

أيام المسرح

Theatre Day Productions

1 General Information 2018

Name of the Organisation	Ayyam Al Masrah a.k.a. Theatre Day Productions (TDP) (reg. 563133503 Dec 2000, Gaza)
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Reporting Period	From 01.01.2018 till 31.12.2018
Date of Report	January 5, 2018

2 Narrative Report 2018

2.1 Objective one: Communities in Gaza, especially women & young generations & marginalized groups, engaged & reached through the arts & culture.

Summary:

No of audience reached including under all other outcomes/outputs: TOTAL of 35,374

Age: 6-65 (79.53% children and youth)

Gender: Male and Female (61 % female)

Social background: refugees, Bedouins, peasants, abled & disabled, poor-remote areas of Gaza Strip

Number & Type of collaborations with the wider civil society:

NGOs: 92 NGOs and Civil Society Organizations

Cultural centres or similar: 2 youth and women clubs

Government (including municipalities & councils), 2: Min of Education, MoCulture, and UNRWA Department of Education

Schools: more than 140 collaborations with public and UNRWA schools (as part of Government collaboration above)

Universities/Colleges: 5

Private Sector, none.

Others: :

1 festival, Red Carpet (film) Festival in Gaza

and 1 collaboration with De Krakeling, youth theatre venue in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Output 1.1	Value Achieved:	Activities:
<p>Artistic events aimed at opening up dialogue & spaces for free expression & reflection provided/ increased/ diversified.</p>	<p>No. of performances: (performance nights) 189 Number of productions: 7 new productions (incl. 4 Kids for Kids) No. of spaces: 2 permanent spaces and 54 temporary spaces No of festivals: 1 festival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 storytelling performances and forums of “Black Light” production • 136 performances for children and youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 125 performances of 6 new productions of: Hibernation, The Golden Boy, The Stone of the Sun, Live by Your Spirit, Colored Meal, and New Day - 11 performances of “Whirlwind” (2017 production) • 19 drama show-case performances during drama festival days and drama workshop projects. • 2 spaces: TDP’s theatre in annual maintenance, and TDP’s new Creative Entrepreneurship Hub for young adults interested in cultural initiatives and training. 54 spaces adjusted temporarily into spaces for theatre/drama activities. • Drama Festival, 2 months preparations and 4 festival days – Oct 29, 30, 31, and Nov 1, 2018.
Output 1.2	Value Achieved:	Activities:
<p>Involvement of children & youths in performing arts –with a focus on gender balance increased</p>	<p>No. of children/youths reached. 35,071: - 21,502 children - 6,632 youth - 6,937 adults (as audience) Details - In Black Light: audience of 4527 - In 136 performances for children and youth: audience of 22212 - In drama and animation WS, incl. presentations and parents days: 8332 Gender composition 19204 female/ 12200 male (61 % female) After performance workshops (No. & content) 155 after-performance debates and drama interaction 15 open discussions post drama presentations 4 public debates during drama festival days Others: Adults from outcome 2: - 104 artists and staff - 98 school teachers - 101 females in Barometer sessions</p>	<p>189 after-performance workshops (were conducted as part of performances and festivals) - 30 Drama workshops, 3-weeks daily 3 hour sessions + presentation - 24 Video-Animation workshops, as drama above - 4 Kids for Kids projects, 6 weeks daily drama/production work/training + school touring of produced play. One-week (5 days) campaign for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.</p>

Reflection on the value achieved

No of audience:

- **Slight increase in number of audiences:**

a) We allowed 4 drama workshops (of excellent quality) to be presented in additional shows to the community: In 2018, TDP has developed a new approach to insure full integration of families in the cultural and artistic work.

The high-quality result of drama workshops was enough motive to make an experiment in 4 drama workshops. Instead of making one presentation after each workshop for parents and friends, children were able to present their stories in drama scenes more than once, giving more school children, family, and community members the opportunity to know the children's point of view, and listen to their dramatized stories.

Each presentation was followed by a debate and discussion led by children.

Such involvement contributes to raising awareness about the role of Culture and Performing Arts in the conservative community of Gaza.

b) "Black Light" (women storytelling production with dramatized real life stories) caused an awakening shock to whoever saw the play. It captivated huge attention in the community. Many women CSOs and international organizations requested that Black Light be performed in their campaigns/events.

Diversity of audience/ target groups

100% of target groups reached by TDP are from the grassroots marginalized population of Gaza, diversified geographically as well as psychographically and includes the poor, unemployed refugees from both genders, and all age groups.

The inclusion of all children in TDP's work helps to create social change. Every activity in TDP must have disparities among children (age, gender, social group, and/or disability). It is a setting that encourages children to celebrate differences, and challenges discrimination. It is also an opportunity for smaller voices to be heard.

In 2018, new target groups were reached:

- Male children and youth who are at risk of being killed during the weekly "March of Returns" at the borders. TDP team, friends, and volunteers have visited the "Marches". We decided to reach out to the children and youth living in the areas close to the "Marches." TDP offered them an outlet -through drama and cultural work- to release the anger & frustration, and gave them safe space to find hope and solidarity. Children made improvisations, and related their improvisations and play to reflections of their lives, fears, emotions, dreams, and fantasies. These reflections make a connection to their lives and possible awareness about needed change or about the simple possibility of creating fun, calm, excitement, hope, life with a purpose and meaning, individually and as part of a group.
- Scurrilous boys: in different activities, TDP targeted a difficult group (from Sabha Al Harazein Boys School) with rebellious and bully attitudes. The group needed special attention from the artistic team especially when they were around girls and women. Their attitude changed significantly after the intensive drama work.
- TDP's theatre performances included children with disability. In one of the performances (12 April, Beach prep girls school "B"), 7 children with hearing disability from Khan Younis participated. It was possible due to the collaboration between TDP and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (Khan Younis). The RCS facilitated sign language translation.

List of productions including title and a short synopsis/summary"

- Youth Play. Hibernation. In this Arabic adaptation of the youth play by Dutch writer Heleen Verburg, an imaginary family in an imaginary cave-home, locked from the outside world, tries to avoid any conflict and any communication with the outside world by constant sleeping. The upgrowing young child - with a typical boy's name - finds out that she/he is actually a girl, and a very curious one. She goes against all house rules. Together with a new friend, a wise insect called Bronchitis, and helped by the magic of songs and music, she finds the way out into the world while her parents angrily try to keep sleeping.
- Youth Play. The Golden Boy: It is a beautiful boy, the oldest son of the family. He wants to move, jump, and dance. At home there are only rules to keep quiet. He finds a swing and installs it near his home; he becomes a flying acrobat, to the despair of all family members who fear for his life. He learns to live and to enjoy curiosity, free of fear. After he leaves his family and wanders into the world, he has encounters with impressive, near magical personalities who show him the need of reflection, and the limits of a fearless life. More balanced, he returns home, a wiser pioneer. if we are given wings, we must fly.
- Kids for Kids project. The Stone and the Sun: The production is based on improvisations and imagination of the acting children. It is shaped as a series of movement scenes and images through which the young dancers explore the theme of existence and the struggle for life: each time in life when you've fallen down, you can and you have to stand up and start again.
- Kids for Kids project. A Wash of Colours: A girl wonders about the gap she feels between her and all people around her. All are busy of their tablets and phones. She can't make contact. She understands that all people have different interests in life, which is actually very nice, like different colours, but how to connect them? She invites them to her house, just to do their own thing, but in her room, together. She succeeds. The colours mix, they speak. A beginning is made.
- Kids for Kids project. New Day: (based on improvisations by the acting boys.) A Boy suffers from the daily family-routine imposed by his Dad. Also, his two Brothers and Mom have to live the daily "precise" schedule. Every day is the same. The Boy wants a New Day with freedom and fun. Any change he proposes is stopped by Dad. One night he dreams: they are all living a day with lots of fun, a beautiful mess. Even Dad has fun. The next day, it seems that all the family had the same dream. They cannot forget this new taste of life.
- Kids for Kids project. Live Your Nature: (inspired by the youth play "Houses of People," written by Jackie Lubeck, 2005). Three children are fighting on the battle field of three families. At all costs, they try to find their own lives. In spite of problematic parents, they insist to find love for who they are.

Success stories

- 1- After seeing the performance of TDP's play "Live Your Day", a female teacher with a group of students -from Beit Hanoun Prep Girls School A- made an initiative and took the project a step further!
She made an English interactive lesson out of the play; with her class, she translated the text to English, rehearsed the script and performed it to other students in the school. With their version of the play, the group applied to an international on-line competition called "Hands Up Projec."
They won 3rd place. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PeofGSQet3I>
- 2- After a group of schoolteachers and students from Asma' Elem Coed School visited TDP theatre and got trained by Mohammed Hissi (Deputy Artistic Director), the school principle decided to start an annual drama festival. The 2018 festival was dedicated to TDP, and representatives from UNRWA's Education Department, parents, local & international organizations attended the festival.
- 3- As TDP's 2017 campaign for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence was a huge success, many CSOs and international donors have integrated Performing Arts into their campaigns in the Gaza Strip. This year, TDP's theatre venue and theatre shows were at the center of many campaigns in Gaza (for the 16 days of activism and for celebrating Women International Day in Gaza). For Women International Day, the

storytelling play Black Light was performed twice based on requests by several CSOs. For the 2018 “16 Days Campaign” TDP cooperated with Oxfam Novib (Netherlands), EducAid and COSPE (Italy), UNESCO, and Tamasi to make a series of 5 daily campaigns. Also here, Black Light was performed to a general audience of local communities and international NGOs. Every show was followed by TED-Style talks by women activists in TDP’s program and of local women rights organizations. (photos are available on TDP’s social media).

2.2 Objective two: Skills of artists in Gaza have increased in the sector of Performing Arts and Youth Theatre

Summary:

No. of artists trained: 263

Males: 88

Females 175

Women from the community: 101

% of females: 66.5% (with counting Women from the community: 76%)

No. of civil artistic initiatives/groups formed as a result of TDP’s capacity building program: 1

Output 2.1	Value Achieved:	Activities
Technical & artistic skills & financial capacity of independent artists & groups increased/enhanced.	<p>Number of training opportunities. (i.e trainings/workshops)</p> <p>27 training opportunities:</p> <p>1 training for 2 theatre technicians (male)</p> <p>1 long term and 5 short term trainings for a total of 36 trainees (25 F/11 M)</p> <p>3 Excellence in Theatre Art trainings for graduates and professionals (4 F/ 4M)</p> <p>2 Women Cultural Leadership Trainings (30F)</p>	<p>1 training for live streaming of performances and audience debates between Gaza and abroad.</p> <p>1 long term training in TDP’s continuous 3-Year acting and drama-teaching curriculum, including assessment.</p> <p>5 short term trainings (25F/ 11M)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 animation (12 F) - 2 drama trainings (18 F/ 18 M) - 1 acting training (3 F/ 7 M) - 1 movement /dance trainings (10F/11M) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 animation (2 F) - 1 drama training (2 F/ 4 M) - 1 movement/dance trainings (2 F/2 M) <p>Cultural Leadership Trainings for 30 women in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design of cultural activities

	<p>4 Storytelling trainings (11 F)</p> <p>1 Drama and storytelling workshop for 28 Journalists (8F/ 20M)</p> <p>6 ToT trainings (61 F/ 37 M)</p> <p>5 New audiovisual trainings for Women and Youth entrepreneurship (30F/10 M)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leading debates - 2 Barometer trainings Gaza and Hebron(11F) - 2 storytelling trainings Gaza (7 F) <p>The 4 barometers reached 101 women in Gaza and Hebron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 workshop implemented by Dutch experts and TDP deputy artistic director to 28 local journalists in Gaza <p>6 trainings for school teachers for using drama & storytelling as means of education (61F/37 M)</p> <p>5 trainings for 30 F/10 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drama training - Visual content and writing coaching - Storytelling for films - Animation training - Audiovisual training for voice and character development <p>4 of TDP graduate satellites were supported:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- From Street to Street, artistic and financial support during the 3-month project and festival in Deir AL Balah (Middle Area). 2- Tejwal supported in cooperation drama project for children 3- Serb supported in cooperation drama project for children 4- Yes Theatre in facilitating and financial support for Barometer training
Output 2.2	Value Achieved:	Activities
<p>Internal capacity of Tamasi members strengthened/increased.</p>	<p>List new sources of income</p> <p>5 new sources</p> <p>No. training opportunities for staff</p> <p>6 trainings (7F/4M)</p>	<p>EU-SouthMed</p> <p>GIZ (Ger)</p> <p>UNESCO (Paris); UNESCO (Palestine)</p> <p>COSPE/EducAid (IT)</p> <p>OXFAM (NL)</p> <p>4 ongoing, year-long trainings for (7f/4M)</p> <p>- 1 financial</p>

	<p>No & type of media coverage:</p> <p>Articles</p> <p>Radio</p> <p>TV</p> <p>Social media:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 management - 1 PR -1 artistic management <p>2 Short term trainings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 M&E (2 F) - 1 marketing and distribution (1F) <p>2 articles about "Whirlwind" theatre-dance production</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link 1 - Link 2 <p>1 Article about Theatre Day Production in ThisWeekInPalestine</p> <p>Link to the announcement of the new audiovisual project</p> <p>Links to UNESCO website for winning the Sabrina Ho project for creativity</p> <p>EN , FR , ES</p> <p>1 radio coverage with the participating girls in the drama presentation at Al Abas Elem School. The drama workshop is part of TDP's annual drama festival 2018.</p> <p>1 radio interview led by Lina Mahmoud from Montecarlo Internation Arabic Radio in France. The itnerview was to give brief introduction of Theatre Day Productions and our activities for community in Gaza. The interview was part of "Daif Al Thaqafa"</p> <p>TV reportage about TDP participation in Women's International Day- by Alnajah Satellite</p> <p>Link</p> <p>Social Media</p> <p>Link 1, Link 2, Link 3, Link 4, Link 5, link 6, link 7</p>
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Reflection on the value achieved

NEW groups:

1-New female trainees in a new audiovisual training:

TDP added a new audiovisual training stream for women to its program. The training is meant to support TDP's PR department. After years of noted weakness in PR, TDP decided to start solving the problem by initiating an in-house training rather than outsourcing PR-tasks. The training will add a community serving program to Gaza's modest audio-visual and digital industry. Its focus on female trainees will help providing jobs for women in the local male dominated audiovisual and visual media industry. The training program will provide proper, professional quality PR for TDP in coming years. 30 women from Gaza joined the program, who are expected to become a pioneer group of women with PR expertise especially designed for promoting the cultural sector.

2- Training women in West Bank:

After 10 years of phase out from Hebron, TDP cooperated with Yes Theatre (TDP's satellite in Hebron) in a Barometer Training. The Barometer training is introduced for the first time to the Hebron community. A group of 4 women from Yes Theatre's advanced trainees received a training from Lisette Gast for using storytelling as an artistic instrument that reflects and measures the daily reality of peace and security of local women.

The 4 women did their first Barometer workshop in Hebron in December 2018 for a group of 20 women from refugee camps and villages. Yes Theatre will include the new barometer model in its 2019 program.

Please see [link](#)

3- Journalists as a new target group in the Gaza community:

A group of Dutch trainers with different expertise, together with TDP's Deputy Artistic Director, gave a workshop for 28 journalists in Gaza. The workshop combined drama and storytelling with stress release exercises, providing psychological support for Gaza journalists, as well as skills and tools for handling the intense emotions or physical sensations, even depression, while covering traumatic events.

Please see this [link](#)

New artists/artistic groups have benefitted from TDP's Capacity Building Program to make independent initiatives:

- 1- New Gaza satellite "From Street To Street" was established by Mohammed Ewaida (TDP graduate) and has received support from TDP in 2018. The support concerned finances, and management and logistic issues during the 3-month project. TDP hosted the final event of "From Street To Street" in the theatre, where 4 performances were implemented as a theatrical festival:

Music and songs, storytelling acted by female youth, a dance presentation, and a youth theatre production.

This satellite consists of a diverse group of artists. They decided to devote their skills and capacities to society development in Deir AL Balah by working with different age groups of children, youth, and women.

Although the area of Deir AL Balah is less than 15 km², it includes 4 refugee camps¹, with an underserved, or completely unserved population of refugees living in dire conditions, including high unemployment rates, unprotected environment, lack of fresh water supply, and an

¹ Nuseirat Camp and Bureij Camp to the north, Maghazi Camp, and Beir el Balah Camp

unpredictable power supply. Health conditions of children and families as such are at risk. “From Street To Street” provided a project training kids to use drama, raise awareness about the environment and about personal hygiene. “From Street to Street” aims at helping Palestinian kids and youth to influence their future and to act as agents of change using performing arts and free expression.

2- Tejwal and Serb (groups formed by TDP curriculum graduates) have worked in several drama projects and trainings in 2018. The drama projects provided them with on-the-job advanced training by TDP’s artistic Gaza team. And from their side, they assisted TDP’s first and second year trainees in their workshops with children in developing, planning and creating scenes based on children’s own stories and fantasies. Some of Tejwal’s and Serb’s artists joined TDP’s advanced trainings when international teachers came to Gaza.

Challenges:

With the worsening humanitarian situation in the enclave, a huge number of Arab and Western donor countries are refraining from funding development projects in Gaza. Even the financing of immediate emergency aid interference, especially those of UNRWA, is at risk. Many NGOs – as a result – lost part of their donors and have to deal with a budget deficit. TDP is one of those NGOs! For the first time in our 23-year history, in January 2018, we started with a budget deficit that forced us to make an immediate 20% budget cut, leaving little space for: (1) capacity building with international trainers, and (2) wide spreading the geographical scope of the activities.

Successfully, TDP was able to find some new donors for 2019 program: Drosos and UNESCO.

Efforts for finding new sources of income for 2020-2022 is undergoing.

Success stories:

-1 As part of their on-the-job training, a group of 30 women from within TDP’s new digital-audiovisual team made tremendous contribution for the online 16 Days of Activism Campaign. They were able to connect to a large audience spreading across the globe! They have created a special hashtag for TDP, in addition to the known hashtags related to the campaign.

-2 Quality training strengthens the performing arts sector: after the Local Director of Drosos visited a drama workshop in Rafah, she was fascinated by the artistic skills of TDP’s drama teachers (drama curriculum graduates), and the instant impact on our drama children. This experience became an important motive to recommend TDP to Drosos’ funding committee in Switzerland. We are proud to say that TDP was approved by the committee and a new funding will start in 2019 until 2022. As such, TDP will be able to continue to provide artists with capacity building program for more years.

-The status of performing arts in Gaza was raised when local and international NGOs decided that performing arts should be at the center of their campaigns for gender equality and human rights. And with this fact, the importance and status of female storytellers trained by TDP was lifted. The female acting team of TDP, and the storytelling productions they were part of, were accepted as necessary elements in campaigns and social processes to produce change (e.g: 16 days and women international day).

UNPLANNED: TDP started a Creative Hub among Gaza youth community.

Guided by its vision, TDP established a new safe space for youth: we called it the “Creative Hub”. The Hub was equipped with sets, art supplies, décor, craft, props, audio-visual devices and tools for the youth activities. 40 new youth joined the hub and got several artistic and soft-skills trainings.

By the end of 2018, the hub hosted several cultural activities for music and theatre, and also sponsored 3 initiatives.

3 Cross-cutting issues

Gender equality

In 2018, there was an additional stream added to TDP's capacity building program. The program included a number of trainings and workshops with rightly focused much attention on closing the gender gaps in the audiovisual sector- in Gaza. The methodology used allowed 30 female trainees to learn from their peers' and professional trainers' experience, both mistakes and successes. It was an opportunity for the trainees to acquire new artistic competencies.

Because the empowerment of women in both the society and the audiovisual sector is a long and difficult process, this stream will continue until the end of 2020, in cooperation with the UNESCO

Promotion of the protection of the environment in the project

According to TDP's overall operation policy, environmentally-friendly approach in planning and implementing of all the activities is a must. Some examples:

Energy saving by wise minimizing the use of electricity in office.

Cutting down to possible minimum all the paper printing.

Management of waste (5 R's rule) in the office and during creation of decor, costumes, and scenery.

Fostering environmentally-friendly culture: A. Our free expression workshops aim at finding innovative ways to awaken children's and youth minds to acute environmental problems in Gaza and thus encourage them to be creative and reuse, reduce, and recycle for a better future. B. Anti-smoking campaigning: restrictions for smokers inside TDP office; awareness for youth as part of TDP's activities.

External Evaluation

TDP is in the process of finalizing the external evaluation for one of our long-term donors: Bread for the World (BftW). We have developed a ToR for the work implemented and the results achieved since the commencement of this project (January 1st, 2017 – present). The ToR was approved by BftW, and as such, was posted for 3 weeks on many online platforms.

5 evaluation offers were received. The Procurement Committee and TDP's management were responsible for scoring applicant offers according to the pre-determined criteria and the ToR.

Finally, "**Level 5 Consulting Group**" was selected to do the evaluation.

Immediately upon assignment, the Level 5 and TDP's pertinent staff held an initial meeting to review the scope of work within the ToR and agreed on the evaluation's methodologies. BftW agreed with choice of evaluator and chosen methodology. The evaluator's Inception Report was approved by TDP; BftW confirmed per email (Mr. Jens Halve) on 18-12-2018.

The evaluation is now being finalized and soon will be shared with BftW and pertinent stakeholders.

Narrative report prepared by: Tania Murtaja and Jan Willems

Finances prepared by: Rania Shawa, Francis Tams, BDO auditors