



# NOIVA Education Initiative

Educational initiatives "learn2live" and "arab-UP", a tutoring service in Mafraq JOR implemented by Stiftung NOIVA.

Project duration: May 2022 - April 2023, 12 months

## Situation

Many refugee children in Jordan cannot read. They go to school, but benefit little from the lessons. There are many reasons for this: unmotivated, overburdened teachers, overcrowded classes, old teaching methods and teaching aids, missed school years in Syria, trauma-related blockages, child labor, fear of harassment on the way to school, lack of educational awareness, etc.

Since many Syrians cannot afford to send their children to kindergarten, children arrive at first grade unprepared and fall behind within the first year. As a result, there is a large number of illiterate students among Syrian refugees.

According to a recent World Bank report (June 2021) more than **„half of children in countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) experience “learning poverty”—they cannot read and understand an age-appropriate text by age 10.“**

Further the article states: **„The approach to best teach Arabic language to young native speakers needs strengthening. Children are taught to read and write in a rigid way with a focus on rules, grammar, and accuracy. Children also experience a lack of playfulness and inquiry that are needed to fully engage them in literacy learning.“**

The situation has been getting worse through the COVID-19 crisis and the resulting measures taken by the Jordanian government. The crisis has placed an extreme strain on education in Jordan for both Jordanians and Syrians. For several months there were no classes at all. After that classes were held online only. For underprivileged Jordanians and Syrians, this made access to education extremely difficult to impossible (limited access to smartphones, computers, etc.).

## Project description "learn2live"

The idea behind "learn2live" is to gather a small group of mostly Syrian children that are taught by unemployed mothers and fathers of Jordanian or Syrian origin at their homes. The learning groups are mixed in age. In addition to reading, writing and mathematics, both girls and boys benefit from trauma processing, the promotion of social skills and support in personality development. Twice a year, the children of all learning groups are invited to a project week, which focuses on fun and games, sports, music, art and practical skills in topics such as hygiene, first aid and health. Today "learn2live" is made up of 8 learning coaches and 80 children. A learning group consists of about 10 children and meets 4 times a week for two hours at the learning coach's home. The goal is to get the children ready for school or to accompany and support them in addition to school.

## Goals "learn2live"

Empowering underprivileged children: "learn2live" supports children in their educational, social and psychological development. Children who have missed school for various reasons are thus prepared to return to their age-appropriate level of schooling and build an important foundation for their future.

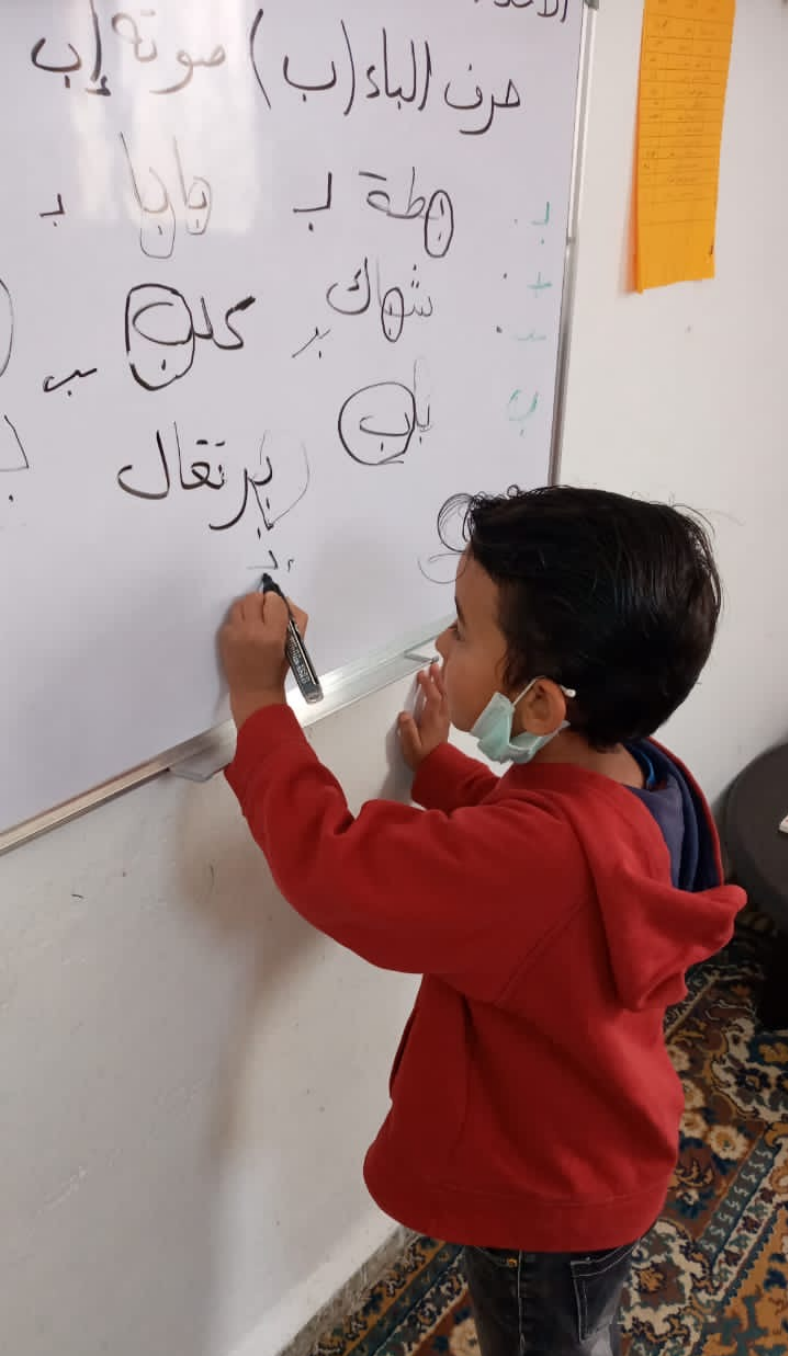
Raising awareness: The goal of "learn2live" is to raise parents' awareness of education by regularly contacting parents and offering presentations on various topics related to education.

Creating Healthy Communities: In addition to the educational focus, one of the main focuses of "learn2live" is to create a healthy social environment for all participants in the program. Learning facilitators, students, and parents are encouraged to develop and improve their social, emotional, and relationship skills through various approaches during the programs.

## Project description "arab-UP"

"arab-UP" is an additional tutoring program for Syrian and Jordanian children in Jordan. "arab-UP" provides Syrian and Jordanian children with additional Arabic lessons. The program is aimed at 1st and 2nd grade children. These children are taught Arabic in 14 small groups (about 10 children per group) by unemployed mothers and fathers three times a week in addition to their school lessons. The tutors are trained and supervised by NOIVA staff and learn2live learning facilitators. The lessons take place in the respective homes of the tutors. The teaching material is provided and introduced by NOIVA and experienced learn2live learning coaches. The tutors are compensated by NOIVA for their work.







## Goals "arab-UP

To implement a quick and uncomplicated additional tutoring service in Arabic for children starting school, in order to help children as they begin their schooling.

Create job opportunities for eight Jordanian or Syrian women/men.

To strengthen children in their social, emotional and psychological development and impact children, families and whole communities with conflict resolution and peace-building strategies.

## learn2live - Project results

A successfully running project for 6 years: The "learn2live" project was initiated in January 2016. Already more than 500 children have benefited from this additional educational offer. In addition, numerous creative weeks and excursions were carried out with the children and learning coaches.

Improvement of the children's school performance: Verbal feedback from the public schools shows that the "learn2live" participants achieve noticeably better school results. Meanwhile, the project is well known in Mafrq and families are asking to enroll their children.

Job opportunity for refugees: The learning coaches are paid monthly by NOIVA for their work with the children. This allows them to contribute significantly to the livelihood of their own families. The responsibility and dignity that is given back to them through their work improves their own mental and physical condition and brings back hope and courage to face life despite the difficult circumstances.



## Success stories - "Arab-UP"

The first learning groups „Arab-Up“ started in 2020 in Mafraq (JOR) when eight new tutors were trained and provided with the necessary material to start the project.

Since then around 180 children have been benefitting from an ongoing Arabic tutoring support. There are many feedbacks of parents and even teachers that realise the improvement of the children's linguistic and personal progress. In regular intervals, all tutors are being trained on educational and personal development topics and benefit from the holistic approach of educating children.

Due to high demand five tutors were able to open a second class.

## Budget

The costs of the educational initiatives "learn2live" and "arab-UP" in Mafraq amount to 72'400 JOD. This includes salaries, transportation, administration, teaching materials, consumables, training materials, basic equipment for the tutors and learning coaches, camps and excursions, etc. On the following page is the breakdown of the overall costs.



## BUDGET - educational programs 'learn2live' and 'arabup' in Mafraq

### initial costs and project costs with a duration of one year

children per learning group			10
number of learning groups	11 groups learn2live, 10 groups arabUP		21
children total	110 groups learn2live, 100 groups arabUP		210
number of tutors			21
exchange rate	JOD - CHF (14.03.2022)		1.3182
exchange rate	JOD - USD (14.03.2022)		1.4104
exchange rate	CHF - USD (14.03.2022)		1.0638
<b>initial investment</b>	classroom equipment	whiteboard, drawer rack, carpet, insolation heater / gas bottle	600.00 JOD 400.00 JOD <b>1000.00 JOD</b>
<b>human resources</b>	program coordinator	10% employment	4800.00 JOD
	project field officer	100% employment	9600.00 JOD
	10 educational facilitators learn2live	volunteer compensation	20400.00 JOD
	10 educational facilitators arabUP	volunteer compensation	8700.00 JOD
			<b>43500.00 JOD</b>
<b>operational costs</b>	project volunteer salaries	translation, safety and protection, evaluation and monitoring	300.00 JOD
	car renting		4100.00 JOD
	fuel allowance		1400.00 JOD
	offices/center renting		1700.00 JOD
	bills (water, electricity, internet)		200.00 JOD
	work phones		100.00 JOD
	stationery and office supplies		500.00 JOD
	heating	gas - 35 JOD per tutor (one gas filling per month during 5 month per teacher)	700.00 JOD
	other	corona health standards (masks, higeene...) editing, proofreading educational material design educational material cunsultation educational material	400.00 JOD 600.00 JOD 400.00 JOD 300.00 JOD <b>10700.00 JOD</b>
<b>activity</b>	educational material	printings educational and training materials	300.00 JOD 3700.00 JOD 800.00 JOD
	consumables		800.00 JOD
	transportation allowance volunteers	teachers make visits to other classes	1600.00 JOD
	teacher training	snacks	100.00 JOD
	healthy food bag	healthy snack for students (vegetables / fruits) 220 students	4000.00 JOD
		logistics	1000.00 JOD
	Special Events	Trip 1: 110 kids - learn2live (9 JOD per kid) Trip 2: 100 kids - arabUP (9 JOD per kid) Special week: 100 kids - arabUP (12 JOD per kid) Creative week: 110 kids - learn2live (12 JOD per kid) Sports week: 110 kids - learn2live (12 JOD per kid)	1000.00 JOD 900.00 JOD 1200.00 JOD 1300.00 JOD 1300.00 JOD <b>17200.00 JOD</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>72400.00 JOD</b>
thereof initial investment			1000.00 JOD
thereof monthly costs	human resources		3625.00 JOD
	operational costs		891.67 JOD
	activity costs		1433.33 JOD
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5950.00 JOD</b>
TOTAL costs	without initial investement		71400.00 JOD
already funded			36.00 %
not yet funded			64.00 %
<b>already funded:</b>	NOIVA	private donors	21200.00 JOD
	25% of salary program coordinator	private donors	1200.00 JOD
	BILD hilft e.V. „Ein Herz für Kinder“		3600.00 JOD



## NOVIA - what others say about us

Of all the aid organizations, NOVIA is very special to me. NOVIA stands for hope and for new life. NOVIA not only gives money, but also dignity. People are starting to dream again. Now I want to use every moment of my life to plant seeds of joy in the lives of others. Many organizations give us money. But is that enough? Certainly, money can solve many problems, but money alone is not enough. It takes hope that makes faces shine with joy. It needs a hand and a heart. It takes a lot of love and patience to encourage people to live again. Many homes are very dark, but there is light! No matter how unjustly we have been treated, we need to forgive, forget and love each other to end our lives with a lit candle.

*Choulud, Learning Coach with NOVIA since 2016*

The connection I have seen between the Swiss volunteers and the Syrian children despite the language barriers - despite the different backgrounds, even the different economic backgrounds, really speaks of the power of individuals to be a catalyst for change in another life. I know the slogan that NOVIA has adopted: "shaping worlds of peace." It is an impressive experience to see how individuals really have the power to do this.

*Philemon G Haile, Sports and Recreation Project Assistant IRD*

Since you started visiting us in our home, everything has changed. You have brought hope and confidence back to us. You have let us know that we are not alone.

*OmYazan, Syrian mother of 5 children in Mafraq*

Noiva takes a holistic approach to looking outside the box to address problems and care for people in crisis.

*Uschi Sortisch, Swiss volunteer with NOVIA in October 2017*

## about NOIVA

NOIVA is a non-profit foundation that was founded in Winterthur (CH) in 2010 and is currently mainly active in the Middle East - with a focus on Jordan. Its mission is twofold, namely ...

### ... Humanitarian Aid

As a non-governmental organization (NGO), NOIVA supports threatened population groups on several levels: It organizes emergency aid in crisis areas, but also strives for long-term development aid measures where there is a lack of jobs, schools, children's homes, etc. NOIVA is convinced that, in the sense of sustainable "help for self-help", it is indispensable to promote the local economy through initiatives, investments and know-how.

Currently, the following projects are carried out on a regular basis: Home visits, school-based learning for children, mobile dental clinic, repairing and improving shelters, women's and mothers' counseling, children's programs, sports

projects, creative workshops and computer courses.

### ... Reconciliation Work

Unfortunately, the deep-rooted conflicts in the Middle East region continue to undermine decisive progress. For us, this means that material support is important, but it does not solve the core problem. For this reason, NOIVA also initiates cross-group, cross-ethnic and cross-border projects, for example in business, education and the arts. Through direct contacts, fear of contact and prejudices are reduced; instead, mutual trust can grow step by step. Behind this commitment is the conviction that a culture of reconciliation and friendship will form the basis for a new togetherness in the Middle East.

The slogan "Shaping Worlds of Peace" puts into words what NOIVA's main goal is: to bring about peace - at all levels and by all means.





## Contact

**Address:**

NOIVA Foundation Grüzefeldstrasse 32  
CH-8400 Winterthur Switzerland

**Contact person:**

Anna Winkler  
Email: [anna.winkler@noiva.ch](mailto:anna.winkler@noiva.ch)

**Further information:**

[www.noiva.ch/projekte/arab-up/](http://www.noiva.ch/projekte/arab-up/)  
[facebook.com/noiva.ch](https://facebook.com/noiva.ch)

**Bank details for donations:**

Bank: Valiant Bank AG, 3001 Bern Address:  
NOIVA Foundation, Grüzefeldstrasse 32,  
8400 Winterthur, Switzerland

IBAN: CH82 0630 0430 2449 3541 0  
Account no.: 30-38112-0  
BIC/SWIFT: VABECH22XXX

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Jordan Education Initiative - Mafrag

