

Navigating Education Challenges

ANA AQRA ANNUAL REPORT



2023



ANA AQRA ASSOCIATION

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Words from our President, Executive Director and the Director of Programs



Thank you to all partners, board members, volunteers, and staff for your outstanding support and unconditional commitment through all these years. It was such a great honor and pleasure to hold this post. Rest assured, that it is with Heavy heart that I am leaving this presidency.

Our country, continue to face economic, health, and security crises, as well as, political instability which severely affected its education system. Therefore, our top priority is to use all our means to prevent the educational crisis from degenerating into a disaster for an entire generation. The time should be for constructive and collective reflection on new possibilities to support all students to succeed and attain school completion.

I am confident that Ana Aqra will continue to seize and create further opportunities enabling the association to play a bigger and more powerful role in the society.

I warmly welcome the new President, Mrs. Nahed Al Zain Naamani and am confident that she will undoubtedly be of great support to our association and bring valuable contribution. I also warmly congratulate and thank Mr Marwan Haffar for his efforts & achievements during the past six months; he was an exceptionnel added-value.

I welcome Mrs. Raya AlHasan and Mr. Tarek Jallad, the new board members and wish them all the best. As always, I would also like to pay tribute to Mrs Rima Musallam & Mrs Amina Kleit the two pillars of the association without whom Ana Aqra wouldn't have grown.

I am confident that all of us, with enthusiasm, boundless engagement and devotion, will continue to improve education and aim to achieve the required goals.

“People don’t realize how a man’s whole life can be changed by one book.” Malcom X

Warm regards,

Mrs. Loubna Alkhalil
President of AAA



Dear supporters, partners, and friends,

We are honored to welcome you to our testament to the collective efforts and unwavering commitment of our association to providing quality education to all children.

Through collaboration with stakeholders & beneficiaries as well as the commitment & resilience of its team, Ana Aqra remains agile & focused on its mission despite the multiple challenges that face the education sector in Lebanon.

We at Ana Aqra believe that the most important asset of any organization is its people. As an educational organization, we strive to prepare and develop the right human capital which is an optimum blend of personal (attitudes & behavior) and professional (knowledge & skills) competencies. We remain committed to our vision & mission guided by the needs of the learners, teachers & caregivers to further enhance the holistic approach to education. Furthermore, we continue to impart life skills to learners, which would help them succeed, not only in school but in all future endeavors & enhance their ability to take responsibility for making healthier choices, resisting negative pressures & avoiding risky behaviors.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to **Mrs. Loubna Alkhalil**, who has served as the president of our board for the past 4 years with unwavering dedication and passion.

On behalf of the entire association community, we extend our sincerest thanks for her outstanding support and commitment.

As we bid farewell to Mrs. Alkhalil, we also warmly welcome **Mrs. Nahed AlZain Naamani** as her successor. Mrs. Naamani will undoubtedly be of great support to our association and we look forward to working closely with her in the years to come.

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, let us remember the profound impact that every one of us can contribute to keeping children in learning.

Lifelong learning adds meaning to life & opens doors to countless possibilities.

Sincerely,

Mr. Marwan Haffar,
Executive Director

Mrs. Amina Kleit,
Director of Programs



1.

What We Do

Vision



Our Team

Our Team is small but efficient



Who We Are

Ana Aqra Association is a Lebanese non-profit, non-sectarian, non-political association benefiting vulnerable children, ages 3 to 18 – who are attending, or on their way to attend, Lebanese public schools – as well as their parents, teachers, and school administrators.

Within the below two pillars, Ana Aqra integrates its holistic approach to education, the Quality Teaching and Learning (QTL) model, and aims at making sustainable impact through innovative programs that respond to educational needs.

PILLAR 1:
Improving Access and Retention in Formal Education with a focus on Early Childhood Education and Public Schools

- Preparedness and Retention for children ages 3-18 years old.
- Provision of Adequate Educational Requirements.
- Promotion of Reading

PILLAR 2:
Quality Teaching and Learning

- Arabic Language Reading and Writing (G1-G6)
- Early Childhood Education (KG1-KG3)
- Distance Learning
- Training and Coaching for Teachers



2.

Coping with Changing needs

1994 – 2008

- Partners with MEHE to nurture the love of reading.
- Reads to children and celebrates the national reading week.

2009 – 2014

- Introduces leveled books to the public school class library
- Strengthens the reading and writing skills of struggling public school learners in cycles 1 and 2. (2010-2011)
- Pilots its model in formal education (2011/2012/2013).
- Scales up its model in non-formal education in response to the influx of Syrian refugees.

2015 – 2019

- Scales up its best practices in non-formal education
- Adapts and applies its model in 260 public schools in partnership with WL (QITABI/USAID)
- Launches its sustainability and scale-up plan in 2019:
- Aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of education for Lebanon
- Codifies its endorsed Quality Teaching and Learning model (QTL).
- Commits to QITABI2 (a consortium led by WL funded by USAID) to benefit all elementary public schools in Lebanon.

2020 – 2021

- Incorporates its Distance Learning framework in all its education programs.
- Designs and produces an Early Childhood gaming kit to be distributed to every public school.
- Transitions the Parental Program 'I Also can Teach' to distance learning in preparation for scale-up.
- Partakes in a marathon for the creation of digital resources to support Distance Learning.
- Commits to Natafa3al (a consortium led by NRC and funded by AFD) in support of "Our learning community, the public school as the community school".

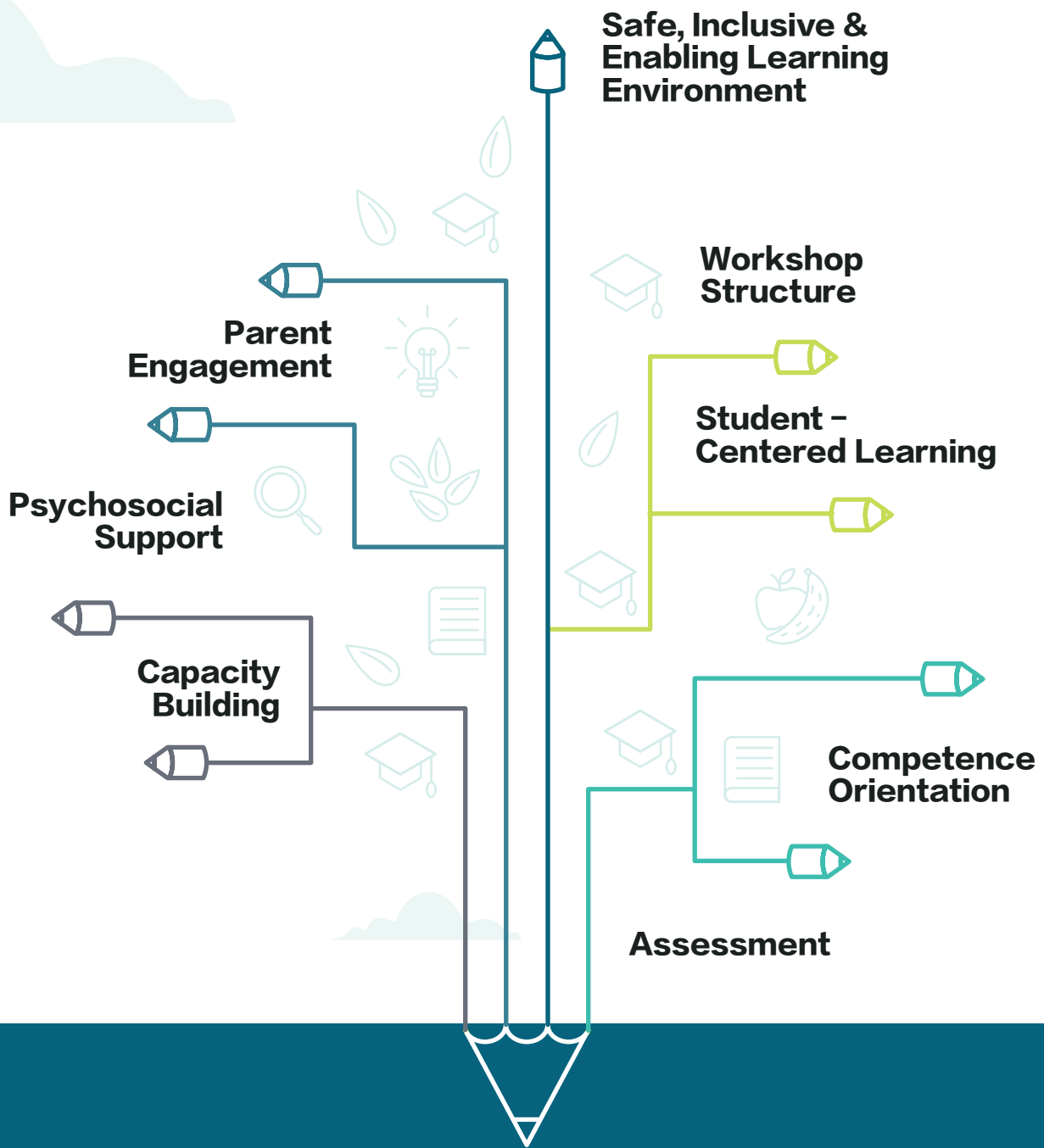
2022 – 2026

- Invests further in the creation of digital resources to support Distance Learning.
- Counteracts the brain drain of experts and teachers of the public school system.
- Links education to Livelihood skills Advocates for education as part of cross-sector response.



3.

Our Education Services



Quality Teaching & Learning



Professional Development Training and Coaching

One of the main triggers for success at Ana Aqra is the continuous planning and working towards building educators capacities and everyone supporting the learning process. Training and coaching teachers are the main ongoing activities that continues to take place at Ana Aqra.

During the year 2023, Ana Aqra team trained around 270 teachers on the Quality Teaching and Learning (QTL) with the focus on implementing different educational programs. These programs included Retention Support, Homework Support, Community Based Early Childhood Education (CBECE), Adult Literacy, Hybrid and Remote learning. Ana Aqra trained teachers working across different projects being implemented across Lebanon: Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North, Akkar, Bekaa and Baalbeck,

A professional development plan is not considered complete without following up on teachers and supporting them while implementing. Thus building teachers capacities continues at Ana Aqra with coaching teachers on the field to ensure that they are able to transfer all acquired knowledge into practice.

Throughout 2023, our focus remained on training and coaching teachers, coaches and trainers, as we believe and as proven that well-equipped and supported teachers and educators enhance the quality of teaching and learning leading to improved student performance.



Psychosocial Wellbeing Services

The Psychosocial Wellbeing Program at the Ana Aqra Association, following a holistic approach in education, aims to support the provision of quality and well-rounded educational experiences for learners, parents, and their communities.

In 2023, Ana Aqra's Psychosocial Wellbeing Department supported the integration of wellbeing programs across all literacy projects of Ana Aqra Association which were implemented in the North, Akkar, Bekaa, West Bekaa, Beirut, and Mont Lebanon.

The program showed to have highly contributed to improve the staff knowledge and positive parenting skills of caregivers. Learners enjoyed safe learning environments, gained social and emotional skills which boosted their academic success, and increased their school attendance and motivation for learning.



The Parental Support Program, an important component of the Psychosocial Wellbeing Program, benefited a total of 3,028 parents. In the Nataf3al project during winter 2023, 659 parents joined the parental program. At the end of the cycle, 279 parents were assessed, and 99% were able to support their children's learning, showing the program's positive impact.



4.

Our Resources



“The Just Right Start” Kit

In 2023, Ana Aqra worked with CERD to develop further the ECE teacher training, integrating “The Just Right Start” Kit.

The later was designed and distributed to 808 public schools to support teachers and parents with resources they needed to provide game-based learning and teaching for preschoolers.

The collaboration with DOPS supported the teachers coaching on the new approaches within their training.

Parental Engagement and Improved Home Learning Environment



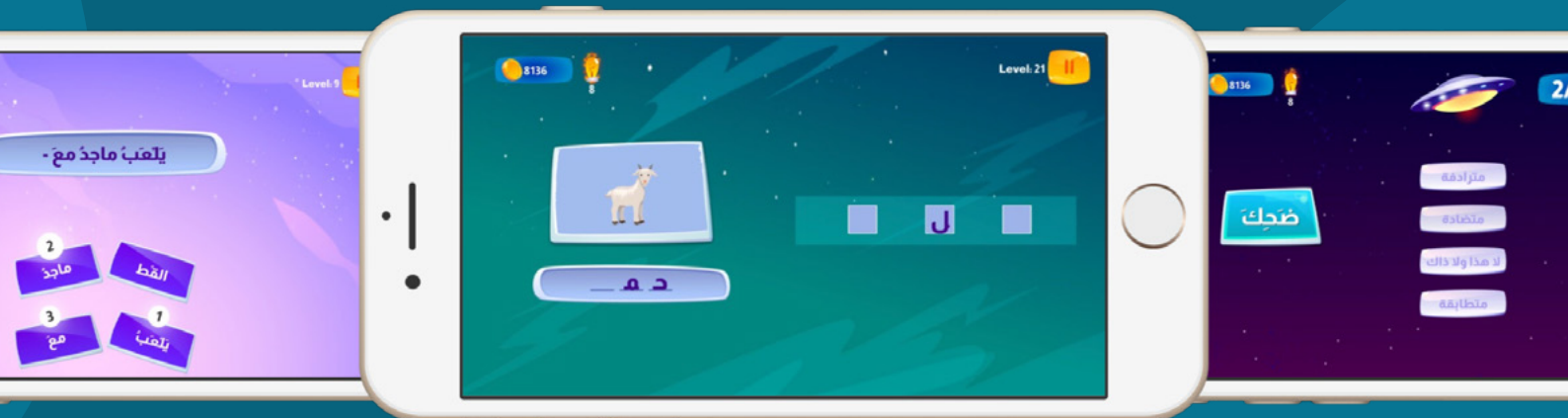
The “Hafila Hafila” Application



HAFILA HAFILA IS A MOBILE APPLICATION
developed by education experts at Ana Aqra.

It combines six games to help children and adults learn Arabic by introducing them to basic language skills. The application is extremely engaging and works both offline and online.

Players can have fun, compete with one another, and learn Arabic all at the same time. Hafila Hafila is used by a number of students in both private and public schools. In 2021, Hafila Hafila was launched on the CRDP Mawaridy platform. All Mawaridy registered users now have access to the application and can acquire a wide range of linguistic skills through play.



The “I Play and Learn with Ana Aqra” Kit



“I Play and Learn with Ana Aqra” is an educational kit that includes seven card games and two board games.

It was designed by Ana Aqra team to improve and support Arabic language acquisitions and it:

- Provides educators with diverse resources to support them in achieving language learning objectives.
- Offers opportunities for formative assessment (teacher-led and self-assessment).
- Encourages learners to participate and communicate.
- Provides authentic language learning opportunities within a student-centered learning environment.
- Fosters collaborative learning by engaging learners in group play.
- Promotes the development of social-emotional skills.
- Addresses all of the different components of language.



This kit is used by a diverse group of children in schools and across Ana Aqra programs as a primary resource for teachers to facilitate their lessons in teaching Arabic to the entire class, during both guided and independent work.

Digital Units of Lessons for Early Childhood Education

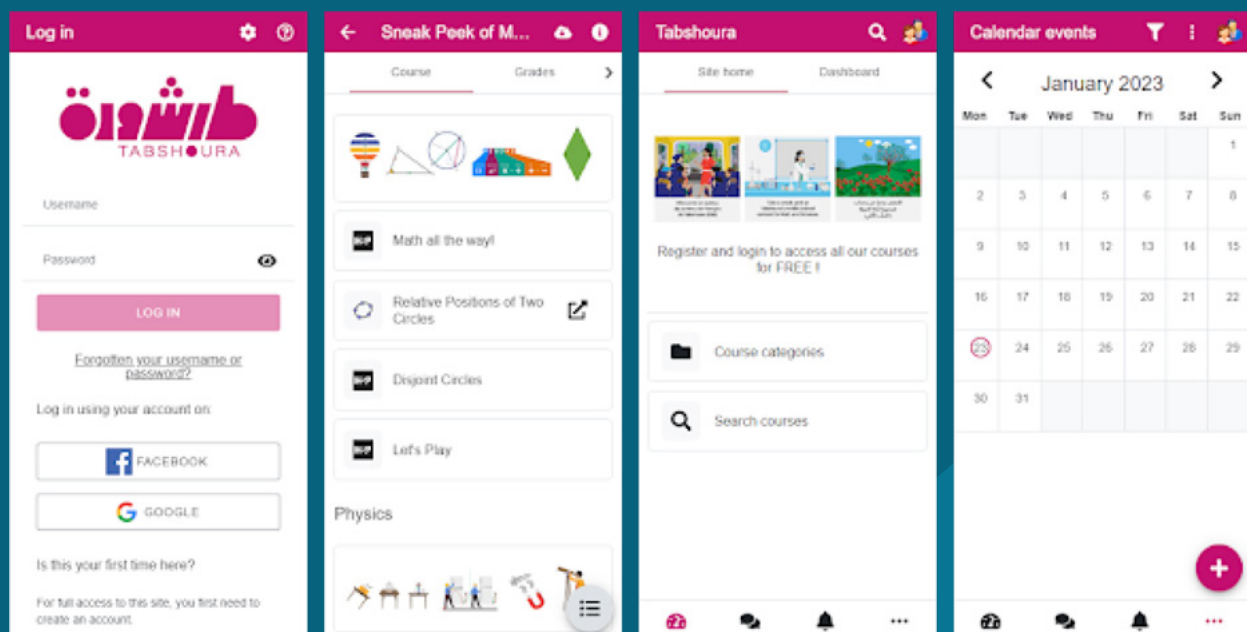


In partnership with Their World and in collaboration with Al Fanar, Ana Aqra and the Lebanese Alternative Learning (LAL) combined their respective expertise and created digital educational materials for the early childhood education, ensuring access to quality teaching and learning. 100 digitized lesson units were developed and revised by the Center of Research and Development (CRDP) of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education.

The lessons identified learning outcomes and their progression, across three languages, are aligned with the literacy components identified within the Ana Aqra model the “QTL: quality teaching and learning” which is endorsed by MEHE, CRDP and Lebanese University supported by the university of PhZug.

Each unit of lesson starts with a read aloud text and includes up to 6 mini lessons targeting Listening Comprehension, Letter Recognition/Phonetics, Phonological Awareness, Sight words, Concept of Print, etc..

The lessons, published on Tabshoura platform, assist teachers, learners and their parents in the successful use of supporting interactive materials and online educational tools.





5.

Our Beneficiaries



6,979

Learner

**Direct
Beneficiaries**



38,768

Learner

**Indirect
Beneficiaries**



470

**Retention
Public School**



9

**Community Center
Activated**



270

**Teacher,
Professional
Development**



3,028

Parent

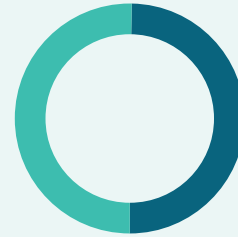
Demographic breakdown



6,979



49.6%



50.4%

Age breakdown

11%

3-6
Years old

84%

6-14
Years old

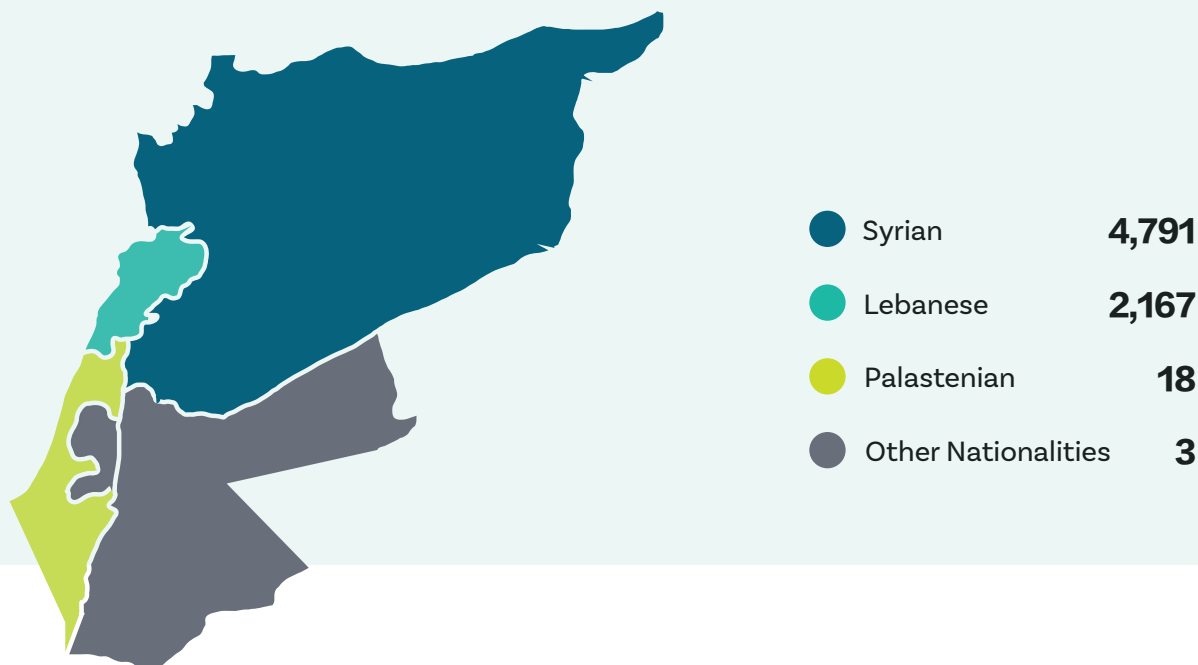
6%

above 14
Years old



Service Type/Cost Center	Number of Unique learners	# of parents
Basic Literacy and Numeracy Program	1186	724
ECWSCI2022	538	353
SCESYR2022	347	280
SCESYR2023	301	91
Early Childhood Education Program	754	492
BSTSTR2022	222	217
ANAKAM2023	157	29
ECWSCI2022	375	246
Retention Support Program	5039	1812
ANAKAM2023	302	109
COMSCH2021	2894	1108
MAKANI2022	350	120
RTNLHF2022	845	400
SCESYR2022	358	75
SCESYR2023	290	0

Nationality breakdown



Region breakdown



Re-enrollment
Rate: 18%

Service Type	Total Enrolled Learners	Unique number of learners per program
Basic Literacy and Numeracy Program	1597	1186
Early Childhood Education Program	971	754
Retention Support Program	5975	5039
Total	8543	6979



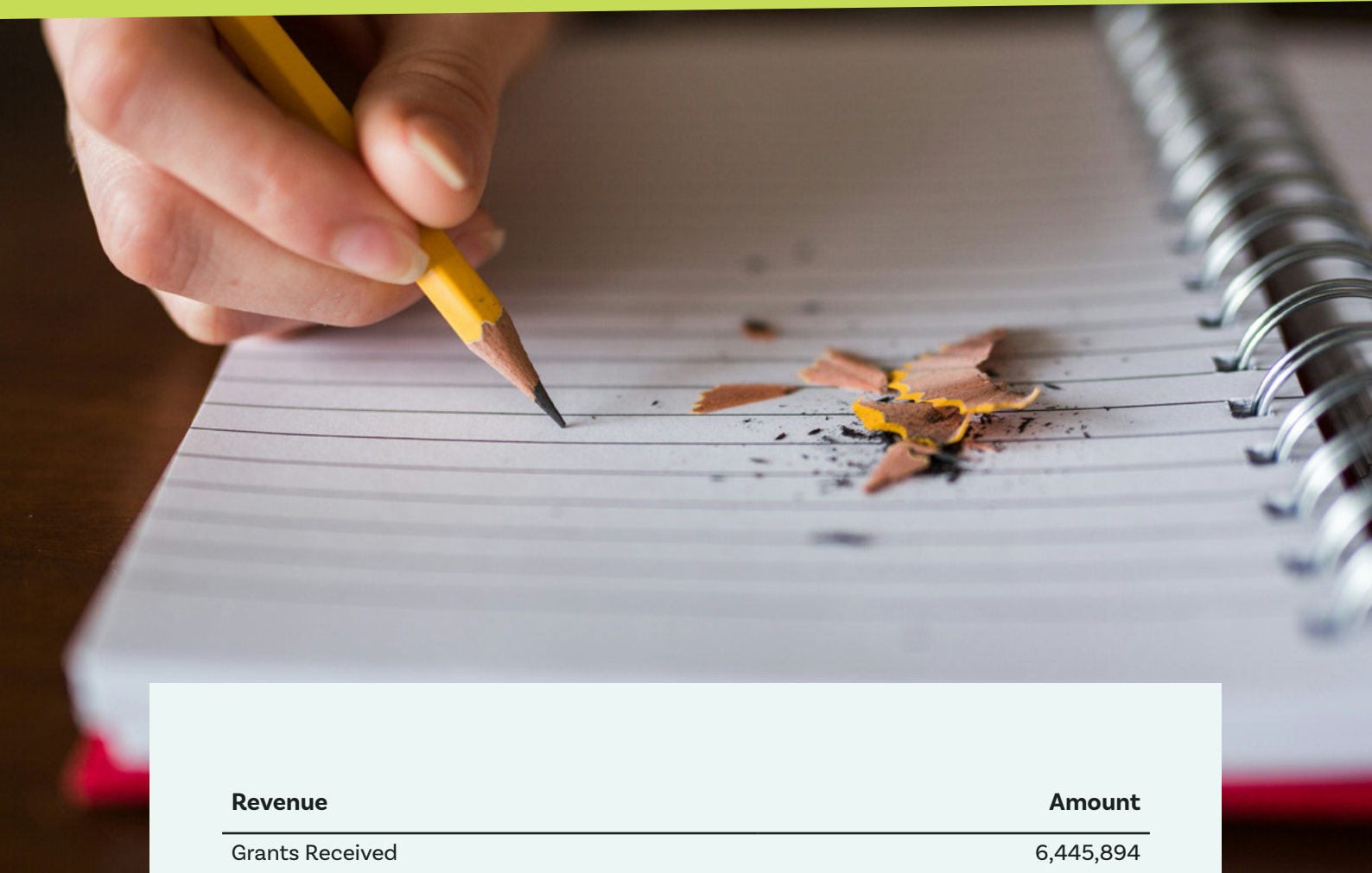
6. Our Donors & Partners





7.

Our Financial Report



Revenue	Amount
Grants Received	6,445,894
Total Revenue	6,445,894

Expenditure	Amount
Direct cost on projects	5,050,057
Indirect cost on projects	136,675
Interest and similar expenses	39,271
Difference of exchange Loss / (Gain)	(887,849)
Total Expenditure	4,338,154
Surplus/(Deficit) of revenue over expenditure	2,107,740



Annex

Programs

>> QITABI 2- Activity

April 2019- December 2023
Development program

The USAID-funded Quality Instruction Towards Access and Basic Education Improvement (QITABI) 2 is implemented in 882 primary public schools across Lebanon in collaboration with World Learning, ALLC, IRC, and MSI. Ana Aqra leads the Arabic literacy efforts and oversees implementation in 470 schools in Akkar, North Lebanon, Baalbeck/Hermel, and Beqaa regions. In 2023, the project continued the Learning Recovery Program, supporting CRDP in content preparation and conducting National Teacher Training sessions for phases 3, 4, and 5. Additionally, QITABI2 conducted a second round of food parcel distribution to caregivers of students in grades 1 to 6. The project supported MEHE's 2023 summer program, reaching 580 schools and approximately 150,000 learners across Lebanon. It also completed the production and distribution of 2,736 Grades 5 and 6 Arabic teacher portfolios, reaching over 1,027 private and public schools, as well as CERD and DOPS centers.



>> QITABI 3

The Quality Instruction Towards Access and Basic Education Improvement (QITABI) 3, funded by USAID and led by RTI International, aims to enhance Lebanon's Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) commitment to improving education over five years, focusing on inclusive education and increasing literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills among children and youth. Building on the successes of QITABI 1 and 2, this initiative, launched in August 2023, targets public and economically disadvantaged private schools, providing technical assistance to MEHE and CERD in planning, budgeting, delivery, monitoring, evaluation, and institutionalizing educational services. RTI International, in collaboration with World Learning, Inc., Ana Aqra Association, SKILD Center, and INJAZ Lebanon, will implement the program, with Ana Aqra leading Arabic literacy and life skills programs across multiple regions in Lebanon.





Makani (My Place): education, protection, community empowerment, and inclusion pathways in Lebanon

Oct 2022 - Sep 2025
Funded by AICS



Led by TDH Italy and partnered with COSPE, Ana Aqra, and the Lebanese League for Women in Business (LLWB), the Makani project, funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), aims to reduce inequalities in primary education access and prevent school dropouts among vulnerable children in Lebanon. Children aged 3-14 from Souk Al Ghareb and Jbeil regions will access quality and inclusive education in a safe and respectful environment.

The project helps children at risk of dropout by offering retention support programs for ages 6-14, and support for those with learning difficulties. Additionally, it empowers the educating community through awareness-raising activities, training for teachers and school staff, and the development of child protection policies.

Economically vulnerable mothers of at-risk children are also supported through initiatives aimed at economic empowerment, social inclusion, and access to income, including welfare agendas, market analysis, and support for women's economic activities.



“My Best Start-2” Project

November 2022-June 2024
Early Childhood Education Program



In partnership with Their World and in collaboration with Al Fanar, Ana Aqra and the Lebanese Alternative Learning (LAL) combined their respective expertise to ensure access to quality teaching and learning through digitized educational materials for the children enrolled in early childhood education and their caregivers. During the year 2021-2022, 100 digitized lesson units with tips for teachers and parents were developed. During the year 2022-2023, the second phase of the project was allocated to review the digitized lessons before they are published on LAL's platform and other platforms. The lessons assist teachers, learners and their parents in the successful use of supporting interactive materials and online educational tools. Ana Aqra lead the field implementation at its community-based center in Baalback. 180 learners benefited from 2 cycles of early childhood education. The implementation contributed in piloting the lessons and studying their impact on children's performance.



Educate to Empower: Empowering 2,990 Individuals through Education in Zahle

Sep 2023 - Feb 2025

Funded by LHF

This project focuses on reducing educational disparities by implementing retention support programs to help at-risk children and improve the well-being of children and their caregivers through PSS/SEL and awareness sessions on education, parenting, health, and mental well-being. The project aims to enhance the quality of life for individuals by promoting inclusive education for 2,400 vulnerable children, including Lebanese, refugees, migrants, and children with disabilities, in specific areas of Zahle.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, 1,100 at-risk children from six public schools will receive retention support in community centers. A supplementary summer program in 2024 will support 600 at-risk children from four public schools, and an additional retention support cycle will aid 700 at-risk children in 2024-2025.

All programs include children with disabilities, comprising 3% of the targeted group. The initiative provides teaching materials, transportation, and healthy snacks. Teachers and facilitators receive training to enhance program quality. Additionally, 590 caregivers are participating in awareness sessions to improve their parenting skills and support their children's well-being.





>> “Education Can Not Wait”

August 2022 – December 2024

Early Childhood Education and Basic Literacy & Numeracy Programs

In partnership with Save the Children, the “Education Can Not Wait” project is providing the crisis- affected refugee learners access to non-formal education intervention in order to prepare them to transition to formal education within the parameters of the NFE pathways. The project is also empowering the community stakeholders by promoting an equitable and inclusive learning environment more specifically the teachers and the parents as direct contributors in the learning context.

Through this project, Ana Aqra will target 4250 children who are out of school and not able to join formal education yet. Among those, 2500 children aged between 4 to 6 years old will be enrolled under the Community based- Early Childhood program and 1750 boys and girls ages between 8 to 14 years old will be enrolled under the Basic Literacy and Numeracy programs all in North, Akkar and Mount Lebanon areas. The project is also supporting parents with a positive parenting approach through the parental programs and awareness sessions.

>> Nataf3al

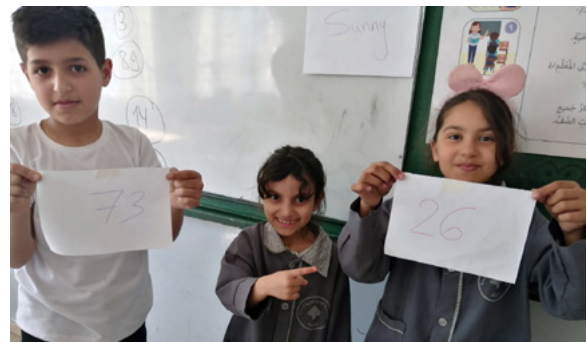
Jan 2021 - Mar 2024

Funded by Agence française de développement (AFD)

Within a consortium consisting of Amel Association, Ana Aqra Association, International Alert and led by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the project is

dedicated to reducing educational disparities by implementing retention support programs to help at-risk children and improve the well-being of children and their caregivers through BLP and awareness sessions. The initiative provides teaching materials, transportation, and healthy snacks. Teachers and facilitators receive training to enhance program quality.

By establishing schools as comprehensive support systems, the project aims to empower students to overcome future shocks in education and the wider local and national context. Over a three-year period, the project will support 20 public schools in Beirut, Mount Lebanon, Beqaa, Baalbek, and Akkar, targeting the most vulnerable areas. Through partnerships with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), the center for education research and development (CERD), and consortium members, Nataf3al will impact over 12,000 learners, 600 teachers, and 3,200 parents.





“Second Chance”

September 2023 - August 2024

Retention Support, Basic Literacy & Numeracy, Early Childhood Education, PSS and Parental Programs

In an ongoing partnership with Luminos, the Second Chance project is delivering basic literacy and numeracy (BLN) classes to 550 children aged 10 to 14 in order to assist them in transitioning to the formal schooling system. In addition, 600 learners enrolled in public schools are receiving Home Work Support, in a remote modality, to improve their academic performance and wellbeing. A Summer Remedial Program will reach 150 learners, at risk of dropping out of school and will provide intensive remediation to close their achievement gaps. A Community Based Early Childhood Education Program will be also provided to 50 out of school learners to equip them with the needed skills in the 5 main domains- language, psychomotor, cognitive, social and emotional and artistic domain- to prepare them to transition into grade 1 in formal schools.

Ana Aqra will build the literacy and numeracy skills of 80 caregivers in order to support their children’s education at home. Ana Aqra will empower additional 150 parents by providing them with self-sufficiency workshops (knitting and planting) that aim to reduce the economic burden and to provide opportunities for future integration in the job market.



Improving the quality of safe, enabling, and stimulating learning environments for early years in formal schools and homes.

January 2023- June 2024

System Strengthening, Early Childhood Education, Teacher Capacity Building

In Partnership with Porticus, Ana aqra aims at improving the quality of stimulating learning environments for early years in formal schools and at homes through the revision and integration of all available digital and hands-on resources, developed by Ana Aqra, within CRDP and DOPS teacher training and coaching as well as through an improved parental engagement component.

Through this project, 48 formal school teachers of 12 public schools will directly benefit from the improved training and coaching components. 12 school directors will pilot and document the effectiveness of the parental engagement program for future scale up. 1000 families will directly benefit from the parental engagement programs endorsed by MEHE. 1000 children, between 3 and 8 years old, will ultimately benefit from the improved teacher training and coaching components and available resources as well as from the implementation of the parental engagement program, endorsed by MEHE.



>> “Ana Kamen” Project

September 2023- September 2024
Early Childhood Education and Basic Literacy & Retention Support

In partnership with WeWorld, the “Ana Kamen” project aims to promote access to inclusive and quality educational services for the Lebanese population and vulnerable refugees, with a specific focus on children with disabilities, through the rehabilitation and energy efficiency of school buildings- lead by WeWorld; the implementation of retention support programs and early childhood educational services; the strengthening of capacity of teaching staff- lead by Ana Aqra; direct support to children with disabilities; and raising awareness of educating communities on the inclusion



and protection of vulnerable groups-lead by Arc en Ciel. Ana Aqra activities consist of providing two cycles of retention support in 4 public schools for 650 learners and with two cycles of Community-Based Early Childhood Education (CBECE) program for 350 out of school learners. Additionally, it is estimated that about 50 parents of children enrolled in the CBECE program will receive 8 “I can also teach” training sessions that focus on the stages of children’s development to increase parents’ awareness and preparation in order to promote home learning.

>> Community Based Retention Support project

October 2022 - August 2023

Funded by the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF)

The Retention Support provision addresses the educational needs of 1200 vulnerable Lebanese, migrant, and refugee children in public schools and 360 children in non-formal education in Tripoli and Akkar. It aims to prevent 600 at-risk children from dropping out by offering support in community centers. This includes providing winter clothes, classroom supplies, and assistance for children with learning difficulties or disabilities. Teachers will receive training, and parents will attend awareness sessions. Additionally, the program will distribute winterization supplies to 360 children in non-formal education and provide Dignity Kits and menstrual hygiene products to 300 adolescent girls to reduce school absenteeism.



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