



UNITE
LEBANON
YOUTH
PROJECT

IMPACT REPORT

2023





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Welcome Note

Education is not a privilege; it is a fundamental human right. It is the key that unlocks the door to all other rights and freedoms. Through education, we learn to respect and uphold the rights of others.

At ULYP, we strongly believe that the trajectory of today's education defines the trajectory of opportunities in the future. It is, therefore, our duty to ensure that every individual has access to quality education, regardless of their background. Education is a powerful force for change, fostering inclusivity and breaking down barriers.

In 2023, Lebanon continued to face the relentless ongoing crisis rendering access to education, especially quality education, increasingly scarce. This disproportionately affected the children, youth, and women in the communities we serve. The right to education became a privilege; an unattainable one. This is deeply concerning, as education is the cornerstone of progress, shaping the values, knowledge, and skills of future generations.

Despite the challenges of 2023, our commitment remained unwavering. We witnessed anxiety, fear, and hopelessness among the youth we serve, but we stayed focused on our mission. In times of uncertainty, investing in education may seem less urgent, but the need has never been greater. The impact of the crisis on the disadvantaged youth we support has been devastating.

Staying motivated and on track was not easy for our beneficiaries, nor for our dedicated team. However, we prioritized our responsibility to our target communities without compromising the quality of our work or our performance standards. Simultaneously, we remained dedicated to meeting the expectations of our donors with professionalism and efficiency.

We are both pleased to report that we have never been prouder of our team and the monumental effort everyone contributed so that ULYP could successfully mitigate these challenges. The joint effort of everyone supporting and working with ULYP rendered 2023 another impactful ULYP year. This impact validated, yet again, that our 852 ULYP graduates who have become global citizens spread over 46 countries, working and/or studying, are the living proof of the transformative power of education.

We are deeply grateful for the support we received throughout the past year. Without it, staying on the right path would have been impossible. As we embark on our journey in 2024 and beyond, we remain committed to making a difference, changing lives, and realizing the right to quality education for all.

Respectfully yours,

Melek El Nimer | Nicole Eid Abuhaydar
Founder | Executive Director

MEET ULYP

Who We Are

Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP) is a non-profit organization (NGO #134) established in 2010 to propel a paradigm shift in Lebanon, from a nation that is divided along religious, political, socio-economic, and ethnic lines to one where people can co-exist, unite, and work together for a better future. ULYP does this through creating educational opportunities and giving equal access to quality educational programs to children, youth, and women in the marginalized communities. ULYP's programs raise general awareness on mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance of the other to create a dialogue of peace.

Our Vision

Our vision is a united Lebanon where everyone has equal access to success and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our Mission

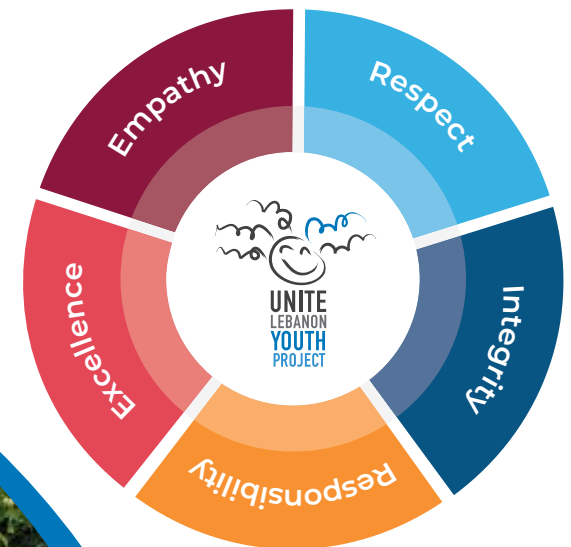
Our mission is to empower the marginalized children, youth, and women living in Lebanon TODAY with the skills and knowledge they need to change and become active agents of change for a better tomorrow, without any discrimination.

Our philosophy

Education is a right and giving equal access to effective and quality education is our obligation. This is the foundation upon which ULYP builds its programs. It is the responsibility of governments and other organizations to ensure that every child practice this right. At ULYP, we take this responsibility seriously and work towards filling the gap in the existing educational system to make this happen.

Our decision to focus on education stems from our conviction that education, and only education, has the powerful and pivotal role to improve lives. The children and youth of today are our future. The more we can empower them with effective education, the better leaders, parents, businessmen and women, artists, doctors and teachers they will become tomorrow.

Our Core Values



IMPACT ON CHILDREN & YOUNG ADOLESCENTS IN PRESCHOOLS & SCHOOLS

The first few years of the educational journey can be compared to the first stride a person takes in life, and as the saying goes, it is impossible for one to run without first learning how to walk.

It is during these formative years that children build their foundation; the stronger it is the higher the chances for success in the later years. Sadly, and due to many factors, the quality offered to the children in the vulnerable communities remains poor and this, in turn, increase their risk of dropping out of schools and adopting negative coping mechanisms like child labor and early marriage.

This is also true for the youth in the last cycle in the Lebanese system which comprises of grades 10, 11 and 12. During these years, the students who did not drop out and/or join the labor market, go through the demanding three-year program until they pass the Baccalaureate II exams and graduate from schools. Of those who make it thus far, not many are prepared enough with credentials that make them eligible to pursue tertiary education.

ULYP steps in and implements its scaffolding strategy for this age group to rekindle their self-confidence and motivation to remain, and succeed, at school. Just like in engineering, where scaffolding is built around structures for support until these are strong enough to stand on their own, ULYP scaffolds the education of these students and fills in the gap until they become self-sufficient, able to build a strong foundation and eventually capable to pursue their long-term vision of enrolling in tertiary and vocational programs.



ULYP's commitment to the right of all children to access quality education, along with the observation of the recent deterioration of access and quality, translated into further customizing and growing the reach of the programs we offer to preschool, elementary and secondary children.



Bringing Childhood Back to Children

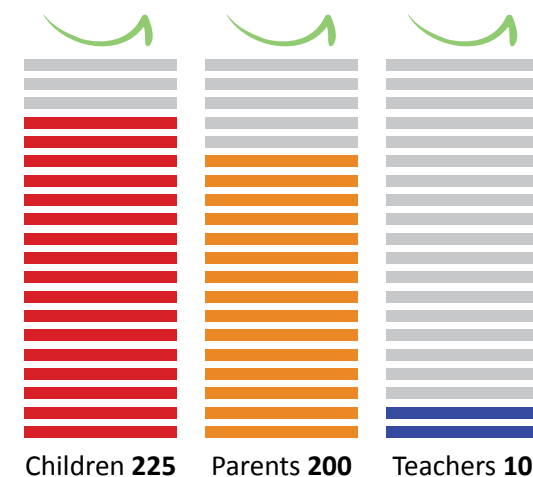
Research on the value of early childhood education unequivocally demonstrates that the preschool years are critical for children's learning, establishing the foundation for later academic and social success. Preschool programs are the first exposure children have to interact with their peers and adults outside of their circle of family and friends, to develop effective learning habits and to socialize in a safe school environment.

ULYP created its Healthy Alternative Program for Preschoolers Yearlong (HAPPY) in 2011, a year after its foundation, and after ULYP observed that the youth it was working with lacked basic skills like creativity, curiosity, critical thinking and language dexterity. The decision was made to stretch our target age group and work with the younger children in our effort to *"catch them before they fall."*

Most of the **HAPPY** children we served in 2023 came to us exhibiting academic and social performance lower than the average; unsurprisingly given the context of Lebanon. ULYP customized its program for the children ages 4-6 to meet the growing gap and include more intensive activities to release stress, build confidence and give childhood back to these children.

HAPPY also takes into consideration the crucial role that the teachers and mothers play in the development of the children and embeds within its approach hands-on training for the teachers and awareness sessions for the mothers in an effort to further their understanding of the children's cognitive, social, physical and emotional needs in order to sustain the long-term impact of this short-term intervention and benefit siblings at home.

2023 Impact in numbers



Supported by the Beit Jiddi Foundation- Holland





Spreading Hope and Reviving Education The **SHARE** program

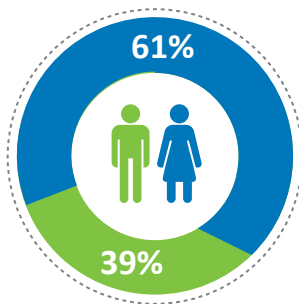
Elementary and Middle school children, particularly vulnerable children, are often not given the opportunity to reach their full potential to excel physically, creatively, and intellectually. Lack of adequate resources, limited access to quality services, and flawed implementation all contribute to jeopardizing school enrollment and increasing the risk of dropping out; issues that in 2023 were only made worse.

The **SHARE** program (Spreading Hope and Reviving Education) is a long-running program that addresses these concerns and works with the children to help them believe in themselves, grow and become life-long learners. **SHARE** builds children's self-esteem, persistence and ability to bounce back from adversity.

In 2023, **SHARE** grew to target not only Palestinian elementary and middle-school students living in and around the Shatila camp, but also those in the Burj el Barajneh camp too. The program is now implemented in two satellite centers and hosted at Social Support Society venues on weekly basis. The children also engage in the curricular and co-curricular activities on the ULYP campus on monthly basis and go on a field trip to enrich their experience and broaden their horizons.

SHARE also engages the parents, mothers and fathers, who participate in parent awareness sessions which contributes directly to their ability to develop skills for building a culture of learning at home.

2023 Impact in numbers Children 190 | Parents 120



Supported by the Beit Jiddi Foundation- Holland



CHANGE ...starts with education

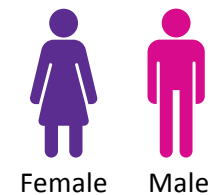
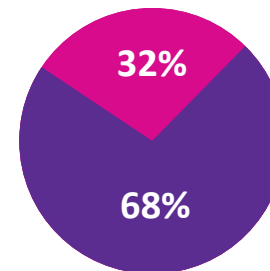
With its slogan, "**Change starts with education**", the **CHANGE** program works with vulnerable youth in Lebanon who often fail to see a path forward to tertiary education.

The target youth of this program are not only high achievers at schools, but also those who have the potential to perform well at school yet, for a variety of reasons beyond their control, remain under-performing.

CHANGE works with the youth for 14 months during their final year at secondary education to scaffold them in the process of building tools for improved self-confidence and upgraded academic performance, especially in English and Math, and engage them in university counselling sessions.

CHANGE is ongoing in 2023 and has already proven that redirecting paths towards university education is possible.

2023 Impact in numbers 160



Funded by the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund



IMPACT ON YOUTH AT UNIVERSITIES & BEYOND

Universities are transformative, shaping individuals by imparting knowledge, fostering critical thinking, and promoting personal growth. To ULYP, university education is more than the next level in the learning process; it is a critical component of human development. It opens doors to increased livelihoods and plays a crucial role in shaping individuals, societies, and even global progress. University education equips individuals with the skills and perspectives needed for successful careers, meaningful contributions to society, and fulfilling lives.

Accessing university education is limited for the youth from our target communities, and most, if not all, cannot afford the financial obligations. We ensure that deserving students have the financial support they need to pursue higher education.

As such, we work hard to find ways for youth to access tertiary education and succeed at it. Moreover, we are cognizant of the requirements and needs of today’s marketplace and the gap that sometimes exists between these and the graduates’ skills. Recognizing this challenge, we have extended our services to include two upskilling programs, further broadening horizons and increasing opportunities for acquiring specialized skills to secure employment.

In 2023, our efforts for this age group reaped positive results and continue to serve as the main driver towards growth, employment, and an overall better future for the youth we support.



BRIDGE is ULYP’s longest-running program and has witnessed remarkable growth over the 14 years since ULYP’s inception. From a humble beginning with just nine graduates in 2013, we now take pride in over 850.

With ULYP’s unwavering conviction that education is the most powerful tool to improve lives, the journey with the BRIDGE program commences with the University Preparatory Course (UPC), which targets top achievers in grade 10 annually and works with them for a period of 24 months. UPC focuses on preparing the participants to sit for university entrance exams, including the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and in parallel, empowering them to make informed decisions through comprehensive guidance and counseling sessions.

Once enrollment is secured at universities, phase two of the BRIDGE program is launched whereby selected students benefit from our extensive follow-up system, ensuring that they thrive in their academic pursuits and personal growth. In parallel, BRIDGE offers and manages the financial assistance required.

Upon graduation, BRIDGE continues its journey with the students and nurtures them through connecting them with other alumni, and providing them access to ULYP’s vast database of employment and post-graduate study opportunities. This holistic approach brings our work full circle, reinforcing our commitment to lifelong success.

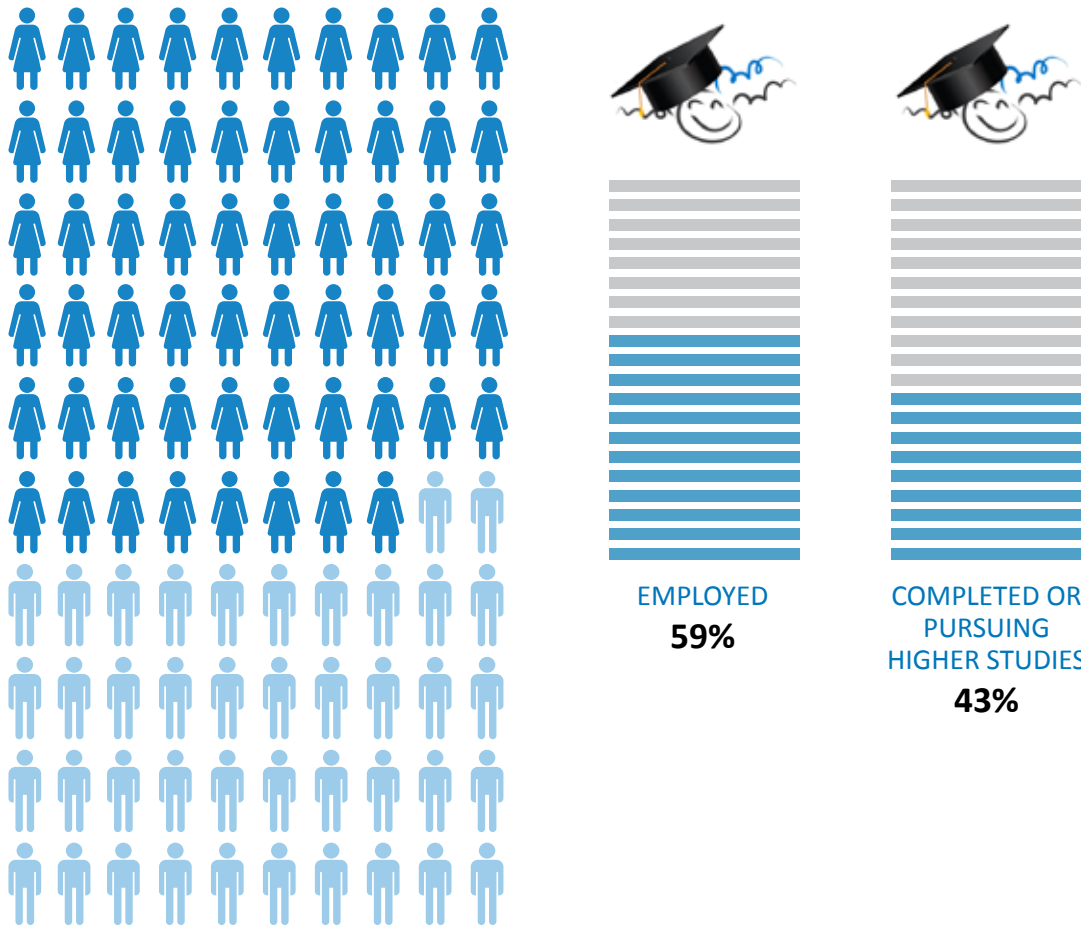
Ultimately, ULYP’s BRIDGE program equips students with the transformative power of education; the one tool that has the potential to reshape their lives and unlock infinite possibilities.

2023 impact in numbers UPC 400 | Bridge Scholarships 282

The UPC component of Bridge is supported by Al-Jana, Arab Resources Center for Popular Art (ARCPA) and UNICEF

The scholarship component of Bridge is supported by various universities, foundations, governments and individual donors

BRIDGE alumni to date 852



58% Females | 42% Males

ULYP GRADUATES SPREAD

AROUND THE GLOBE



The **ULYP** graduates and current students are spread over 47 countries. These are:

Angola
Australia
Bahrain
Belarus
Belgium
Bulgaria

Canada
Croatia
Congo
Denmark
Dominica
Egypt

France
Germany
Ghana
Hungary
Indonesia
Iraq

Ireland
Italy
Jordan
KSA
Kuwait
Lithuania

Lebanon
Malta
Netherlands
Nigeria
Northern Cyprus
Norway

Oman
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Russia

South Africa
Spain
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria

Turkey
UAE
UK
Ukraine
USA

THE MAJORS & MINORS OUR STUDENTS ARE PURSUING

AT UNIVERSITIES HAVE GROWN TO NOW INCLUDE...

Industrial Engineering	Information Technology Management	Accounting	Accounting & Auditing	Accounting & Finance	Accounting Information System		English Language Teaching	English Literature	Environmental Health Sciences	Fashion Design	Finance	Forensic Science
Actuarial Science	Agriculture	Applied Mathematics	Arabic & Near Eastern Languages	Arabic Literature	Architectural Engineering		French	Global Health	Graphic Design	Guidance & Psychological Counseling	Health Management	Hospitality & Tourism Management
Art & Interior Planning	Banking & Finance	Bio & Genetics	Biochemistry	Bioengineering	Bioinformatics		Human Resource Management	Inform. Tech. & Operat. Mgmt.	Interior Architecture	Interior Design	International Affairs	International Law
Biological Sciences	Biology	Biomedical Engineering & Genetics	Biomedical Engineering, Nanomedicine & Tissue Engineering	Business Administration	Business Information & Decision Systems (BIDS)		Journalism	Landscape Architecture	Management Information Systems	Marketing & Advertising	Mechanical Engineering	Mechatronics Engineering
Business Management	Chemical Engineering	Chemistry	Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE)	Civil Engineering	Clinical Lab Science		Media & Communication	Medical Audiology Sciences	Medical Imaging Science	Medical Laboratory Sciences	Medicine	Molecular Biology & Genetics
Communication & Electronics Engineering	Communication Arts & Media	Computational Biology	Computational Science	Computer Engineering	Computer Science		Nursing	Nutrition & Dietetics	Optics & Optometry	Petroleum & Natural Gas Engineering	Pharmacy	Philosophy
Creative Writing	Data Analytics	Dentistry	Economics	Education	Electrical Computer Engineering (ECE)		Physical Therapy	Physics	Political Science/ International Affairs	Psychology	Public Health	Radio & Television
Electrical Engineering	Electrical Power & Machines Engineering	Elementary Education	Energy Systems Engineering	Engineering Management	English Language		Radiologic Sciences	Social Policy	Social Work	Sociology & Anthropology	Software Engineering	Translation
											Urban Design & Landscape Architecture	

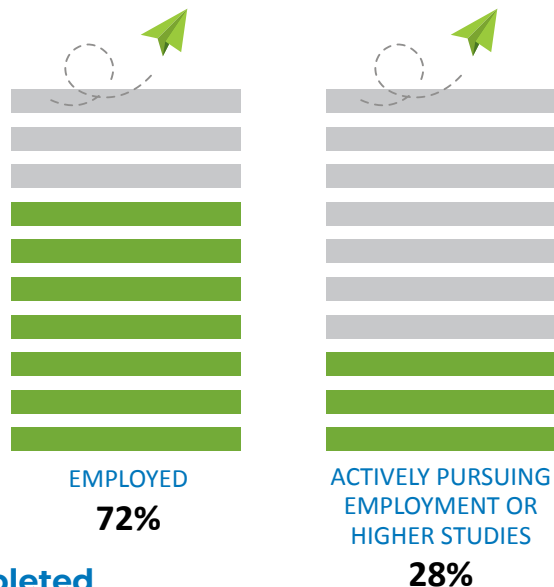
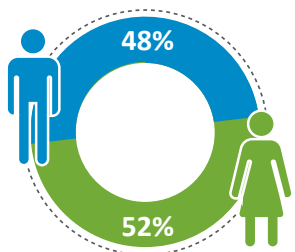
FLY For the Livelihood of Youth

2023 witnessed the conclusion of the FLY (For the Livelihood of Youth) program graduating 145 youth with diplomas issued by different universities including UMASS, CALTECH and PURDUE. The students pursued the online intensive boot camps over a period ranging between 5-9 months on the SIMPLILEARN platform, the #1 service provider for these courses.

The program contributed to an improved alignment between the qualifications of the youth with the needs of today's job market.

It also provided the much-needed tools for learning, including laptops, to 93 of our BRIDGE students. The impact of this program validated the pivotal role of education in securing livelihoods.

2023 Impact in numbers 143



FLY Post Graduate Programs Completed



Supported by the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund

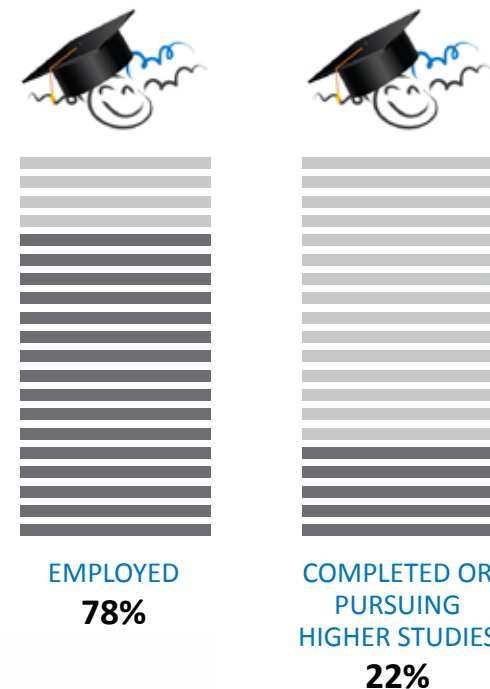
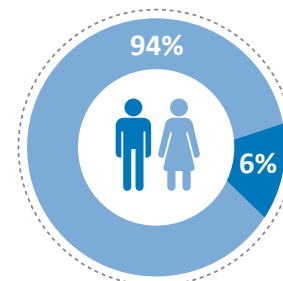
Specialized Diploma Program

With the goal of offering university graduates the opportunity to acquire more advanced skills through additional education, ULYP enrolled **117** youth in one of the following three programs: Teaching Diploma, Doctor of Physical Therapy, and Dietetics Coordinated Program.

The impact of this intervention is significant whereby 88% of the graduates are now either working or pursuing higher studies; opportunities that were made possible because of these diplomas.

ULYP is planning on further growing the Teaching Diploma program and will be actively applying for support and funding in 2024.

2023 Impact in numbers 117



Specialized Diplomas Completed



Supported by the Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund

AMPLIFYING IMPACT

ULYP'S WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

ULYP places great importance on sustaining the alignment between its impactful message and the transformative change it catalyzes, recognizing the crucial role of communities, especially the homes of children and youth, in fostering a shared value for education. By incorporating teacher and parent sessions into its programs, ULYP ensures a harmonized narrative between home and school, establishing a supportive framework around the children.

This strategic approach not only engages parents as active partners in their children's education but also empowers them to apply newfound knowledge within their households. Simultaneously, teachers from these communities, accompanying the children to ULYP programs, gain exposure to diverse teaching methodologies benefiting all their students. ULYP's conviction lies in the belief that enhancing the skills of teachers and parents extends a profound impact on the community.

In 2023, this concerted effort has directly impacted the total of **330 parents and teachers**, demonstrating the organization's commitment to holistic community development.

THE ULYP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

ULYP's Board of Trustees continues to serve as the legislative body of the organization responsible for the safekeeping of its mission and purpose. The BOT members meet regularly and support ULYP in many ways including financially, making decisions on policies, approving the budget, supporting fund-raising efforts and events, and guiding ULYP in legal and safety issues.

We are appreciative of their time, counsel and effort.

As of 2023, the **ULYP BOT** members are:

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Adalat Nakkash | Nora Abusitta |
| Elias Baz | Rana Hadid |
| Hanna Nassar | Rula Alami |
| Melek El Nimer | Salma El Yassir |
| Mohammaed Mattar | Youssef El Zein |
| Nada Kiblawi | |

THE ULYP CAMPUS

ULYP's campus, bequeathed by the Nimer Family at ULYP's inception in memory of the late Rifaat Nimer, remains to be the home of most of our programs and a safe learning space offering an opportunity to the children, youth and women we serve to access quality space and exercise their right to quality education. It is a unique space that ULYP is fortunate to have.

In 2023, ULYP focused on ensuring the campus remains safe and environment friendly. Several improvements were implemented to upgrade the basketball court and address the wear and tear issues in some of the classrooms. The campus continues to operate largely on solar energy and we are hoping to further reduce the reliance on generators by pivoting the whole space to alternative energy.

Other than the 4,742 ULYP beneficiaries who engaged in activities on the campus in 2023, ULYP hosted another 1,395 guests who rented the space for their own activities. The income generated from renting out the campus is crucial for ULYP's sustainability and covering maintenance costs.

The campus upgrading was made possible by grants from:

*The Jerusalem Fund for Education
and Community Development*

GAME LEBANON



A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS, FUNDERS & PARTNERS 2010-2023

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- Abu Ghazaleh Family
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- Ahmad Kailani
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- Mohammed Abdul Jalil Al Fahim
- Muna Al Gurg
- Muna Ibrahim Mohammed Al Mousa
- Muna Taryam
- Munir Kaloti
- Munira Yabroudi
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- Nada al Awar
- Nada Safa
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- Rami & Rajaa Aslan
- Rami El Nimer
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- Suheir Taha Hassiba
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- Suzan Atari
- Tamim & Lamis Sahli
- Tayseer Barakat
- Wajih & Adalat Nakkash
- Yusef & Lina Abu Khadra
- Zafer & Tonia Chaoui
- Zeinab Al Madhoun
- Zeynep Ozturk
- Ziyad Alami

ORGANIZATIONS, CORPORATIONS, GOVERNMENTS & EMBASSIES

- Abdul Aziz Al Ghurair Refugee Education Fund
- Al Jana Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts
- Alumni Community Action Grant | Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
- American Women's Club
- Americans for Children of the Middle East (ACME)
- Arab American Institute
- Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development
- Asfari Foundation
- Australian Direct Aid Program
- Bank Audi
- Barakabits
- Beb w' shebbek
- Beirut Marathon Association
- Beit Jiddi Foundation
- Blue Rose Compass
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
- Ciment de Sibling S.A.L.
- Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC)
- CSC Bank S.A.L.
- Culture and Science Foundation
- Dar Al-Handaseh
- Daughters for Life Foundation
- Debbs Foundation
- European Union (EU)
- Fidelity Assurance & Reinsurance Co. S.A.L.
- First National Bank S.A.L. (FNB)
- Future First & Youth Opportunities Programme (HSBC)
- Give a Child a Toy
- Hani Qaddumi Scholarship Foundation
- Huson Halabi Yassir Foundation
- INJAZ Lebanon
- Kiblawi Foundation
- Leonard Education Organization (LE.O)
- Liban Jazz
- Medgulf
- Microsoft Youth Spark
- Middle East Airlines (MEA)
- Middle East Capital Group (MECG)
- Munib & Angela Masri Development Foundation
- Palestine Association for Children's Encouragement of Sports (PACES)
- Palestine International Institute
- Palestinian Student Fund (PSF)
- Pillar Invest Corp.
- Qatar Fund for Development
- Rifaat Nimer Foundation
- Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Ruwad Al Tanmeya | Lebanon
- Salaam International Investment Ltd
- Saudi Bin Laden Group
- Social Support Society (SSS)
- Spark of Hope
- Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)
- Taawon | Lebanon
- TAKREEM
- Tamim & Lamis Sahli Endowed Scholarship
- Terre Des Hommes Italy
- The Big Heart Foundation
- The Creative Union
- The Hope Fund
- The Jerusalem Fund for Education & Community Development
- The National Institution of Social Care & Vocational Training (Beyt Atfal Assumoud)
- The Omar & Rula Asali Foundation
- The Samih Alami Memorial Scholarship Fund for Students of Medicine at AUB
- Theirworld
- Turkish Cooperation & Coordination Agency (TIKA)
- U.S. Embassy Local Grants Program
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)
- United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)
- VIP Fund
- Waterman Foundation
- Worldwide Alumni Association of the American University of Beirut - Dubai Chapter
- Worldwide Travel & Tourism S.A.L.
- Yafa Foundation
- Yayasan Khazanah

UNIVERSITIES & SCHOOLS

- Acibadem University
- Ahliah School
- Ajman University
- American Community School Beirut (ACS)
- American University of Beirut (AUB)
- American University of Science & Technology (AUST)
- American University of Sharjah (AUS)
- Ankara Yildirim Beyazit University
- Bilgi University
- Bilkent University
- Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar (CMUQ)
- Cyprus International University
- Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)
- European University of Lefke
- Girne American University
- Haigazian University
- Hamad bin Khalifa University
- Harvard College Children's Stories
- IE University
- Istanbul Medipol University
- Koc University
- Lebanese American University (LAU)
- Manhattanville College
- Middle East Technical University
- Near East University (NEU)
- Politecnico di Torino
- Rafik Hariri University (RHU)
- Sorbonne University
- Texas A&M University (TAMUQ)
- United World Colleges Lebanese National Committee (UWC)
- Université de Toulouse
- Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO)
- University of Balamand
- University of Brighton
- University of Kyrenia
- University of Malta
- Wellspring Learning Community
- Wilfrid Laurier University
- Yeditepe University

ULYP IS ALSO THANKFUL TO

- All the donors who opted to remain anonymous, for your continuous support.
- The ULYP Alumni for their contribution towards the scholarship fund for new students.
- The Mattar Law Firm for all the work and legal advice offered to ULYP pro-bono.
- The Nimer Family for offering the unique opportunity to host the ULYP on the campus.
- The many volunteers and interns who supported our work over the years.

Our sincerest gratitude also goes to our committed donors who have been supporting our work through our sister organization **Americans for Children of the Middle East (ACME)**.

Thank you!

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Volunteer with us and bring your talent, expertise and passions to further the ULYP mission.

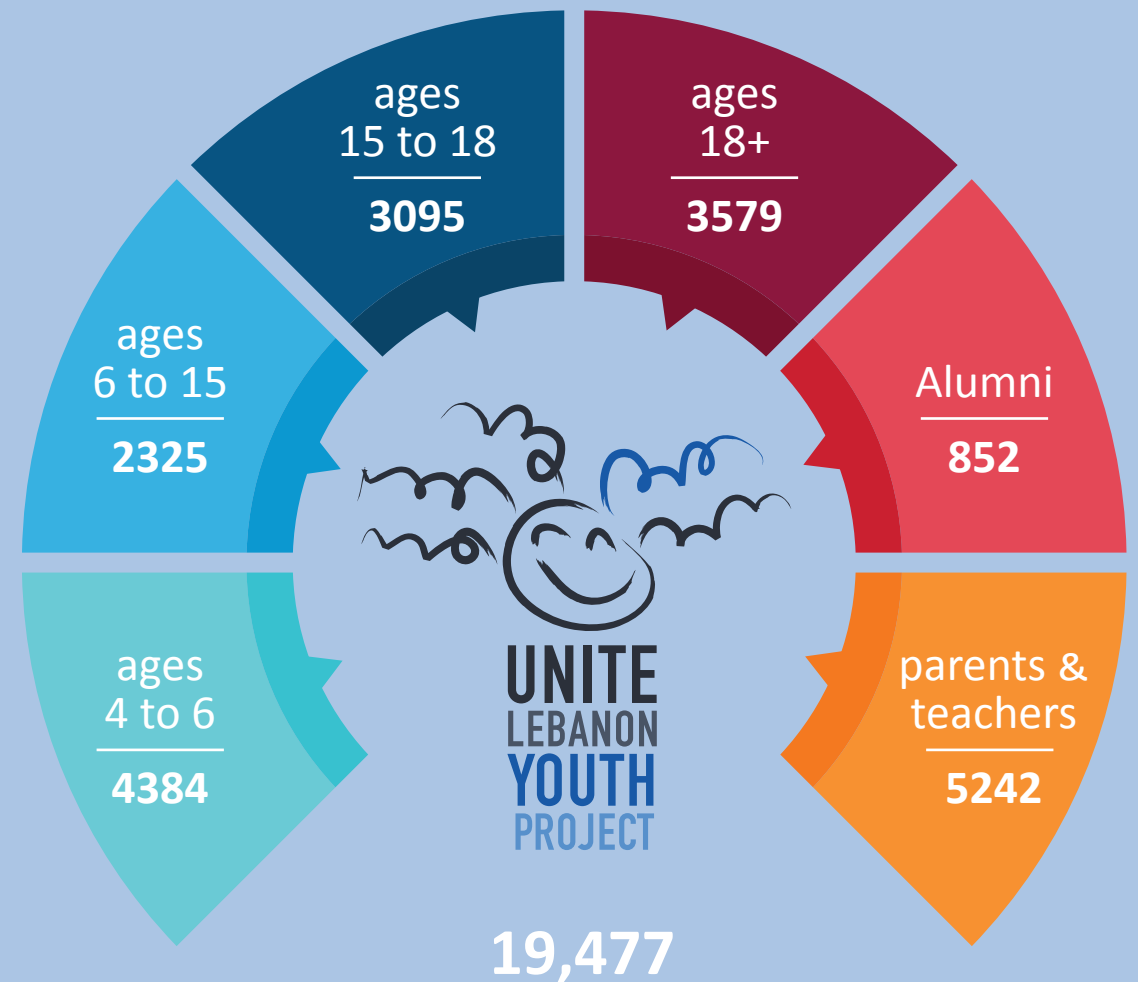
Follow us on social media, tag us on your outlets and share our posts to help us spread the word.

Connect your friends and family to ULYP.

Share your feedback and suggestions with us at ulypoffice@gmail.com.

Give to ULYP. We strive to be good stewards of funds entrusted to us. Consider adopting a program, a student, and/or give to the ULYP fund.

ULYP IMPACT IN NUMBERS 2010-2023





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PROJECT**



Beirut Office

Beirut Building Company Bldg.,
Makdessi Street, Hamra Beirut
Phone: +961 1 346 422 | +961 1 745 887
Fax: +961 1 745 657



Dibbiyeh Campus

Dibbiyeh main road,
Facing the Chehab Gas Company
Phone: +961 07 985 210 | +961 07 985 906
Mobile: +961 03 042 200