

Summer Camp Report 2024

Introduction

The Music and Resilience Summer Camp at NISCVT in its annual round aimed at fostering music education, cultural exchange, and resilience among Palestinian refugee youth in Lebanon. Implemented in collaboration with Prima Materia, Al Kamandjati and funded by Welfare (Al - Taawon) association, the 2024 summer camp took place from July 29th to 10th of August

Originally planned to operate in multiple Palestinian camps for the first week, the situation was adapted due to the challenging security situation in Lebanon. To ensure the safety of participants and staff, the program was consolidated in Beddawi camp for the first week then while the students in the other camps proceed with their tracings, in Bkeftine Orthodox College in El Koura-Lebanon for the second week bringing together students from a 6 camps.

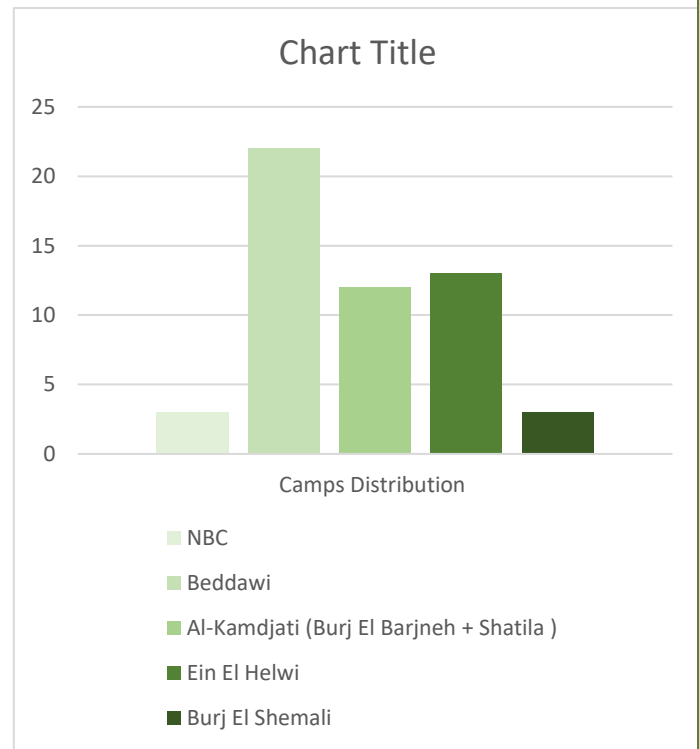
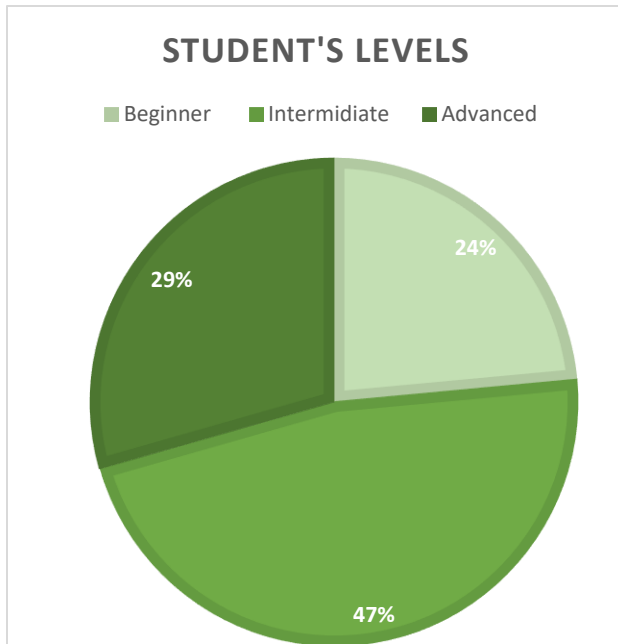
Participant Profile

The Music and Resilience project brought together a diverse group of young musicians from various Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Participants exhibited a wide range of musical experiences, from beginner's eager to explore their musical potential to advanced players contributing their expertise. This diversity enriched the collaborative atmosphere and fostered a supportive learning environment.

#	Student Name	Gender	Instrument	Level	Camp
1	Bisan Mouh	Female	Violin	Beginner	Naher El Bared
2	Raghad Mawed	Female	Clarinet	Beginner	
3	Shaymaa Mawed	Female	Saxophone	Beginner	
4	Hadi Dabagh	Male	Saxophone	Advanced	Beddawi
5	Jad Abu Heit	Male	Saxophone	Advanced	
6	Abed Abu Jmeih	Male	Bass Guitar	Intermediate	
7	Amjad Abdul Hafiz	Male	Guitar	Intermediate	
8	Ibrahim Khalil	Male	Guitar	Beginner	
9	Anas Orfali	Male	Oud	Intermediate	
10	Rayan Al-Ashakr	Female	Choir+ Guitar	Beginner	
11	Auday Hussein	Male	Violin	Intermediate	
12	Ayanda Bilal	Female	Clarinet	Intermediate	
13	Rojda Bilal	Female	Saxophone	Intermediate	
14	Birhat	Male	Trombone	Intermediate	
15	Cecilieh Kheir	Female	Keyboard	Intermediate	

16	Hadi Othman	Male	Clarinet	Intermediate	
17	Joudi Ayash	Female	Keyboard	Intermediate	
18	Huda Ayash	Female	Violin	Beginner	
19	Hilal Abdo	Male	Choir + Trumpet	Beginner	
20	Naser El Khatib	Male	Clarinet	Intermediate	
21	Khaled Sweidan	Male	Choir	Beginner	
22	Maher Fares	Male	Choir	Beginner	
23	Alisar Orfali	Female	Violin	Beginner	
24	Omaya Bakour	Female	Flute	Intermediate	
25	Rama Bakour	Female	Keyboard	Intermediate	
26	Hiba Shami	Female	Keyboard	Advanced	Al Kamandjati (Burj El Barjeh+ Shatiila)
27	Adnan Shami	Male	Precisions	Intermediate	
28	Ahmad El Aswad	Male	Nayy	Advanced	
29	Aminah Hussein	Female	Oud	Advanced	
30	Nour Abu Rayyah	Female	Oud	Advanced	
31	Duaa Shaalan	Female	Choir	Advanced	
32	Saleh Ghazawi	Male	Choir	Advanced	
33	Mahmoud El Aswad	Male	Cello	Advanced	
34	Hayat Abu El-Laban	Female	Violin	Advanced	
35	Khaled Dabdoub	Male	Precisions	Advanced	
36	Hamzah Jad	Male	Precisions	Advanced	Ein El Helwi
37	Rama Bhar	Female	Qanoun	Advanced	
38	Reem El Asadi	Female	Guitar	Intermediate	
39	Maya El Asadi	Female	Keyboard	Beginner	
40	Tarek Gandour	Male	Cello	Intermediate	
41	Jana El Yousef	Female	Keyboard	Advanced	
42	Mira Hamadi	Female	Keyboard	Advanced	
43	Ibrahim Ismail El Hajj	Male	Guitar	Beginner	
44	Faysal El Taha	Male	Violin	Intermediate	
45	Tala Dahshe	Male	Violin	Beginner	
46	Daniel Khattab	Female	Drums	Beginner	Burj El Shemali
47	Khaled Awad	Female	Darbouka	Intermediate	
48	Mohammad Othman	Male	Darbouka	Intermediate	
49	Ahmad Mustafa	Male	Saxophone	Intermediate	
50	Mahmoud Abu Salem	Male	Clarinet	Intermediate	
51	Ahmad El Hajj	Male	Saxophone	Intermediate	
52	Abed El Majid Shaaban	Male	Saxophone	Intermediate	
53	Mohammad Bashir	Male	Saxophone	Intermediate	

Detailed distribution of the students:



Implementation:

The Italian Team:

1. **Project Coordinator: Marco Lolli**
2. **Community Music Coordinator: Chiara Trapanese**
3. **Psychosocial Activity in Music Coordinator: Alberto Balducc**
4. **Conductor: Aurora**
5. **Teachers: Samuele, Emiliano, Luca, Sara, Maria and Consuelo**
6. **Video makers: Dario and Francesco**

Week 1:

On 29th of July the Italian team had a meeting with the NISCVT team (Mr. Kasem Aina, General director of NISCVT, Mrs.Hind Maraqa, Learning support, special needs & Activities coordinator, and Mr.Ahmad El Kheir) to plan for the activity and set the schedule.

The original plan involved dividing the Italian team between Beddawi and Mar Elias camps. However, due to escalating security concerns in Lebanon, a decision was made to concentrate the entire Italian team in Beddawi camp for the first week.

On the evening of July 30th (Tuesday), the team arrived in Beddawi and settled in the Learning Support Department. Training and rehearsals were scheduled to begin on Wednesday, July 31st; however, following the assassination of Ismail Haneya, the decision was made to limit activities to within the camp.

On Thursday, August 1st, rehearsals officially commenced in both Beddawi and Mar Elias camps.

Schedule in Beddawi:

Time	Activity
9:00-9:30	Breakfast
9:30 -10:00	Icebreaking activity to further immerse the students in the musical pieces vibes
10:00-12:00	Section Rehearsals
12:00-12:30	Break + Refreshment
12:30-3:00	Orchestra Rehearsal

3 new students from Naher El Bared Camp joined the rehearsals in Beddawi

The schedule was flexible and adjusted according to the students' needs and the complexity of the musical pieces.

Schedule in Marelias:

The Al Kamandjati team utilized the NISCVT center at Mar Elias Camp to practice their selected musical pieces. Al Kamandjati team started practice from Monday 29th of July till Saturday 3rd of August, they only stopped on Wednesday 31st of July following the decision limit activities to within the camps.

Week 2:

On Monday the 5th of August, 3 students from Naher El Bared, 22 students from Beddawi, 13 students from Ein El Helwi, and 3 students from Burj El Shemali came together along with 12 Italian team from Prima Materia, 3 social workers and the music coordinator from NISCVT.

During the second week the training was intensive and instructive. Training schedule was as follows:

Time	Activity
8:30-9:30	Breakfast
9:30-1:00	Orchestra +Section Rehearsals (Arabic Pieces)
1:00-2:30	Lunch Break
2:30 -6:30	Section + Orchestra Rehearsals (Italian Pieces)
7:00-8:00	Resting Break
8:00-9:00	Dinner Break
9:00-12:00	Relaxation, social interaction, and games.

On the 7th of August 12 members of Al-Kamandjati team joined the camp and became a part of the rehearsals and practice for the big concert. On 8th of August, Mr. Kasem Aina and Mrs. Hind Maraqa made a visit to the camp to check how everything is going, where Mr. Kasem emphasized the role music as an active tool of resilience and culture preserving the culture.

Concert:

The concert was at Saturday 10th of August, at Bkeftine Orthodox College hall, at 2:00 PM. The concert started with opening speeches delivered by Mr. Ahmad El Kheir, Music Coordinator at NISCVT, Marco Lolli, Project Coordinator, and Chiara Trapanese, Community Music Coordinator at Prima Materia. A particularly emotional moment was the speech delivered by Bisan Mouh, a newcomer student, and

Mohammad Al Yousef, a former student who had returned as a teacher. Their contrasting journeys symbolized the project's capacity to foster growth and inspire participants to give back to their communities.

The program was as follows:

1. Lebanese Anthem	6. Capriol Suit
2. Palestinian Anthem	7. Sarkhat Tha'er (صرخة تائر)
3. Assoumoud Anthem	8. Canazone Arrabbiata
4. Waltz-Khachaturian	9. Zahrat El Mada'en (زهرة المدائن)
5. Ya Lour Hubbuki (يا لور حبك)	10. 3'al Rozana (عالروزانا)
	11. Mama Mia

The musical concert was attended by Mr. Mohammad Hourani (Program Manager at Al-Taawon Association), Ms. Hind Maraqa (Learning Support, Special Needs and Activities Coordinator), North Area Coordinator, Beirut center administrators, organization staff, Palestinian community organization representative and the students' families, alongside to the school Principal

Concert Highlights

The concert was a resounding success, characterized by a warm and inviting atmosphere. The audience, captivated by the performances, actively engaged with the music, particularly during the rendition of "Mama Mia." And "Sarkhet Tha'er". The collective clapping and singing along demonstrated the audience's enthusiasm and appreciation for the talent and hard work of the young musicians.

A standout moment was the exceptional solo performance by **Rojda Bilal** during "Ya Lour Hubbuki." Her remarkable talent and dedication, evident from months of hard work and practice, garnered widespread admiration from the audience and fellow participants. The music coordinator took a moment to acknowledge her outstanding contribution, further emphasizing her achievement.

Methodology

The project employed a multifaceted teaching approach that combined individual instruction, group work, and orchestral rehearsals. Participants were divided into sections based on their instruments, allowing for specialized guidance and instruction from dedicated teachers. Simultaneously, they participated in full orchestra rehearsals to develop their ability to play in harmony and contribute to the ensemble. To foster a collaborative and inclusive atmosphere, icebreaking activities were incorporated to immerse participants in the musical pieces and build camaraderie. To accommodate the diverse range of musical abilities within the orchestra, the musical notes were adapted to ensure that all participants could contribute effectively.

Outcomes and Impact

The Music and Resilience project has had a profound impact on both the participating students and the wider community. The musical development of the students is evident, with even new participants successfully playing alongside more advanced musicians. The project has created a parallel universe for the students and Italian team, offering a much-needed escape from the challenges facing Lebanon.

The collaboration between NISCVT, Prima Materia, and Al Kamandjati has fostered a diverse and open cultural exchange. Participants from different regions of Lebanon have come together with Italian musicians, underscoring the power of music in preserving cultural heritage and building resilience.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

The project faced several challenges due to the unstable situation in Lebanon. These challenges necessitated flexibility and adaptability in the project's implementation. Despite these obstacles, the project successfully navigated the complexities of the environment.

One significant challenge was the integration of participants with varying musical experience levels. However, through careful planning and adaptable teaching methods, the project effectively addressed this diversity, ensuring that all participants could contribute meaningfully.

Another challenge was the long training hours and limited time for games and social interaction. To mitigate this, the project incorporated brief breaks and recreational activities to balance the intensive musical training.

Conclusion:

Reflecting on the 2024 Summer Camp, we witness the continued evolution of community music, beyond mere performance, music has become an integral part of our lives, fostering listening, communication, and mutual support. It is a medium that enriches our understanding of ourselves and others, making every individual's contribution invaluable.

This year's camp brought together a diverse group of young people from Lebanon and Italy, showcasing the power of cross-cultural collaboration. The blend of traditional Italian and Arabic music, facilitated by a wide array of instruments, created a harmonious and enriching experience.

The success of this year's program, supported by the dedication of all participants, reaffirms our commitment to fostering a community that values both individual and collective development. By breaking down barriers and building meaningful connections, we embody the essence of Music and Resilience—a shared endeavor that unites us through the power of music.

For more photos about the summer camp 2024:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YMcf2ICf8wwb633dBdqshTBSND_f6RQe

For posts on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-wncfwAxNo/?igsh=eG1jY24ycDJ3am5m>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C-NY92kllLy/?igsh=ZjN1djg2ZjkwMXo3>