



TAAWON
Lebanon Branch

**Annual
Report
2023**

40 YEARS
of Humanitarian and
Development Work



40 YEARS

of Humanitarian and
Development Work



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TAAWON SPEAKS

This year celebrates Taawon’s 40th anniversary since its inception in Lebanon. To this day, Taawon steadfastly upholds its dedication to empowering the Palestinian community and fostering their quest for a dignified life. In the beginning, we did not envisage reaching this milestone, amidst the persistent poverty and marginalization in Lebanon’s camps, and with Palestinians enduring ongoing hardships in Palestine. Consequently, our interventions and emergency responses have adapted and progressed over many years to address evolving needs and circumstances. Yet, our fundamental mission remains to empower, support and serve our Palestinian people at every turn.

This forty-year journey of humanitarian and developmental efforts owes its success to the unwavering support and trust bestowed on Taawon by its founders, by the Board of Trustees, our dedicated members, generous donors, and collaborative partners. This solid foundation forms the bedrock on which Taawon stands today, guiding its mission and operations.

In 2023, significant institutional developments unfolded, including the election of a new 12-member board of trustees, tasked with stewarding Taawon’s endeavors in Lebanon for the foreseeable future. Concurrently, fresh projects and new partnerships have been welcomed into our expanding portfolio. Given the prevailing economic challenges in Lebanon and the pressing needs of our community, our attention will remain focused on providing access to fundamental services and necessities, and empowering Palestinians across various spheres. Aligned with our new strategic directions, particular emphasis will be placed on empowering youth and recognizing their key role as drivers of change and societal progress. Moving forward, our efforts will pivot towards fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and nurturing quality educational opportunities, heralding a new phase of dynamic growth and impact.

As 2023 concludes, a year fraught with heightened suffering, adversity, and challenges for humanitarian organizations, I would like to extend my profound gratitude to all our partner organizations, including NGOs and individuals who we have worked with not only in Lebanon – but to all of those who are also devoted to assisting our brethren in Gaza. Your tireless efforts epitomize the essence of humanity, showcasing solidarity with fellow human beings irrespective of their location.

Amidst these challenges, we must acknowledge with deep appreciation, the remarkable dedication of the Taawon teams in Gaza, and Ramallah, who have persevered with great determination and patience in the most daunting of circumstances. I also wish to express gratitude to our headquarters for their steadfast backing and to the Beirut team for being the driving force behind our collective endeavors.

Wafaa El Yassir | Chairman of the Board



VISION AND ACTION

We work **to ensure a decent life** for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

We look forward to **developing** their skills and capabilities.

Ultimately, **we aim to improve** living standards and the quality of services provided.

TAAWON SCOPE OF WORK IN LEBANON

Education

- Early Childhood Education
- School Education
- Vocational and Technical Education
- University Education
- Youth Employment

Community Development

- Health Support
- Disability and Inclusion
- Support to Local Communities
- Mental Health
- Emergency and Relief

Culture

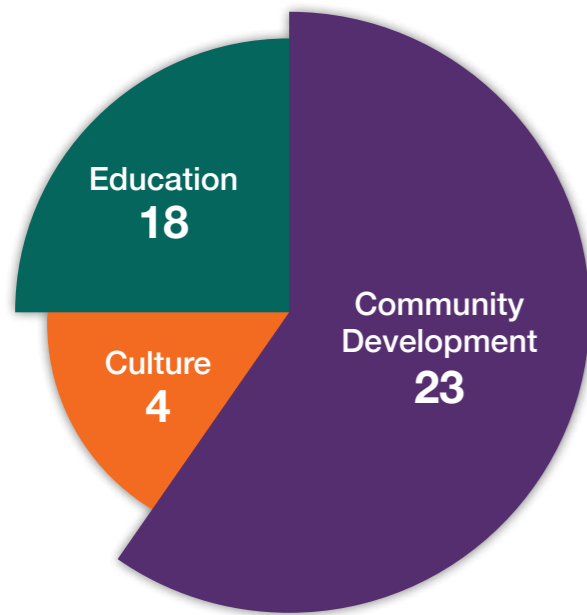
- Public Libraries
- Music

This year, we served more than **109,000 Palestinian Refugees**

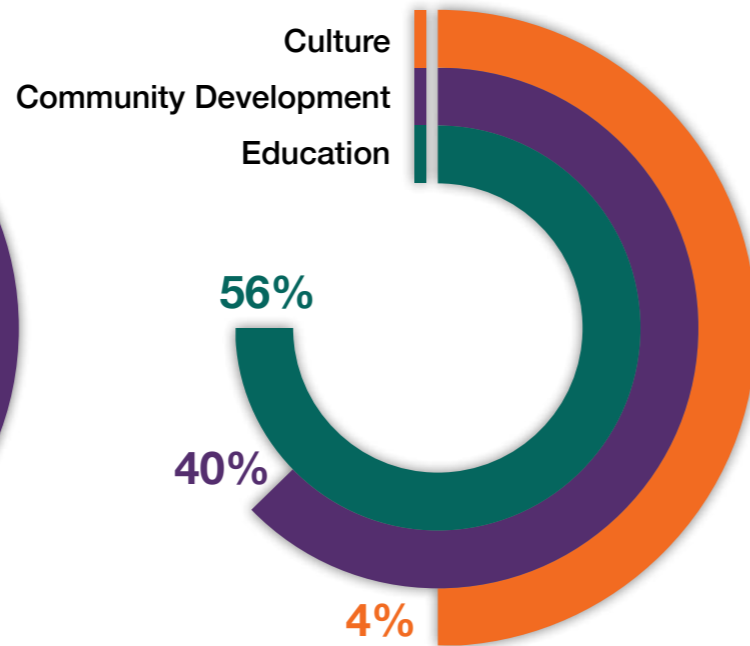
We collaborated with more than **40 partner organizations**

We partnered with more than **9 donor organizations**

We implemented **45 projects**



Number of projects implemented by program



Distribution of expenditure by program

141 kindergarten teachers were equipped with additional skills in active learning methodologies, helping them to develop more dynamic and engaging classrooms.



Across **49 kindergartens** in Palestinian camps, improvements were made to elevate the standard of education provided.



Through the rehabilitation of **13 kindergartens**, inclusive environments were created, enabling children of all abilities to thrive and learn together in safe spaces.



501 students received valuable support for both vocational and university education, paving the way for their future success and contribution to society.



Musical skills were developed for **225 children and youth on musical instruments**, nurturing their artistic talents and providing avenues for creativity and self-expression.



RESPONSE AND IMPACT

Over 23,000 dialysis sessions were provided, significantly impacting the lives of **147 patients**.



Through **4,000 psychotherapy sessions**, the mental health of 517 children and adolescents was enhanced, improving their resilience, and emotional well-being.



214 children with disabilities benefited from 10,962 occupational and speech therapy sessions, improving their health and mobility.



A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted for **13 organizations in the disability sector**, laying the foundation for boosting support systems and services.



Over 10,000 children and youngsters found refuge and opportunities for growth in **10 safe spaces** designed to nurture their physical, social, and emotional development.



40 YEARS
of Humanitarian and
Development Work





Four decades of continuous work, in the harshest and most difficult conditions that Lebanon and the Palestinian camps have experienced from North to South. Four decades of humanitarian and development work, paving the way to a better life for the Palestinian people through empowerment, capacity building and improved service provision, marks the journey of Taawon; a journey that began in Lebanon in 1983.

Much have been achieved with many success stories along the way, with more still to come!

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, Taawon gathered its supporters, friends, Board of Trustees, and General Assembly in Lebanon and Palestine to celebrate our achievements together and to consider what remains to be accomplished. A delegation visited the camps of Beddawi and Burj El-Barajneh and met with community groups and local NGOs, listening closely to the impact of Taawon's programs. A creative event was organized at Sursock Museum in Beirut, featuring musical artist Michel Fadel, in support of vocational and technical education for young people.

I am delighted to acknowledge the fruitful collaboration between UNICEF and our esteemed partner, Taawon. Together, we have accomplished remarkable milestones and made a tangible difference in the lives of countless Palestinian, Lebanese, and Syrian children in Lebanon.

Taawon's dedication, expertise, and commitment to our shared goals have been invaluable, contributing significantly to the success of various Early Childhood Initiatives aimed at improving the well-being and learning of children in the Palestinian camps and gatherings. I deeply appreciate Taawon's outstanding efforts and look forward to continuing our impactful partnership in creating positive change for children in Lebanon.



Nazih Yaacoub
Chief Palestinian Programme - UNICEF



Four decades of unwavering dedication, compassion, and impact is truly a cause for celebration.

Taawon's vision of empowerment, social justice, and sustainable development has created a ripple effect of positive change that continues to transform the region. 40 years of transforming lives.



Samira Khairallah
PARTII Team Leader in Lebanon - GIZ



My experience with Taawon spans many decades since its establishment.

For me they are co-workers and visionaries, who walked with us on this difficult path. Dealing with Taawon, I feel true partnership, respect, recognition, and honesty. They are always ready to listen, coordinate, and accept suggestions. They did not leave us halfway, but persevered in providing us with moral support in times of crisis. Taawon is, for me, a safety anchor, and a guarantee of continuity.



Nahla Ghandour
Director of Children's Rehabilitation Kindergarten
Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation

GAZA UNDER FIRE

**We were quick...
We were rigorous...**

At the start of Israel's bombardment of Gaza in October 2023, Taawon Headquarters swiftly initiated efforts on multiple fronts to aid our people in Gaza. As the attacks intensified and casualties mounted, numerous organizations, institutions, and individuals in Lebanon mobilized to offer support in diverse ways. Notably, many grassroots initiatives emerged, spearheaded by members, allies, and staff of Taawon.

Various Lebanese organizations approached Taawon with proposals to facilitate aid delivery to Gaza. Collaboration ensued, including participation in Fabric Aid's Campaign, (Gaza's Closet) "خزانة غزة" which focused on collecting clothing donations for Gaza and involved a coalition of Lebanese NGOs. Additionally, Taawon was part of 'Buzz's Toys for Gaza's Children' campaign, among other initiatives aimed at extending relief to the affected population



EDUCATION
Investing in the Future





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Objective: Improving the quality of education in kindergartens in Palestinian camps.

Target group: 43 kindergartens, representing about 47% of the kindergartens operating in the Palestinian camps

Supported by: UNICEF

In partnership with: 20 NGOs working in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon

What did we achieve?

Empowering KG teachers

- ▶ 70 KG teachers from 18 kindergartens were trained in the fundamental topics of the Early Childhood Education Program. The training was led by a specialized team from the Lebanese Institute of Educators at Saint Joseph University.
- ▶ 43 teachers and supervisors were trained in methods of providing effective individualized support measures for children with disabilities to maximize academic and social development, aligning with the goal of providing inclusive educational services in 13 kindergartens. The training was led by a specialized team from the Lebanese Institute of Educators at Saint Joseph University.
- ▶ 9 Kindergarten supervisors underwent intensive training in effective management techniques, while 26 teachers were equipped with advanced educational skills, priming them for supervisory positions. The initiative aims to establish a highly skilled group of teachers to assist the educational management teams in 24 kindergartens. The training was led by a specialized team from Al-Mabarrat Charity Association.

The training program was accompanied by on-site follow-up in the kindergartens, where trainers observed the educators' performance in their classrooms, ensuring training materials are used efficiently. Additional follow-up and mentoring support was provided for the educational management teams in seven institutions, in planning and implementing model lessons with children, with the aim of developing educational programs and transferring them from textbook-based programs, to programs that are attuned to children's developmental stages and different needs.

Thoughtful Training Yields Clear Results in Educational Outcomes

“ Educational planning serves as the cornerstone of our annual strategy, guiding us through every step. The training we underwent with Al-Mabarrat Charity Association provided us with invaluable teachings on how to plan using a holistic and integrated approach. By seamlessly connecting topics to the unique needs of each age group, we've adopted a more systematic approach to our work. Ultimately, this benefits our children, elevating educational outcomes and nurturing their growth. ”

Rajya Shaaban

Al-Khalsa Kindergarten, Beddawi Camp



- ▶ The physical environments of four kindergartens were improved to ensure a safe place for children (Esaad al Toufoula kindergarten in Burj El-Barajneh camp, Al-Murshid kindergarten in Ein El-Hilweh camp, Alma kindergarten in Shatila camp, and Al-Salam kindergarten in Sabra camp). The work included renovation, maintenance, painting, and equipping new classrooms with the necessary supplies.
- ▶ More than 1,200 parents were engaged in the educational process to monitor their children's progress and skills, through the provision of 38 awareness-raising sessions which addressed topics related to their children's education and development.
- ▶ 395 stationery kits were provided, benefiting over 16,000 children enrolled in kindergartens. This support covers their essential needs for an entire academic year, alleviating the financial burden on their families.
- ▶ 267 sets of Lego bricks were distributed to 20 kindergartens to enrich the learning environment and to help develop of children's basic skills, co-ordination and creativity and, importantly, to contribute to making learning fun!



Unveiling a new educational resource

The first of its kind in Arabic!

Taawon has unveiled a new manual for educators focusing on preschool psychomotor education activities, covering KG1, KG2, and KG3 levels. This pioneering guide, crafted by specialists from the Lebanese Institute of Educators at Saint Joseph University, was developed in partnership with Taawon, and with support from UNICEF.

Employing active learning strategies, the manual serves as a valuable resource for educational planners and educators alike, aiding them in their daily classroom endeavors.

Distributed to 85 educational centers, including 60 kindergartens within the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, the guide is accompanied by materials and resources to facilitate implementation and active engagement.

A Qualitative Step

“ It is the first of its type. This Manual is a pioneer in Arabic educational resources and it is tailored to the unique needs of kindergartens in Lebanon, particularly in the refugee camps. Its development marks a transformative shift from traditional learning to dynamic learning, where the child is the epicenter.

As the child becomes the focal point of the educational journey, the manual paves the way for interactive and engaging learning environments, encouraging holistic growth and development. ”

Rock Ashi

Director of the Lebanese Institute of Educators at Saint Joseph University





Introducing “Makani” Multipurpose Community Centers for Children and Youth

In 2023, the UNICEF-supported Makani initiative was launched in Palestinian camps across Lebanon, with the goal of providing secure environments for children and youth to nurture their physical, social, and emotional development.

A consortium was formed, comprising Taawon, Anera, al-Jana, Right to Play, Terre des hommes (TDH), and Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP UK), to oversee operations at 10 Makani centers. Taawon is responsible for supervising the early childhood clubs (5 clubs) within these centers, spread across five institutions: the Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts (ARCPA/Al-Jana) in Wadi El Zaineh, the Alwan Development Center in Ein El-Hilweh camp, the Fraternity Association for Social and Cultural Work in Burj El-Barajneh camp, the Shahd Association in Wavel camp in Baalbek, and the Mubader Organization in Beddawi camp.

Establishing these clubs involved conducting needs assessments, devising implementation plans, and equipping the centers to accommodate children. Renovations included hall refurbishments, ventilation improvements, and room repainting, along with providing essential furnishings, educational materials, stationery, games, and the psychomotor resource manual.

Simultaneously, 12 facilitators underwent training to oversee these clubs, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively engage with this age group. Training covered education informed by brain research and age-appropriate practices, psychomotor education, and active learning techniques.

The clubs currently welcome over 270 children aged 4 to 6, three days a week, catering to both enrolled kindergarten students and those not attending kindergarten.

SCHOOL EDUCATION



Objective: Reducing school dropout by supporting students at risk
Target group: 63 male and female students from sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth grades in Beddawi camp.
Supported by: Taawon
In partnership with: Women’s Programs Association

Due to a multitude of interconnected factors, the dropout rate among Palestinian students before they reach secondary school education is notably high. The “Supportive Education Program for UNRWA School Students” (STARS) has been instrumental in aiding 63 students from Beddawi camp in successfully completing their school education.

The Program’s Plan of Action

- ▶ Conducting catch-up support classes covering all core subjects, with a special focus on languages, mathematics, and science, totaling 1,720 classes throughout the academic year.
- ▶ Engaging with students’ families to formulate individual intervention plans and assess their educational backgrounds.
- ▶ Collaborating with school administrations to identify collective strategies and monitor students’ progress.
- ▶ Organizing progress meetings with teachers to devise plans for improving student performance, addressing challenges, and sharing success stories.
- ▶ Providing extracurricular activities aimed at improving life skills across various topics of interest to students of this age group.

Tracked indicators demonstrated an encouraging 80% positive improvement in students’ grades.

Empowering Futures: Leila's Journey of Resilience and Success

Leila, like many adolescents, faced academic challenges during her ninth-grade school year. However, unlike most, her parents contemplated withdrawing her from school. Determined to persevere, Leila refused to give up. Despite having only a few months left before final exams, she resolved to push through with the support of the STARS program.

This decision marked a pivotal moment in Leila's life. Through a collaborative effort involving assessments of her abilities, coordination with her family and school, and the implementation of a comprehensive intervention plan, Leila embarked on a journey to address her academic weaknesses. With dedicated private lessons and unwavering diligence, she tirelessly worked to prepare for her exams.

Thanks to her relentless perseverance and the constant support she received, Leila not only obtained her official ninth-grade certificate but also reclaimed the opportunity to continue her education. Most importantly, she rediscovered her confidence and unlocked her potential. With her future now firmly within her grasp, Leila is empowered to chart her own path forward, just like any other young person of her age.



VOCATIONAL EDUCATION



Objective: Offering alternative learning pathways and readiness for entry into the workforce

Target group: UNRWA School Students

Supported by: The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and Individual Donors

In partnership with: The Palestinian Students' Fund and UNRWA

This program granted full scholarships, spanning three years, to a total of 119 students, (59 male and 60 female). These students attended five accredited specialized technical institutes located in Sidon, Bekaa, Beirut, and the North, with various specializations available, such as pre-school education, accounting and informatics, and mechanics.

The program provides students with the opportunity to attain a technical baccalaureate degree, enabling them to either enter the workforce directly or pursue further education at university level. In 2023, three students successfully graduated from the program; one of whom secured employment, while the other two opted to continue their academic journey by enrolling in university.

The Program's Plan of Action

- ▶ Early intervention through in-school guidance and counseling sessions for over 484 ninth-grade students, ensuring proactive support prior to middle school completion.
- ▶ Empowering families through the provision of five awareness-raising sessions to introduce vocational education, enabling informed decision-making.
- ▶ Offering three-year vocational education scholarships.
- ▶ Increasing essential life skills and labor market competencies through tailored training sessions for scholarship recipients.
- ▶ Facilitating hands-on internship opportunities, bridging the gap between education and real-world experience.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

Unlocking Potential: Jana's Anticipation of a Bright future

Jana, now in her second year, is pursuing her passion for interior design at Makassed's Al Debs Vocational and Technical Institution. Confident in her decision, she explains her choice, "I adore sketching and drawing, I derive immense joy from delving into the world of design. After completing my 3-year scholarship here, I am hoping to pursue further education, venturing into university to specialize in graphic design."

Jana recognizes the golden opportunity in front of her and she is determined to seize it with both hands to realize her dreams. With aspirations of establishing her own business, she shares her philosophy, "Life brims with opportunities; we just need to reach out at the right moment." Jana's story epitomizes the power of ambition and perseverance in shaping a brighter future.

Jana Jazzar
Interior Design



Objective: Empowering youth by providing access to university education

Target group: Palestinian Youth in Lebanon

Supported by: The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and Individual Donors

In partnership with: The Palestinian Students' Fund and the Unite Lebanon Youth Project

A total of **382 students benefited from university scholarships and loans**, with 107 students achieving a significant milestone in 2023 with their successful graduation from eminent institutions in Lebanon, including the American University of Beirut, the Lebanese American University, and Beirut Arab University.

Allocations of Scholarships and Loans

University Scholarships: In 2023, **64 students** (31 male, 33 female) were awarded university scholarships. Of these 17 graduated, 10 secured immediate employment and 5 are continuing their higher education.

University Loans: A total of **318 students** (140 male, 178 female) received university loans. Of these, 90 students graduated in 2023, and 35 successfully transitioned into the workforce.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Changing the NOW and Building for THEN

“ I finally have reached a tipping point in the latest chapter of my life. I finished my degree in industrial engineering and now I feel like I am the master of my destiny! In this moment, and with the greatest conviction, I can confirm that education changes your life, especially when it's paired with willpower and determination, no matter the circumstances. I worked on projects for the Ministry of Finance, and for the United Nations Development Program and I am currently dipping my toes in wider areas of work outside Lebanon. Today I am a graduate of the Lebanese American University, a title made possible thanks to the support I received from PSF through Taawon. I sincerely thank all the donors; you have changed my life for the better. ”

Bahaa Hajir



Objective: Facilitating access into job market for university students

Target group: Palestinian University Students

Supported by: GIZ, and Danish Muslim Aid

In partnership with: The Palestinian Students' Fund

The competencies held by university graduates play a pivotal role in today's job market, where qualifications extend beyond mere academic degrees. Hence, the “**Access to Employment Opportunities for Palestinian Youth**” project focuses on honing the skills of young graduates through specialized training programs across diverse disciplines, bolstering their prospects in the workforce.

A total of 331 young graduates (179 male and 152 female) benefited from these courses, which covered a range of subjects including: Social Entrepreneurship, 3D MAX, and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA). These programs were administered in collaboration with specialized institutions such as Beirut Arab University, Digital Opportunity Trust (DOT), and Amideast.

Market-Ready Mastery

“ What these courses offer us is distinct from the current university syllabus. They dig deeper and cover more extensive material, compared to the theoretical basics taught at universities. With the competitiveness in this sector, a university degree is no longer sufficient to enter the workforce, at least not with the ease expected following graduation. I am very happy that I had the opportunity to participate in these courses and grateful to obtain a certificate that will undoubtedly support my chances of employment. ”

Nour Al-Khatib

Computer Engineering - Beirut Arab University



**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**
Empowering Local
Communities





SUPPORT FOR HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH



Objective: Providing access to quality medical care
Target group: Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon
Supported by: The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
In partnership with: The Health Care Society, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Human Call Association and Al Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services

Objective: Supporting the mental health needs of children
Target group: Children and Adolescents in Nahr El-Bared, Beddawi and El-Buss Camps
Supported by: Danish Muslim Aid, and GIZ
In partnership with: Beit Atfal Assumoud

In 2023, Taawon supported 23,300 dialysis sessions for 147 patients, at Al-Hamshari Hospital in Saida and the Dialysis Unit in Beddawi Camp. These sessions provided a critical lifeline as dialysis treatment is not covered by UNRWA or the Lebanese Ministry of Health. Patient care is overseen by a team of medical professionals, including five doctors and 15 nurses.

To increase service quality and ensure treatment continuity, we invested in two new dialysis machines, one for Al-Hamshari Hospital and the second for the Dialysis Unit in Beddawi Camp.

Supporting Healthcare Sustainability in Refugee Camps

Taawon's efforts were instrumental in ensuring the continued operation of services at the Human Call Hospital in Ein el-Hilweh camp. Taawon sustained the salaries of 73 doctors, nurses, and ambulance volunteers for a year, ensuring the continued provision of vital medical services to the community.

In addition, Taawon equipped Al Shifaa centers with state-of-the-art medical equipment and power generators, increasing the quality and accessibility of healthcare services for patients. These resources were distributed to hospitals in Burj El- Barajneh, Beddawi, Nahr El-Bared, Burj Shemali, and Ein El-Hilweh camps, empowering communities with improved healthcare capabilities.

Approximately 4,375 personalized psychological therapy sessions were delivered to address the unique needs of 517 children and adolescents residing in Nahr El-Bared, Beddawi, and El-Buss camps. Additionally, 327 psychiatric sessions and 791 psychotherapy sessions were provided for more than 500 children. These sessions employed a range of approaches, including cognitive behavioral therapy, interactive games, relaxation techniques, and group discussions, with the goal of enhancing mental and emotional well-being while helping children develop effective coping mechanisms to manage daily stressors.

We delivered over 809 psychosocial support sessions to 108 children and adolescents, using guided discussions and interactive activities to encourage communication and experience sharing among participants. This approach aimed to strengthen psychological resilience and promote social development.

Additionally, more than 216 awareness sessions were held with parents at home, focusing on deepening their understanding of the importance of psychological support and providing guidance on how to best support their children.



INCLUSION AND DISABILITY

Objective: Enhancing autonomy, inclusion, and standard of living

Target group: People and Children with Disabilities

Supported by: The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, Danish Muslim Aid, and GIZ

In partnership with: Beit Atfal Assumoud, Community-Based Rehabilitation Association, Ghassan Kanafani Foundation, Women's Humanitarian Organization, and Mousawat Organization

This intervention adopts a holistic approach aimed at assisting people with disabilities. This includes developing a strategy specifically for this sector, alongside providing treatment and support.

In terms of improving service provision and building capacity, **Taawon initiated a survey to assess the requirements of Palestinian institutions working in the disability sector.** This survey covered various levels, including the improvement of administrative, service, and technical capabilities, as well as evaluating the extent to which comprehensive inclusion standards are adopted. The survey was conducted in collaboration with the Palestinian Disability Forum and targeted 13 associations operating in the field of special needs.

Following this survey a detailed report was compiled highlighting qualitative findings for each association, in reference to organizational capacity and priority areas for staff development. This facilitated the **creation of a capacity-building plan for these institutions,** covering aspects such as organizational and strategic frameworks, service quality, monitoring and accountability mechanisms, resource management and collaboration, communication strategies, advocacy and community engagement, technology integration and innovation, as well as mainstreaming global inclusivity within organizations.

Simultaneously, **a comprehensive mapping was conducted to assess the services available for people with disabilities in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.** The mapping aimed to identify existing services,

areas lacking in services, and the barriers preventing people with disabilities from accessing healthcare services. **This approach is crucial as it provides the foundational data required for Taawon to develop a strategic plan for the disability sector,** aligned with comprehensive inclusion standards.

In regard to treatment and addressing needs, over 300 children accessed a range of health services:

- ▶ More than 7,000 physical therapy sessions
- ▶ More than 5,000 occupational therapy sessions
- ▶ More than 5,000 speech therapy sessions
- ▶ More than 900 specialized education sessions
- ▶ More than 250 psychosocial support sessions

Specialized Care: From the Start

From the moment of her birth, Mira was diagnosed with Spina Bifida, a congenital defect affecting the spine. At just three months old, her determined parents embarked on a physiotherapy regimen twice a week, aimed at fortifying her muscles and nerves.

“ The progress in Mira's condition is unmistakable, remarks Aya Al-Ali, a dedicated physiotherapist at the Palestinian Women's Humanitarian Organization in Al-Buss camp. “Today, Mira demonstrates remarkable improvement, she can now sit for brief periods, shift from one side to the other while lying down, and even exhibits movement in her legs, a profoundly positive sign.

As we await further evaluation from her doctor, to chart her next steps, it's clear that Mira will require ongoing physical therapy for the foreseeable future,” Aya continues. “While the journey ahead may be long, one thing remains certain: Mira's resilience, her committed parents and the power of physiotherapy hold the promise of a brighter tomorrow. ”





ELDERLY CARE

Objective: Providing protection and health services for the elderly
Target group: Elderly Residents of Beddawi, Nahr El-Bared, and Wavel camps
Supported by: The Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF)
In partnership with: The Women’s Programs Association, the Health Care Society, and the Social Support Society

The “Provision of Protection and Health Services to 720 Elderly Palestinian Refugees in Beddawi, Nahr El-Bared, and Wavel Camps during 2023” project prioritizes the well-being and quality of life of elderly refugees. Our comprehensive approach addresses a range of needs, including **partial funding for surgeries** to support 120 elders, **in-home physical therapy** for those with mobility limitations, **distribution of mobility aids and hearing devices**, weekly **in-home health care** provided by skilled nursing staff for 450 recipients, and a variety of **recreational and physical activities** engaging approximately 680 elders.



Restoring Hope

“The stroke altered everything in my life, and for over a year the world has felt confined within these four walls. Home care visits serve as an important reassurance, demonstrating that there are people who genuinely care about our well-being and keep a close watch on our health conditions. This boosts our morale significantly. Personally, as someone who struggles with high blood pressure and requires constant monitoring, these visits provide immense comfort. I appreciate how the team pays attention to details like my eating habits, fluid intake, and medication adherence, and takes the time to address my concerns. It means a lot to me.”

Fouad Abd Al-Hafiz
Beddawi Camp

EQUIPPING PLAYGROUNDS AND PUBLIC SPACES



Objective: Increasing opportunities for protection, as well as mental and physical well-being
Target group: Children and Youth in Palestinian Refugee Camps
Supported by: Taawon and Individual Donors
In partnership with: Peace for You Association, Association Najdeh, and Association al Jaleel al Tanmawia

Playgrounds and public spaces serve as the sole escape for residents of camps, particularly children and youth, to experience a breath of fresh air. Hence, Taawon remains committed to providing these spaces, which serve as vital, healthy, and recreational outlets supporting the mental and physical well-being of residents amidst the challenging circumstances of refugee camps.

In 2023, Taawon facilitated the launch of **Ain Al-Asal Park in Rashidieh camp** and the **Al-Houlah Association playground in Burj Shemali camp**. Additionally, ongoing support was provided for the **Omar Abdul-Hadi playground in Burj El-Barajneh camp** and the **Victor Kashkoush playground in Ein El-Hilweh camp**. These spaces primarily benefit children and youth, with the annual number of beneficiaries exceeding 10,000.

In addition, sports teams such as the **Omar Abdul-Hadi mini football team**, have been established. As well as sports events, these playgrounds and public spaces serve as venues for hosting a range of community events within the camps, including seminars, meetings, celebrations, and theatrical performances.



EMERGENCY AND RELIEF

Objective: Maintaining warmth to families in the coldest winter weather
Beneficiary group: Marginalized Families in Wavel Refugee Camp
Supported by: Welfare Association UK
In partnership with: Women's Programs Association

Winter Aid - Heating Fuel Assistance

Ensuring warmth during the cold winter months is crucial for Palestinian families residing in Wavel camp in Baalbek, where temperatures regularly go below freezing and homes are also freezing cold, putting their health at risk.

To address this need, **Taawon distributed heating fuel vouchers to 485 of the most vulnerable Palestinian families within the camp.** This assistance provides much needed warmth in the coldest weeks of winter, and alleviates the financial strain on these families, enabling them to meet other essential needs including food, medicine, and warm clothing.



Enduring Hardship: A Life in Need

“ Our home is barely heated, with just one hour of warmth each day, even in the midst of snowstorms. The cold is unbearable, exacerbating the pain of my rheumatism. As for my children, their suffering is beyond words. Every aspect of our lives has become a struggle, plagued by the cold, misery, and hardship. ”

Hind
Wavel Camp

CLEAN ENERGY



Objective: Providing sustainable and affordable energy solutions
Beneficiary group: Institutions Working Within Refugee Camps
Supported by: Danish Muslim Aid
In partnership with: Community-Based Rehabilitation Association, al-Karama Foundation, and Association al Jaleel al Tanmawia

Taawon supplied solar energy systems to various partner association centers, including the Community Based Rehabilitation Association in Beddawi and Nahr El-Bared camps, the Al-Karama Foundation Center in Ein el-Hilweh camp, and the Association Al Jaleel Al Tanmawia in Rashidieh camp. This initiative yields multiple benefits, including establishing a sustainable and environmentally friendly energy source, mitigating financial strain by reducing energy costs, and most of all it enables the continuous provision of services to over 500 beneficiaries.



CULTURE
Preserving Identity





AHMAD ABU GHAZALEH PUBLIC LIBRARY

Objective: Promoting cultural and educational activities, and community engagement

Target group: Wavel Camp Residents and Local Community

Supported by: Mrs. Fatima Abu Ghazaleh

In partnership with: Inaash

The library provides an array of programs and initiatives tailored to diverse segments of society, with a particular focus on youth and children. In 2023, **over 1,000 residents of the camp benefited from its services.**

What are the library's contributions?

The activities include captivating storytelling sessions designed to spark a love for reading in children. Additionally, we offer recreational and educational activities that improve their focus and ability to follow complex instructions. These activities also incorporate toys that many of these children wouldn't have access to due to their families' financial constraints.

In addition to these educational pursuits, the library hosts workshops geared towards youth, including sessions on digital literacy and creative writing, along with lectures and seminars addressing topics of interest to both youth and women. Various interactive activities further enrich the library's offerings, creating a dynamic and inclusive space for community engagement and personal development.

Writing is an Escape and an Expression

“ My name is Ayat Ali Al-Khamees, I am 14-years-old with a fervent love of books and writing! Joining the creative writing workshop opened a world of expression for me. With the guidance of teacher and poet Ihab Kilani, I delved into the intricacies of writing, learning to distill and articulate my thoughts with confidence. Now, I fearlessly pour my emotions onto paper, dreaming of making an impact on the world, or at least on my own life. Here is a glimpse into my writing:

At that moment, I escaped drowning. Sitting on the beach, gasping for air, drenched and trembling, I silently celebrate my survival against death's grasp. It's another triumph over the relentless waves of death and its harsh winds... This is the first time I've penned my moments of sheer panic, not just suffocation. As my nerves settle, two thoughts emerge, defining our existence. First, I inhabit a beautiful illusion called life, and second, the daunting truth everyone avoids, the reluctance to face it. ”





MUSIC PROGRAM

Objective: Preserving cultural identity and heritage amongst children and youth

Target group: Children and Youths in Beddawi, Shatila, Burj El-Barajneh, and Wavel Camps

Supported by: The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
In partnership with: Beit Atfal Assumoud, Al Kamandjati Association, Prima Materia, and the Joint Christian Committee for social Services in Lebanon

The “Developing Musical Resources in the Local Environment of Palestinian Camps in Lebanon” program aims to nurture and cultivate the talents of children and youth, offering them a platform for self-expression while enriching Palestinian musical and artistic heritage.

225 children and youth benefit through two key interventions:

► Communal Culture and Empowerment (community music), prioritizes music as an educational tool for self-expression and skill development. Through learning musical instruments, and /or singing, in group activities and individual activities with their teachers, the children and youth are able to learn and develop other skills, abilities and characteristics, including self-esteem, communication skills, discipline, patience, and teamwork.

► Music Therapy focuses on utilizing music for psychological and behavioral therapy. This aspect of the program aims to **improve children’s social skills and foster interactive behavior through musical interventions.**

Life to the Beat of the Darbuka

“ Living in sync with the Darbuka’s rhythm, 14-year-old Mohamad lives in Shatila refugee camp, astride two contrasting worlds and their unique beats. One world resonates with the erratic pulse of motorcycle engines, street vendors’ calls, and children’s clamor. In stark contrast, the other world pulsates with harmonious musical notes, radiating joy. Despite the hurdles of living in Lebanon’s densely populated Palestinian refugee camp, Mohamad discovers harmony through his musical passion, particularly with his beloved ‘darbuka’ drum.

Recalling his journey learning music with the ‘Kamandjati’ at Beit Atfal Assumoud, Mohamad shares how stepping into the classroom feels like entering a realm of beauty, a welcome respite from the camp’s chaotic rhythm of life. ”



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WELFARE ASSOCIATION, LEBANON

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Welfare Association, Lebanon (the "Association"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the statements of activities and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2023 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the *International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (the "IESBA Code") together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Lebanon, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of a matter

We draw attention to note 2 to the financial statements which describes the current economic situation in Lebanon. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of management for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Management is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- ▶ Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- ▶ Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- ▶ Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- ▶ Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


Ernst & Young

24 May 2024
Beirut, Lebanon

Welfare Association, Lebanon

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
Grants and revenues			
Restricted contributions	4	4,734,245	4,405,732
Unrestricted contributions	5	54,280	797,410
		<u>4,788,525</u>	<u>5,203,142</u>
Program costs related to restricted contributions			
Economic and social development	4	(1,975,972)	(1,810,764)
Education	4	(2,649,593)	(2,404,771)
Culture and art	4	(108,680)	(190,197)
		<u>(4,734,245)</u>	<u>(4,405,732)</u>
Program costs related to unrestricted contributions	5	<u>(135,835)</u>	<u>(918,142)</u>
Administrative expenses	6	<u>(528,073)</u>	<u>(634,526)</u>
		<u>(609,628)</u>	<u>(755,258)</u>
Other income			
Management fees	12	513,601	399,387
Other income, net		4,426	1,327
		<u>518,027</u>	<u>400,714</u>
Decrease in net assets		<u>(91,601)</u>	<u>(354,544)</u>
Net assets at 1 January		421,370	775,914
NET ASSETS AT 31 DECEMBER		<u>329,769</u>	<u>421,370</u>

Welfare Association, Lebanon

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 US\$	2022 US\$
ASSETS			
Contributions receivable	7	5,652,574	4,774,318
Prepayments and other assets		7,268	34,657
Bank balances and cash	8	1,696,578	818,775
Due from head office		369,330	1,145,295
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>7,725,750</u>	<u>6,773,045</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Liabilities			
Accounts payable and accruals	9	447,116	397,264
Deferred contributions		6,948,865	5,954,411
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>7,395,981</u>	<u>6,351,675</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>329,769</u>	<u>421,370</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		<u>7,725,750</u>	<u>6,773,045</u>

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 24 May 2024 by:


Sawsan Al Masri
Lebanon Country Director

With our partners, we grow

- ▶ Ajyal Association
- ▶ Al Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services
- ▶ Al Kamandjati Association
- ▶ Al-Houla Organization
- ▶ Al Izza Educational and Cultural Association
- ▶ Al Huda Organization Al Mourshed Kindergarten
- ▶ Almobader Association
- ▶ Ahlam Lajea Association
- ▶ Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps INAASH
- ▶ Association Najdeh – Lebanon
- ▶ Association Al Jaleel Al Tanmawia
- ▶ Abu Jihad Al Wazir Institution and Rehabilitation for Disabled and Handicapped People
- ▶ Children and Youth Association Alma's Kindergarten
- ▶ Community-Based Rehabilitation Association
- ▶ Fraternity Association for Social and Cultural Work
- ▶ General Union of Palestinian Women
- ▶ Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation
- ▶ Health Care Society
- ▶ Humanitarian Relief for Development
- ▶ Human Association for Relief and Development
- ▶ Human Call Association
- ▶ Human Development Center
- ▶ Jannat Al-Ibdaa Association
- ▶ Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon
- ▶ Just Childhood
- ▶ Mabarrat Charity Association
- ▶ Mousawat Organization
- ▶ Palestinian Students' Fund
- ▶ Palestinian Red Crescent Society
- ▶ Prima Matera
- ▶ Peace for You Association
- ▶ Shahd Association
- ▶ Social Support Society
- ▶ Saint Joseph University of Beirut -Institut Libanais d'Educateurs
- ▶ The Popular Aid for Relief and Development
- ▶ The Arab Resource Centre for Popular Arts
- ▶ The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training – Beit Atfal Assumoud
- ▶ Unite Lebanon Youth Project
- ▶ Women's Humanitarian Organization
- ▶ Women's Program Association
- ▶ Women's Association for Care and Social Network - Sela

Your support helps improve their lives

International and Arab donors

- ▶ Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- ▶ Danish Muslim Aid (DMA)
- ▶ GIZ
- ▶ King Baudouin Foundation
- ▶ Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF)
- ▶ United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- ▶ United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- ▶ United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- ▶ Munib Masri Development Foundation
- ▶ Welfare Association UK

Private Sector donors

- ▶ EBCO Bitar
- ▶ Gazairi Transport
- ▶ HYPACO
- ▶ Khatib and Alami



Individual Donors

- ▶ Abdo Kassir
- ▶ Ali Abdallah
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- ▶ Faisal Alami
- ▶ Family of the late Sami and Najibeh Alami
- ▶ Faisal Sinno
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- ▶ Mona El-Yassir
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- ▶ Nora Zaki
- ▶ Orient Express
- ▶ Rana Mikdashi
- ▶ Raghda Mougabbel
- ▶ Sanaa El-Hajj
- ▶ 3mou Antakji
- ▶ Taawon- Lebanon team
- ▶ Wafaa El-Yassir

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





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www.taawon-lebanon.org