



ANA AQRA ASSOCIATION

*Celebrating 25 years of Reading and Independent Learning
1994-2019*



Annual Report 2019



ANA AQRA ASSOCIATION

Independent reader... lifelong learner



ANA AQRA ASSOCIATION

قارئ مستقل ... متعلم مستمر

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1. WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

25 years ago, Ana Aqra under the name of Iqra, started its work bringing the love of reading, discovery and learning to children in Lebanese public schools across the country. In 25 years we read a lot of stories, did a lot of activities, and gained a lot of experience.

I want to thank you deeply for offering me this opportunity to be part of this honorable mission: Education. We should all be committed to improve public schools to become the school of choice. Through quality education we can create a better quality of life. I invite you all to be part of our journey towards making the public school the school of choice.

Lubna Khalil
President of Ana Aqra

Arriving at the 25th year presents an opportunity to reflect on stories, in our rich portfolio, of challenges, successes and learnings. The stories of our beneficiaries and partners span across genres, signaling the relevance of collective experience in informing our aspirations and dreams for the way forward. We remain humbled by the vulnerabilities that our communities experience and persist in our steadfast commitment to equity in education and making learning accessible to all children.

Rima Musallam & Amina Kleit
Executive Director and Director of Programs



- The British Ambassador to Lebanon, UNICEF Lebanon representative, Minister Of Education & Higher Education and Executive Director of AA, Rima Musallam, during a visit to the BLN Program implemented By Ana Aqra Association



-President of AA, Lubna Khalil, public school



-Director of Programs of AA, Amina Kleit, public school

Learning more about 'learning to learn'

-Rima Musallam, Ana Agra Executive Director

2. ABOUT US

VISION

ANA AQRA aspires to make learning accessible to all children

ABOUT US

Ana Aqra Association is a Lebanese non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political association benefiting vulnerable children, ages 3 to 14 - who are attending, or on their way to, Lebanese elementary public schools - as well as their parents, teachers, and school administrators.

Within the below two pillars, Ana Aqra integrates play based learning and PSS.

Ana Aqra aims at sustainable impact through innovative initiatives that respond to educational needs.

PILLAR 1

ACCESS to equitable education:

Ana Aqra's advocacy campaign and quality implementation enhances access to, and demand from, children and their parents, for regulated non-formal education services:

Retention Support,
BLN,
CB-ECE programs.

PILLAR 2

QUALITY of education:

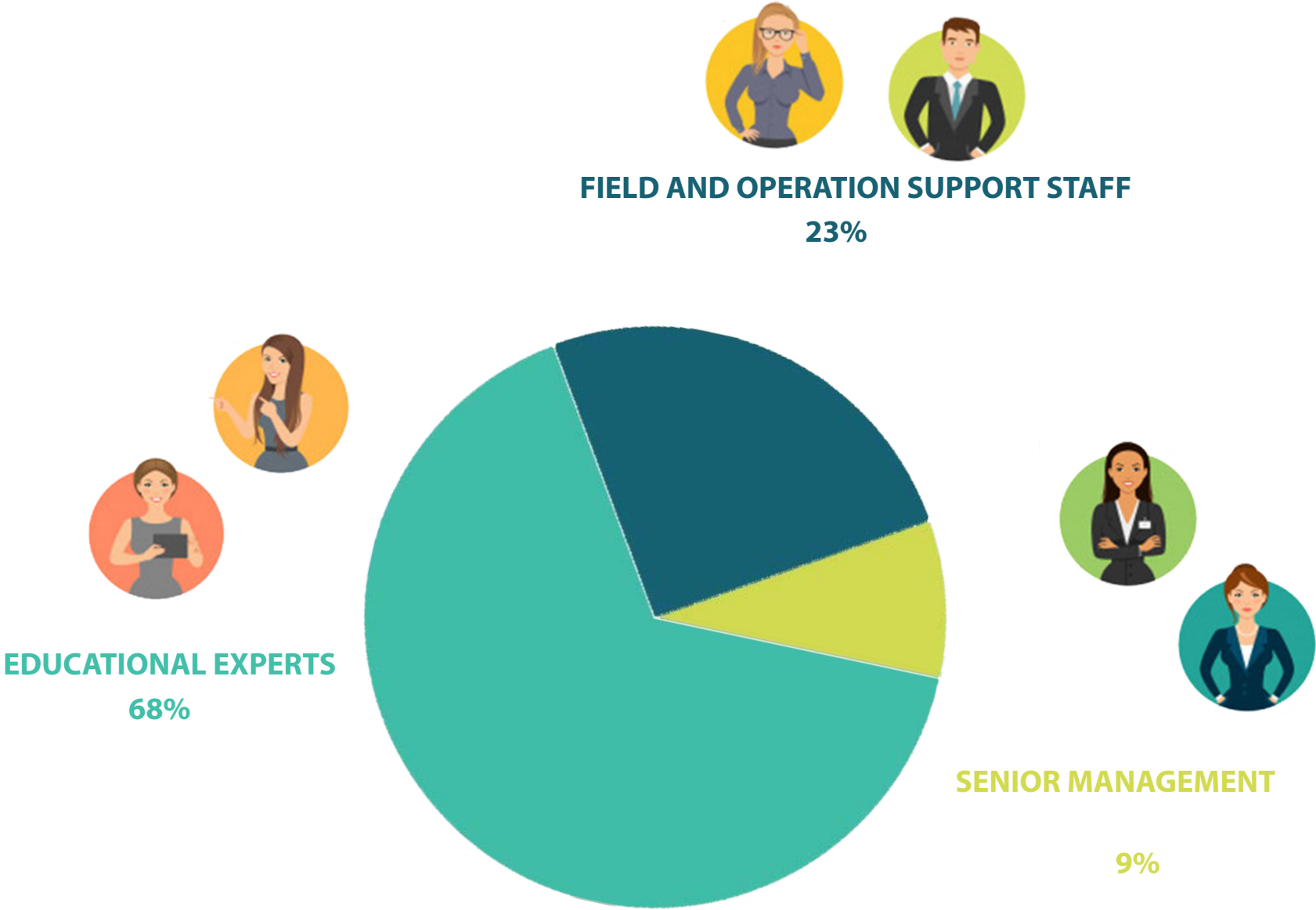
Ana Aqra maximizes the impact of the knowledge gained from its implementation to inform decision makers and to scale up the provision of quality education services:

Teacher Capacity Building,
Curriculum Design and Revision,
Education Resource Production.

Children ages 3 - 14 years old

Teachers of grades K-9

3. OUR TEAM



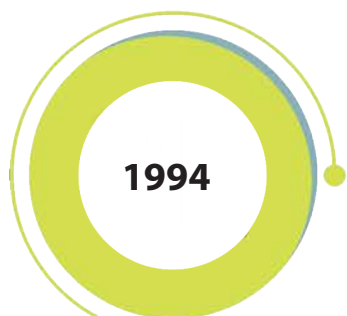


-Some of Ana Aqra members during a meeting, Beirut



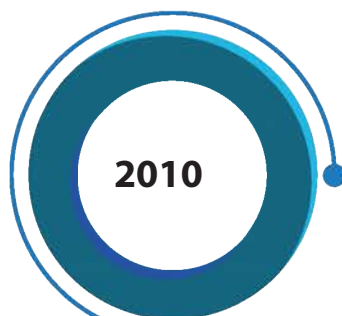
-Some of Ana Aqra staff during the end of year gathering, Beirut

4. OUR MILESTONES, SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING-UP GOALS 1994-2024



1994

Ana Aqra partners with MEHE, to nurture the love of reading, through the provision of class libraries in public schools.



2010

Ana Aqra works to strengthen the reading skills of struggling public school learners of cycle one and two, through the introduction of the Balanced Literacy Approach to teaching reading and writing using the workshop model, during summer time.



**2012-
2013**

Ana Aqra starts its first experiments in the application of its model in formal education.

Ana Aqra works on a bigger scale in non-formal education to respond to the Syrian influx.



**2014-
2018**

Ana Aqra adapts and applies its model in formal education in 260 public schools.

Ana Aqra scales up to transfer its best practices in non-formal education.



**2019-
2024**

Ana Aqra launches its sustainability and scaling-up plan:

Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of education for Lebanon.

Evidence-based best practices and lessons learned collected from the field.

Ana Aqra's best teaching and learning practices documented in a model.

5. WALKING THROUGH 2019

Ana Aqra's members renewed their commitment to **"Making learning accessible to all children"** during the yearly general assembly meeting. Ana Aqra this year celebrates its 25th anniversary and launches its joint campaign with MEHE **"Public school education – A joint responsibility"**, addressing three areas: **Early childhood education, Importance of arabic language and mother tongue, Making the public schools a school of choice.**

#Public-Schools-A-Joint-Responsibility



-Ana Aqra members meeting, Beirut

#25-years-Of-Committing



- AA founder, Yildiz Diab, public school

“National Reading Week” was recognized by Ana Aqra through implementation of **reading activities to engage the community with the public schools**. This year activities included inviting school principals, regional education officers, representatives from the municipalities, and public figures, to visit public schools and read stories in celebration of this event.

#Independent-Learning



-Principal reading to pre-school children, public school

#25-years-Of-Committing



-AA founder, Amal Saab, public school

Ana Aqra plans with its partners the scale up of the Quality Teaching and Learning (**QTL**) model.

Evidence on the effectiveness of the QTL collected from the Retention Support Program.

#Quality-of-Education



-Representatives from MEHE, CERD, LU, Caritas Switzerland and Ana Aqra with Scale-up Expert Ian Gray.

#Quality-of-Education



-Retention support program, public school

Ana Aqra initiates discussions to scale up **its model** of Quality of Teaching and Learning in Mauritania.

Ana Aqra, MEHE and Caritas Switzerland **presenting the QTL** and scaling the know-how at the World Education Leadership Symposium in Zug Switzerland.

#Quality-of-Education



-Ana Aqra, UNICEF & representatives of MEHE, Mauritania

#Quality-of-Education



-AA, MEHE & CACH representatives, Zug Switzerland

AA staff participate in a training on special intervention tools to support **learners with special needs**, to foster an **equitable** and **sustainable learning environment** for everyone.

#Quality-of-Education



-AA staff working within CB-ECE, inclusion training, Amman

Inclusive CB-ECE with self-managed **independent readers** and **lifelong learners**.

#Access-To-Equitable-Education



-ECE learners, summer program 2019, AA center

Public school learners enroll in the summer remedial program and participate in different activities related to **PSS and SEL**. Activities included topics on violence prevention, humanitarian principles and values, self-expression, conflict resolution, health and hygiene and others.

#Psychosocial-Support #Social-Emotional-Learning



-Learners participating in PSS activities, public school

Ana Aqra **distributes 3,228 classroom libraries** through QI-TABI project (read aloud and leveled books) to all sections of grade one to four in all primary public schools.

#Quality-of-Education



-Learners as avid readers, access reading, public school

Ana Aqra works on **digitizing** the “I play and Learn” Arabic language play kit. Play is one of the main ways in which children learn and develop.

Ana Aqra benefits other educators in the formal and non-formal education through the provision of trainings on the “I play and Learn” games for classroom usage.

#Quality-of-Education



-Children using AA educational game, Halabi bookshop event

#Quality-of-Education



-AA training teachers of Al Amine school, Zahle

Ana Aqra integrates the QTL approach in the mainstream teaching in four private schools leading to improve performance of both teachers and learners.

#Quality-of-Education



-Private school learners, Beirut

Ana Aqra builds teachers' capacity in implementing blended learning, in some classrooms in Mauritania, through the Akelius project.

#Quality-of-Education



-Active use of Blended Learning , Mauritania

Ana Aqra incorporates Art therapy into its Basic Literacy and Numeracy program in collaboration with Red Pencil and in partnership with Luminos funds.

#Access-To-Equitable-Education



- Therapeutic self expression, AA learners in Choueifat

Ana Aqra celebrates end of its Summer Remedial Program with public school learners, parents and teachers exposing students' work.

#Access-To-Equitable-Education



- Children-made books, grade four, public school

"Kids were so committed to learn and were fascinated by the book and the activities around the book".

Said Magalie.

Read full story on AA social media.

#Volunteering-to-make-difference



-Magalie, French teacher volunteer, AA center

Volunteers of Ana Aqra participate in cleaning Lebanon's beaches, as part of the National Beach Cleanup Campaign 2019, launched by the Ministry of Environment.

#Serving-The-Community



-AA volunteers, Beirut beaches

"One thing that stood out to us the most was when we saw someone from Ana Aqra helping an illiterate street child".

Read full story on AA social media.

#Investing-In-The-Future-Generation



-Jad & Linda volunteering, AA office

6. OUR PROGRAMS

Improving Access to Education Opportunities



Community-Based Early Childhood Education Program

Ana Aqra designed a non-formal Community-Based Early Childhood Education (CB-ECE) program in line with the MEHE developed CB-ECE program for children of ages 3-5 years. The program intends to prepare children who lack access to formal pre-schools due to socio-economic, lack of capacity, or geographical restrictions, with the pre-requisites needed to transition to formal compulsory schooling.

The main components of this program include:

- Social-emotional skills
- Integrated domains of language, cognitive, artistic, and motor skills
- Learning through play and structured experiences
- Mother and child for continuous support
- Classroom resources, such as classroom library and educational games

Basic Literacy and Numeracy Program (BLN)



The BLN program is designed to prepare school-aged children, who have either dropped out or have never been to school, for formal school enrollment. The program focuses on developing foundational reading, writing and math skills that are aligned with the official Lebanese curriculum.

This allows learners to be better equipped to pursue the proper pathway to formal schooling or enroll in the Accelerated Learning Program offered by MEHE.

The main components of this program include:

- Basic language and math skills
- Social-emotional skills through arts and music
- Problem solving and learning strategies
- Learning through projects
- Psychosocial support activities
- Parental engagement
- Levelled readers
- Educational games

Retention Support Program (RS)



The Retention Support Program is comprised of two programs offered at different periods of the year to support underperforming or struggling public school learners in grades 1 to 9:

•Homework Support Program

This program supports learners to catch up on their learning and complete their homework assignments successfully. Through this Program, learners are not simply engaged to help with their homework, but are in fact, taught learning and critical thinking strategies that aid them in closing achievement gaps. In this manner, learners are then able to better understand subjects taught at school and independently complete their assignments.

•Summer Remedial Program

This program provides extensive support during the academic summer break to improve literacy skills across subjects, and in turn, close achievement gaps for learners who are at risk of dropping out of school due to poor performance.

The main components of this program include:

- Language, math, and science support
- Metacognitive learning strategies
- Learning through projects
- Psychosocial support
- Parental engagement
- Levelled readers and educational games

Psychosocial Support Program (PSS)



The PSS program is embedded in all of Ana Aqra's educational programs as indicated above and consists of an established set of activities that aim to promote the wellbeing of the learning communities including learners, their parents/caretakers as well as teachers and other supporting staff. All PSS activities conducted with learners are tailored to serve the needs of the targeted population based on a preliminary needs assessment.

Parental engagement is also a key constituent of the PSS program, whereby biweekly meetings are held with the parents/caretakers in each school or center with the aim of enhancing safe and enabling learning environments for the learners. These meetings, which often take the shape of workshops, facilitate discussions with the parents and support awareness on key topics such as positive parenting, social and emotional development, health and hygiene improvement, violence prevention, social cohesion, basic methods of teaching and learning for parents, and children's rights - including the right to education.

Improving Quality of Education Services



Professional Development

Ana Aqra prepares training materials tailored to the needs of all educators including trainers, coaches and teachers. Our professional development intervention occurs over an extended period and allows for educators to practice, discuss, adjust, and reflect. The collaborative and reflective approach adopted supports the building of learning communities and results in significant improvement on the level of instructional practice and in student achievement. While our trainers simulate and model the desired practice during the training sessions, our coaches work with the teachers inside and outside the classrooms to help them recognize their core knowledge and strengths, improve their abilities to implement the Ana Aqra workshop model and other instructional strategies, and to benefit from support as they grow and learn professionally. Professional development services are offered for stakeholders within our programs and can also be offered to other entities locally or internationally.

Resource Provision



Ana Aqra professionals design and publish educational resources to support the teaching and learning process. The aim of these resources is to make contextualized teaching materials more accessible for use in classrooms.

Amongst the most significant resources we are keen on providing are leveled class libraries, including selecting books in Arabic, English, and/or French that can cater to different reading levels. In addition, we always provide a carpet in our classrooms, where all the social and academic learning takes place in a circle of trust, allowing teachers and children to share the responsibility of their teaching and learning.

Volunteer Program




Ana Aqra welcomes volunteers and is grateful for the generosity of supporters donating their time and expertise in the fulfillment of its mission. We are an inclusive association and thrive on the contributions of volunteers who add value to the various aspects of our work through their experience, skill, and dedication.

Opportunities for volunteering vary, and we are receptive to volunteer-driven initiatives and recommendations. From fundraising and administrative work in the office, to working directly with children or teachers in the classrooms, our volunteers inject new ideas and energy to our work, and support us in our day-to-day activities. We also offer volunteering opportunities for high school and university students who are looking to complete their community service hours while gaining real world experience.

Whatever our volunteers choose to do, they will be contributing to increased literacy and undoubtedly will help make a difference in the lives of marginalized children in the region.

A vertical sequence of six icons representing the educational process. From top to bottom: a school building with a flag, a teacher pointing to a whiteboard, a student reading a book, a graduation cap, a row of books, and a classroom scene.

	Schools					965					
	Qitabi (public school)	942	+	Retention Support (public school)	12		+	School spirit (public school)	7	+	4
	Teachers										506
	Teacher Professional Development										
	Consulting projects					Within our projects					
	230 + 273										15,849
	Number of Learners										
Direct beneficiaries					Indirect Beneficiaries						
6,308 + 9,541										1,800	
Parents											
Number of Books Distributed											398,136
Number of Community Centers Activated										13	

Direct Beneficiaries

Re-enrollment Rate 36%	Service Type	Total Enrolled	Unique Number of learners Per Program
	Basic Literacy and Numeracy Program	775	703
	Early Childhood Education Program	5,699	3,044
	Retention Support= HSP + RP	3,385	2,561
	Homework Support Program (HSP)	2,929	2,105
	Remedial Program (RP)	456	456
Grand Total		6,308	

Indirect Beneficiaries

Service Type	Unique Number of Learners Per Program
Volunteering Program through School Spirit Activities	1,050
Improving Reading Outcomes for Primary Level Public School Students	7,191
Quality of Teaching and Learning for Semi-Private Schools Students	1,300
Grand Total	9,541

*Direct Beneficiaries Breakdown

Demographic Breakdown		Total
Gender Breakdown	Female	3,034
	Male	3,274
Age Breakdown	[3-5]	2,784
	[6-14]	3,456
	Above 14	68
Nationality Breakdown	Lebanese	1,048
	Syrian	5,237
	Palestinian	7
	Other Nationalities	16
Region Breakdown	Baalbeck-Hermel	1,485
	Beirut	699
	Bekaa	2,038
	Mount Lebanon	1,665
	North	421

8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ended December 31, 2019

Statement of Activities (in USD)

REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Donations/funds	176,335	3,706,151	3,882,486
Membership	2,192		2,192
Financial revenues (Positive Exchange)		1,071	1,071
Overhead and Administrative expenses	221,225		221,225
Net assets released from restrictions	5,715,125	(5,715,125)	
Total Revenues	6,114,877	(2,007,903)	4,106,974

EXPENSES	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Total Program Services	5,391,977		5,391,977
Management and General	323,147		323,147
Total Expenses	5,715,125		5,715,125
Refunds to donor		-84,803	-84,803
Change in Net Assets	-13,099	-1,679,855	-1,692,954
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	512,540	3,295,918	3,808,458
Net Assets, End of Year	499,441	1,616,063	2,115,504

9. PARTNERS



Call us
+961 1 365 149/59

Write to us
info@ana-aqra.org

Volunteer with us
volunteer@ana-aqra.org

Donate to us
+961 1 365 149/159 extension 120
URL:<http://anaaqra.org/donatebank>

Take an appointment & Visit our Premise
Khorafi Bldg. 5th floor, George Cyr Street, Clemenceau.
Beirut, Lebanon

www.ana-aqra.org

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