

Call for Support

Youth Development & Mentoring Programme | Young Leaders 2022-2025

Who are we?

Seenaryo is a leading specialist in theatre and play-based learning with marginalised communities in Lebanon and Jordan. We use theatre and play to transform education and support people to learn, lead, heal and thrive in their classrooms and communities. Having reached over 86,000 children, youth, women and teachers since 2015, Seenaryo was one of Expo 2020 Dubai's 120 Global Innovators, has lectured for New York University on their Teacher Fellowship, and has been featured in Al Jazeera and Prospect Magazine. In 2021, Seenaryo created 59 original theatre productions. We also trained 800 teachers to transform learning through play using the Seenaryo Playkit mobile phone app, reaching 13,705 schoolchildren.



Seenaryo in Jordan: the story so far

Using a **participatory approach to theatre**, Seenaryo facilitates the creation of powerful, imaginative and collaborative performances. In Jordan, we have been supporting children and young people **to find their voice as powerful agents of change** since 2018. We have worked with thousands of people across different regions of the country, from children of 7 years old to women of 70 years old. We have created 25 original theatre productions with some of the most vulnerable children in Jordan and we have watched them grow into confident young leaders with **ideas to share and the tools they need to express** those ideas. According to our most recent 2022 evaluation sample, 100% of children who participated feel they gained acting skills and are better at working in a team, and there was a 21% increase in those who felt able to cope with their fears and problems.

The need

We are excited that slowly but surely, children, parents and whole communities are beginning to see the value of taking part in theatre activities. However, there is a long way to go. Currently, the most urgent need is the **soaring youth unemployment rate** in Jordan. At the end of the 2021 World Bank estimated unemployment among youth in Jordan to be **as high at 50%**. This issue is even more salient for refugees and those of other nationalities who struggle to get work permits; unemployment among Syrians is almost double the unemployment rate amongst Jordanian nationals. During the peak of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, Jordan was home to **1.36 million Syrian refugees**, alongside Iraqi refugees and in more recent years thousands of Sudanese, Somali and Yemeni refugees. The vast majority of Syrian refugees live in poor, urban areas, outside of refugee camps. Schools, already under resourced, were put under further strain and were **unable to meet the escalating needs of their students**.

The reality is that refugee and non-refugee children are leaving school without the life skills, resilience, or creativity they need to face their next steps. As the rising generation of leaders and decision makers, **youth possess vast potential** to bring fresh hope, insight and change to their communities. Youth in Jordan today, particularly those that are vulnerable, urgently require learning opportunities to **equip them with skills** they need to cope with uncertainty, to innovate solutions and to reach their potential.

“The amount of talent that has come out of Hamzeh over the last 3 years is striking. This project has done so much more than it said it would.”
(Hamzeh’s mother)

The response

Building on the impact to date, and responding to current needs of Seenaryo participants, we are proposing a **3-year Youth Development & Mentoring project**. We aim to support **30 new young leaders** who have graduated from our children's theatre programmes to become artists, leaders, and facilitators. We will support these 30 young people on their journey as they progress from making theatre, to leading theatre and then as they make decisions about their career paths and next steps in life. Alongside the 30 young leaders this 3-year programme will reach **395 new children and youth** in some of the most vulnerable areas in Jordan, ensuring that we are continuing to support children (the leaders of tomorrow) through theatre as they begin their journey to adulthood. Implementing several Children's Theatre projects, alongside the youth development and mentoring, also means that we can offer immediate **employment opportunities to at least 40%** of the young leaders, as they progress through the 3-year programme.

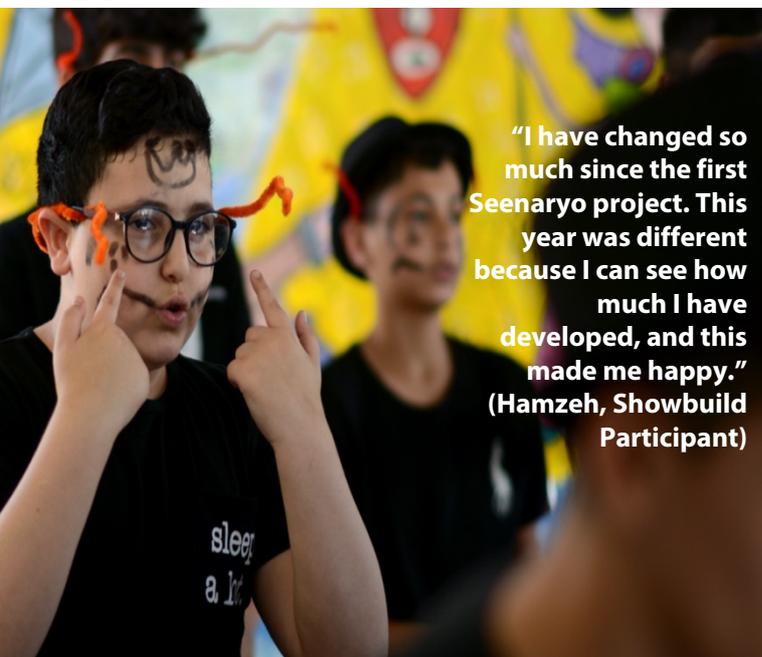
Our Objectives

We aim to equip young people, with the responsibility, leadership and creativity they need to fulfill their potential. Led by Seenaryo's expert facilitators and trainers, these participants will:

- Build **artistic skills** and **critical life skills** by collaborating with others to **devise original pieces of theatre**
- Build their sense of **self-worth and confidence by performing** their high-level 'Studio' production to a wide public audience in a **professional theatre**
- Gain **facilitation and leadership skills** by taking part in Seenaryo's **Level 1 & Level 2 Theatre Leadership Training** and running their own satellite projects
- Build their **professional skills and work experience** by being **employed as assistant facilitators** on Seenaryo projects
- Benefit from **mentoring from Seenaryo Master Trainers and industry professionals** who will support individual young leaders as they **take steps towards establishing their career paths**

Where will we work?

The 30 young leaders come from two main areas in Jordan: **Mafraq, a city in the North of Jordan** which is a vulnerable host community, home to 25% of all Syrian refugees in Jordan and in **Rusaifeh, a poverty pocket in the Eastern part of Amman**. The cohorts of young leaders taking part will be selected from among the children who have graduated from previous children's theatre cycles, giving a chance for those who show exceptional interest and promise to continue their journey. In each cohort there will be a minimum **of 40% of participants from Syrian refugee or other refugee nationality backgrounds**, working alongside local Jordanians. In turn, these young leaders will run projects with other youth and children in their local communities, ensuring that **hundreds of some of the most vulnerable children** have a chance to learn, lead, heal and thrive through theatre.



"I have changed so much since the first Seenaryo project. This year was different because I can see how much I have developed, and this made me happy."
(Hamzeh, Showbuild Participant)

Call for Support

Seenaryo has already secured most of the financial support for this project from long term funders (the Archie Lloyd Charitable Foundation - teamArchie). Additionally, Seenaryo's core funds are covering a significant portion of the overhead costs. However, to ensure this project can happen at the scale and level of quality we are aiming for, we are seeking additional funders to come on board as partners and supporters.

The total cost of this project over 3 years is £100,000, with thanks to teamArchie and Seenaryo core funds, we have already secured £60,000 of this and need another £40,000 to make it happen.

If you would like to consider helping us to reach our goal and make this transformation a reality for youth in Jordan, please contact lara@seenaryo.org to begin the collaboration.