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FORUMZFD JORDAN NEWSLETTER

Activities conducted between January - March 2023

THE SUITCASE THEATRE PLAY

forumZFD Jordan in collaboration with its partner organization Wahj Al Shams produced the suitcase theatre play, which is a combination between comedy and drama that targeted youth and introduced topics that represent social dilemmas in the Jordanian community. The story-line take place in one of the cafeterias in a university, where a group of students gather to socialize and spend time together when they find a mysterious suitcase under one of the tables. Curiosity hits the students and they start to wonder what is hidden inside the suitcase, in hope of finding a valuable treasure. After hours of trying to solve the mystery, the students discover that the only way to open the suitcase is to address and discuss several social issues, including: Early childhood marriage, unemployment, and drug use. It is worth mentioning that the theatre play was performed by the 28th golden generation affiliated by Wahj Al Shams. In all their activities, Wahj Al Shams focus on integrating vulnerable groups in acting, and hence in this theatre play, all of the actors were vulnerable youth who fall between the ages (15-26). The suitcase theatre play was performed six times in different locations and governorates; including: The royal cultural center in Amman, Balqa university in Salt, Garage Art in Irbid, and Shlenner refugee camp. After each performance, the audience were asked to give a feedback on the theatre play, where 86% expressed that the intended message from the play was successfully delivered, and that they will attend more theatre plays conducted by Wahj Al shams and forumZFD in the future. With every performance and after each theatre play we conduct in collaboration with Wahj Al Shams, we become more certain of how much theatre can be used as an effective tool to build peace and transform conflicts.





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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS TRAINING

In collaboration with the Environmental association for Recycling and Energy, an environmental awareness training was conducted and attended by 20 participants who represent various institutions in Madaba.

The training aimed at raising the participants awareness on the current critical environmental situation, and suggested ways to mitigate its negative effects through creating synergies, and amplifying the importance of everyone's contribution to the matter including individuals, initiatives, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders.

For 15 days the participants learned and exchanged on different environment related topics; such as: climate change, solid waste, waste sorting, plastic types, hydroponics, and environmental protection.

Afterwards, we identified the environmental issues in the governorate through conducting a problem analysis, and started to suggest solutions that respond to these problems through designing different initiatives.

The training sessions were followed by field visits to help the participants apply the theoretical knowledge that they have acquired in the training.

This training paves the way to start taking serious environmental action in Madaba, starting from different schools in the governorate, as an attempt to promote pro-environmental habits.





MUSIC PRODUCTION - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN

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In the occasion of the international day of women, forumZFD and Rush production house worked together on producing a song to celebrate the strengths and capabilities of Jordanian women.

The song was produced collaboratively with five females and one male Jordanian artists who come from different backgrounds and fall under different age groups. All the artists stood in solidarity to deliver the intended message to women who reside in Jordan.

It is worth mentioning that the international day of women is an occasion dated on March 8 every year to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women around the world.

In 2022 Jordan was 63% distant from achieving gender parity, ranking 122 out of 146 countries, and we have that through the awareness activities that we are implementing we contribute to achieving a more equal and just society.

You can listen to the song (Enti) through the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4eyo-xA4X9k>





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PROMOTING COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN WADI ELSEER



With the support of forumZFD and its partner organization, the Middle East Center for Initiatives Empowerment (MECI) three youth initiatives had evolved in the area of Wadi Al Seer. The three initiatives came as a result of a number of youth who reside from Wadi Al Seer receiving capacity building training, where they learned how to identify and respond to problems in their communities.

The initiatives are working on: creating youth spaces in Wadi Al Seer where youth are involved in finding alternative methods to violence, connecting the local community of Wadi Al Seer with the beautiful nature of the area in a way that promote tourism and help in making the area more visible and appealing to the other local communities, as well as having equal rights in accessing the available natural resources in the area.

Throughout the work and the development of these initiatives, we hope that more peace building practices and positive impact are seen in the area.





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AVP YOUTH INITIATIVE

In collaboration with MECI and one of the youth initiatives derived from Wadi Al Seer (Alternatives to Violence Project Jordan), three conflict resolution workshops were conducted in February and March 2023.

The workshops focused on introducing different peaceful methods that could alternate the use of violence in solving problems.

The workshop participants were very happy after completing the workshop sessions and expressed their excitement and their openness to start using the methods they learned along with the skills that they acquired during the training.

Some of the skills that were acquired during the workshop include: how to practice active listening, how to boost your self-esteem, how to use non-violent communication, and how can we solve problems in a peaceful and effective way.

After receiving the participants feedback and asking them how they will use the acquired knowledge in the future, most of the answers included that they want to facilitate similar trainings and introduce more people to the conflict transformative methods they have learned.

