

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

The rapidly escalating conflict in Lebanon, marked by heavy airstrikes and attacks along the southern and northern borders, as well as in the Beirut suburbs, has displaced nearly 1 million people. Among them, approximately 300,000 are children who now reside in the vicinity of schools, mosques, churches, and shelters that have opened their doors to provide shelter. The Lebanese Board on Books for Young People (LBBY) has stepped up during this crisis to support these vulnerable children by providing psychological relief and recreational activities. This initiative aligns with LBBY's core mission of bringing children closer to books—even in the most challenging circumstances.

The main goals of this initiative are to:

- Alleviate some of the stress and trauma these children are experiencing.
- Promote a nurturing and creative environment using books and storytelling.
- Ensure that children, even in times of crisis, remain connected to emotional support resources.

### Volunteering:

LBBY successfully gathered **130 volunteers** from across Lebanon to work with displaced children in various regions. These volunteers play a crucial role in delivering support, guided by their training.

### Free Training for Volunteers:

In collaboration with **ASSABIL**, LBBY organized a free training session for volunteers, focusing on how to engage displaced and traumatized children through books and storytelling. The training covered:

- **Psychological considerations:** Understanding what to expect from children of various age groups and how to approach sensitive topics.
- **Bibliotherapy techniques:** Practical strategies for using stories to help children process their emotions and experiences. The emphasis was on the therapeutic role of books in allowing children to express their thoughts and feelings in a safe environment.
- **Creative activities:** Guidance on incorporating art and storytelling activities to foster a sense of normalcy and provide emotional release.

### Support Packages:

Each volunteer / volunteer group will soon receive a package tailored to provide both educational and recreational resources for the children. The contents of these packages include:

- **Arabic books** suitable for different age groups.
- **English books** donated by **BOOK AID International**.

- **Art supplies** such as crayons, papers, pencils, and sketchbooks. These materials are essential for facilitating creative expression and bibliotherapy activities.

**Budget:**

The estimated budget for each package is **70 USD**, covering all the materials provided. A detailed breakdown of the budget can be found in Appendix A.



## APPENDIX A

Lebanese Board on Books for Young People

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Item	Books	Price (USD)	Quantity	Total Price (USD)
1	يارا تتعلم نظافة المكان - Yara learns cleanliness	6	65	390
2	يارا تقول شكراً - Yara says thank you	6	65	390
3	يارا تحافظ على جسمها - Yara takes care of her body	6	50	300
4	يارا تتعلم الاعتذار - Yara learns to apologize	6	35	210
5	فكرة حمار - A Donkey's Idea	8	130	1,040
6	الخوف - Fear	3	130	390
7	الصبي الذي محاه الشمس - The Boy Who Erased the Sun	9	130	1,170
8	البارعون الصغار 10-11 سنوات - Clever Kids (Ages 10-11)	8.5	130	1,105
9	إلى عالم النحل - Into the World of Bees	7	130	910
10	أبي رائد فضاء - My Dad is an Astronaut	8.5	130	1,105
11	قصة الكوسة - The Story of the Zucchini	5	130	650
12	فلافل النازحين - Falafel of the Displaced	6	130	780
Total				8,440
25% Discount				2,110
Total After Discount				6,330

Item	Description	Price (USD)	Quantity	Total Price (USD)	
1	Carton Boxes	1	100	100	
2	Printing 1	0.1333	300	40	
3	Printing 2	0.6667	150	100	
4	Printing 3	0.2	150	30	
5	Sketchbook	0.23	650	149.5	
6	Crayons	0.44	650	286	
7	Paper Ream	3	130	390	
8	Pencil Box	0.55	130	71.5	
9	Delivery (per package)	10	130	1,300	
10	Training (free)	0	1	0	
11	10 Books (Donated by Book Aid International)	0	1300	0	
				Total	2,467
				Total (Including Purchased Books)	8,797

Only Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Seven USD

- Note that for one-week Assabil Professionals conducted visits and activities to 4 schools with a budget of 2000 USD