in the process of developing a detailed concept and business plan.

Donors and Partners 2023





Conclusion

In conclusion, the year of 2023 reflects a year of both challenges and triumphs. Despite the persistent socio-economic crises plaguing Lebanon and the surrounding region, Just.Childhood remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering underprivileged children and youth through education, psycho-social support, and sports for development.

Throughout the year, the organization encountered various obstacles, including economic hardships, political unrest, and internal organizational conflicts. However, the dedication and resilience of the team ensured that programs continued to operate, providing vital support to vulnerable communities.

The Early Childhood Program, Psycho-social Support Program, and Skateboarding Program all made significant strides in fulfilling the organization's mission. From providing high-quality early childhood education based on Waldorf pedagogy to offering counseling and trauma interventions, Just.Childhood demonstrated its unwavering commitment to fostering holistic development in children and youth. Moreover, the success stories shared in the report illustrate the tangible impact of Just.Childhood's interventions on individual lives. Children like Youssef and Tasnim have flourished under the organization's care, showcasing remarkable progress in various areas of development.

Furthermore, Just.Childhood's efforts extend beyond direct service provision. The organization's initiatives in teacher training, capacity building, and collaboration with other NGOs reflect a broader commitment to sustainability and community empowerment.

Looking ahead to 2024, Just.Childhood remains focused on its vision of creating a world where every child has access to quality education and support services. By continuing to innovate, collaborate, and advocate for children's rights, the organization aims to build brighter futures for generations to come.

Finally, none of this would be possible without the support of donors and partners who share Just.Childhood's vision and contribute to its impactful work. Their generosity enables the organization to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children and communities facing adversity.

In closing, the 2023 annual report of Just.Childhood serves as a testament to the organization's resilience, compassion, and unwavering commitment to serving those in need. As we reflect on the past year's achievements and challenges, we are reminded of the profound impact that dedicated individuals and organizations can have in creating positive change in the world.



Just.Childhood

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