

Description

Thanks to Alternatives' leadership, funding has been secured to support the Gaza education system. The humanitarian situation in Gaza is catastrophic, and the education system has also been hit hard by Israeli army bombings. In March 2024, the Teacher Creativity Center produced a follow-up report entitled "Analysis of the Catastrophic Effects on Education and Identification of Humanitarian Reconstruction Needs," which listed serious violations of the right to education in Palestine.

Since the start of Israeli bombing on October 8, 2023, hundreds of thousands of students in Gaza have been deprived of formal education and live in constant fear of war, air strikes, and incursions by the Israeli army. This situation has irreversible consequences on their mental health and their ability to adapt and look to the future.

Year(s): 2025-

Region(s): Middle -East and North

Africa

Location: Gaza, Palestine

Related issue(s): Human rights, dignity and social justice

Linked organism(s): Teacher

Creativity Center

From the outset of the genocide, our partner in Palestine, the Teacher Creativity Center (TCC), quickly adapted its activities, resources, and practices to respond, with the means available, to the psychological distress of displaced populations. Despite the risks to their own safety, the center's staff and volunteers

have been running educational and recreational activities on an almost daily basis to create informal learning opportunities for children and reduce stress levels.

Objectives

Thanks to funding from the <u>Fédération nationale des enseignantes et des enseignants du Québec</u> (FNEEQ) and the <u>Alliance syndicats et tiers-monde fund</u>, the TCC will be setting up mobile schools for displaced children in the southern part of the enclave over the coming months to prepare them for a possible resumption of classes.

The first phase of the initiative will target 360 girls and boys aged 7 to 14. Support will also be offered to families (parents and guardians) to strengthen their ability to support their children's mental health and reduce their stress levels.





Partners

The project exists thanks to the support of the Quebec Federation of Teachers (FNEEQ) and the Alliance Syndicats et Tiers-Monde (ASTM) fund.

In Palestine, our partner is the Teacher Creativity Center (TCC), a non-governmental, non-profit organization created in May 1995 by five teachers working in government schools, UNRWA, and private schools in Palestine.

The obvious problems in the school learning environment, particularly the relationship between students and teachers, prompted and inspired the need to create a center that seeks to empower teachers and improve the holistic educational environment.

TCC vision

Quality education that embodies the values of human rights and civic education, and cultivates creative generations capable of contributing to the construction of a democratic Palestinian civil society committed to human rights and the rule of law.

Mission of the organization

The Teachers Creativity Center is a Palestinian non-profit civic education organization that strives to empower stakeholders in the teaching and learning process to create safe, stimulating, and democratic school environments that embody the values of human rights and civic education.

Activities

As part of ongoing humanitarian and educational efforts to support displaced and war-affected children in Gaza, the Teacher Creativity Center (TCC), in partnership with Alternatives, has launched a specialized program aimed at strengthening children's psychological and educational resilience.

The second phase of the "Mobile Schools for Gaza Children" project has been completed. It aimed to support children affected by the ongoing aggression by providing them with an integrated psychoeducational environment that improves their learning and coping skills.

The center's team of teachers, activists, and psychologists continues to provide integrated educational and psychological services based on the social-emotional learning methodology. The program includes basic skills in Arabic, English, and mathematics, as well as recreational activities and psychological support, which help mitigate educational losses and psychological pressures experienced by children.

The three-phase project targets 180 displaced children and their parents in a three-month educational program, with 16 days per phase, during which school education is integrated with emotional and social activities, as well as individual and group psychological counseling sessions aimed at strengthening psychological resilience and the ability to adapt to difficult circumstances.

The project also focuses on supporting parents through self-care and stress relief activities, educating them on how to manage their children and protect them from everyday psychosocial risks. Each phase of the project ends with a community celebration that highlights the children's achievements, with the participation of parents and the local community.

The first two phases of the project have yielded tangible results by improving children's access to education despite ongoing school closures and have effectively addressed many of the psychological, behavioral, and social challenges faced by participating children, reflecting the project's importance as an effective educational and psychological response to emergency situations.

The training is led by Dr. Zahir Haniyah, an education expert, who emphasized the importance of equipping teachers with a variety of skills to support and motivate children for active an effective learning. The

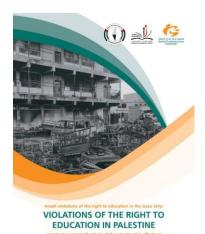
Teacher Creativity Center team working in the psycho-educational support forums also participated in the training session.



Photos credit: Teacher Creativity Center

Documentation

The Teacher Creativity Center's report, "Analysis of Catastrophic Effects on Education and Identification of Humanitarian Reconstruction Needs," is available here.



MARCH 22, 2024

It was produced in cooperation with the <u>Palestinian Education Coalition</u>, the <u>Palestinian National Institute for NGOs</u>, and the <u>Coalition for Accountability</u> <u>and Integrity: AMAN-Palestine</u>.