

ANNUAL REPORT 2024





MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

The year 2024, marked by challenges and trials for our country and the region, has highlighted the resilience and commitment of the ASSABIL Association to culture for all. We are proud to note the scope of the work accomplished, the realization of numerous projects, and the continued pursuit of goals that are fundamental to sustainable development, as reflected in this report.

In such a challenging context, the mere existence of serene spaces and the maintenance of quality services and activities have provided reassuring stability for all. ASSABIL has endeavored to guarantee this constancy by keeping its libraries open 7 days a week, whenever it was safe to do so. The statistics bear witness to the significant impact of our services and the growing needs of the population. The libraries were a refuge for displaced pupils and students particularly during the long summer months.

ASSABIL is keen to extend its cultural offerings beyond the library walls, to reach out to the public who don't live close to a library. Activities at centers for displaced persons and tours of the mobile library to outlying regions have provided moments of respite and joy for people living in difficult day-to-day circumstances. These initiatives have also helped to strengthen social ties, stimulate the imagination, and provide both children and adults with spaces for expression and creativity.

Two major themes guided our projects this year:

- The development of active citizenship: through the formation of women's committees among library users in several regions, the launch of civic actions, and the promotion of volunteering.
- Supporting education: by reinforcing language skills, thanks to a method specially designed for ASSABIL and drawing on the resources of our libraries.

These achievements were possible thanks to the commitment of a professional and motivated team, the support of dedicated volunteers, the enthusiastic participation of users, the effective collaboration of various cultural associations and, of course, the unfailing trust and support of partner institutions and organizations. We would like to extend to all of them our sincere gratitude and assure them of our commitment to continuing our mission.

Maud Stephan
President of the Board

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Public Libraries Surviving The War	5
Cultural Activities & Programs	8
Spreading Culture for Everyone	12
Social Engagement	14
Education as an Essential Tool for Development	18
ASSABIL at a Glance	20

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The Beirut Municipal Library, located in the Jesuit Garden in Achrafieh, is a place of culture and relaxation, where the useful meets the enjoyable. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, visitors can borrow a wide variety of books that cater to the needs and aspirations of all readers, with new additions regularly available. The overall ambiance, both inside the library and outside in the garden, creates an atmosphere of relaxation in silence, allowing visitors to read freely, learn, research, enrich their knowledge, and study. Let's not forget the cultural, artistic, and recreational activities designed for children, where creativity, imagination, culture, and leisure come together. In short, this library is a space for attraction, enjoyment, education, learning, and personal growth—an ideal place to learn while having fun and to have fun while learning. As François Mauriac wrote: “Reading is an open door to an enchanted world.”

*Visitor
Geitawi library*

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INTRODUCTION

In a context of multiple and prolonged crises, staying committed to cultural objectives becomes a true challenge. Since October 2019, Lebanon has faced an unprecedented economic crisis, marked by the collapse of the national currency, soaring inflation, and a drastic deterioration in living conditions. This situation has severely affected access to culture, which remains essential for human development and social cohesion. Amid this uncertainty, ASSABIL has demonstrated great adaptability in adjusting its activities, safeguarding access to cultural services, and maintaining the mission of Beirut's public libraries. The scarcity of cultural funding, the failure of public institutions, and the competition from urgent humanitarian needs all threaten the future of these spaces of knowledge and freedom.

Despite these obstacles, ASSABIL has multiplied its efforts and significantly expanded its reach, serving a broader audience through a rich, diverse, and inclusive cultural program.

I have been frequenting the ASSABIL Monnot library for almost a decade now. I discovered it by chance one day as I was walking around. It was a surprise seeing a public library there.

At first I started coming every now and then, especially on Saturdays, to check the newspapers and to read some special magazines. After some time, I found myself attending some events especially those related to movies and music.

Following the economic collapse and because my wife works in the region, I started coming on a daily basis bringing my laptop to work there from the morning until closing time.

Over the years I became fond of the library for so many reasons: The atmosphere is nice and calm, the library curators are welcoming, and the internet connection is one of the best I have experienced.

It's also a place to meet people with common interests.

In a strange way the ASSABIL Monnot library became a second home to me and I enjoy every day I spend there.

Claude
Monnot library

PUBLIC LIBRARIES SURVIVING THE WAR

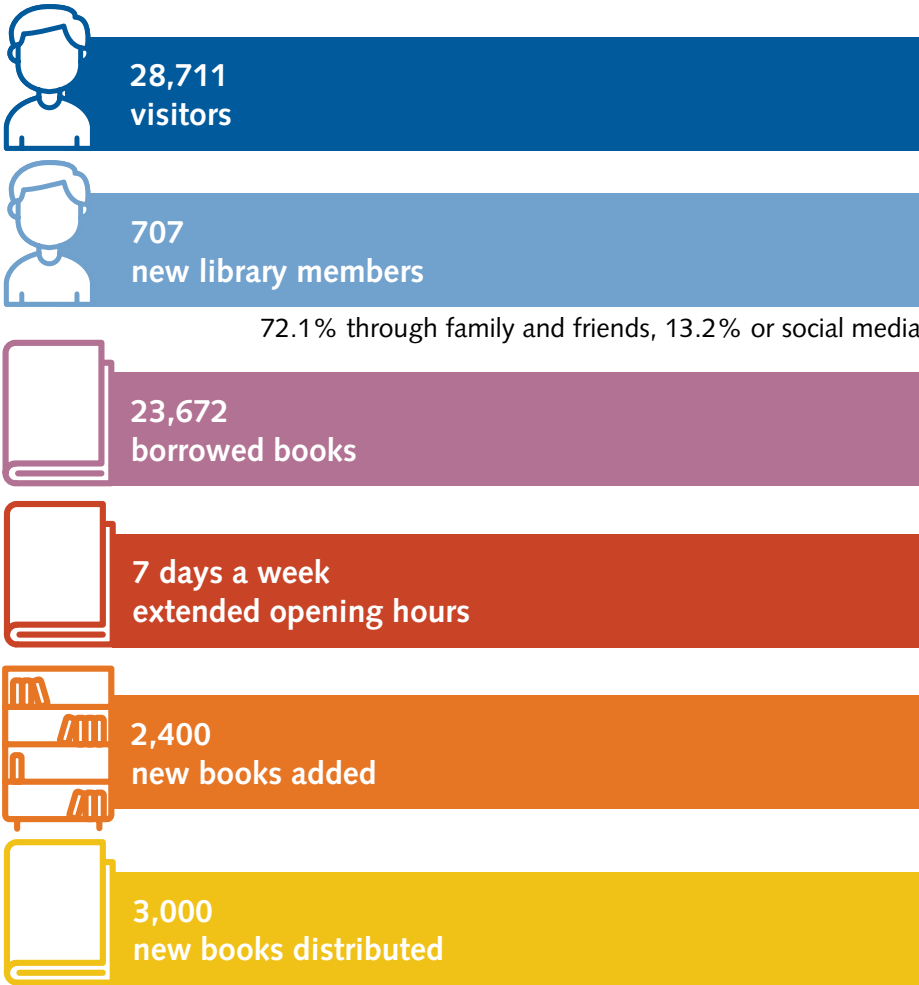
During the war, our primary goal was to sustain the libraries' operations and ensure their vitality. The library team approached the situation with vigilance and caution, anticipating the end of the conflict. However, the significant escalation in September 2024, which impacted the city of Beirut, necessitated the suspension of library services. The safety of our staff and the public visiting the libraries remained our top priority.

Prior to this pivotal moment, the library experienced an exceptional surge in visitors, exceeding our targets. Visitor numbers increased by **160% compared to pre-2023 levels**, a clear testament to the libraries' growing role as cultural hubs in the community.

Enhancing the role of ASSABIL Municipal Public Libraries as community platforms providing access to information, culture, and social change.

Library Visitors & Readers

The library welcomed a significant number of visitors and readers, reaching a total of 28,711 in 2024. This reflects strong community engagement and highlights the direct benefits of libraries for studying, reading, and to access library services. Additionally, 707 new members joined, with most learning about the library 72.1% through family and friends or 13.2% social media.



Extended Opening Hours

The addition of 2,500 new books to the collection underscores the commitment to continuously enriching and updating resources.

Public Libraries Objectives in Line With Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Our objectives aligned with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contributing to long-term positive change in education, social development, and community engagement:

SDG 4 Quality Education

By providing access to information, educational resources, and promoting a reading culture, ASSABIL libraries support lifelong learning for all members of the community, including adults and children. We also supported the language development of children through the creation of a story-based language teaching toolkit and teaching sessions and roundtables on the latest issues in education in Lebanon.

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

The integration of information technology to enhance library services aligns with SDG 9. Additionally, applying technology in teaching methods and supporting innovation in educational practices enhances the quality of language instruction.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

Ensuring that public libraries are accessible to all, regardless of individuals' background or income, promotes inclusivity and reduces social inequalities by providing free access to books and educational opportunities.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

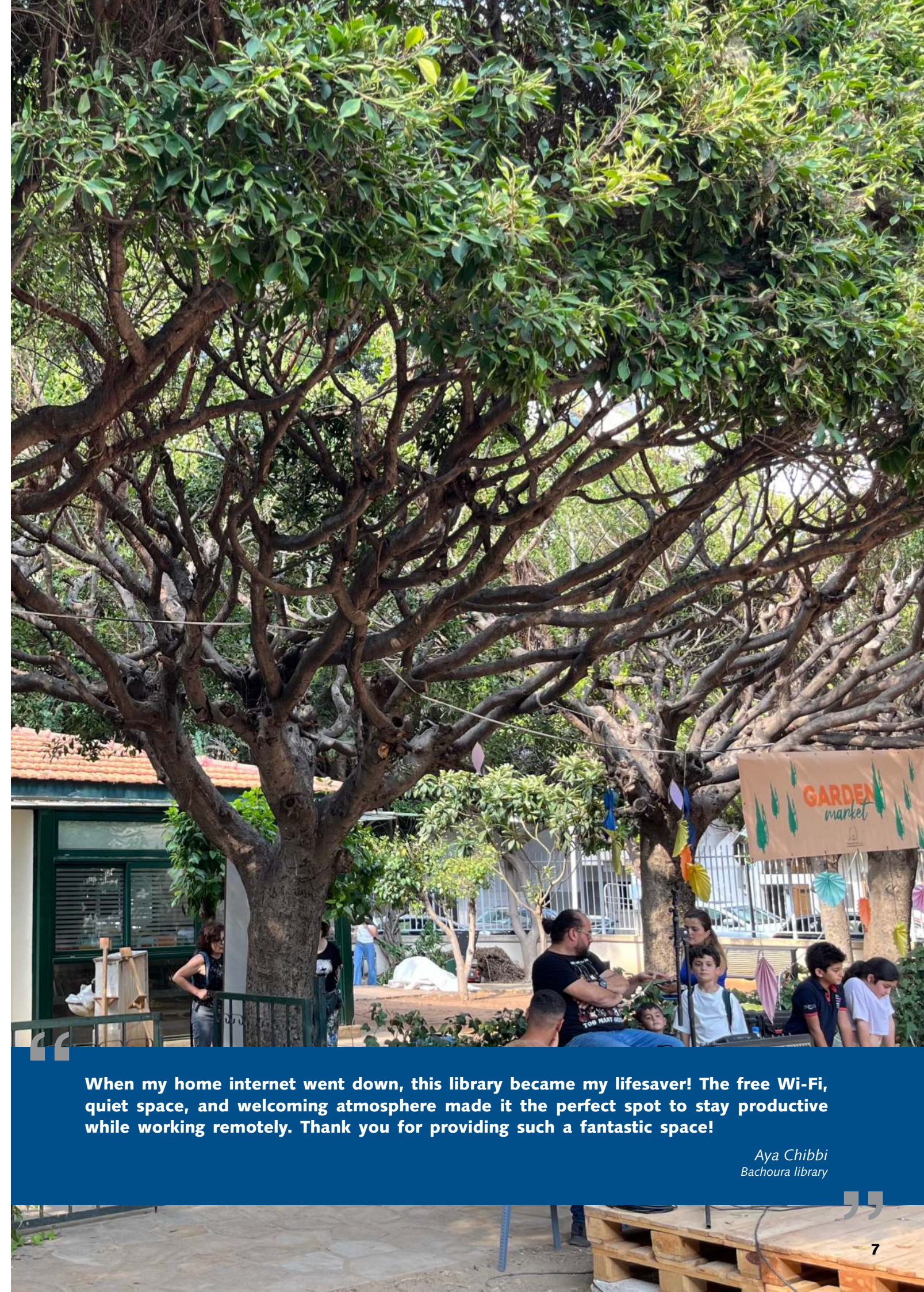
Sustainable Cities and Communities: The libraries serve as vibrant community spaces where cultural and educational activities are organized, fostering a sense of community and promoting sustainable urban development.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

The Change-Oriented Approach (COA) workshops and initiatives around Active Citizenship (AC) empower youth to engage in civic activities, promoting peace, justice, and social cohesion by encouraging dialogue and change-oriented actions within the community.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

Collaboration with education specialists, teachers, and partner schools helps strengthen partnerships and facilitates the exchange of knowledge to enhance learning outcomes.







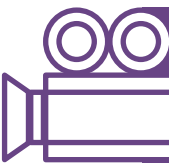

When my home internet went down, this library became my lifesaver! The free Wi-Fi, quiet space, and welcoming atmosphere made it the perfect spot to stay productive while working remotely. Thank you for providing such a fantastic space!

Aya Chibbi
Bachoura library




CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

In 2024, ASSABIL implemented a rich and diversified cultural program that catered to a diverse audience, reflecting the variety of interests, cultural backgrounds, and age groups of its participants. A total of 217 cultural activities were organized, bringing together more than 2,834 participants. These activities were designed to encourage creativity, dialogue, and community engagement, and were hosted in accessible and welcoming spaces such as the libraries of Bachoura, Geitawi, and Monnot, which also provide free access to books, magazines, and the internet.

Activities Program

-  A total of 24 book club meetings (10 in Arabic, 2 in English, and 12 in French) introduced readers to 35 authors and gathered 235 participants
-  Weekly storytelling sessions captivated young audiences, with 122 sessions led by 10 animators and attended by 1,373 children.
-  4 recently published books were introduced through special events attended by 90 participants
-  A dedicated reading night brought together 92 book lovers for an immersive literary experience
-  9 film club sessions featured 10 screenings, each followed by discussions with directors, in collaboration with Nadi Lekol Nas, attracting 263 participants
-  A total of 9 writing workshops (2 in Arabic and 7 in French) encouraged creative expression among 55 participants

Celebration of Important Days

-  International Women's Day with an encounter with the president of Madaniyat Nada Anid about the role of women in decision-making at the public level
-  Arabic Language Day celebration with a competition & tribute to author Fatima Charafeddine for her contribution to promoting the love of the Arabic language
-  Fête de la Musique with a concert by Firas Indari and his band and music appreciation sessions with Ahmad al Aswad from Kamandjaty Association

Promoting Arabic Youth Literature and Arabic language

ASSABIL/Boghossian Prize

In cooperation with the Boghossian Foundation, ASSABIL organizes the annual ASSABIL/Boghossian Prize for Arabic youth literature. In 2024, the results were as follows:

- 1- In the category of published books targeting children ages 8-12 years old: The prize was not awarded.
- 2- In the category of manuscripts targeting adolescents ages 13-15 years old: the manuscript "New Sun" by Jana Salika and the manuscript "Resident Birds" by Basma Khatib won the prize

SAWA: A Periodical Published by ASSABIL

ASSABIL continues to publish SAWA, the quarterly periodical it introduced in May 2021 to promote the Arabic language among young people between the ages of 11 and 15. The periodical, SAWA ("Together" in Arabic), is distributed in 6 schools and is available at the 3 municipal libraries for all visitors, and as an e-copy downloadable directly from our website. In 2024 we published 2 issues: numbers 10 and 11.

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It's really nice to meet and listen to the author. The personal experience is wonderful because when you love books and enjoy reading as much as I do, getting to meet the author in person adds a special touch.

Maysaa Hanouné
Monnot library

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Introduction of New Activities

The Craft Of Writing

The Craft of Writing refers to the skills, techniques, and artistic principles involved in the creation of written works such as novels, short stories, poems, essays, and plays. It encompasses various elements including plot development, character creation, setting description, dialogue construction, narrative structure, style, and language use. Writers often hone their craft through practice, study, and experimentation to effectively convey ideas, emotions, and themes to their audience. This activity allows the audience to discover the craft of writing of their favorite writers, enhancing their appreciation and understanding of literature. We organized 6 encounters with 5 writers: Elias Khoury, Rachid El Daiif, Michèle Gharos, Hyam Yared, Ramy Zein and Hassan Daoud with 200 participants.

Activities in Collaboration with the Beirut Heritage Association

Believing in the importance of networking with active cultural associations with whom we share objectives and values, a partnership was established with the Beirut Heritage Association, a cultural association that addresses all aspects of Beirut's heritage, especially those intersecting with Lebanon and the Arab world. This partnership resulted in the organization of 5 activities during 2024 with the participation of 95 people. These meetings shed light on works related to Beirut's heritage and/or on Beirut writers including Rana Mikati, Mohammad Mohsen, Imane Abdallah, and Kamal Rbeiz.

Many other activities were also organized, such as a four-day book bazaar that attracted 122 participants...



ASSABIL wishes to thank all the facilitators, speakers, guests, and authors who took part in or moderated events in 2024:

Film directors and facilitators: Antoine Kabbabe, Hisham Kayed, Bahij Hojeij, Elie Dagher, Gabi Jammal, Hadi Zakkak, the Legal Agenda, Naja Achkar, and Nadi Likolnas.

Authors and facilitators: Elias Khoury, Rachid El Daiif, Michèle Gharos, Hyam Yared, Ramy Zein, Hassan Daoud, Fatima Charaffeddine, Rola Rbeiz Bazergi, Antoine Boulad, Sarah Chahine, Rana Mikati, Mohammad Mohsen, Imane Abdallah, and Karim Koleilat.

Book club facilitators: Antoine Boulad, Suzanne El Amine, and Jana Maddah.

Storytellers and children's authors: Noura Kalache, Nataly Sabbagh, Sahar Tamimi, Nathalie Wardini, and Randa Abou El Hosn.

Musicians: Firas Indari and his band.

Handcraft session facilitator: Donia Al Koussa.

Writing workshop facilitator: Antoine Boulad and Ali Sabbagh.

ASSABIL/Boghossian Prize jurors: Suzane Abou Gaida, Najla Khoury, and Georgia Makhlof.

Debate Club: Raji Saïd.

Current Affairs: Amal Khalil and Firas Khalifeh.

PSS facilitator: Fatima Al Youssef.

Women's Day: Nada Anid.

Editorial Committee of SAWA: Najla Khoury, Georgia Makhlof, Antoine Boulad, and Samia Boulad

ASSABIL/Boghossian Prize jury members: Najla Khoury, Georgia Makhlof, and Susan Abou Ghaida.

World Arabic Language Day: Sarah Chahine and Fatima Charafeddine.

Photography workshop: Dar Al Mussawer and Ramzi Haydar.

Storytelling Workshop: Jihad Darwiche.

Reading sessions: Antoine Boulad.

Translation Club: Rola Debyan.

ASSABIL also warmly thanks all of its volunteers.

SPREADING CULTURE FOR EVERYONE

The program of the “Kotobus,” ASSABIL’s mobile library

Building on the success of its 2023 initiative, Kotobus continued its journey in 2024, bringing books, cultural activities, and creative workshops to the same six villages—Dibbiyeh, Chekka, Beit Meri, Rachaya, Samqaniyeh, and Baisariyeh—all of which lack public libraries. This year, the project deepened its impact, promoting a stronger reading culture and community engagement through interactive activities and artistic collaborations.

Kotobus visits each village twice a month, offering residents not only access to books but also engaging storytelling sessions, puppet shows, cultural games, and interactive workshops designed to inspire a love of reading. Activities catered to all age groups, reinforcing peacebuilding and social cohesion through creative expression.

The mobile library also strengthened its partnerships with local actors and artists, introducing music performances, artistic showcases, and open cultural days that united communities. Workshops on handicrafts, creative writing, and traditional arts empowered residents with new skills, encouraging both personal growth and economic opportunities.

To ensure a lasting impact, Kotobus supported the growth of cultural clubs established last year, reinforcing reading circles, cine clubs, and environmental initiatives. These clubs become self-sustaining community hubs, enabling residents to connect, share knowledge, and drive local cultural initiatives forward.

Through its continuing presence and evolving programming, Kotobus has cemented itself as a vital cultural lifeline, transforming public spaces into centers of learning, creativity, and social connection, and ensuring that access to culture and knowledge remains a right for all, not a privilege.

Supporting Libraries Outside Beirut

ASSABIL continued its support for public libraries in various regions by funding different activities, training staff, and donating books. In 2024, ASSABIL was able to collaborate with the following libraries:

Ansar Library in the Nabatieh district

Barja Library in the Chouf district

Mansoura Library in Western Bekaa

Al-Houla Library in Al Burj al Shimali Camp

Ghassan Kanafani Library in Beddawi Camp

Additionally, ASSABIL donated books to several libraries, with the total number of donated books reaching 3,000.



SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

ASSABIL believes in strengthening its role as an actively engaged association through the programs that it organizes and by networking with other associations rooted in their communities.

Enhancing Pathways for Women's Participation in Decision-Making and Peacebuilding: "The Reading into Peace" project supported by UN Women

The Reading into Peace project, implemented by ASSABIL Association with funding from UN Women and the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), has significantly empowered women including young women across Lebanon by enhancing their leadership, decision-making, and peacebuilding skills. Launched in November 2023, the initiative reached communities in Beirut, Ansar, Barja, Mansoura, Al Burj Al Shimali Camp, and Baddawi Camp, creating impactful opportunities for women's engagement in civic life.

Through 25 capacity-building sessions, 452 women developed skills in leadership, conflict resolution, digital marketing, and public policy writing, with 70% reporting improved confidence and decision-making abilities. The project established six women's committees, which launched 27 community initiatives, directly benefiting 640 participants and playing a crucial role in emergency response during the September 2024 conflict. Additionally, two debate clubs engaged youth in structured dialogue, while technical training for librarians enhanced library services through AI-based innovations.

Despite disruptions caused by conflict in Southern Lebanon, the project demonstrated remarkable resilience, adapting swiftly to support displaced families and maintained program momentum. With 1,163 indirect beneficiaries, the initiative has left a lasting mark by strengthening women's leadership, encouraging youth engagement, and reinforcing libraries as spaces for empowerment. The Reading into Peace project stands as a testament to the transformative power of investing in women's participation in decision-making and peacebuilding, ensuring sustainable impact amid ongoing challenges.

Testimonies & Stories of Change

01. Revitalizing Ansar Public Library

Once struggling due to financial constraints, the Ansar Public Library became a thriving community hub through the project's support. Previously operating on a limited basis, the library now functions full-time, offering diverse activities and services. The establishment of a women's committee further strengthened its impact, enabling non-funded initiatives that enhanced community engagement. Today, the Ansar Public Library stands as one of Lebanon's most active libraries, demonstrating the power of collaborative efforts in revitalizing public institutions.

02. Women's Committees: A New Era of Community Leadership

Once struggling due to financial constraints, the Ansar Public Library became a thriving community hub through the project's support. Previously operating on a limited basis, the library now functions full-time, offering diverse activities and services. The establishment of a women's committee further strengthened its impact, enabling non-funded initiatives that enhanced community engagement. Today, the Ansar Public Library stands as one of Lebanon's most active libraries, demonstrating the power of collaborative efforts in revitalizing public institutions.

03. Al-Houla Library: A Beacon of Empowerment

Despite losing financial support, Al-Houla Library remained a vital resource for the Al Burj Al Shimali Camp, thanks to the dedication of volunteers. The project's funding revitalized the library, allowing it to expand cultural and educational programs that empower women. This support enabled women to launch small businesses, fostering economic independence and long-term sustainability.

04. Empowering Journeys: Transformative Impact of Training

Nour Wehbe discovered a passion for lighting techniques in video production, significantly enhancing her storytelling skills.

Israa Abdallah leveraged video marketing training to boost her small business's visibility, attracting a wider audience.

Aya Safadi transitioned into digital marketing, increasing her income by managing local businesses' social media.

These stories illustrate the project's profound impact—empowering individuals, supporting leadership, and building resilience in marginalized communities.

Preserving cultural heritage: "Tell Me Your Story" project, supported by BERYT-UNESCO

This project aimed to preserve cultural memory, empower individuals through storytelling and photography, and revitalize public libraries. Many activities have been implemented such as:

Photography Training, Photography Training: 10 participants (5 women, 5 men) trained in photography, documenting Beirut's post-explosion recovery. Their work was exhibited in final events, attracting over 500 visitors.

Storytelling Workshops, 8 participants, trained in person and remotely, collected and performed stories of resilience from individuals affected by the Beirut port blast.

Final Cultural Events: Held at Bachoura and Geitawi libraries, featuring storytelling performances, photography, and illustration exhibitions.





Activities Responding To The Emergency Caused by The War, Supported by LBBY

ASSABIL Supports 1,188 Displaced Children in 3 shelters: Amlieh School, Ras Nabeh public school and Beit Meri public school.

Recognizing the profound psychological impact of displacement, ASSABIL designed a series of therapeutic activities to support children's mental well-being. Through storytelling, creative writing, art, and educational games, children found safe spaces to express emotions, process trauma, and build resilience. Storytelling and reading sessions promoted hope and empathy, art workshops provided an outlet for emotional expression, and recreational games encouraged social bonding and problem-solving. These activities helped children regain a sense of normalcy, rebuild confidence, and develop coping mechanisms, ensuring they feel supported and empowered despite their hardships.

Public Libraries As Dynamic Community Spaces: "Libraries, Leaders, and Cultural Planners of Community-Based Action" Project

The "Libraries, Leaders, and Cultural Planners" project has strengthened ASSABIL's public libraries as dynamic community spaces while encouraging youth engagement and active citizenship. Despite economic hardship and regional instability, the project expanded its impact, ensuring access to information, culture, and social participation.

In 2024, ASSABIL's public libraries continued to thrive as dynamic community hubs, extending opening hours to 47 weeks and welcoming 28,711 visitors. With 23,672 books borrowed and 216 cultural activities—including storytelling sessions, book clubs, and writing workshops—the libraries engaged 3,424 participants, fostering a strong reading culture. Volunteer engagement also expanded, with 41 youth trained in library management, reinforcing the libraries' role as inclusive learning spaces.

Empowering youth through civic engagement remained a core focus, with 26 participants—including youth, parents, teachers, and community workers—taking part in the Change-Oriented Approach (COA) workshop, promoting dialogue on civic responsibility. Additionally, 12 youth launched the Library Box initiative, encouraging book sharing and recycling in Beirut's public gardens. While the Active Citizenship initiative was postponed due to conflict, it remains a priority for future implementation.

These efforts have transformed public libraries into vital cultural and educational spaces, providing free access to knowledge and enhancing social responsibility. Through youth-led initiatives and inclusive programming, ASSABIL has strengthened its role as a leader in literacy, culture, and community engagement, ensuring sustainability and resilience despite ongoing challenges.

Partnerships with Other Associations

ASSABIL is eager to collaborate with other associations and NGOs to transform libraries into open and inclusive urban spaces in Beirut. This year, the association joined efforts with Himaya, Idraac, Bayti Baytak, Arabi and Iraqi TVs, Liqaa (Jesuit Garden Neighborhood Group), Lions, Tri-pulley, Kotobli, and others to support less privileged communities by hosting numerous psychosocial support and awareness activities. These sessions gave the 350 participants a chance to meet with experts and professionals and discuss critical and challenging topics such as violence against women and child protection in the libraries.

Active Citizenship

Public libraries play a pivotal role in enhancing active citizenship, particularly among youth, by providing access to information, resources, and educational programs. They serve as hubs for civic education, offering workshops, seminars, and resources that promote civic literacy, democratic values, and engagement skills. In 2024, and for the second consecutive year, we organized a COA (Change-Oriented Approach) workshop at ASSABIL public libraries. This year we implemented it effectively within our community. Our improved planning and organizational practices allowed all staff members to develop strong facilitation skills for these workshops.

The COA workshop highlighted the issue of lack of civic sense among teenagers in the Bachoura area. To address this effectively, we engaged key target groups, including youth aged 13 to 18, parents, teachers, school principals, public institution employees, and community workers including the ASSABIL librarian, a civil defense officer, a medical center employee, and scout leaders. This workshop was a success and a great opportunity for ASSABIL, as a third party, to promote community engagement and provide a neutral ground for interaction and dialogue. All participants embraced change, even though they acknowledged that it could be challenging. Each group committed to making change feasible by focusing on the positive aspects, setting clear goals and a vision, and being patient while taking small steps—key actions that all groups should undertake.

The final component of the project focuses on building the capacity of youth in active citizenship and guiding them to implement social initiatives.

A key component of the program was the volunteering initiative. Sixteen volunteers expanded accessibility by opening the libraries on Sundays and Friday evenings, ensuring that working individuals could access resources during their time off. The positive impact on volunteers ensured their continued involvement post-project.

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The Debate Club is a necessity as it allows us to evaluate our knowledge of talking objectively about current issues, while being able to support our points of view, and further analyzing and justifying our points of view. Critical thinking is incorporated within various sides, which maintains that all viewpoints are equally represented. In addition, in the club, I met new friends, with whom I can express my opinions and inclinations without judgment.

Ali Assaf
Bachoura library





EDUCATION AS AN ESSENTIAL TOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT

Public libraries play a pivotal role in supporting education as a catalyst for development. More than just providers of free access to knowledge, they serve as inclusive learning spaces that bridge educational gaps and empower communities. In times of crisis, libraries become resilient hubs—offering resources, literacy programs, and a safe environment where individuals, especially youth and marginalized groups, can develop critical skills, seize new opportunities, and contribute meaningfully to societal progress. By nurturing a culture of lifelong learning, public libraries help lay the foundation for a more informed, engaged, and resilient society.

In this context, ASSABIL has implemented a set of actions to support children's language development, with the support of Secours Catholique/Caritas France:

Objective

Strengthen children's language skills through educational support activities offered in public libraries.

Round Tables

Two educational roundtables were organized with teachers and academics from partner schools to address challenges in teaching the Arabic language and to propose practical improvements.

Toolkit

A new story-based language learning toolkit was developed using library resources. It provides teachers with interactive and enjoyable methods to enhance language acquisition during library sessions.

Support from Caritas

This initiative was made possible with the support of Secours Catholique/Caritas France, which enabled the development and implementation of both the toolkit and the roundtables.

The toolkit added value to ASSABIL's educational program by introducing an innovative and engaging teaching technique. Unlike the 2022–2023 tutoring program based on the school curriculum, the new toolkit guided educators to create interactive storytelling sessions in Arabic, English, and French. These sessions began in February 2024 in two public libraries in Beirut, targeting children from public schools.





ASSABIL AT A GLANCE

The ASSABIL Association (ASSABIL) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1997 to establish and promote public libraries and open cultural spaces in Lebanon. By creating public spaces for reading and culture, ASSABIL vowed to fill a void following the Lebanese Civil War, thus responding to a “social necessity.” At ASSABIL, we envision an inclusive world where culture and knowledge drive individual development and social transformation.

ASSABIL's three libraries are open 7 days a week for visitors and members, regardless of any religious, race, age, or socio-economic considerations.

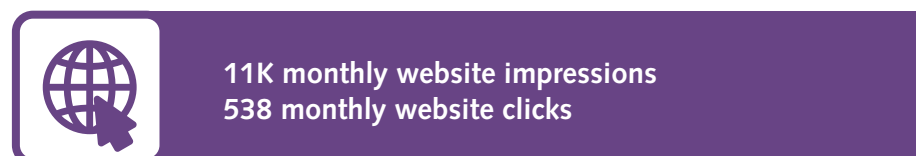
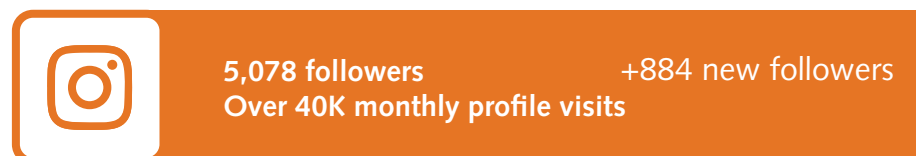
ASSABIL seeks to encourage people of all ages, religions, and socio-economic and educational backgrounds to benefit from library services. Our public libraries are a local gateway to information and knowledge, offering free access to around 50,000 books, magazines, and online resources.

The Bachoura library was the first to be established in 2001, followed by the opening of libraries in Geitawi-Jesuit Garden (2004) and in Monnot, close to the USJ campus (2008). ASSABIL is commissioned by the Municipality of Beirut to manage and operate the municipal public libraries in the neighborhoods of Bachoura, Geitawi, and Monnot. The year 2008 also witnessed the launch of the mobile library, Kotobus, which mainly serves remote public schools and non-formal education centers in need.

Communication and Visibility

In 2024, ASSABIL successfully expanded its audience by introducing more people to its services and activities through a communication strategy that prioritized modern tools to enhance visibility and engagement. Notably, the organization's growing follower base remained entirely organic, reflecting genuine interest in and trust toward its mission. This approach led to a marked increase in public interaction and participation.

Despite the challenges encountered throughout the year—including a two-month publishing hiatus due to the war in Lebanon—ASSABIL demonstrated resilience and achieved significant progress, successfully reaching a broader audience.



Financials

Annual budget: 300,000.00 USD

Donors: Secours Catholiques-Caritas France, GIZ, Djeliya-Internationale, COBIAC, BookAid international, Boghossian Foundation, Ambassade de France au Liban, UNICEF, BERYT-UNESCO, UNWomen, LBBY.

Partners: Nadi IkolNas, Himaya, Medair, Liqaa (Jesuit Garden Neighborhood group), Tri-pulley, Madanyat, Beirut Heritage Association, Idrac, Al Kamandjaty Association.



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