

# COUNCIL (CBC) ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

## EMPOWERING YOUNG READERS AND EDUCATORS

- "We Read Together and Listen to One Another" Sessions: Child-centered critique sessions reached their 22nd meeting, fostering critical thinking and engagement.
- Workshops and Training: Numerous workshops, including "An Introduction to Literary Criticism" and creative storytelling sessions, equipped educators and literature enthusiasts with new tools.



## Celebrating Excellence in Children's Literature

- Iran's 2026 Hans Christian Andersen Award Nominees: Ahmad Akbarpour (author) and Alireza Goldouzian (illustrator) were honored for their outstanding contributions.
- Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) 2025 Nominees: Seyyed Navid Seyed-Ali Akbar and Alireza Goldouzian were nominated for their innovative approaches in literature and illustration.



## Unveiling New Milestones

- Touran Mirhadi's Statue: Honoring the "Mother of Children's Literature" during Children's Week.
- Updated Encyclopedia for Children and YA: Expanded resources for young readers and researchers.

## PROMOTING INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Library Services for Special Needs: Workshops and events catered to children with visual and hearing impairments, offering tactile books and inclusive storytelling sessions.
- Yalda Night in Salehabad Village: A special event blending cultural traditions with literacy promotion.

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 39th IBBY Congress: Held in Italy, CBC representatives showcased Iranian children's literature on a global stage.
- Peace Initiatives: The 6th International Illustration Exhibition emphasized peace education through art and literature.

# SPOTLIGHT ON IBBY MOROCCO: 2024 MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## KEY INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

- **A Library for Every School:** Launched to provide libraries to 100 schools, particularly in areas affected by the 2023 earthquake. Each library features tailored book sets, teacher guides, and engaging workshops for students.
- **Inaugural Conference:** Hosted during the International Children's and Youth Book Fair (SILEJ) in Casablanca, marking Morocco's active role in the global IBBY network.



## Major National Activities

- **Maghreb Book Fair in Oujda:** Storytelling, book presentations, and awareness campaigns attracted diverse audiences, including children, teachers, and cultural influencers.
- **SILEJ Casablanca 2024:** Featured storytelling sessions, Kamishibai workshops, and interactive activities, introducing the "A Library for Every School" project to the public.



## Impact and Testimonials

Direct beneficiaries include hundreds of children, educators, and parents. Feedback highlights enthusiasm for workshops and storytelling, emphasizing the growing interest in children's literature initiatives.

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

- **Trieste Congress Participation:** Raised awareness for the upcoming Ottawa Congress in 2026.
- **Partnership Development:** Strengthened ties with IBBY members worldwide, including partnerships with IBBY UAE and Kalimates Foundation, which donated 100 books to a Moroccan school.

## PARTNERSHIPS DRIVING CHANGE

Key collaborators like the Rotary Club Casa Africa, Amis des Écoles Association, and local mediatheques have supported impactful projects, such as earthquake recovery and youth literature promotion.

# 2024 HIGHLIGHTS FROM UAEBBY

## KEY EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

- Learning Beyond Conference (Saudi Arabia): UAEBBY hosted book signings and panel discussions celebrating storytelling.
- Muscat International Book Fair: Explored bibliotherapy and silent books' role in enhancing reading skills.
- Thessaloniki International Book Fair: As Guest of Honor, UAEBBY hosted discussions on fostering a love for reading and launched the Greek edition of "Folktales Reimagined."



## Promoting Creativity and Cultural Heritage

- Creative Writing Competition: With 74 submissions from children aged 6-18, this initiative spotlighted young talent and gave winners the chance to be published online.
- "Warsha" Poetry Workshop: Led by Iraqi poet Jalil Khazaal, this three-day event focused on crafting poetry for young readers.
- Books Made in UAE Initiative: Workshops led by Emirati author Maitha Al Khayat adapted Emirati folktales into engaging stories for young audiences.



## MAJOR FESTIVALS AND AWARDS

- Sharjah International Book Fair: Celebrated winners of the Etisalat Award for Arabic Children's Literature and hosted diverse workshops, including manga art and Zellige-inspired crafts.
- 39th IBBY Congress (Italy): Three UAE books were honored on the IBBY 2024 Honor List, recognizing excellence in writing, illustration, and translation.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Read. Dream. Create. Initiative: Offered storytelling, illustration, and creative writing workshops in schools and public spaces, reaching hundreds of children and young adults.
- Ramadan Book Donation Campaign: Encouraged contributions across UAE libraries to benefit underprivileged children.

# LBBY: A YEAR OF LITERACY AND IMPACT IN LEBANON

## TRANSFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

In partnership with UNESCO, Book Aid International, and SPAZI, LBBY led renovations in public school libraries and donated books to mosques and churches. These efforts have created inclusive and engaging spaces for children and communities, ensuring that books remain a cornerstone of learning and connection.



## A Library for Refugees: Tahaddi Education Center

LBBY, supported by the Yamada Fund, Book Aid International, and SPAZI, established a library at the Tahaddi Education Center to provide refugee children with access to books and a safe space for learning and creativity.

## PROMOTING READING FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN IN BEKAA

With funding from UNICEF, the Crisis Fund IBBY, Book Aid International, and SPAZI, LBBY launched reading programs for displaced children in Bekaa. Storytelling sessions, creative activities, and bibliotherapy helped support their emotional and cognitive well-being.

## BRINGING CHILDREN AND BOOKS CLOSER TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CRISIS

In response to the outbreak of war, LBBY collaborated with Book Aid International and the IBBY Crisis Fund to support children displaced by the conflict. Mobile libraries and literacy activities were complemented by kits containing art supplies and books, distributed to volunteers working with displaced children in schools. LBBY also trained volunteers on best practices for engaging with and supporting children affected by trauma, fostering hope, resilience, and emotional healing during these challenging times.