

NABA'A Annual Report

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we look back on the year 2023, we are filled with both profound gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose. 2023 stands as one of the most challenging years in the journey of Naba'a. We have always been guided by our core principles of cherishing and upholding human and child rights. These principles define us, guide our actions, and shape our dreams for the future.

However, the turmoil in Gaza and South Lebanon this year tested our resolve like never before. We witnessed the shattering of humanity and peace, a violation of both international and national laws. We were left to pick up the shattered pieces of what were once cherished rights, now fragmented and fragile.

In the wake of such devastation, our hearts are heavy, but our determination remains unwavering. We are committed to a journey of healing and rebuilding. Piece by piece, we will restore these rights, guided by our unshakeable belief in dignity and justice for all. In the face of despair, Naba'a stands as a beacon of hope, driven by compassion and an unyielding commitment to the communities we serve.

Despite these challenges, Naba'a has achieved remarkable milestones. Our dedicated efforts have focused on empowering children, youth, and women, particularly those marginalized. We have created environments where all children and young people can develop harmoniously, regardless of their religion, gender, or nationality.

— Through our efforts, children have become influential protection actors in their communities and families, and we have significantly increased their access to inclusive and quality education.

Naba'a has been pivotal in protecting and supporting young children at risk, providing opportunities for them to develop confidence and grow up in more inclusive environments. This work is especially crucial in Lebanon, where socio-political challenges, economic hardship, and refugee crises have intensified our mission's importance.

We have also specifically focused on addressing the needs of marginalized girls, helping them realize their potential in safer and more inclusive environments through our comprehensive programs. Our emergency programs have provided essential support like food, water, shelter, hygiene, and psychosocial support, crucial for survival following crises. Moreover, our programs have contributed to stabilizing local economy and promoting economic recovery.

Finally, we want to express our deepest gratitude to you, our supporters. Your support has been the backbone of our resilience and ability to continue our mission. As we forge ahead, bolstered by your solidarity, we remain committed to rebuilding lives and restoring hope.

Together, we stand strong in the face of adversity, committed to a brighter future for all those we serve.

Peace and hope, Naba'a Leadership

Who We Are

— Since our inception in 2001, Naba'a has consistently sought innovative and effective ways to challenge and alleviate the hardships faced by marginalized communities in Lebanon.

Our work encompasses not just addressing immediate needs but laying a foundation for sustainable development. With our core values of impartiality, flexibility, accountability, sharing, transparency, and protection, Naba'a is committed to upholding human and child rights, championing a future defined by equity, opportunity, and justice.

Through our dedicated work in some of the most challenging environments, and by addressing the inequalities that deepen poverty, we strive towards a more compassionate, equitable community. Our approach is rooted in empowering and integrating those on the fringes, especially children, youths, and women, to actively participate in shaping a future defined by fairness, opportunity, and justice.

CHS and Safeguarding at Naba'a

At Naba'a, our 2023 certification with the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) reflects our commitment to the highest standards in humanitarian and development work, ensuring our interventions are relevant, effective, and responsive to Lebanon's challenging contexts.

Our CHS commitment is integrated across all operations, guided by all nine CHS commitments. As a child rights organization, we prioritize child safeguarding, recognizing the heightened vulnerability of children in crisis situations. Our comprehensive safeguarding policies protect children from abuse, exploitation, and neglect, with clear guidelines and training for staff and volunteers to address concerns appropriately.

We adhere strictly to the 'Do No Harm' policy, ensuring our interventions do not inadvertently increase children's vulnerability. By combining our CHS commitment with robust child safeguarding practices, Naba'a delivers high-quality humanitarian aid while protecting the dignity and rights of Lebanon's most vulnerable children.

WHAT MAKES NABA'A DIFFERENT

At Naba'a, our identity is rooted in our close connection with the communities we serve. While we meet and exceed international standards, we choose to remain direct implementers, setting us apart from other global non-profits.

Many of our staff come from these communities, giving us a unique understanding of local needs and challenges, ensuring our interventions are effective, culturally sensitive, and relevant.

Our communities trust us because we consistently deliver high-quality services and effectively represent their needs to the international community. We are more than a non-profit; we are a bridge connecting marginalized communities in Lebanon to the wider world.

Our commitment to remaining on the front lines, rather than transitioning to a purely administrative role, allows us to adapt swiftly, respond effectively, and maintain the authenticity of our mission. Naba'a is dedicated to ensuring the voices of marginalized communities are heard and their needs addressed locally and globally.



Throughout 2023, we faced challenges with resilience and creativity, achieving significant milestones and making a tangible impact in our communities. – Hanan Moussa, Burj Chemali Center Supervisor



Our Reach in 2023

Child Rights and Protection

Location: Saida, EEH, Jezzine, Nabatieh

- Our Reach: 4,932 individuals
- Key Initiatives:



- Part of the Manara Network, consisting of 12 members across 10 countries
- o Direct support to 749 children and 2,238 women and girls.
- Engagement with 42 men and 40 boys through community programs.

Education

Locations: EEH, Burj Shmali, Buss, Qasmiyieh, Rashidieh, Baddawi, Naher Elbared

- Our Reach: 8,853 individuals
- Key Initiatives:
 - Provision of learning support to 2,706 children.
 - Implementation of play-based learning sessions at UNRWA schools for 4,469 children.
 - Delivery of sensitization and well-being sessions for 1,678 parents and caregivers.

10 Countries

Lebanon Palestine Jordan Algeria Mauritanic

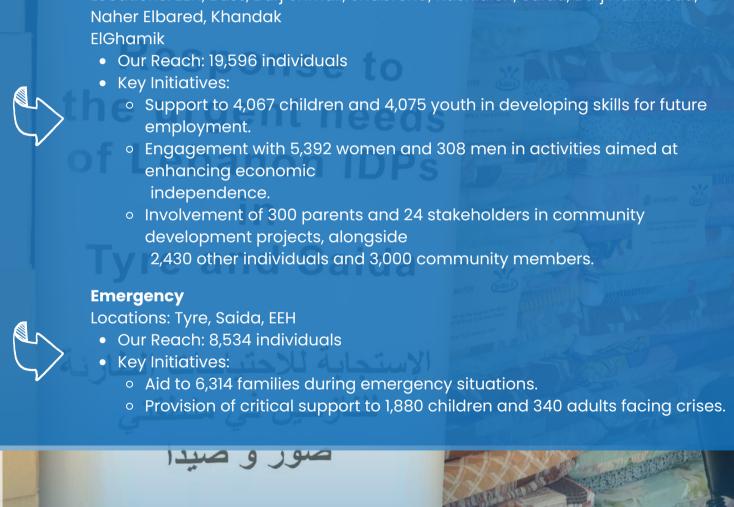
Sudan Egypt Tunisia Morocco Iraq

Our Reach in 2023





Locations: EEH, Buss, Burj Shmali, Shabreha, Rashidieh, Saida, Burj Hammoud,



Success Story

Rania Othman's story is a vivid illustration of what can be achieved with resilience, determination, and a steadfast belief in the transformative power of education and empowerment. From the shadows of adversity, Rania emerged as a shining example of success and hope in her community at just 18 years old.

Her journey began amidst significant challenges—forced into early marriage at 14, she faced a life that seemed predetermined by circumstances. However, Rania was not one to let her situation dictate her destiny. With a fierce resolve, she sought a better future for herself and her child, proving that one's beginnings do not have to define their end.

Opportunity knocked through the "Yalla for Employment and Protection" project, a collaboration between Developmental Action Without Borders-Nabaa, Asmae, and Agence Française de Développement (AFD). It was here that Rania found her pathway to change. She enrolled in a vocational training program in beauty, diving deep into the crafts of hairstyling, makeup, and skincare. Her dedication and passion were evident as she mastered each skill with precision and artistry.

Upon completing her training, Rania was equipped with a business kit, laying the foundation for her entrepreneurial dreams. She opened her own beauty salon, a sanctuary of hope and potential where she began her journey as a business owner. Her salon quickly became more than a place of beauty—it stood as a testament to her resilience and a beacon of empowerment.

Success Story

But Rania's aspirations went beyond personal success. Driven by a desire to uplift others, she assumed the role of mentor and educator, teaching new trainees the skills she had honed. With patience and encouragement, she nurtured their abilities, fostering a cycle of empowerment and opportunity.

Today, Rania's beauty salon is not just a business; it's a symbol of empowerment and a source of inspiration for her community. Her journey from a young girl faced with immense challenges to a successful entrepreneur and mentor showcases the incredible heights one can reach when armed with courage, support, and the determination to forge one's own path.

Rania Othman's success story resonates as a powerful reminder that true potential can flourish when we choose to challenge our circumstances with courage and conviction.





Problem

— The education sector in Lebanon has faced severe challenges in recent years, profoundly impacting children's education. The country's economic crisis led to intermittent teacher strikes and frequent school closures throughout the 2022–23 academic year, significantly disrupting curriculum delivery and adversely affecting student learning outcomes and long-term educational achievements.

Persistent obstacles such as high transportation costs, lack of educational materials, and administrative barriers continue to undermine access to quality education. Secondary and tertiary students face additional challenges with documentation, often impeding their academic progression. Security unrest in the south since late 2023 has further aggravated the situation, particularly impacting the enrollment and retention of refugee students in basic literacy and numeracy programs.









— The 12 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon suffer from overcrowding, substandard housing, inadequate infrastructure, poverty, and violence, posing serious risks to the well-being of children and youth. A critical funding shortage faced by UNRWA impacts its capacity to provide essential services such as health, education, and protection to Palestinian families. Around 40,000 Palestinian children are registered in UNRWA's 65 schools in Lebanon, with enrollment rates of 97% in primary, 84% in preparatory, and 61% in secondary education. However, there has been a 55% rise in school dropouts among Palestinians from 2020 to 2021, likely due to the ongoing crisis, with many refugees in Lebanon being under 18. Both Palestinian and Syrian refugee children face high dropout rates, and many never attend formal schooling. Camps and settlements lack safe learning and recreational spaces, and transportation costs to schools outside the camps are often unaffordable. Older students frequently drop out to contribute financially to their families, as employment opportunities for Palestinians and Syrians in Lebanon are extremely limited, regardless of their academic achievements.

1. Leaving no child behind:

The "Leaving No Child Behind" project has transformed the educational landscape, enhancing learning experiences and increasing parental involvement. Interactive, play-based methods have made children more engaged and curious, leading to an 85% improvement in academic performance. Parents appreciate the project's enjoyable and effective approach, which strengthens familial bonds. The project successfully prepared 70% of KG students (104 out of 148) for enrollment in UNRWA schools. Positive feedback from students and parents highlights improvements in self-esteem, life skills, behavior, and academic performance. The shadow teacher program has significantly enhanced the performance of students with learning difficulties in UNRWA schools.



"Nabaa Center is the best place I've ever seen because they provide the teaching we need. Before, I couldn't tell similar Arabic letters apart, but now I can" – Inas, student



2.Enhancing Quality and Inclusive Education:

The "Enhancing Quality and Inclusive Education" project has improved the educational experience for UNRWA students in Palestinian refugee camps, particularly in grades I to 4. Daily play-based learning sessions at Naba'a centers have enriched students' reading, writing, and life skills. Child-led initiatives have fostered a collaborative learning environment. In July 2023, the project introduced diverse summer activities, further enhancing academic and physical development. Sensitization and well-being sessions for parents have provided comprehensive support, extending beyond academics. A mid-year assessment by Right to Play's MEAL department showed an 85% improvement in grade 3 students' reading, writing, and life skills compared to 2021. These advancements underscore the project's significant impact on educational outcomes and overall child development.



"Nabaa has really sparked my interest in education. We learn in the easiest ways here. I've learned how to read and write, and even how to write a story."- Widad, student at Buss Center



- The Wider Opportunities project has significantly impacted the lives of vulnerable children and families in Rashydieh and Ein El Helweh Camps by focusing on health, education, and psychosocial development. Key impacts include:
 - Enhanced Psycho-Social Development: 393 children aged 4 to 12 received support, ensuring their psycho-social well-being.
 - Improved Educational Outcomes: 292 children attended support classes, including 53 in kindergarten and 48 in basic literacy and numeracy, with 250 achieving good results in UNRWA schools.
 - Behavioral Improvements: 33 students with behavioral concerns received psychological support, resulting in improved behaviors.
 - **Skill Development:** Extracurricular activities and vocational training for 20 dropout students enhanced their skills and prepared them for future opportunities.
 - Access to Essential Services: Referral mechanisms provided economically vulnerable children and families with access to necessary services.
 - Increased Caregiver Knowledge: 762 caregivers improved their social, educational, and psychological skills, benefiting their children's development.
 - Active Parental Involvement: Parent support groups and committees fostered active
 participation in planning, decision-making, and collaboration with teachers, addressing
 absenteeism and promoting positive discipline.





Reproductive Health

In Lebanon, particularly in the Ein El Helweh and Rashideh camps, the reproductive health sector faces significant challenges. The ongoing security situation, marked by violent clashes and instability since late July 2023, has led to widespread displacement, trauma, and poor living conditions. These factors contribute to the spread of infectious diseases, risky pregnancies, malnutrition, and anemia. Issues are exacerbated by shared underwear, overcrowded conditions with inadequate sanitation, and a lack of personal hygiene resources. Lebanon's severe economic crisis, sparked by nationwide protests in October 2019 and worsened by COVID-19, has plunged over half the population below the poverty line, increasing unemployment and reproductive health problems, including STDs, infant mortality, and breast cancer. The scarcity of reproductive health clinics in these camps further limits access to essential healthcare services. This dire context underscores the critical need for interventions like the RH and Women Empowerment project, which aims to address unmet reproductive health and psychosocial support needs through health services, drop-in clinics, and community health education.

Our Response

Naba'a's projects in reproductive health and women empowerment have significantly addressed the pressing health needs of communities in Ein el Helweh and Rashidieh camps. These initiatives provide essential health services through well-equipped clinics, offering antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, cancer screening, and treatment for trauma related to violence. This comprehensive suite of services tackles the critical health challenges faced by these communities. A pivotal element of these projects is the strong focus on awareness and outreach. By educating the community on reproductive health issues, we aim to reduce the spread of diseases and improve overall health practices. Empowering and involving women and youth enhances their sense of agency and ensures the effectiveness of these interventions.

Additionally, our projects have successfully implemented a peer-to-peer community health education model. This sustainable approach involves community members in disseminating health knowledge and promoting health practices, ensuring long-term impact. Through these comprehensive efforts, Naba'a's projects address immediate health concerns and pave the way for long-term improvements in the health and well-being of the communities in Ein el Helweh and Rashidieh camps.

Gender Based Violence

In Lebanon, women and children are facing increasingly severe challenges due to heightened violence and economic and social crises. Over the past three years, these challenges have intensified, especially for women, girls, and marginalized groups. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation, leading to a sharp rise in gender-based violence. Reports of domestic violence surged by 241% during the pandemic, according to the Internal Security Forces. In 2020, over half of Lebanese and Syrian women and girls reported feeling increased insecurity at home (44%) and in their communities (57%). The situation has worsened with 50 cases of murders of women and girls investigated between 2021 and 2022. Human trafficking remains a significant concern, with 367 women and girls reported as victims and 92 kidnapping cases for forced marriages documented in the same timeframe. Additionally, psychological stress from economic and social problems affects both children and women, with rising school dropouts and child labor making children more susceptible to exploitation. Many individuals have been forced to join armed groups due to the dire economic conditions.

Our Response

— Our interventions have made significant strides in addressing gender-based violence and supporting vulnerable women. We established a safe space for women facing gender-based violence, providing essential protection and support.

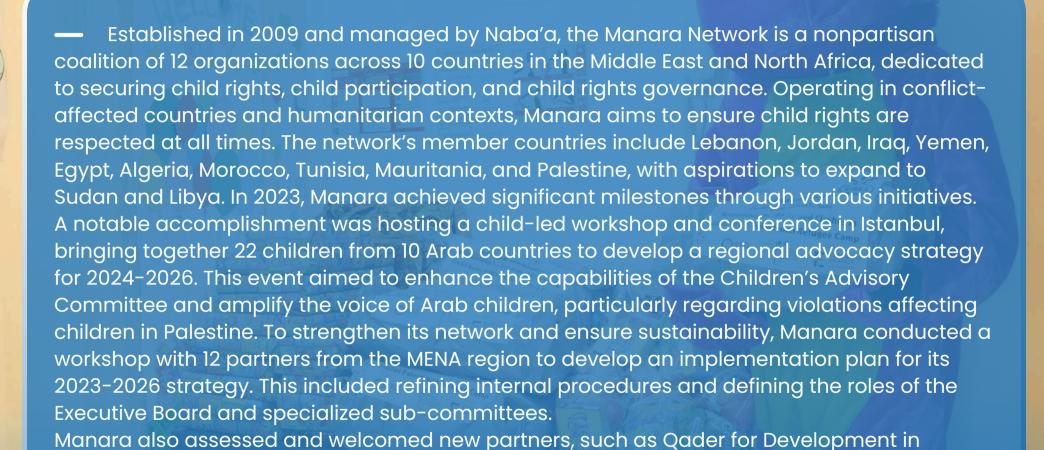
Additionally, we enrolled 30 youths in programs aimed at preventing radicalization and offered psychosocial support sessions for women and children.

This included targeted assistance for 9th-grade girls to help them continue their education. We conducted awareness sessions on gender-based violence and promoted women's involvement in community projects, fostering empowerment and resilience.

Furthermore, we trained women's committees to raise awareness and advocate against gender-based violence, early marriage, and for equity.

These efforts have provided immediate relief and empowered women to advocate for their rights and well-being.

Manara Network



Palestine, and revamped its media and communication strategies. This included launching

social media campaigns to highlight children's rights violations in Palestine, redesigning the

Manara website, and training the media and communication committee.

Manara Network

The network's fundraising unit successfully engaged new donors, including the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) and Global Compass – Arab World – Saint Joseph University in Beirut. Collaborative projects focused on child-led initiatives and juvenile justice in the MENA region.

Manara held a training session for the Higher Council of Childhood in Lebanon, enhancing child participation in government reports to UN committees. This training covered data collection, information sources, and child-friendly methods for government reporting. Key achievements include advocating for Palestinian children, developing a strategic advocacy plan led by children, expanding the network's scope with new members from conflict-affected regions, and amplifying the voice of Arab children at regional conferences attended by United Nations representatives and human rights authorities. These initiatives significantly contributed to the empowerment of children and the promotion of their rights on a regional scale.



Humanitarian Crisis in South Lebanon

The emergency sector in South Lebanon faces a dire situation due to the ongoing war and fluctuating conflict along the Gaza border. Over six months into the war, approximately 150,000 citizens in the region have been significantly affected, with around 87,500 displaced to safer areas. The conflict has severely disrupted local agriculture, a primary livelihood for many families, preventing them from harvesting their olive crops and delivering their tobacco, further worsening their economic hardships. Since October 8, 2023, intensified clashes and missile attacks by the Israeli army have forced over 22,721 individuals to flee their homes in southern Lebanon. Local authorities, including municipalities and the Disaster Management Committee, were unprepared for the crisis, lacking resources and capabilities. This has led to a heavy reliance on international and local organizations for crisis management and support. Displaced families have sought refuge in shelters and accommodations in the Tyr District and surrounding areas, including official and private schools, vocational training centers, and a university. Many families are also staying with host families, stretching resources even thinner. The humanitarian response has been critical in providing essential support to these displaced populations.

Our Response NABA'A successfully identified and verified 2258 families who were being hosted by other families. Following a meticulous selection process, we have been able to provide substantial aid to those most in need. Specifically, 1270 families have received food parcels, ensuring they have access to essential nutritional support during this challenging time. Additionally, 750 families were provided with mattresses, pillows, and sheets, helping to improve their living conditions. Moreover, 238 families received emergency cash assistance, offering them the flexibility to meet their unique immediate needs. Alongside these efforts, an additional 100 hosted families received food parcels, further extending our support network.

Ein El Helwi Clashes

— Since late July 2023, escalating violence in the Ein El Hilweh camp has caused widespread displacement, trauma, injuries, and fatalities. Two intense rounds of conflict in August and September 2023 resulted in relentless damage to homes and infrastructure from stray missiles, bullets, and bombardments. Over 2,568 families were forced to evacuate, seeking refuge in mosques, UNRWA schools, warehouses, and with relatives in Saida. Displaced persons fled empty-handed, facing dire conditions in shelters or with host families.

Many families could not return to their homes, which were partially or totally destroyed, even after a truce. The unexpected escalation caught families off-guard, exacerbating psychological distress, especially among women who endured trauma and constant fear of violence. Despite reduced immediate terror due to security force deployment and attention shifting to Gaza, the fear of renewed clashes remains, evidenced by recent assassination attempts within the camp.

Our Response

— We distributed hygiene kits to 780 displaced families, ensuring basic sanitation. MPCA was provided to 1,016 families, offering flexibility to address specific needs. Food parcels were distributed to 2,160 families, and NFIs to 1,440 families, alleviating immediate hardships. PSS activities supported 900 children aged 6-12 and 300 adults, mitigating emotional and mental strain. We provided case management for 50 individuals (30 children and 20 adults) and distributed clothes, shoes, and toys to 900 children, bringing comfort and normalcy. Psychological follow-ups were conducted on 50 cases, and 20 children requiring specialized care were referred to specialists for necessary treatment.



"Working in this field is not just a job, it's a commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others, one act of compassion at a time." – Karim Ghazleh, Media Officer





Livelihood Sector in Lebanon

Lebanon has faced severe security, economic, social, political, and health crises over the past three years, leading to dangerous and unpredictable developments. These crises have sharply increased unemployment, particularly among youth. Economic instability, marked by fluctuations in the Lebanese pound's exchange rate and shortages of essential commodities like food, fuel, and medicine, has exacerbated nutritional deficiencies, especially in Palestinian camps. Palestinian refugees, already vulnerable and marginalized, have seen poverty rates soar. Before the crisis, an estimated 65% lived below the poverty line; this number has now risen dramatically. In Ein El Helweh camp, violent clashes in 2023 caused widespread displacement, trauma, injuries, and deaths, significantly damaging infrastructure and forcing over 4,000 families to seek safety outside the camp. The economic crisis, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, has paralyzed economic activities, with poverty now affecting about 74% of Lebanon's population, rising to 82% when considering multidimensional aspects like access to health, education, and public utilities. Palestinian refugees face heightened challenges, with poverty levels reaching 86%. Social pressures, increased living costs, limited access to services, and a rise in violent incidents have strained Palestinian camps further, outstripping UNRWA's capacity to provide assistance.

UNRWA's capacity to provide assistance has been outstripped by demand, leading to friction among groups and individuals. In 2022, the protection situation of Palestinian refugees continued to deteriorate amid the socio-economic crisis, political instability, and financial strains, impacting every aspect of life and exacerbating existing vulnerabilities.

Our Response

Naba'a has empowered over 700 youth and adolescents through various interventions in coordination with stakeholders and municipalities in Palestinian refugee camps and gatherings. Key achievements include:

- Enhanced Empowerment and Participation: Educational and vocational training programs have made adolescents and young women more economically and socially active, increasing community participation and resilience.
- Inclusion and Advocacy for Vulnerable Youth: Empowering youth, including those with disabilities, through skill development and job opportunities, has promoted inclusivity and advocacy for youth rights in the labor market.

700+ youth

Empowered youth and adolescents



Our Response

- Prevention of Early Marriage: Sexual and reproductive health education and gender equality initiatives have mitigated early marriage, improving the wellbeing and future prospects of young women.
- Improved Socio-economic Conditions: Vocational training and life skills programs have improved the socio-economic conditions of Palestinian refugee youth, enhancing education, entrepreneurship, and community participation.
- **Protection and Reintegration of Vulnerable Children:** Efforts to protect children from recruitment and provide reintegration services have ensured their safety and adherence to international child protection standards.
- **Community Development:** By developing professional and life skills, these initiatives have facilitated youth access to the labor market, contributing to overall community development and stability.



Global Impact Monitoring

In order to assess, understand, and communicate the effects of Naba'a work on a global scale, ultimately contributing to more effective and sustainable development outcomes. This practice is essential for Naba'a to understand the annual effectiveness of our interventions, measure the progress toward goals, and make informed decisions about resource allocation and program improvement.

Drawing on the principles, in particular those of non-discrimination and participation, the GIM framework helps evaluating the impact according to five dimensions of changes, and identifies the main learning points according to which future programming can be improved.



Global Impact Monitoring

#1

Changes in the lives of children and young people

Naba'a intervention has fundamentally reshaped the educational environment in the community, bringing about profound changes in the lives of children and their families. This is achieved through;

1.1-Increased Parental Involvement: Parents have become more involved in their children's education, thanks to the Naba'a intervention on making learning enjoyable and effective. This shift has not only enlightened parents about their children's educational needs but also their emotional well-being, strengthening the bonds within families.

1.2-Improved Academic Performance: There has been a significant leap in academic outcomes, with an 85% increase in performance metrics. This improvement is a testament to the effectiveness of the new educational methods introduced by the project.

1.3-Enhanced Learning Experience: Children are now more engaged in their education due to the adoption of interactive, play-based learning methods.

#2

Changes in policies and practices effecting children's and young people's rights

- The change in practices through collaboration with the Cybercrime Bureau, integrating them with the local community, and raising awareness the community about the reporting mechanism and encouraging them, led to an increase in the reporting rate.
- Activating the marriage law within the Sunni community through awareness, promotion of the law, and advocacy with decision-makers and associations.

#3 Changes in civil societies' and communities' capacity to support children's rights

Naba'a holds the position of Vice President of the National Coalition for Children's Rights in Lebanon, which includes over 50 organizations active in the field of children's rights. Leveraging its experience in managing the Arab Network for Children's Rights (MANARA), Naba'a has worked on the coalition's structure, policy development, and systems within the coalition. It has also built their capacity to write shadow reports. The coalition was involved in writing the mid-term report for the Universal Periodic Review at the end of 2023.

 Changes in equity and nondiscrimination of children and young people

4.1-Improved Access to Education: By ensuring that all children have access to quality education, regardless of their socio-economic status or abilities, Nabaa has significantly reduced educational disparities. Children who previously had limited or no access to schooling can now attend and succeed in educational settings, opening up future opportunities.

4.2-Children with disabilities were involved in capacity building and life skills programs, and got the opportunity to share the acquired knowledge through vocational training, learning support, peer to peer sessions, having their self- esteem enhanced to play their societal role and participate.

4.3-By promoting non-discrimination and inclusivity,Nabaa helps build more cohesive communities. Training and awareness programs reduce biases and prejudices, fostering a culture of respect and understanding among diverse community members.

 Changes in children's and young people participation and active citizenship

Children are increasingly being considered partners by decision makers: they're taking action by becoming informed and involved in issues that affect them and informing decision makers; through child led data collection and child led advocacy, they're coming up with recommendations while demonstrating profound knowledge regarding the issues that affect them. They're leading advocacy actions, and child-led research; they're raising awareness and helping bridge essential services, including violence reporting. They're connecting with decision makers and adult experts, and more importantly, there is an exchange of knowledge and experience through rich and valuable intergenerational dialogues.





Developmental Action without Borders - Nabaa

2023 - Annual Report







