

Noel Foundation : Creativity for Empowerment	
Project title	Using creativity for empowerment for people at risk

First Report January 2008

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose (mid-term objective) of this project is to:

- create a cadre of development professionals who can use arts therapy in their work with vulnerable people
- incorporate arts therapy in JOHUD and partner 's programmes to deal with people at risk
- provide a wide range of support services for people at risk
- create linkages to opportunities to use creative skills for personal and community benefit.
- build institutional capacity to provide arts therapy and to integrate this approach into JOHUD's existing programme of support to vulnerable groups

Summary of Progress

The team started the Noel Foundation project on January 1st with an intention to establish the cadre of professionals enabled to use arts therapy techniques in their work by end January. This was achieved. 27 people from 16 organisations attended a 4 day course in use of arts therapy – a course that was very well received as adding a vital new set of skills. Feedback from the course is attached. The JOHUD staff who attended the course have now established their action plans to use arts therapy in their work with vulnerable people. In the next 6 week, they will consolidate their skills and also begin to transfer skills to other mentors. They will also work with partner organisations - in particular with Relief International, UNWRA, UNHCR, Family International and the Mabarrat Um el Hussein. There will be a one day update review on March 22 with The ArtReach Foundation.

1 January – 31 January Plan

- Establish links in two locations
- Train in arts therapy foundation level
- Establish creativity unit at Hashemi
- Hold community workshops (Hashemi and Marka)
- Basic life skills for communities at risk
- Deliver arts / creativity activities
- Identify families in need of intense therapy

Achievements

In early January, we carried out a review of JOHUD projects and identified 7 existing programmes with vulnerable groups and people at risk. These include:

- Intel Clubhouse in Hashemi,
- Child Labour Project in Sahab,
- Violence Against Women
- Peer Education Program, UNFPA:
- Girls at Risk:
- Special Needs:
- Mabarrat Um el Hussein Boys care unit (JOHUD partner organisation)
- Jordan Alliance Against Hunger

We also have more projects in the pipeline

- UNICEF support to vulnerable children and youth (50% Iraqi)
- UNHCR – phase 2 of Amal project

We targeted for training those staff with an active role on these projects- and nominated 7 participants from three units in JOHUD. We then contacted all our partners and found 15 other organisations who wanted to join the programme, and who were committed to continue through an implementation phase.

On this basis, we went ahead and held our initial workshop: **a 5 day Foundation Course in Arts Therapy** from January 27th – 31st.

The course was delivered by The ArtReach Foundation, a US foundation specialising in arts therapy. (see <http://www.artreachfoundation.org/>)

The course was VERY well received by the 27 participants. It gave them a chance to experience the impact of the use of arts therapy techniques, and thus empowered them to apply them in their own work. The wide range of organisations represented also gave people a chance to network and begin to exchange lessons learnt. The presence of several organisations with a major role in supporting displaced Iraqis was of great value – since others then picked up tips on the challenges and how to cope. Already, JOHUD staff are beginning to see how they can work more closely with these other stakeholders.

Coping with adverse weather

The course suffered interruption – on Tuesday night Amman had more than 10 inches of snow, preventing any travel by road for two days. This is a once every 5 or 10 years event in Amman. BUT... the participants were so keen to continue, that 25 of them managed to get through the snow on Friday (the weekend holiday in Jordan) and catch up one lost day

Comment from one participant:

"Usually, when the TV says it will snow, I am really happy – because I won't have to go to work. On Sunday, when I saw the snow report I was really depressed, because I WANTED to get to the workshop".



Mentored application

There will now be a period of application – where the trained facilitators use arts therapy in their work and receive supervision and mentoring from experts. We are in the process of setting up e-networks and chats so that people can share their experiences among the group.

The JOHUD staff on the training course are taking the lead in applying new skills, and have developed a action plan to use these techniques with a range of JOHUD projects. As of February 11th, there will be workshops using arts therapy techniques with marginalised young people in Hashemi. This will help the core JOHUD team consolidate their skills and then they will begin to involve the mentors, and scale up the arts therapy interventions.

The team from The ArtReach Foundation will be in Jordan in late March and while here will run a one day update for the group – inviting key stakeholders such as UNHCR, and the Ministry of Education to attend and see how the approach delivers benefit to programmes in Jordan.




Raising awareness

A major component of the Noel Fund project is to raise awareness of the fact that vulnerable groups have often suffered significant trauma in their lives and that this undermines their ability to cope with adverse situations. In the case of displaced Iraqis, this also makes their uncertain status and situation even more difficult. AS more and more civil society organisations start to play a role in integrating these young people back into community life, their staff need to have a wider range of core skills to deal with such clients, and also to know that there is a network of professional support available. The interest shown in the training course, and the good connections with bodies such as the Music Conservatory, the University of Jordan Department of Education, The National Gallery The Amman Municipality... indicates that this is a programme that meets demand. JOHUD will hold a series of events to further raise the profile of arts therapy when The ArtReach Foundation returns to Jordan in late March.

Plan for February 15 – end April

- Establish links with three external partners (Relief International, UNWRA and Family International) – to expand the outreach for Noel Fund activities and target larger number beneficiaries
- Consolidate training in arts therapy foundation level
- Identify strategy to establish creativity unit at Hashemi
- Hold first workshops with target community (Hashemi and Marka / Mabarrat Um el Hussein)
- Deliver basic life skills for communities at risk

- Deliver arts / creativity activities
- Hold consolidation training (March 22) – and event to raise profile of arts therapy work.
- Hold exhibition of arts work with vulnerable communities, and reception targeting high profile people and institutions,.
- Identify families in need of intensive therapy and link to support systems
- Link the approach to our own on poverty / food security – with the Jordan Alliance Against hunger (JAAH)



Using arts therapy with vulnerable children & youth
An introductory training program

Dates: January 27th - 31st
Location: Beit al Bawadi, Abdoun
Trainers: ArtReach Foundation
Partner: JOHUD/ZENID/Beit al Bawadi
Target: Counsellors, therapists, creative professionals and artists, educators, teachers, community workers

Fees: JD 250
Info: bawadi@batelco.jo
Tel: 593 0070
Rand Aljammal

healing & hope

The ArtReach Foundation
JOHUD supported by The NOEL Foundation