

## The kids of Lebanon: healing through art & music

On August 4, the Beirut's port explosion hit the community hard, causing the death of around 200 people and leaving a devastating effect especially on the most vulnerable, including kids and youth.

Besides the physical damages to the city's buildings and infrastructures, thousands of injured, displaced and traumatised children are now dealing with the wake of the blast.

In line with UNDP's response and recovery efforts in the aftermath of the Beirut explosion, on October 3, UNDP Arab Youth Arts and Music Initiative (AYAMI) hosted the "Kids of Lebanon" initiative in Beirut. AYAMI cooperated with the **Dafa Campaign, Tinol Paints, The Vibe Wellness Circle, Embrace Lebanon** as well as **Mission Joy**, in an attempt to tackle the repercussions of this traumatic event on the youth.

The aim of the initiative was to create a healing space for the youth in need through art and music, while simultaneously spreading awareness on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and shedding light on AYAMI's mission, in a fun and educative manner.

AYAMI places art and music at its core, because they represent powerful, yet simple, tools to communicate complex messages and engage people and communities, including youth to prepare them to become drivers of change. Moreover, achieving the SDG is fundamental to give kids and youth a better future. Under this framework, **250** kids (10-15-year-old) were encouraged to think creatively and use art to formulate and communicate their thoughts, concerns and aspirations and participated in a variety of recreational activities, including painting, dancing and singing, live interactive shows. Over the course of 2 days, AYAMI also offered psychosocial support sessions for the youth, mostly focusing on **Trauma Healing** through meditation, painting and art.

In line with AYAMI's mission statement and as a response to the Beirut explosion, the project activities focused on spreading awareness on the SDGs, more specifically **SGD 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make Cities Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable** through portraying the AYAMI jingles and songs starring the young singers from the "The Voice Kids: Ahla Sawt" and distributing SDG branded items.

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