



التعاون  
Taawon

LEBANON

**Towards constructing  
a better reality**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2018**



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

– Fouad Bawarshi



Last year we launched many projects and initiatives, each with a different focus and target group. It was a productive year; we managed to create impact, start new ventures and help an ever-wider group of beneficiaries.

Being deeply rooted in the refugee communities has always enabled us to respond to refugees' needs in a direct way, while also shaping our three major programmes. Through our deep knowledge of their lives, we have come to learn that all aspects of refugees' lives are priorities for them, which exacerbates the challenges.

Another year has passed, and we can see clearly the changes we have made in other people's lives. To underscore our efforts, Taawon's "LIFE: Learn | Inspire | Focus | Engage" project was one of four winners of the 2018 Ockenden International Prize for refugee projects.

In line with our institutional objectives, we continue to implement projects that target young people, such as the three sports facilities that we inaugurated in 2018. Also, we continue to build on the success achieved in our culture programme over recent years to preserve our identity and heritage. In addition, we continue to pursue innovative projects to enhance education similar to the "Adopt a

School" project that we launched in 2018.

35 years of Taawon reminds us why we started our mission to serve and lessen refugees' suffering. Many accomplishments have been achieved, which would not have been possible without the enormous efforts and support we constantly receive from individuals and institutions.

Every year brings new challenges and aspirations. Over the years we have learnt to stand firm with our people in the camps thanks to the solid support of our headquarters in Palestine and the much-appreciated trust placed in us by our donor institutions, individuals and partners, not to mention our dedicated team. These factors together give our work value and impact. On behalf of everyone at Taawon, I would like to express my most sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who has worked with us to preserve human dignity and strive for a better tomorrow.

– Fouad Bawarshi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fouad Bawarshi".



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# 2018 THE YEAR OF NEW INITIATIVES

Public spaces that are safe and suitably equipped are necessary for **individuals' mental, physical and emotional** development, and they reflect positively on the state of the entire community. At Taawon, as an extension of our educational, development

and cultural programmes, we took it upon ourselves to provide the crowded Palestinian camps with safe, public spaces.

## We initiated three projects

### The reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Omar Abdul Hadi playground in Burj Al Barajneh camp

The playground includes a designated area for children, a **basketball ground, table tennis and football pitches, and classrooms** that can be used for various activities. This project supplements

the Al Qassam kindergarten and the Saeed Khoury public library. This playground has become an educational, leisure and sports hub – the first of its kind in the camp. Every day, about 75 children use the facility.

Hasan, 4, says: *"I love to play here every day. I love all the toys and I love my KG even more!"* Mohamed, 14, says he is now part of a football team: *"We started this team right after the pitch was opened. We play football and basketball and have a lot of fun. It's the perfect escape for us."*



### The construction and inauguration of the first gym in Rashidieh camp



Attracting both **men and women**, with specific women-only times so women feel safe and comfortable taking exercise in a private environment. This gym also

*"Practicing sports is a new ritual in my life,"* says one of the sports centre members. *"It's actually the first sports centre that has specified hours daily for women. I describe it now as a place of happiness in my life."*

helps create jobs in the camp and creates a safe space where people can interact positively while focusing on their wellbeing.

### The construction and inauguration of another sports centre in Burj Al Shemali camp

Also the first of its kind in that camp. Like the one in Burj Al Barajneh, this centre caters for different ages and creates a safe space for women to exercise in privacy and support their wellbeing.

It also provides a safe space for young people, while encouraging them to establish healthy habits beneficial to their mental and physical wellbeing.

*"The centre offered me a job and a chance to encourage others to practice sports and look after their health,"* says the training coach. He adds: *"The number of new members is always rising. The gym offers youngsters a new way to spend their free time and keeps them away from bad habits especially smoking and other risky behaviours."*



# 2018 THE YEAR OF PLANNING

We have set the ground for launching **three projects** related to the **rehabilitation, construction and equipping** of **disability** and community **rehabilitation centres** in Beirut, Saida and Tyre.

This intervention is designed to improve the centres to **meet international standards**, and eventually contribute to **improving the quality of services** provided and their **capacity** in order to meet the needs of a **larger number of beneficiaries**.

# 2018 GETTING RECOGNISED

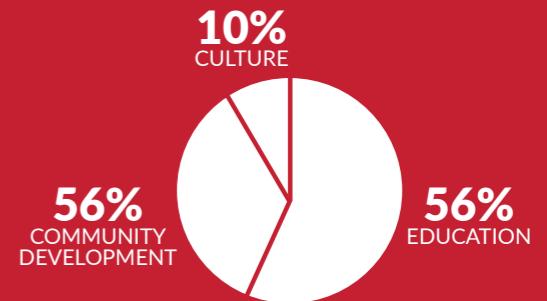


Our project

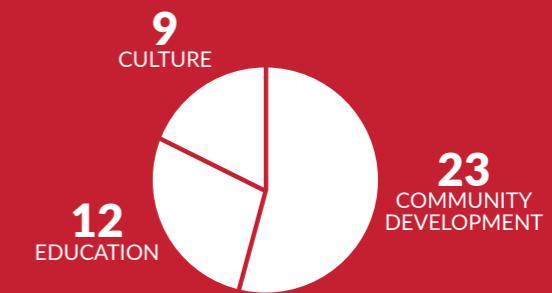
## "LIFE: Learn | Inspire | Focus | Engage"

was one of four winners of the **2018 Ockenden International Prize for refugee projects**. Selected from more than 50 projects, LIFE was recognised as one of the best projects worldwide serving refugees and internally displaced people. The LIFE project targets **Palestinian refugee children aged 10-15 who are at risk of dropping out of school**, by helping them overcome educational difficulties and supporting them with life skills training to deal positively and constructively with their circumstances.

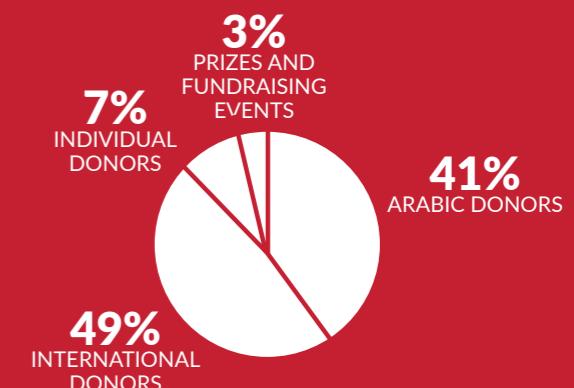
### DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAMME



### NUMBER OF IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS BY PROGRAMME



### DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING BY PROGRAM





# EDUCATION

## Investing in the future

Central to all our education interventions is that they address basic educational needs that are not covered by UNRWA, including **pre-school education**, **reducing school dropouts** and helping young adults complete their **university education**. All these interventions form a coherent link that contributes to helping refugees **escape the poverty cycle** and providing them with the opportunity to build a better life.

## REDUCED SCHOOL ENROLLMENT RATE IS A SERIOUS CHALLENGE

Elementary level



Intermediate level

(13-15 years)



Secondary level

(16+ years)



Number of palestinian children enrolled in school

Study by AUB/UNRWA 2015

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

This programme takes a holistic approach towards childcare. Quality education in early childhood contributes effectively to the development of physical, sensory, motor, intellectual, social and emotional skills in children, in addition to language acquisition. Children are active learners from birth and their first years of life are essential to their success in school and in the future. The years between the age of 3 and 10 are considered to be miracle years, given that the

brain is most active during this period of time. The Early Childhood Education programme specifically aims to **improve the quality of education in kindergartens operating in the Palestinian camps** and gatherings. Our collaboration with UNICEF is extending the reach of this programme by enabling us to expand our presence and reach a larger pool of beneficiaries.

## WE WORK WITH

9 different civil society organisations

28 kindergartens in 12 different camps and gathering

8 public libraries

more than 8,000 children

428 children with special needs

164 educators

10 different activities (fieldtrips, theatre, puppet shows, ...)



# WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE IN 2018?



We launched the **“Minimum Standards for Kindergartens in the Palestinian Camps”**, which aim to:

- Provide a reference tool for unified education standards to the KGs in the camp.
- Upgrade the quality of KG performance based on scientific standards fitting to the KG context in the camps.

**We applied these recommendations in 17 kindergartens through 17 individual manuals prepared for each kindergarten,** covering the basic gaps, needs and interventions required for development.

**We facilitated integration opportunities for children with disabilities** by modifying and improving the kindergartens.

**We rehabilitated** two kindergartens in Burj Al Barajneh and Mieh Mieh camps.

**We supported the salaries** of 164 female teachers to maintain the local organisations' work and empower Palestinian women.

We strengthened the quality of kindergarten education through **teacher training** provided in cooperation with the Institut Libanais d'Éducateurs at Saint Joseph University. The training included **25 sessions and 71 teachers from 11 kindergartens, accompanied by 23 coaching and follow up field visits to 25 trainees** to monitor the application of the training in the kindergartens.

**We strengthened teachers' knowledge through three specialised training workshops attended by 80 teachers** on early childhood education planning, modern systems in managing and guiding behaviour, dealing with children with disabilities and promoting academic integration.



## SCHOOL EDUCATION

In 2018, we launched the **“Adopt A School”** project in partnership with UNRWA and the **American University of Beirut** (represented by the Tamam project, the school- based project).

Our intervention in school education is a combination of both **rehabilitation of Haifa School and transforming it into a model school**, whilst working with its students to further develop their school performance and motivate them to complete their studies, and this is what **“LIFE” programme** offers.

The project aims to provide a **model school in terms of physical space and learning methods**, and improve the quality of learning, by addressing the school's difficulties through a development strategy and plan. Joint meetings were held for this purpose between the programme coordinators, school staff and students.

The project, which is in its initial stages, targets Haifa School in Beirut. We plan on expanding the project in the future to reach out to more schools. Haifa School is an UNRWA school that provides educational services to 642 students, with a teaching body and administrative staff of more than 27 people.

## THE “LIFE” PROJECT



The “LIFE: Learn | Inspire | Focus | Engage” project was relaunched in 2018 upon securing funding and is one of the most reliable programmes for reducing school dropout rates, which remain high among school children in Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

**The programme focuses on enhancing the abilities and skills of Palestinian students who are at risk of dropping out of school** in order to increase

their motivation to complete their studies through extracurricular activities such as sports, IT, life skills, music and English classes. This programme also involves the children’s parents through periodic meetings to monitor and discuss their children’s progress. The programme benefited 80 students from grades 7 and 8 at Haifa School in Beirut.

## UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

One of the main barriers preventing Palestinian students from pursuing higher education is their inability to cover the cost of university, in addition to the limited quota set on the enrollment of Palestinian refugees at the Lebanese public university. Acquiring a university education has helped many young refugees establish a decent life and break the poverty cycle.

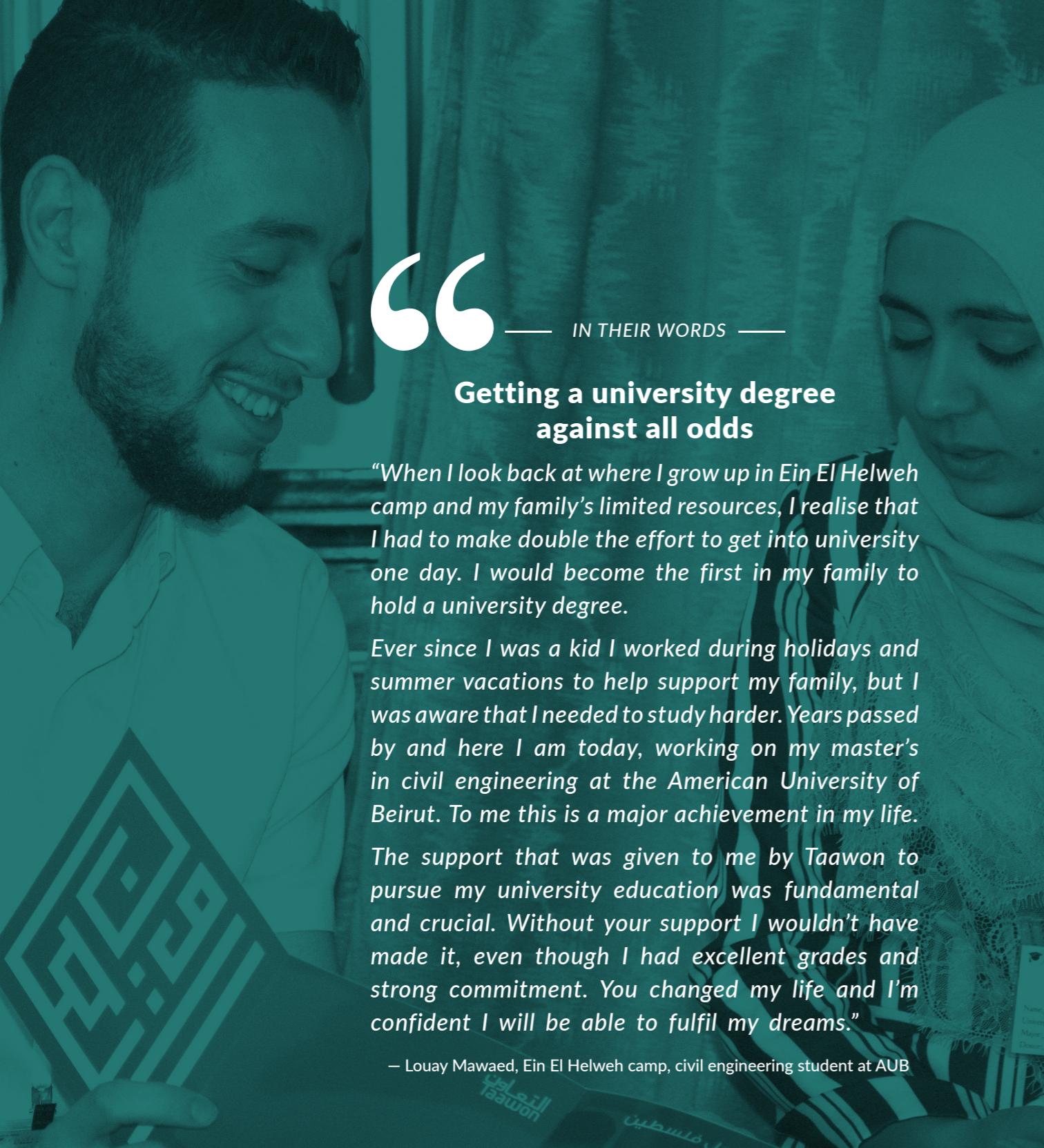
### What did we provide during 2018?

#### 181 university loans and 33 scholarships

were awarded to 89 young men and 125 young women to study at the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese American University and the Beirut Arab University.

In 2018, **80 students** obtained their degrees and entered the job market.





“

— IN THEIR WORDS —

### Getting a university degree against all odds

*“When I look back at where I grow up in Ein El Helweh camp and my family's limited resources, I realise that I had to make double the effort to get into university one day. I would become the first in my family to hold a university degree.*

*Ever since I was a kid I worked during holidays and summer vacations to help support my family, but I was aware that I needed to study harder. Years passed by and here I am today, working on my master's in civil engineering at the American University of Beirut. To me this is a major achievement in my life.*

*The support that was given to me by Taawon to pursue my university education was fundamental and crucial. Without your support I wouldn't have made it, even though I had excellent grades and strong commitment. You changed my life and I'm confident I will be able to fulfil my dreams.”*

— Louay Mawaed, Ein El Helweh camp, civil engineering student at AUB

In 2018, we organized a workshop on education,

### “Education for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon: A plan for development”.

The workshop hosted many of Taawon's partners, local Palestinian NGOs, donor organisations and academic professionals.

**It covered preschool learning, mainstream and vocational education, and university education.** It came up with a **series of recommendations**

that Taawon will use as the basis of its programmes' interventions for the new strategic cycle 2020-2022, which is currently under preparation.



## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Empowering local communities

More than two-thirds of Palestinian refugees live below the poverty line. **This makes our intervention essential and often life saving** for the refugees. Our community development programme is comprehensive and is based on our deep knowledge of **the reality that refugee communities face in Lebanon.**

## HEALTH SUPPORT

We successfully **covered the costs of kidney dialysis sessions** for 135 Palestinian refugees at Al-Hamshari Hospital in Saida and the Kidney Care Unit in Beddawi camp. This year, we supplied the unit with **new machines** and expanded the number of nurses in order to improve service quality and efficiency.

In regards to hospitalisation and surgical operations, **Taawon's support was increased to cover a larger number of patients**, especially those in need of care and special health interventions that are not available at PRCS hospitals or in Lebanese public hospitals.



## COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

**More than 400 children** with disabilities benefited from this programme in 2018, including through early intervention services; occupational, motor, speech and auditory treatments; or through support in addressing educational difficulties.

We also provided prosthetic and assistive devices, which benefited more than **213 children and adults**.

These interventions help **increase the opportunities** for people with special needs to **integrate** into society and **access education or work**, in addition to developing their intellectual,

communicative and psychological wellbeing.

These interventions also help **parents support their children** to lead a more independent life.

Finally, and for a **specialized one to one care**, we referred a number of special cases to specialized professionals according to the need.

Taawon has also **supported the salaries of specialists** in the fields of physiotherapy, psychology, occupational therapy, speech therapy and special education in order to ensure there are staff available to monitor more children.

In 2018, we started establishing **a database of people with disabilities**

living in the Palestinian camps. We expect this to cover **more than 7000 people.**

This step will help create a centralised system that can provide concrete statistics and identify needs and gaps. This way, we will be able to issue cards for people with disabilities to **facilitate their treatment in an efficient and organised way.** Also, it will help us to constantly have access to latest data.



“

— IN THEIR WORDS —

**Today I'm walking,  
soon you will hear me talking**

*«Saeed, 4, has suffered from short tendons since birth along with dysarthria (speech difficulties). He has received treatment since he was two years old and is constantly improving.*

*He has achieved two milestones. Thanks to the ongoing physio and occupational therapy sessions, he has begun to walk. Secondly, he has begun school even though he can neither talk well nor hold things in his hands. This change is a step forward in his treatment. The interaction with other children at school has already positively affected him. However, what is most important in Saeed's case is that he can progress more if he continues to receive the necessary treatment.*

*We communicate with Saeed through smiles, but we're eager to hear him talk soon.»*

— Saeed El Hajj – Nahr El Bared

# EMERGENCY AND RELIEF INTERVENTIONS



These interventions aim to meet the specific and essential needs of refugees, especially Palestinian refugees from Syria, in order to ease their displacement as much as possible.

**Four projects** benefited more than 1182 Palestinian displaced families from Syria.

We renovated and rehabilitated 17 houses in Wavel camp in Baalbek which lacked basic sanitation and electricity and suffered from cracked ceilings.

These projects helped **improve the health and living conditions** of displaced families, ensuring warmth through the installation of new doors and windows, and addressing water leakage problems from roofs and walls. These projects also helped **improve family members' safety** by ensuring proper infrastructure was installed. Moreover, the materials and the hired workforce for those jobs were from the camp in order

to maximise the number of Palestinian beneficiaries of these projects.

Following the rehabilitation, we signed agreements with the landlords to reduce the monthly rent in compensation for the work completed.

For the fifth year in a row, **we distributed vouchers exchangeable for heating fuel** in Wavel camp in Baalbek. More than 850 families (3,825 individuals – half of them children, women and elderly) received this assistance. 80% of these families were Palestinian families displaced from Syria and 20% were Palestinian families who already resided in the camp and the neighbourhood.

We also distributed food coupons to 90 families living in extreme poverty in Wavel refugee camp.



“

IN THEIR WORDS

## Massive change

*“The pain of displacement resembles the pain of living in such a place. It's the suffering of being a refugee in this world! This room is a bathroom and a kitchen at the same time and is located outside the shelter we are living in, which consists of two rooms. Rehabilitating our shelter brought massive changes to our lives and helped us feel settled.”*

— Eyad Abdulla El-Hajj was displaced from Syria with his two sisters in 2013 and has lived in Wavel camp in Baalbek ever since. They live in what is known as “the French barricades” that were transformed into several rented rooms for the displaced from Syria.



**CULTURE**  
Preserving identity

We work with various groups of society through various activities including **dance, arts, storytelling and theatre**. Our culture programme is focused on community development, the dissemination of knowledge, **the consolidation of Palestinian cultural heritage**, support for cultural projects and on encouraging youth to express themselves through arts and culture.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION   5 GENDER EQUALITY   8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH   11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

## TAAWON PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Taawon supports eight public libraries in eight camps, all hosted by local NGOs. These libraries actively implement a range of activities that cater to different ages, in addition to providing the latest versions of books.

**More than 32,000 visitors of all ages** benefited from these activities in 2018.

## MUSIC PRO- GRAMME

This programme is divided into two parts:

- (1) the use of music in psychotherapy and behavioural therapy for children, and**
- (2) music education for children and young people.**

Through this programme, we helped improve the behaviour and mental state of 45 children in 2018, and **eight children were transferred from music therapy to music activities** when they expressed their desire to continue studying music.

We also provided capacity-building for **three psychotherapists**, so

they can utilize the new acquired skills in music therapy.

We also helped **150 children** in Beddawi, Rashidiyeh, Burj Al Barajneh and Shatila camps to develop their music skills.



The expansion of the project to Dbayeh camp was our main accomplishment this year. In 2018, **a pioneering music project was launched** in the camp. The first stage aims to teach **15 children** to play musical instruments in order to form **the nucleus of a musical programme** which we aim to develop in the coming years.

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— IN THEIR WORDS —

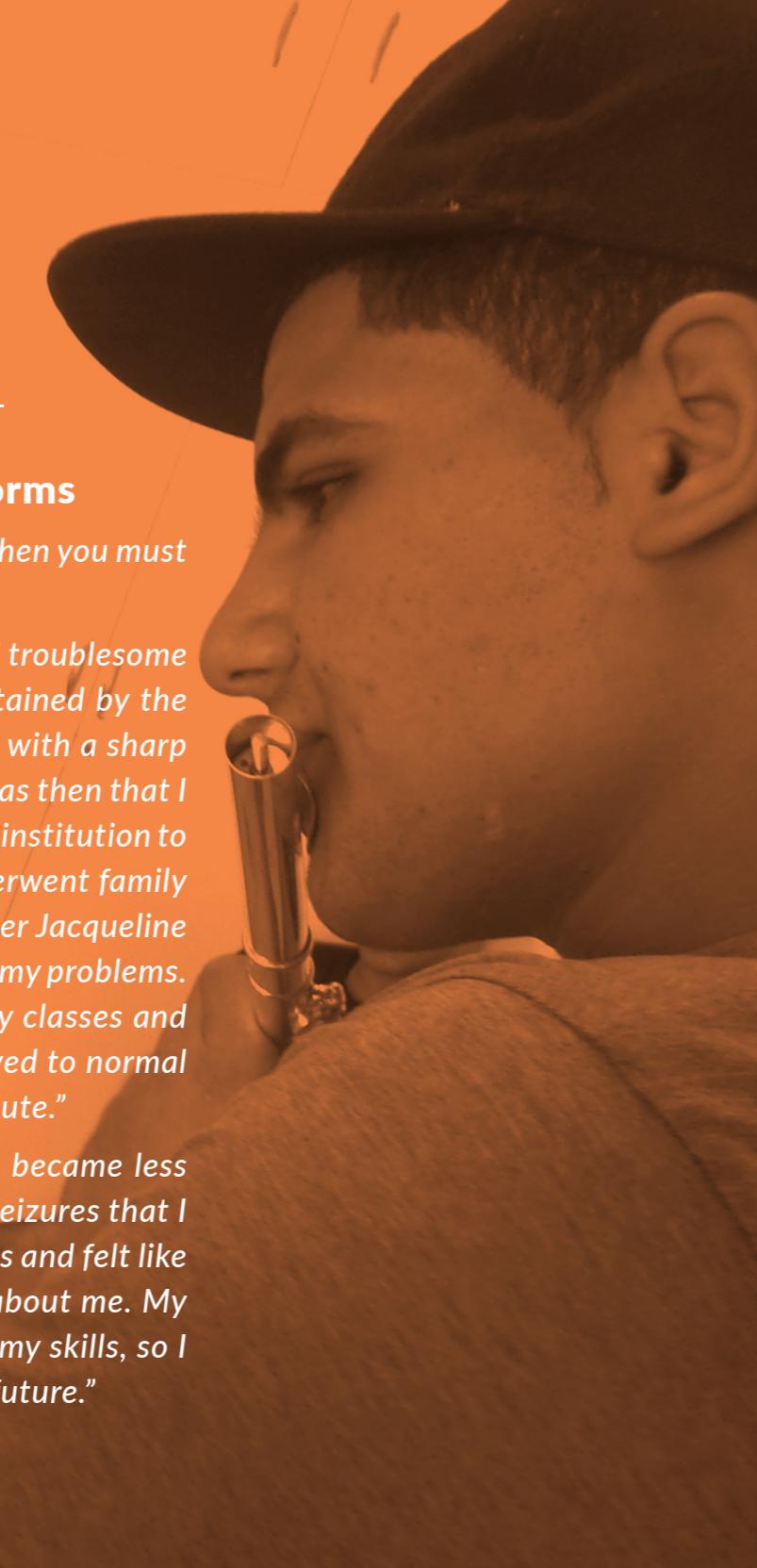
### Music heals and transforms

If you are wondering if music can heal, then you must meet Abboud Khleif.

Abboud says: “I was 13, a stubborn and troublesome child. Most of my friends had been detained by the police many times. One day, I hit a boy with a sharp instrument while defending myself. It was then that I was referred to the Beit Atfal Assumoud institution to receive psychological assistance. I underwent family counselling sessions, and I still remember Jacqueline the therapist, who helped me overcome my problems. I was advised to enroll in music therapy classes and after a while, as I was doing well, I moved to normal music classes and started playing the flute.”

Abboud says music changed his life: “I became less anxious; even the number of epileptic seizures that I suffered dropped. I built new friendships and felt like I belonged to a new family who cared about me. My aim now is to learn music and develop my skills, so I can become a famous musician in the future.”

— Abboud Khleif



## SUPPORTING VARIOUS CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

### The project “Our Story is the Best Story”

for the third year in a row, which included training 14 storytellers under the supervision of storytelling expert Jihad Darwish, in cooperation with the director, Naji Sarati, and audio professor Khaled Al-Abdullah. Performances took place in various regions of Lebanon with the participation of storytellers from neighbouring countries.

### Palestinian films were showcased

during the Beirut Film Days Festival and Karama Film Festival, in addition to **cultural activities** at the Horsh Beirut Festival, and **theatrical performances** inside the camps.

Hosting the poet and novelist Ibrahim Nasrallah in Beirut. His visit included seminars, meetings and poetry evenings, plus the **artist Sana Mousa in concerts**.

The performance, “**Steps, Rhythm and a Camp**”, held in collaboration with the Ajial Centre for Contemporary Dance Training in Ein El Helweh camp.

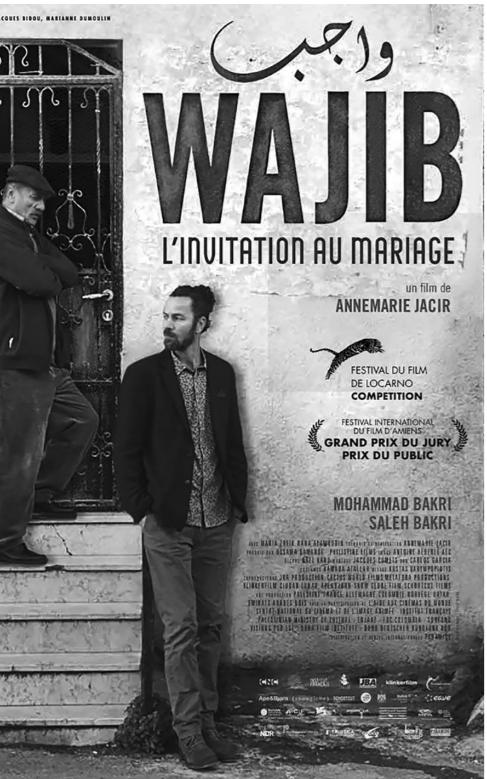
A youth journalism project, including two training courses on digital journalism, news writing and press coverage, in addition to supporting the production and dissemination of articles for young people on the “Shababik” digital news website.



# TAAWON CELEBRATES

## Special fundraising events

In the first half of 2018, we hosted **the premiere of "Wajib"** by Palestinian director Annemarie Jacir. The film was screened at several international festivals and was Palestine's nominee for the 2018 Academy Awards. It was also awarded the Best Arab Film Award, Best Actor Award at the Dubai International Film Festival, and more than thirteen awards at other international festivals. **The show attracted an audience of more than 450 people, and proceeds went to support the kindergarten in Wavel camp in Baalbek.**



In the second half of the year, we hosted **the international musician of Jordanian origin Zade Dirani** in a huge concert at the Palais des Congrès, **attracting more than 900 people** including several eminent personalities, and supporters of Taawon. **The proceeds of the concert went to support the "LIFE" programme to reduce school dropouts.**





# 2018 THE YEAR OF MILESTONES

2018 marked the **35th anniversary of Taawon**. We have been working and expanding tirelessly for more than three decades for the benefit of the Palestinian people in order that they may live in dignity.



# OUR PARTNERS HELP US GROW

1. American University of Beirut
2. Al Kamandjati Association
3. Al-Houla Organization
4. Arab Puppet Theater Foundation
5. Assabil
6. Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps INAASH
7. Association Najdeh – Lebanon
8. Association Al Jaleel Al Tanmawia
9. Community-Based Rehabilitation Association
10. Dar El-Nimer
11. Fraternity Association for Social and Cultural Work
12. General Union of Palestinian Women
13. Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation
14. Health Care Society
15. Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon
16. Just Childhood
17. Majed Abu Sharar Media Foundation
18. Mousawat Organization
19. National Association for Vocational Training and Social Services
20. Palestinian Students' Fund
21. Palestinian Red Crescent Society
22. Social Support Society
23. Saint Joseph University of Beirut -Institut Libanais d'Éducateurs
24. Social Communication Centre – Ajial
25. Tamam – a school-based reform project
26. The Arab Resource Centre for Popular Arts
27. The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training – Beit Atfal Assumoud
28. The Popular Aid for Relief and Development
29. Unite Lebanon Youth Project
30. Women's Humanitarian Organization

# YOUR SUPPORT HELPS IMPROVE THEIR LIVES

## CORPORATE DONORS

1. Arab Bank
2. Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
3. Arabian Construction Company – ACC
4. BLOM Invest Bank
5. Consolidated Contractors Company – CCC
6. Credit Bank
7. Gezairi Transport
8. Human Appeal
9. International Development and Relief Fund – IDRF
10. Kuwaitis for Jerusalem
11. Khatib and Alami
12. Lebanon Humanitarian Fund – LHF
13. Libano-Suisse Insurance Company

14. United Nations Children's Fund – UNICEF

15. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East – UNRWA

16. Welfare Association UK

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

1. Ammar Al Kurdi
2. Faisal Alami
3. Fatima Abou Ghazaleh
4. Family of the Late Abdul Aziz Al-Shakhshir
5. Family of the Late Saeed Khoury
6. Family of the Late Hani Qaddumi
7. Fouad Bawarshi
8. Ihsan Abu Ghazaleh

9. Gamal Abu Ali
10. Mohamed Mahmoud Saffouri
11. Munir Kalouti
12. Nasser Al-Suwaidi
13. Nabil Qadoumi
14. Omar and Ghalia Al-Qattan
15. Samer Khoury
16. Suheil Sabbagh
17. Tayseer Barakat
18. Walid Assaf
19. Yusuf Alami

In addition to several individuals who prefer to stay anonymous. We are very grateful to their support.

## DONATIONS

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