

## PBBY'S REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022\_NOVEMBER 2022

### Ongoing Aggressions and Siege

In the past 15 years, Gaza Strip children have experienced six major events - five aggressions and the COVID-19 pandemic – as well as a life-limiting land, air, and sea blockade imposed by the Israeli occupation. Since 2008, each aggression bringing more death and destruction than the last. 2008 aggression resulted in the death of 412 kids, in the span of 21 days of bombing and ground invasion, 2012 resulted in the deaths of 42 children throughout 8 days of shelling, and 2014, resulted in the deaths of 578 kids in the course of 51 days. This time sixteen children were among 45 Palestinian killed by Israeli bombardment between 5-7 August 2022. Every single aggression in Gaza comes at the cost of ordinary people, especially children, who pay the highest price for the barbaric attacks. Children in Gaza are still recovering - both psychologically and physically — from last year's aggression

- **A look at the libraries.**



## 1. A TRIP TO THE JAPANESE GARDEN

Gaza Children write about their trip to the Japanese garden

Children are denied of basic rights and any minor activity brings joy to their hearts!

**Gaza Children Crave for Happiness!**

Nagham Abdel 'Al  
12 years

Having waited so long for this trip, I was at the peak of my happiness and joy when the day finally came. It was an indescribable day. The place was so attractive, with a breathtaking natural view. Everyone has enjoyed their time. The organizers for making this day so special to us, they gave us free tickets to play in the amusement park. We were so happy, and we wish to have another trip.

Seraj Abu taha  
15 years

On a very beautiful morning, my dear father came to me with good news and told me to prepare myself for a trip with the library staff and children. I was over the moon and rushed to prepare my stuff. Honestly, I could not sleep at night, and I wished the sun would rise as soon as possible. We started the day by listening and singing along with the music in the bus, then we arrived at the Japanese park. After we had breakfast and danced a bit, we began our entertaining activities and challenges with Mahmoud the librarian. The best part was when we went to the amusement park and started playing. I hope the trip will be repeated again.



## 2.Meeting with parents of children members of the library.

At the beginning of the new school year, we had to meet with some parents of the children in order to discuss some of the problems that face the parents with their children.

We noticed that there are a number of children suffer from some difficulties in school subjects, including the Arabic language. Therefore, we tried to help the parents to improve the level of reading among their children by following these steps:

First, we held sessions that provide the mothers with educational methods such as the stories. It is important for the mother to use stories in order to simplify and attract the child's attention.

Reading using pictures and singing the story, is a practical way to entice the children to enhance their reading skills.

Furthermore, it can increase the desire for reading and participation, which would improve their educational level and, hopefully, engage them to participate in various office activities.

Second, we discussed how the parents can support the child through guidance, leaving violence and punishment tactics behind. So, we provide them with some of the ways that are used to communicate information indirectly through the story or playing with the child.

Finally, we prepared many spectacular activities for the children such as borrowing and reading stories, drawing, and discussion sessions, where we discuss some of the issues that children encounter, including school violence and bullying.



As our children are involved in various school activities, we helped them to prepare programs for participation, as well as how to become ‘a distinguished child’. A child who is capable of leading the team by helping them in their electoral program to participate in the school parliament and the health and hygiene committees. Besides that, using various methods of promoting, supporting, and give the comfort that supports children to do their best in all fields.



### 3.SILENT READING AND ACTING.

Each child selects a story from the library and reads it silently. After reading it the child picks one scene from the story, performs a silent acting scene in front of the children; the group recognizes the scene, gives their opinions about the performance of the child and explain the scene in the story.



4- “Try, you can” a book for young people with disabilities “has been chosen as outstanding for the 2023 IBBY Selection of Outstanding Books for” Young People with Disabilities!



### 5-Illustration Workshop

Drawing is one of the skills that allows people to express themselves and their feelings without any verbal



communication. It helps in developing skills, overcoming shyness, and increasing self-confidence.

Therefore, we had to hold this course in our libraries for our children, where the trainer managed to identify and evaluate the children's abilities in drawing. Through the sessions, the trainer felt the children's need for expression after seeing their drawing.

He noticed that their sketches indicated that they did not feel calm or stable, or that they might be exposed to violence. Here, there is plenty of factors to blame such as the war and the political and economic conditions in the Gaza Strip.

In the rest of the sessions, the trainer explained the basics of drawing and introduced to them the types of pencils and methods of using them, as well as ways to combine colours, and there were a lot of educational activities, whether drawing from children's imaginations or drawing illustrations from stories that the children used to read.

In addition to drawing skills, such as using charcoal pencils and combining colours and shadows, there was a closing ceremony as a drawing gallery for all the illustrations that the children drew.



## 6. Children's drawings

These are some of the children's drawings of al Shawka library of a number of the stories that the children have read.





## 7. Closing Ceremony for the Illustration workshop

The ceremony took place in the presence of the parents of the children and all their illustrations were hung on a large wall.





## 8.Success Stories (as reported by the librarian)

The existence of the library is a great success story in the area. It helps children to access quality books and creative activities

Siraj Abu Taha:

Siraj is a shy child and does not like to participate in the library activities. In one of the activities of expressing feelings, we chose Siraj to be the leader of the group and divide the emotional roles among the children, but she refused completely. After insisting on her, she did her role with shyness. After many activities, she became one of the special children in the library...

Odeh Al-Dabari :

At first, he came alone to the library. At the beginning Odeh was very weak in reading and writing, his face full of the sadness. One day, I asked the children to choose a story to be read in silence, and then discuss it orally. He said that he can't. I encouraged and helped him to read it until the end of the story. I gave him a notebook and I asked him to write it and to be ready to discuss it with the children. This continued.

Odeh now reads, writes and participates in most of the library's activities. He later brought the rest of his brothers to participate in the library's activities.

