

مؤسسة تامر للتعليم المجتمعي
Tamer Institute for Community Education



Tamer Institute for Community Education Annual Report 2023



Table of Contents

Tamer Institute for Community Education	5
Vision	5
Mission	5
Strategic Goals	6
General Assembly and Board of Directors	7
Board of Directors	7
General Assembly	7
Strategic Goal 1: Creating free spaces of expression for children and youth that reinforce the social and national fabrics.	8
First: National Reading Campaigns in the Palestinian Society 2023.....	8
Second: Community Learning Programs	10
Third: Community Led-Initiatives (from House to House)	21
Strategic objective 2: Developing a quality, knowledge-based cultural product that stimulates curiosity and imagination.	22
First: Research Papers	22
Second: Cultural Productions	23
Third: Translations	26
Fourth: Resource Center.....	27
Fifth: Tamer Institute’s Digital Presence	28
Sixth: Book Launch Events	29
Seventh: Visual Art Exhibitions	30
Eighth: Seminars and Roundtables	32
Ninth: Awards	32
Tenth: Regional and International Exhibitions	32
Eleventh: Arab and International Solidarity.....	34
Strategic Goal 3: Providing a safe enabling environment for the "culture of learning."	35
First: Capacity Building Path and trainings for Community Learning Programs (Children’s Literature Program/network of community libraries, Protection Program and Learning program)	35
Second: Physical interventions and improvements.....	38
Third: Provision of Supplies to the Network of Community Libraries	38
Strategic Goal 4: Empowering Tamer Institute’s Team and enhancing the Institute’s sustainability to spread its learning approach inside and outside Palestine.	38
First: Endorsement of Internal structures, Systems, Policies and Culture.....	39
Second: Tamer Institute is supportive of its team and capable of diffusing its learning approach	39

Save the Children...Save Gaza

2023 ended with an extremely heartbreaking and vicious ongoing aggression on Gaza since the 7th of October, coinciding with the 75th year since Al-Nakba. An aggression to which thousands of lives have been lost, many martyrs including members from the institute's team as well as members from the youth teams, and the loss continues. The infrastructure of the entire Strip has been destroyed, and the standing schools and CBOs have turned into emergency shelters for the internally displaced Palestinian families. The aggression also affected the West Bank from movement restrictions, demolitions, arrests, violence, invasions, closures, killings, and attacks from settlers and the occupation army.

The Palestinian society as a whole, and children and youth especially are experiencing a new form of memory accompanied by a huge loss in all aspects of life including the learning and developmental processes leading to the fact that continuing with Tamer's programs and work as planned was extremely difficult, especially as Gaza turned into a place deprived of all the necessities for a dignified life in terms of health and education, and all aspects of life, which is why the Institute endorsed the hashtag **Save the Children...Save Gaza**.

In that context, and after internal discussions, and as part of the community as a whole in shelters throughout the entire strip, we found that our children were experiencing a state of emptiness, they are unengaged, and find difficulty in communication and expression, so, we made a group decision concerning the necessity of being and working with children, youth, caregivers, artists, families, and communities aiming towards helping all Palestinian communities acquire the needed skills for resilience, and helping to ease and overcome, in part, this extenuating circumstance we are all going through as people and as a cause.

Even with the difficulty of this stage, its contradictions, and with the martyrdom of part of our crew and members of the youth teams in Gaza and the West Bank, yet children's eyes and laughs are a source of determination to execute those acts that mimic heart, soul and consciousness and in cooperation with actors in the child literature sector to draw more smiles and collect tales of displacement and aggression, and producing the alphabet of aggression against the Palestinian people, which is part of a history that we, and not the other, share with friends and people who stand in solidarity with us from around the world to form an awareness that intersects with our dream of freedom, even if it will take time.

Renad Qubbaj

First: May their souls rest in peace



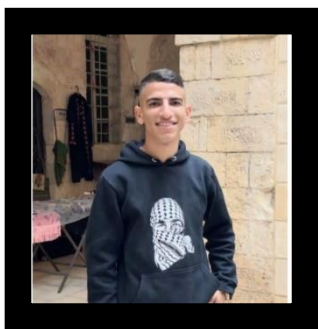
On October 14th, colleague Yousef Dawas was martyred, and with his assassination we lost a voice from the Voices team that could not be replaced. His words, laughs and photographs will always be with us. Yousef was active in the Institute's literary youth teams in Gaza, Yara'at and Voices from Palestine. He was an avid reader and writer, and a dreamer, photographer and writer.



On October 18th, colleague Mohammed Sami Qreqe' was martyred. He was the soul of the art studio at Tamer Institute in Gaza, and was active in all our initiatives, and activities, always the first to volunteer, and the last to leave. Muhammad's art project was linking art to technology and linking Palestinian art to QR codes to save it from the occupation's theft, We and the children of Shuja'iyya will miss you, and so will every inch of the Swedish camp and the airport.



On November 4th, Iman Khaled Abu Saied was martyred. She was a colleague, friend, sister, daughter, and young mother. She died alongside her children Jody and Ziad, her husband, Iyad, and 22 members of her extended family in Nuseirat, after she was forced to leave her home in Tal al-Hawa, which was bombed to the ground.



On December 17th, the child, Walid Zahra, was martyred at the Nur Shams camp in Tulkarm, West Bank. Walid was involved in several youth initiatives, most notably the "Rain Singer Theatre."

Tamer Institute for Community Education

Tamer Institute for Community Education is a community educational non-governmental organization established in 1989 in Jerusalem, Palestine as a response to the needs of the Palestinian society after the First Intifada. The Institute mainly targets children, youth, and groups who work with them such as parents, teachers, librarians, and artists among others. Tamer works through its network of around 100 community libraries, its network of around 100 school libraries as well as its youth teams. Tamer focuses on disseminating social values and rights like gender equality, inclusion and celebrating differences (on the basis on sex, religion, race, social status, abilities among others), rights to knowledge, expression, and learning, while emphasizing the Palestinian national identity. Tamer Institute has been working with the local and international partners that accumulate to over 400 bodies since its establishment, giving it credibility in the Palestinian community. Tamer Institute also has one of the oldest publishing units working in Palestine with over 250 books, 3 music albums, 30 animated stories, various research and critical papers among others published for children and youth.

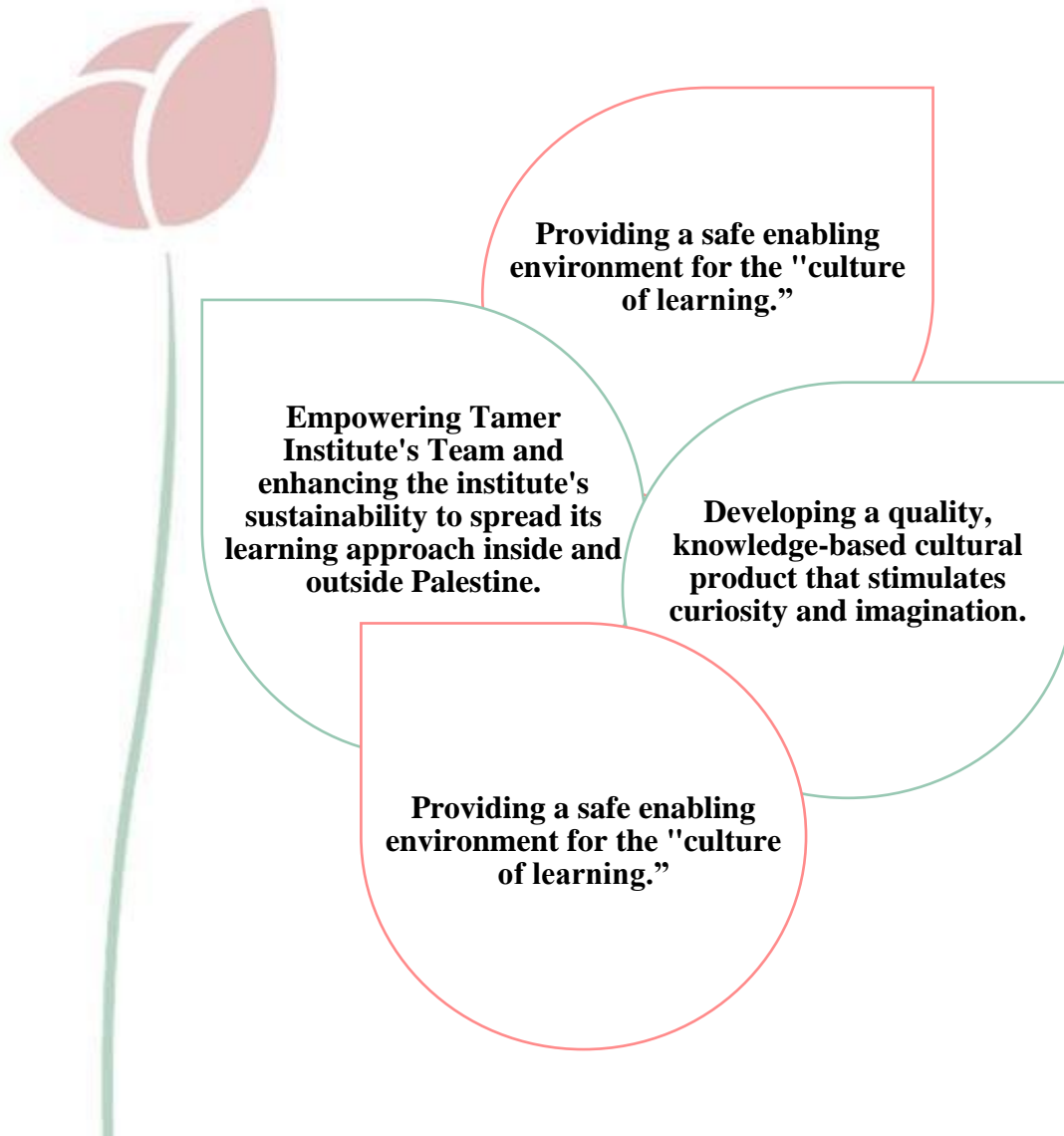
Vision:

Towards a free and safe Palestinian learning Society

Mission:

To Encourage and deepen opportunities of learning among children, young adults and people who work with them.

Strategic Goals



General Assembly and Board of Directors

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Tamer Institute held four periodic meetings, during which the Board approved the executive plan and the Institute's budget, appointed an auditor for the general audit of the Institute, and approved the sale of half of the land for the purposes of making the remaining payments for the purchase of the Institute's headquarters. Additionally, many members of the Institute's committees have been active in reading and following up on research that enhances the Institute's approach to expressive arts and its relationship with protection and community. Also, the Board of Directors approved the amended procurement system and emergency projects and their relationship with the organization's identity, and the preparation of the meeting of the trustees.



Shahinaz Alfar
Chairman of the
Board of Directors

Abla Nasser
Trustee of the Fund

Mahmoud Al-Atshan
Member of the Board
of Directors

Eyad Masrouji
Vice-President of the
Board of Directors

Laila Al-Batran
Member of the Board
of Directors

Morris Bakla
Member of the Board
of Directors

Sadeq Khadoor
Board Secretary

Muna Sha'ath
Member of the Board
of Directors

Abeer Musleh
Member of the Board
of Directors

General Assembly

The General Authority held its periodic meeting on 12/06/2023 at the headquarters of Tamer Institute, Ramallah, and approved the technical report, the auditor, and tasked the Board of Directors to appoint an auditor for the current year.



Strategic Goal 1: Creating free spaces of expression for children and youth that reinforce the social and national fabrics.

Since the beginning of 2023, Tamer Institute worked to promote reading within the Palestinian community through its annual National Reading Week Campaign, Baba Read to Me Campaign, Nowwar Nissan, remedial education programs, summer camps and weekly expressive arts and PSS sessions in community and school libraries, as well as in Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) in Gaza since the beginning of the war on the 7th of October 2023.

First: National Reading Campaigns in the Palestinian Society 2023

A. National Reading Week:

Tamer Institute conducted its National Reading Campaign (NRC) for the year 2023 under the slogan “**In Us, the Unfolding Return**” across all Palestinian governorates to encourage reading in the Palestinian community, in response to a series of extended dialogues and intellectual brainstorming discussions with its local partners operating in the fields of education, culture and community development across Palestine. Tamer’s partners discussed the Palestinian local context and the events it contained that threaten the notion of “Time” with emphasis on hope within time. Together, we gathered to propose a vision where Time flows calmly, with its value rooted in the freedom and space it provides for people to contemplate their own time, life, and shifting reality. With children ages 4-18, caregivers, partners, and community members; Tamer placed Time under a microscope to free it, take it back and weave meaning and memories out of it. The total number of participants in the NRC was **17,976 children**, youth, parents, and community members where **14,452 (6033 M, 8419 F) children**, **1343 (490 M, 853 F) youth**, **1840 (498 M, 1342 F) parents** as well as **341 CwD** joined various activities indoors and outdoors around expressive arts using the Tamer’s recently **translated book “Time”** during the two weeks of Tamer’s NRC 2023. Through satisfaction surveys, **98.6%** of the children agreed they would love to join the NRC again.



B. Baba Read to Me Campaign

Several preparatory meetings for the "Baba Read to Me" campaign were held during the months of August and September, and it was agreed to implement it in mid-November. However, since October, the ongoing brutal war in Gaza and the Israeli occupation's violent practices in the West Bank, which included daily incursions into cities and villages and road closures, along with the associated casualties, injuries, and widespread arrests of Palestinians from various locations, challenged the implementation. In response to these challenges, Tamer Institute decided to implement activities where possible titled “**Support Activities**” instead of the title “Baba Read to Me Campaign” in the West Bank aimed at enhancing social cohesion and providing a psychological outlet for children and their entire families not only fathers, under Tamer’s theme of 2023 “In us, the unfolding returns”. Activities were conducted highlighting the current situation every Palestinian is living in aiming to stress release, enhance resilience, strengthen the social fabric, and improve the wellbeing and knowledge of children through PSS and expressive arts activities within communities under “Baba Read to Me” Campaign for 2023. **84 activities were conducted with 2624 children (858 M, 1766 F) and 73 parents (53 F, 20 M).**

C. Nowwar Nissan

Tamer Institute participated in Nowwar Nissan’s Festival for 2023 under the theme “On the Road of Oranges” with the Ramallah Municipality. Tamer Institute conducted several activities including 1 book fair and 1 music album launch of “Shabara Amara” which illustrates traditional games played by children and youth in Palestine with singers and composers Jameel Sayeh and Massarah Shaheen. In addition, Tamer Institute implemented several activities in the Institute and in the Old City of Ramallah during the festival which included 4 stations that are the Oranges station, the Leather and Wool station, the Palestinian Engravings station, and the Palestinian Camps station. **160 (105 F, 55 M) children participated in the activities at Tamer**

Institute as well as **15 members from Tamer's youth teams** who volunteered to help during the activities.

Second: Community Learning Programs

Since the beginning of 2023, **community libraries, school libraries and CBOs** are steadily working on a **weekly basis** to provide a safe space for children and caregivers to read, learn and express themselves. Children are introduced to extracurricular activities that support their life skills, reading skills, imagination and expression. Parents, librarians, teachers and facilitators utilize Tamer Institute's productions and expressive tools to conduct activities in storytelling, book discussions, music, drama, drawing, animation among others. Around **150 sessions** are conducted on a monthly basis in Tamer's network of **90 community libraries** accumulating to around **1800 activities conducted during the year 2023 with around 20,000 children**, as well as around **516 activities at 72 schools** in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza in 2023, with **5620 children participating**.

1. Protection Programs

Children and youth joined a wide variety of art-based PSS activities implemented on a regular basis at the targeted **80 community libraries** in Tamer's network. The activities aimed at providing an interactive safe space for children to share their **emotions, ideas, and perspectives** on different issues and eventually help them release stress and improve their social, life skills and wellbeing. The activities are based on utilizing books among others as tools for designing meaningful activities, ones that present experiences that children and youth can relate to through the plot, the different characters and through the illustrations provided. Children's wellbeing is defined by the support provided through PSS support, social emotional learning, library activities, recreational activities and other extracurricular activities. During 2023, around **50 regular PSS activities** were conducted on a monthly basis accumulating to around **600 PSS activities** in 2023, with **an average of 10,261 children and youth joining in the West Bank and in Gaza including 471 CwD**. In addition, since outbreak of the war on Gaza on October the 7th 2023, Tamer Institute started working in 32 Designated Emergency Shelters (DES) as well focusing on recreational PSS activities **for 11421 children (5467 M, 5998 F) and 1950 caregivers (385 M, 1565 F)**.

- Psychological wellbeing support (PSS) activities in Gaza

Since the war on Gaza on October the 7th 2023, Tamer Institute for Community Education started working in **32 Designated Emergency Shelters (DES)** in Middle Area, Deir Al Balah and Rafah areas of the Gaza Strip since the 30th of October 2023. Tamer Institute is still working through its facilitators and coordinators to provide PSS/recreational activities for children for children and caregivers in the targeted locations. **11421 children (5467 M, 5998 F) joined the activities until the end of 2023.**



Raghad from Beit Lahia says: *“I was very happy with Tamer Institute because they played with us and took care of us. We stress released and loved the games they did. We are scared all day and have nothing to do”*.

- Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Awareness sessions

Tamer Institute also conducted Explosive remnants of war (ERWs) awareness sessions with children and caregivers in 32 shelters in Gaza since the war. Tamer Institute began working in the shelters focusing on raising the awareness of entire families on the risks imposed by the explosive remnants and the importance of raising the awareness of their children on these risks. The sessions call for awareness on how to detect the remnants, how to avoid them and refer them to concerned parties to protect the children and caregivers to save their lives. Tamer Institute worked with **1090 children (203 M, 887 F)**, and **1950 caregivers (385 M, 1565 F)** on ERW totaling in 2023 to **8958 children (3729 F, 3685 M)** and **5671 caregivers (4407 F, 1264 M)**.



- Case management and counselling

During 2023, trained facilitators from Tamer Institute provided **2584 children (1497 M, 1177 F)** with **case management services**, and **5404 children (2838 F, 2566 M)** with **individual and group counselling**. Counsellors contributed to addressing problems of behavioral disorder, psychological disorder, movement disorder, educational disorder, abuse, and neglect among others. Moreover, counsellors conducted group counselling where a group of children are sharing moments of peer interaction pointing one specific behavioral problem such as aggressive behavior, bullying, anxiety, depression, trauma. Counsellors conducted structured sessions that encourage free expression. Tamer’s music album “Fahim”, especially the song “Wish”, was an example used to open windows of wide imagination, ambition and aspirations, as the songs contain words inspired from the eyes of children, a number of 8 songs of learning features besides entertainment.

- MHPSS through Music

Over the course of several consecutive workshops, children and parents in the West Bank and Gaza took part in physical, emotional, mental, social, and aesthetic experiences related to the songs in Tamer Institute’s music albums of Faheem and Qalbi Ghabe. The MHPSS workshops aimed to support the mental health, wellbeing, and stress-release of the children. The team used different expressive art methods on top of music, such as: writing, drawing, singing and others, in addition to playing, to help the children express their emotions and thoughts, while keeping their focus on helping the kids overcome the psychological and social challenges that they face. In addition, there was an evident participation of the parents and the caregivers. Tamer Institute reached **a total of 4675 children (2590 F, 2059 M) including 121 CwD** have benefited from the MHPSS workshops. Moreover, **994 (709 F, 285 M) parents and caregivers** have joined their children.



- Jenin Camp path

Tamer Institute conducted a PSS path in Jenin Refugee Camp in 2023 as the escalations in the Camp by occupation forces affected children, youth and parents enormously. Children witnessed assassinations, demolishing and aggressions that left them in need of stress release and PSS

activities. Tamer Institute worked with **200 children in Jenin Camp** with activities parsed into two corners, one for stories and one for PSS.

- PFA network in CBOs

Tamer Institute started working on establishing a Psychological First Aid (PFA) network in community libraries across the WB and GS. Preparations began to build the capacity of education and psychology university students to then spread over community libraries and work with children on PFA and incorporating children's literature and expressive arts in PSS. Afterwards, one group of the trained students from Hebron University, along with the librarians, conducted **24 activities** with students from the orphanage of the Islamic Charitable Society which is part of the Anwar Ibrahimiyah Library. The activities focused on PFA for children, providing PSS based on stories such as "Shabra Qamara," "Silly Layla," and others. Additionally, the activities included PSS through manufacturing simple games with the children. These activities were carried out with **120 children** from the Anwar Ibrahimiyah Library, and **30 female** children from Bani Na'im library.

2. Learning/ School Programs

- Math Clubs:

Across Tamer' network of school libraries and within its learning programs, **91 math clubs' workshops** through expressive arts were conducted in **26 schools** focusing on addressing learning difficulties among students in math with **768 (499 F, 223 M) children**, highlighting the creation of **6 new clubs** in Gaza in 2023. The approaches utilized enhanced the peer-to-peer support concept to encourage students to support each other while working on improving their numeracy skills and while utilizing expressive arts, in addition to implementing a set of interactive games such as **cone challenge, arranging bean bags by numbers, memory game, addition and catch, number puzzle, Sudoku, princess handshake, vegetable market, catch the fly, color and promise, time management and dot and side**. Children used art to express themselves, drawing human body parts with geometric shapes and creating unique cartoon characters such as "Mr. Mathematics".

- Artists Tours:

45 artists' tours were completed with **writers and storytellers and musicians** where **819 (531 F, 288 M) students including 37 CwD, in 16 schools and CBOs** had the opportunity to live the experience of specialized Palestinian artists who gave a reflection on their lives and worked with the students within their specialization in depth.



- Remedial Education:

In 2023, **5800 remedial education workshops** were conducted in **72 schools** with **3366 (1603 F, 1763 M)** children including **110 CwD**, in Arabic and Math. Part-time teachers worked through creative approaches to support children's literacy and numeracy learning skills, specially after Covid-19 and the teachers' strike, where stories, expressive arts, movement, games among others were used, along with worksheets inside the classrooms and the school libraries with children aged between **7-12 years old** in the WB and GS. Menna Jabr Abu Shaqeer, a second-grade student at Al-Fakhari Girls' School, said, *"Today, Mr. Mohammed gave me a question about ascending order, and I solved it on my own, and the whole class applauded for me. I felt a happy feeling."*



- Summer Camps:

38 summer camps were conducted across the West Bank and Gaza Strip schools for **2254 children (1445 F, 908 M)** including **52 CwD (29 M, 23 F)**, **53 teachers (39 F, 14 M)**, **70 facilitators (30 F, 40 M)**, **90 parents (87 F, 3 M)** and **12 volunteers (3 M, 9 F)** from Tamer's "Nakheel" youth team. The camps lasted for 3-10 days each and included various activities and

corners such as graffiti painting, literacy corner, numeracy, arts, music, storytelling, creative writing, expressive arts, interactive and physical activities, and a parent involvement corner.



3. Network of Community Libraries/ Children’s Literature Program

Within Tamer’s network of community libraries, and with the start of the ongoing war on Gaza, with many areas in the West Bank facing incursions and attacks, and the shift to online education, all community libraries worked on adapting their activities. These activities aimed to address the Palestinian reality through raising children's awareness about the Palestinian cause, identity, and map. Additionally, they focused on conducting PSS activities for the well-being of children, considering the challenging situations they experience and witness.

- **Book discussions**

Books and book discussions are Tamer Institute’s primary tool in promoting reading with children and caregivers in its network of community and school libraries as Tamer’s facilitators, teachers, librarians, and parents incorporate books in their activities. In addition, they utilize digital applications and visual tools published by Tamer alongside the books to conduct art-based activities which reinforces their **self-expression, their imaginations, their reading skills, their critical skills as well as their communication and teamwork skills**. For instance, Tamer Institute **conducted 2 activities** focusing on early childhood age group using its recently published book “**Crazy Luna**” by author Bissan Nateel who was present during the activities.

Hosting Author Anne Sofie Allermann’s Sessions with Children on the story “Time”

During author Anne Sofie Allermann's visit to Palestine during the International Book Fair, in September 2023, **three workshops** were held for children in Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah. The total number of children in the three locations was **76 children**. In the workshop titled “How to Become a Time Traveler?”, Anne Sofie explored the concept of time through her book published by Tamer, “Time”—how time passes, how we measure it, and whether time is fast or slow constructing a time-traveling machine, as well as discussing our journey through time.

Children considered if they prefer traveling forward or backward, talk about the year they would like to travel to and why, and discuss what they hope to experience in our time travel. Who would they invite on this temporal journey? It will be exciting if we could leap 1000 years into the future or 1000 years into the past and see how the world looks in both scenarios.

- **Support Activities for Gaza**

In Battir library, the librarian hosted a joint discussion with 14 children aged 9 to 10, along with their parents. The discussion revolved around the story of “**The Dragon**”. The librarian Amina engaged the children with her storytelling, linking the story to Palestine and its people's struggle. The children discussed various ideas and issues related to the Gaza war and the aggression against the Palestinian people. In the library of Sebastia in Nablus, a discussion took place with children (9 in total: 7 boys, 2 girls) about what is happening in Gaza and the tragic experiences they face during the horrific war imposed by the occupation using the book “**What Becomes of Eid?**” and “**My Heart Resembles the Moon**”. Starting from this dialogue, the children were asked to imagine having a friend in Gaza and write a letter expressing their feelings towards them.

- **Expressive Arts activities**

Community and school libraries conducted various expressive arts activities ranging from **animation, to drama, to music, to drawing, to storytelling, to creative writing, to hikes among others**. Expressive arts are based on Tamer Institute’s publications of books, music albums and games where children, young adults and caregivers engage in **interactive and collective design of discussions, artistic productions, and self-expression**. They improve their **social skills, life skills and wellbeing by using child friendly and inclusive tools**.

- **“What Becomes of Eid?” activities**



Inspired by Tamer’s book “What Becomes of Eid?” that was published after a creative writing path and a drawing path with the children of Gaza after the 2021 aggression, Tamer conducted several expressive arts activities. One was where the children would create their own

lantern that shines against all aggressions in Gaza and draw their favorite memory in **Time** on the lantern giving them hope and a safe space to imagine a future without aggressions.

Palestine International Book Fair 2023

Tamer Institute participated in the International Book Fair from September 7 to September 17, 2023, **through 11 activities for children** in the Kids' Zone. The activities were attended by **540**

children and 70 parents. The activities varied between storytelling, expressive art activities based on children's stories, and live singing performances. Highlighting an interactive musical performance for Tamer's album "**Shabra Qamara**" incorporated in the "In Which Month Am I?" activity by the librarians from Hebron. Moreover, a story by Nahed Al-Shawwa titled "**Abu Al-Mundhir, the Morning Muezzin**" was shared, recounting how he reacted when the oppressive ruler prevented him from calling the prayer. **Comics** activities inspired by "**The Treasury**" was conducted by artist Michael Jabareen where the children created a comics roll up.



- **Outdoor Hikes**

Hikes are considered one of the tools used by Tamer Institute in its network of community and school libraries to reinforce concepts that are discussed in books, in real life as well as to increase the wellbeing of children. In **outdoor hikes**, children have the opportunity to connect to their land and get introduced to the cultural heritage of **oral history, agriculture, engravings, houses that change over Time.**

4. Youth Teams

During 2023, Tamer Institute continued fostering an environment that empowers youth in various teams to freely express themselves. Tamer Institute worked with its youth teams of Nakheel, Yara'at, Serb, Banafsaj and Voices both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on a **weekly and a monthly basis** through Tamer's field coordinators in each governorate. The teams joined book, articles and movie discussions, film screenings, artistic activities, training in theatre, intellectual paths, Summer and Winter youth camps, youth-led initiatives, National Reading campaign activities as well as 'From House to House' initiative. This is a part of the Institute's vision of a strategic partnership through this program towards providing safe interactive spaces for the youth.

Nakheel Teams: Nakheel teams meet regularly to discuss articles, books, to watch and discuss movies addressing different topics. In 2023, they met at community libraries, in nature and other public spaces. They had a great role in supporting the community libraries and their society in

planning for and implementing the National Reading Campaign. The Nakheel teams in 2023 discussed the theme of **Time** with Tamer’s coordinators in each governorate while discussing Tamer’s book “Time”. They connected the themes of Time with Identity as the recent aggressions by the occupation left them with questions that they discussed with each other.

Yara’at (Youth team interested in creative writing and literature): through the network of the field coordinators, Tamer Institute announced opening the door for new members to join the youth team who is interested in creative writing. Members from different Palestinian governorates joined the team. They discussed writings of the Palestinian writer, **Ghassan Kanafani**. The youth teams criticized his writings and pointed out weaknesses and strengths in his texts; from there they identified their own meaning of writing and the importance of awareness of the audience to whom the articles are directed.

Serb (Youth team interested in Drama and Theatre): through a drama local artist, Mousa Nazzal, the participants started **training** with body exercise to develop their physical skills on conveying meaning through movements, individually and as a group. They were introduced to skills such as reflecting their everyday life on stage and emphasizing **emotions**. Serb also did a theatrical sketch titled “Time”, inspired by the Tamer Institute’ publication- Time “what was once difficult became easy today”. The team discussed with its Palestinian audience the concept of time and how it passes in this besieged space, and how we differ in the use of our time. The audience interacted with the theatrical piece by telling us about their down time, like house chores and social life.

Banafsaj (Youth team interested in illustrations and arts): the team met on a weekly basis and discussed the theme of “**Borders**” in an analytical path where geographical borders in the youth’s daily lives were analyzed in an occupied Palestine and reflected it in illustrations.

Voices from Palestine (Youth team interested in conducting all activities in the English language): the team joined the Palestinian Literature Festival (PalFest) 2023 in presenting their work of creative writing in the book “It’s a House Made of Sticks” via an online webinar during March of 2023. **3 participants** joined the webinar and recited their written work in poetry and prose.

Community Youth Initiatives

During 2023, Tamer Institute conducted **various youth initiatives** in the WB and GS as follows:

1. Artificial Intelligence- Ramallah: The AI initiative was conducted by 3 youth members (2 M, 1 F) to raise awareness for children aged 10-18 on AI highlighting its pros and cons that took place in Al Hadaf community Library in Bil’in/ Ramallah. The initiative conducted 6 sessions where they introduced AI, hosted an expert in AI ethics, provided interactive games on AI, gave training in incorporating AI in videos, photography, and sound effects and lastly the children presented their work using AI’s applications that the initiative introduced them to.



2. Samar Qutob Hall initiative- Nablus: The Samar Qutob Hall initiative was conducted by a group of **19 youth members (11 F, 8 M)** from Beit Furik in Nablus. Their initiative stemmed from the need to create a safe and free learning environment for the children and youth in the town of Beit Furik. The members of the initiative networked with the local council in the town to create and renovate a room in the municipality

library as a sustainable means to conduct activities for children and youth. The initiative also prepared sessions in expressive arts to implement with the children and community members.



3. Traditional Games Initiative- Gaza: The Traditional Games initiative was implemented by **3 youth members (3 M)** from Gaza and conducted in **4 locations** in the mid-area of the Gaza Strip. The initiative is aimed to implement activities based on traditional Palestinian games as stress release activities for children. The initiative stems from the need to preserve Palestinian traditional games in the world of technology and the world of occupation on Palestine..

4. Moghani Al Matar (Rain Signer) Initiative- Toulkarem Camp: Rain Singer Initiative was conducted by **6 youth members (3 M, 3 F)** from Toulkarem Refugee Camp. The name Rain Signer originates from a children's book by the late Palestinian writer Zakaria Mohammad where the initiative members turned it into a theatre play to be used in the initiative's activities. The initiative stems from the lack of any cultural activities and spaces for children and youth in the camp. Therefore, the initiative networked with the local community where a garden in Al Odeh Center was available and turned into an open public theatre stage by the initiative.



5. Advocacy Initiative at Al Karmel- Hebron: The newly formed youth team in Al Karmel village in Hebron in 2023, conducted several meetings, hikes, advocacy awareness sessions and workshops to produce artistic products that advocate for topics they collectively chose as youth in order to enhance the situation of Al Karmel village. The team chose the location of the village and the issue of fireworks to advocate for.



6. Advocacy Initiative at Al Sweidi- Rafah/ Gaza: The newly formed youth team in Al Sweidi Camp in Gaza in 2023, conducted several meetings, hikes, advocacy awareness sessions and workshops to produce artistic products that advocate for topics they collectively chose as youth in order to enhance the situation of Al Sweidi Camp. The team chose the location of the camp next to the sea and the borders with Egypt and the lack of any community centers, schools, and hospitals as issues to advocate for.

7. Screenings of ‘Engraving on Stones’ films: 7 showings of the movies from the engravings on stones path were shown from the youth productions in Jenin, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Gaza (2), and Haifa, the total number of attendees for the 7 showings was **491 (202 M, 290 F)**.
8. From House-to-House Initiative: In Gaza, **48 (24 M, 24 F)** members of Tamer’s youth teams participated in Tamer’s initiative “From House to House” targeting marginalized areas in GS while conducting expressive arts activities, storytelling sessions with children and families, as well as recreational activities to improve their wellbeing.
9. National Reading Campaign 2023: **150 members** of Tamer’s youth teams of Nakheel, Serb, Yara’at, Banafsaj and Voices participated in the National Reading Week Campaign for 2023 in April and May. They joined the preparatory meetings for the campaign, and they helped with all activities in their governorates in the WB and GS.
10. Joining open days with children in Nablus: **6 of the youth team in Nablus** volunteered to paint murals in collaboration with artists as part of recreational summer camps in Nablus schools.

11. **11 Tejwal tours** were conducted in Al Karmel village in south Hebron where the Hebron Nakheel also joined the Karmel team to explore the oral history of the village as well as issues that need advocating for by the youth in their initiatives. In addition, **10 Tejwal tours** were conducted in Al Sweidi Camp in south Gaza where the Gaza Nakheel also joined the Sweidi team to explore the oral history of the Camp as well as issues that need advocating for by the youth in their initiatives. Additionally, youth groups in Ramallah **took a tour** to the Jordan Valley, where they visited date palm farms during the harvest season.

Youth Camps



In January of 2023, Tamer Institute conducted a **winter Youth Camp** for all its youth teams in the West Bank due to the severe political situation that was evident in the WB in 2022. **79 youth members (27 F, 52 M)** participated in the camp over **3 days** where various intellectual, practical, and recreational activities were conducted. The general theme of the youth camp was “**Media Literacy**” where they learnt skills by experts on various media platforms that is related to the Palestinian society.

During the **summer youth camp 2023, in both the WB and GS**, the youth joined the several sessions focusing on **identity and culture** in the Palestinian society and how the youth can create and learn of new mediums to utilize in expressive themselves concerning ideas on identity and culture. **117 youth joined (57 F, 60 M)** the youth camp in both the WB and GS which each lasted for 3 days. During the three days, youth teams discussed: The concept of identity, self-identity, and collective identity; Cultural tools for expressing individual and collective identity; Cultural activities and their impact on identity, related to experiences such as "Engravings on Stone," the magazine "Yara'at," and the intellectual digital path of "Ghassan Kanafani Forever"; Youth aspirations for the future of community youth community engagement.

Third: Community Led-Initiatives (from House to House)

From House to House initiative is conducted by Tamer Institute targeting most marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip, where Tamer was able in 2023 to reach **300 families as 1039 (1432 children, 628 parents, 58 CwD, 25 orphans) and 319 other family members from extended family who** benefited from the initiative. The initiative aims at enhancing the wellbeing of children and identify children who are in need of referrals and case management with experts. Tamer was able to reach areas in Al Farta- Beit Hanoun, Abu Obeida- Jabalia, Al Shate’- Gaza, Abraj Al Qastal- Deir Al Balah. Abraj Hamad- Khan Younes and Al Barahmeh-Rafah.



Strategic objective 2: Developing a quality, knowledge-based cultural product that stimulates curiosity and imagination.

Tamer Institute worked through its Literary and Knowledge production unit since the beginning of 2023 on developing quality cultural products that ranged from children and young adults' original and translated books including braille books, research papers, critique papers through Tamer's Tayf magazine, applications, music and musical albums, local, regional and international participations, book launches, forming children's committees and resource center regional committees, and connecting with Tamer's network of community libraries, cultural organizations and governmental cultural bodies working in the field of children's literature and culture. Tamer disseminated its quality knowledge-based cultural products on all its social media platforms.

First: Research Papers

1. "Cultural Reality for Children in the Palestinian Society (From the children and parents' perspective)"

Tamer Institute worked alongside researcher, May Bzour, and assistant researchers Helena Mahajneh and Subhi Di'bas, on a study titled "Cultural Reality for Children in the Palestinian Society (From the children and parents' perspective)". The study adopts a mixed methodological approach of first a survey for children and their parents; then focused groups with the children and parents; then in-depth interviews with cultural activists and specialists; and lastly the analysis and assessment to policies and programs implemented by organizations for children. The study in a broader sense is concerned with the habits of reading, and the participation of children and adolescents in various cultural activities in Palestine.

2. The Role of Expressive Arts in Reinforcing Inclusion"

Tamer Institute worked with researcher Ala' Qaraman to develop a paper on "The Role of Expressive Art in Reinforcing Inclusion". The paper stems from Tamer Institute's aim to develop its tools in working with children with and without disability while incorporating stories and expressive arts, and to assess the response of these tools to the different needs children require.

In this paper, Tamer Institute accumulates on the work it has been conducting in adapting its literary and knowledge publications, for children with and without disability.

3. “Tamer’s approach in protection”

Tamer Institute worked on the study on “Tamer’s approach in protection” with main researcher, Ihab Gherbawi, and a committee of supervision consisting of Rawan Ibrahim and Abeer Musleh. The study is a reading in Tamer’s methodology and practices in social protection across its work. The study stems from Tamer’s perspective of education, social protection, and protection interventions. The study is considered completed as the material provides an archive for Tamer’s approach in protection as well as a training material accessible for all.

Second: Cultural Productions

- Tamer Institute’s Paper Productions during 2023



- Tamer Institute has published 9 books in 2023 as follows:
 1. **Hankash:** Text: Kifah Al Ghussein, Illustrations: Houryeh Sa’adeh: A book for young adults that takes the reader on the life and the journey of a scarecrow from its farm to the rest of Palestine in **126 pages**.
 2. **The Tank:** Text and illustrations: Aya Barghouti: A comics book for young adults inspired by the late Ghassan Kanfani’s novel “Men in The Sun” commemorating the 51st anniversary of Ghassan Kanafani’s assassination as a prominent Palestinian writer.
 3. **Sa’ad Laughs a Lot:** Text: Fatina Al Jamal. Illustration: Ahmad Al Khaldi: A story for children that narrates the relations of Sa’ad, the boy protagonist, with his family members and especially his relationship with his sister Laila.

4. **Crazy Luna:** Text: Bissan Nateel, Illustrations: Sahar Abdallah: A story for children that presents Luna, a young girl as the curious protagonist who poses questions stemming from her imagination regarding life on earth and outside of earth.
5. **"Inscriptions on Stone:** Text: Habeib Allah and Osama Al-Issa, Cover Illustrations: Iman Hamdieh: It is a booklet about the stories of inscriptions in the ancient cities of Bethlehem and Acre. The booklets are the result of research and knowledge paths for young men and women in several Palestinian cities, including Acre, Bethlehem, and Gaza.
6. **Latecomers Queue:** Text: Mohamed Zaqzouq, Illustrations are by Wafa Mutan: The book tells the story of a girl who visits her school outside of school hours. The story portrays the child's interaction with the spatial context of the school, dismantling and playing with all the roles, rules, and elements set by the school system. The first digital edition has been printed, and work is underway for the printing of a second digital edition.
7. **The Bird:** Text and illustration: Patricia Thoma, translation: Ibrahim Abu Hashhash: The Bird is a translated book from German that tells the story of a child who flies with a bird over different cities and continents, all created by his family to introduce him to the world and its natural diversity. The large format of the book provides ample space for a child's imagination, complemented by rich, large illustrations.
8. **What Strange Eyes You Have:** Text: Romina Carnival and Paola Vitery, illustrations: Martinia Trach, translation: Safa Joubran: The book is translated from Spanish that was first released in Argentina. The book presents the concept of vision from both a scientific and literary perspective. It intriguingly compares human visual experiences with those of animals. The subject of vision is explored from various perspectives and angles.
9. **Popping Popcorn:** Text: Children of Gaza, Design: Ashraf Zreqiqi: The book was published with the writings of **70 children** in Gaza who worked on the writings through **60 PSS** activities that varied between creative writing, expressive arts among others.
 - Reprint

During 2023, **5 books in 2023, 3 from** the "Dar Al Fata Al Arabi" were reprinted. These books include: "The Numbers Book," "The Arabic Letters Book," and "The Elephant Finds Work." All of them are educational narrative books that feature characters from animals, birds, and children. These books contain a collection of expressive educational stories, aimed at young children, carrying an educational dimension. And 2 were "The Little Secret" and "Diaries of a student".



- Books in the work

At the end of May, a committee of seven members (both male and female) was formed to read and review publishing requests received by the Institute. The committee completed its work and shared its developmental notes with Tamer at the beginning of July/August. As a result, the following texts were selected, and work began on their development: Dantella- Part Two; Kamal and the Squares; The Story of Gingy Who Doesn't Sleep; A Party on the Carob Tree; Our Grandmothers; “Nus Nseis”; booklet on the theme of "Home and Time" by youth and children in Jerusalem who are or were put on house arrest after writing paths with writer Ahlam Bsharat.

- Braille Books:

Tamer Institute printed **2 children's books** in braille during 2023 that are A Story Hidden in the Attic; and The Flying Dragon and the Yellow cow.

- Animated stories

In 2023 and as part of the knowledge production, the story 'Dantella,' released in 2021 by the writer Mona Kamal and illustrated by Charlotte Shama, has been adapted into an animated story. The visual animation of the story aims to provide children with new ways to interact with the narrative, integrating a larger number of children with different abilities into the story's atmosphere. The story's video format serves as an inclusive tool for children to engage with the narrative. The video can be viewed here:

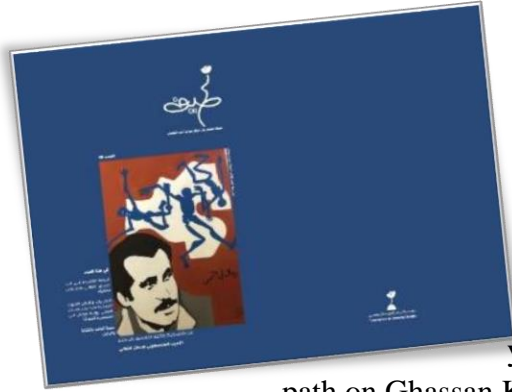
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_gglCxzr8A&t=1s

- Tayf Magazines:



Tamer Institute **published 2 editions** of Tayf literary magazine during 2023 as follows:

- **Tayf 28-29:** this edition provided articles on children's literature that analyze the text and visuals of children's books. It also included critical articles on Tamer's most recent books including The Secret of the Oil, The Lilac Girl among others.



- **Tayf 30, a special edition on Ghassan Kanafani:** this edition was published as a special edition commemorating the 51st assassination of Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani. The magazine included critical articles on Ghassan’s literature and life including articles focusing on the concept of heroism, alienation among others. The edition also included paintings by Tamer’s youth teams in the WB and GS that joined an art

path on Ghassan Kanafnai.

- Tamer Institute’s Digital Production for 2023

- **Production of one interactive game on Palestinian traditions**

Tamer Institute is working on producing a **digital interactive application** for children above 7 years old on the Palestinian culture for children inside and outside of Palestine. A questionnaire was shared on Tamer’s social media to assess Palestinian children’s interests from various countries across the world. A storyboard was drafted, and the application will be launched in 2024.

- **“Engravings on stone” path**

3 movies and 2 podcasts were produced during this path, and they were published on Tamer Institute’s social media pages.

<https://youtu.be/OM-tnGlbA8U>

- **“1001 dreams and a window overlooking the sea” path**

3 movies were produced during this path and were published on Tamer’s social media pages.

<https://youtu.be/SN15cvGuPic>

- **“Faheem’s Mirror”**

The Musical of Faheem titled **“Faheem’s Mirror”** was produced and published by Tamer Institute complementing Faheem’s music album for children. The musical highlights themes of learning, imagination and hope where it presents various characters that the child protagonist visits and has conversations with on life, the future and hope. The musical is sung by the child Faheem Abu Hilu. Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4cqOTt35Lw>

- **Faheem’s album with sign language**

8 songs from Faheem’s album were published on Tamer Institute’s website with sign language captioning. Link: https://youtu.be/61SoZZ_xKbI

Third: Translations

Tamer Institute signed **4 translation** contracts for Tamer’s books as follows:

- Akdem Copyright and Translation Agency/ publisher: Nar Yayinlari- Turkey: To translate Tamer's Book "Secret of the Sword" by Walid Daqqa into Turkish.
- OZ Slniečkovo- Slovakia: To translate Tamer's book "A Story that Begins and Ends with Imagination" into the Slovak language.
- Le Labyrinthe de Théia- France: To translate Tamer's book "Wonder Travels in Mysterious Worlds" to French.
- Jensen and Dalgaard- Denmark: To translate Tamer's book "Wonder Travels in Mysterious Worlds" to Danish.

Fourth: Resource Center

Tamer Institute worked on networking with its network of community and school libraries through the activities of its resource center that included:

1. **6 meetings** for Ramallah's network of community libraries were conducted in Tamer's resource center during 2023.
2. **1 meeting** was arranged with **8 libraries** from the community libraries network on November 16, 2023, under the title "Practices and Experiences from the Work of Community Libraries." During this meeting, the libraries were introduced to regional and global experiences and practices in community work with children in libraries. They learned and exchanged ideas about the experience of the Resource Center and Rumaneh Library in Hebron and gained insights into the experiences of other libraries, especially during periods of war and conflicts.
3. The resource center hosted **6 trainings** for all librarians in Tamer's network of community libraries in the WB.
4. The borrowing statistics for the Resource Center in 2023 were as follows: **440 books borrowed, 38 new subscriptions, and 21 subscription renewals.**
5. **Systems of the resource center** have been developed with the center's coordinator and Laila Batran of the BoD which include borrowing criteria, book arranging system among others.
6. Prisoner **Thaer Halahleh** contacted Tamer Institute to provide children's books as he is working on a story for children.
7. This year, the Resource Center established an **Arab regional committee** comprising researchers, artists, and specialists in the field of children's literature. The vision behind this committee is to support the center in developing the field of children's literature and the critical discourse around it through its various programs. The committee aims to contribute to enhancing the center's work at the regional level. In response to the war on Gaza, the committee met where the meeting resulted in the development of the Resource Center in collaboration with the committee, including an invitation to actors in the field of Arab children's literature to participate in producing materials that show solidarity with the children of Gaza.¹

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ffBKQC3Myc1o1fa9/?mibextid=WC7FNe>

8. The Resource center welcomed **3 school visits** and **2 summer camps visits** during 2023 where book discussions, art activities and tours at Tamer were conducted.
9. The resource center conducted **4 paths with children** and parents in 2023 on “Expressive arts” where **54 children** joined the activities, and on “The Best Songs” where **46 children** joined the activities that promote children’s reading in the resource center, in addition to the two paths of "Children of Olive and Orange" for two age groups (5-7) and (8-11), benefiting **42 children**. These educational and expressive activities discussed the theme of the homeland, with a focus on Gaza. The activities explored the concept of traveling within the homeland, the sea, and the war on Gaza through the book "What Happened to Eid?"
10. Tamer Institute’s resource center connected with **Global Grant Canada, Humanity Crew and CISS** working on a project forming the first PFA network in Palestine across **community libraries** with Tamer.
11. Tamer Institute installed **Delia Arts Foundation’s** Creative Corners Device in its resource center to be used by children and young adults in creating innovative music within Tamer’s activities as it was used during Tamer’s National Reading Campaign 2023.
12. The Resource Center established a committee of children to review the design of “**My First Book**”. The Institute took an experimental approach in designing the book and examined with the children's committee whether the books fit the Institute's vision of being "child-friendly" or not.

Fifth: Tamer Institute’s Digital Presence

In regard to Tamer’s virtual reach, new follows, total follows and page visits they are demonstrated in the following table:

	Instagram	Facebook
Page Reach	1.017.100	1.543.716
New follows- since the beginning of 2023	1815	4478
Total follows	7606	123K
Page visits	23.340	94.629

Sixth: Book Launch Events



1. Book Launch Events

- “What Becomes of Eid?” and “My Heart Resembles the Moon” were launched in Gaza on May 2, 2023, at the Rashad Al-Shawwa Cultural Center, which during the ongoing war on Gaza was destroyed. Approximately **50 participants**, including children, youth, parents, and librarians from community libraries joined and engaged in the opening ceremony of the “What Becomes of Eid?” exhibition with a reading from the books by Hussam Abu Ma’rouf.
- Hankash Book Launch: On September 9, 2023, Tamer Institute launched the novel "Hankash" in the Institute's garden in Ramallah with the author Kifah Al Ghussein and a critical reading, titled "Implications of the scarecrow as a Central Character in the Novel" by the writer Mais Dagher. The launch was attended by **33 people**.
- The Puppet Master Book Launch: On September 12, 2023, Tamer Institute launched the novel "The Puppet Master" at the International Book Fair with the writer Huda Al Shawaa and Dr. Ihab Bseiso who presented a critical reading of the novel, and the artist Marah Yassin delivered a performance based on the novel during the launch. The event was attended by **50 people**.
- Water Tank Book Launch: On September 14, 2023, Tamer Institute launched the comic book "Water Tank" at the International Book Fair with illustrator and writer Aya Al-Barghouthi. The launch event, titled "Identity, Between Narrative and Visual Language: A Reading in Water Tank," included a visual reading of the book's illustrations by the artist Amer Al-Shomali. Dr. Ihab Bseiso also presented an analysis of the transformation from narrative text to visual text. The launch was attended by **48 people**.
- Time Book Launch: On September 16, 2023, Tamer launched the translated book "Time" in the Institute's garden in Ramallah with Danish author Anne Sofie Allermann. Writer Ahlam Bsharat presented a reading "Who is Time, then?" The event was attended by **32 people**.

2. Book Signings:

The Institute organized a book corner in the Palestine International Book Fair where **5 authors** were for book signings: Bisan Nateel, Fatina Al-Jamal, Mahmoud Shuqairr, Anastasia Qarawani, and Khaled Juma. The book signings were attended by **125 people**.

Seventh: Visual Art Exhibitions

Ghassan Kanafani Exhibitions



The **first location** where the exhibition was demonstrated was during Al Rozana Festival in the Old City of Birzeit from the 12th until the 16th of July. The exhibition was curated in the historical location to draw attention to the colors used in the paintings by the youth. Ghassan's produced podcast was also playing alongside the exhibition where visitors were able to listen and see the products of the youth teams. Around **3000 people** visited the exhibition across the 5 days of the festival. The **second location** where Ghassan's exhibition travelled to was Al Khadouri University in Tulkarem. The location was extremely important for Tamer as it is the home of many young adults that relate and connect to the youth teams. The exhibition lasted for one day and was well-received

by students, teachers and university workers. Around **65 people** joined the exhibition in the university. **Lastly**, the exhibition travelled to Bethlehem during Star Street Festival for one day in the historical Star street where the exhibition was showcased in one of the old shops there in order to activate the location. Around **120 people** joined the exhibition in Bethlehem.



What Becomes of Eid? Exhibitions



Tamer Institute conducted **4 exhibitions** for “What Becomes of Eid?”, in which the first launched alongside the book in Gaza on May 2, 2023, at the Rashad Al-Shawwa Cultural Center, which during the ongoing war on Gaza was destroyed. Approximately **200 participants** joined and engaged in interactive activities held in the opening ceremony of the “What Becomes of Eid?” exhibition. **The children who participated**

in the writing and arts path that lead to the production of “What Becomes of Eid?” book were present and experienced their work exhibited in front of the entire city and world hearing their voices, emotions and dreams.



In Ramallah’s exhibition, a visual reading of the children’s paintings included in the book by the curator Hana Irshaid was conducted. Followed by the exhibition’s launch at Khalil Al-Sakakini Cultural Center on August 7, 2023, which continued until the end of August. Approximately **55 participants**, including children, youth, and parents attended the opening. The exhibition featured guided tours by the exhibition curator, as well as a series of interactive artistic activities for children, including sculpture, printing, engraving, and lantern-making workshops. Additionally, the exhibition was showcased during one of the days of the **International Book Exhibition in Palestine** in Ramallah in September for further advocacy and exposure. Furthermore, the exhibition was also presented in Faqu’a Community Library in Jenin. Approximately **300** participants, including children, youth, parents, and librarians from community libraries within the Jenin network such as Rummaneh Library joined. In addition to students from schools, visitors from the American University in Jenin, and members of community libraries joined and engaged in an interactive activity held alongside the opening ceremony.

Jerusalem Exhibitions

4 exhibitions were implemented showcasing the products of Jerusalem students during the cultural paths with Al Aqsa Community Library where stakeholders, cultural organizations, students’ families and parents, as well as local communities participated. The topics of the cultural paths were highlighted as they preserve the identity of Palestinians in Jerusalem by working with the children and youth which ultimately reinforces the social fabric and cultural

fabric in the Palestinian society through the families and local communities' participations in the exhibitions.

Eighth: Seminars and Roundtables

Tamer Institute conducted **2 discussions** with the Ministry of Culture (MoC) in regard to Palestine International Book Fair in 2023 to put together the agenda of the fair as well as the children's activities in the fair. Moreover, Tamer Institute conducted **3 meetings** with representatives from the Ministry of Education (MoE) on various topics related to the remedial education program for schools in the year 2023. Moreover, Tamer Institute implemented **1 seminar on the concept of "Fatherhood"** in 2023 in its Resource Center physically hosting **29 (23 F, 6 M)** of ministry representatives of the MoC, community librarians, community center workers and staff members in order to prepare for Tamer's "Baba Read to Me" Campaign.

Ninth: Awards



- In 2023, Tamer Institute submitted nominations for several of its publications for the Sharjah Children's Book Award. Additionally, the Institute submitted nominations for the Arab Publishers Association Award for Children's Books. **Most notably, the book "Sunbird Nest" was nominated for the Honor List of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) for Palestine branch for the years 2022-2024.**

The story "This is why Rayyan Walks Like This" was shortlisted for the short text category.

- Tamer Institute also won in the beginning of 2023 the Sheikh Hamad Prize for Translation and International Understanding award in its 8th cycle for 2022.



Tenth: Regional and International Exhibitions

a. Bologna Book Fair: Tamer Institute's **Community Learning Programs Coordinator** participated in March 2023 in the 60th edition of the Bologna International Book Fair. The Institute presented several of its books in the Fair highlighting recent editions of 2022 and 2023 as well as the Institute's catalogue for the years 2020-2022. The representative of Tamer

conducted several meetings with international publishing houses such as VLP, Jensen and Dalgaard, Canizales among other from different countries including Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Qatar, Chile for future collaborations in translating Tamer's books into other languages.

- b. Al Sharjah Children's Reading Festival Workshops: Tamer Institute's **Financial Manager** participated in three workshops during Al Sharjah Children's Reading Festival in May 2023, on first the distribution of books in efficient and less costly methods, on the digital book; and on the utilization of social media to increase book sales. In addition, Tamer Institute's **Literary and Knowledge Production Coordinator** participated in Al Sharjah Children's Reading Festival workshop on animation in May 2023. The workshop was a space between publishing houses and producers in the field of animation and children's literature where networking took place including with individual artists and publishing houses such as Phoenix.
- c. Al Sharjah Children's Reading Festival: Participation in the Sharjah International Book Fair took place from November 1st to November 12th, lasting **for 12 days**. Tamer's participation focused on showcasing and selling Tamer Institute's books. This year's participation was notable for several reasons, including the solidarity expressed for Palestinians, visits from Arab nationals living in the UAE, and interactions with Arab authors and illustrators who explored Tamer Institute's productions. Media organizations also visited, conducting interviews that were published in three languages: French, English, and Arabic. Approximately five interviews were conducted, focusing on Tamer's participation in the fair and its involvement amidst the war. Solidarity with Palestine during this edition significantly impacted book sales, marking a unique year where sales reached this magnitude.



- d. International Youth and Children's Book Fair in Casablanca: The participation in the International Youth and Children's Book Fair in Casablanca took place from November 15th to 22nd. Tamer Institute was hosted by the Moroccan Ministry of Youth, Culture, and Communication, providing a booth within the Palestinian Publishers Association pavilion. Tamer's publications were displayed as part of the Palestinian Publishers Association. In

addition, the Institute actively participated in two seminars within the cultural program of the fair: "Reading Awareness Experiences in Children and Youth for Reading Societies" brought together experts to share experiences in sensitizing children and youth to reading. The second seminar was on "Preparatory Meeting for the Establishment of the Moroccan Council for Youth Books (IBBY)". These participations reflect Tamer Institute's commitment to promoting children's literature and literacy on both national and international platforms.

- e. Gothenburg Book Fair: Tamer Institute’s General Director, Renad Qubbaj, participated in the Gothenburg Book Fair in 2023 as she participated in **5 panels** presenting the Institute’s work under the themes of “Protections and Psychosocial support” highlighting Tamer’s work in Gaza as well. The use of Storytelling, books and reading during war times and disasters in order to heal and provide stress release as well as psychosocial support enhancing children and youth’s wellbeing was explored taking Tamer Institute’s work and experience as a case study to share on an international level during the book fair.
- f. Palestine International Book Fair: Tamer Institute participated in the International Book Fair from September 7 to September 17, 2023, through **11 activities** for children in the Kids' Corner. The activities were attended by **540 children and 70 parents**. The activities varied between storytelling, expressive art activities based on children's stories, and live singing performances. During the fair, the Institute launched two books, and organized a book corner in the exhibition where book signings for five authors were hosted.

Eleventh: Arab and International Solidarity

As the war on Gaza began last year, we produced a series of statements addressed to our partners in the children's literature field and to Tamer Institute’s general audience in and out of Palestine. The first statement was in October and it provided an explanation of what was going on in Gaza and it encouraged our friends to make demands for pressure and solidarity from their governments and decision makers under the title ‘Save the Children... Save Gaza.’ The second statement was a call to produce texts for Palestinian children especially in Gaza to save their imagination, which is an extension of the Institute’s previous path after the 2014 war which produced the book “A kiss on the cheek” . The Institute also used its digital platform to share stories and novels by youth, children, and Tamer’s team from Gaza with the world outside of the Gaza Strip via 23 publications in Arabic and English.



Strategic Goal 3: Providing a safe enabling environment for the "culture of learning."

During, the current reporting period, Tamer implemented a wide variety of activities that targeted children, parents, teachers, and community at large to provide a safe enabling learning environment as Tamer ensured mass and **social media coverage** for all advocacy related activities. Activities varied from forming **Library Friends committees** to several workshops implemented at the level of schools to community events. Tamer's team worked with the teachers and parents to support the reading, writing and math skills of children through workshops utilizing **PDET, PDEP, and joint art-based sessions** to promote reading and writing skills. To boost a healthy learning environment at school and home and raise the voice of students, joint workshops between parents, children and teachers were held to discuss the **code of conduct (CoC)** and how it can be representative of children's rights and respond to their specific needs at each school. The school development committees (**SDCs**) were activated to have a more supportive role in schools' development and improve the physical learning environment at schools. Tamer Institute also provided training for librarians, facilitators and staff on **music and animation, storytelling, third spaces, PFA, SEL**, and conducted its annual **Librarians' Days camp** since the beginning of 2023. Tamer Institute joined meetings with different working groups in Palestine since the beginning of 2023 including **the MoE, PNGO, Education Cluster and the National Movement Committee**. The interventions were primarily in the form of:

First: Capacity Building Path and trainings for Community Learning Programs (Children's Literature Program/network of community libraries, Protection Program and Learning program)

1. Network of community Libraries/ Children's Literature Program

Tamer Institute conducted training sessions on SEL, Music and Animation, and third spaces for **79 people (66 F, 12 M)** which included librarians, facilitators, and Tamer's teams in the WB. They also received training on storytelling with **153 librarians** of the institute's network of community libraries in both the WB and GS. Tamer Institute also held capacity building training on visual arts and reading held in the WB, stemming from the exhibition "**What Becomes of Eid?**" which was attended **200 participants, including children, youth, parents, and librarians from community libraries**. **8 advocacy training sessions** were also conducted in community libraries across the West Bank where a total of **120 committee members (87 F, 33 M)** participated.



52 exchange committee meetings between community and school libraries were conducted in the year 2023 in order to prepare for Tamer’s National Reading Campaign. In addition, **8 knowledge exchange meetings** were held between community libraries, including a central meeting with the Resource Center at Tamer Institute. Mutual field visits were conducted and the number of children attending the activities in community libraries during the visits reached **143 children (96 F, 47 M)**. The Resource Center conducted **a meeting on exemplary practices in community libraries, with 16 librarians (12 females and 4 males)** starting with a reading of the story Alia, the librarian at Basra Library in Iraq, and her advocacy role in protecting books.

Highlights on capacity building 2023:

- Author Anne Sofie Allerman visited Palestine after the translation of her book “Time” into Arabic by Tamer Institute to conduct Libraries' Workshop with librarians on: How Philosophy Opens the Heart which was conducted with Tamer Institute community librarians in 3 main cities: Nablus, Bethlehem, and Ramallah with a total of **60 librarians**.



- Librarian Days: Tamer Institute conducted its annual Librarians’ Days camp in the WB and GS in June of 2023 to provide a safe environment for librarians to enhance their skills and capacities as well as to stress release and share knowledge with each other. **78 librarians (66 F, 11 M)** participated in the 3-days librarians’ days that aimed at providing a motivating and educational experience for librarians. The days included intellectual activities, capacity building activities and recreational activities in an environment that encourages contemplating, research, self-growth and communication. The camp’s goal was to focus on the **role of the library in society** on 4 levels: inside the

library, with the community, libraries as a political actor under the occupation, and libraries in civic and union work such as their role in teachers' strikes. Wellbeing was discussed during the camp where techniques and tools were introduced to be utilized in libraries such as drawing, storytelling, critical thinking and visual production. The camps were concluded with a contemplating session on future plans on the role of librarians in the society.

2. Learning Program

In 2023 and in the Gaza Strip and WB, **76 workshops** were held with the local community and parents on the importance of literacy and numeracy for children in grades (1-4) that took place in **22 community libraries and schools where 412 people (357 F, 55 M)** participated with an average of **15 people** attending each session. PDET training and awareness raising activities were conducted on combating violence at schools for teachers as **13 PDET sessions** took place **in 19 WB schools** in 2023 across Salfet, Bethlehem, Jenin, North Hebron, and South Hebron. Each session lasted for 5 hours per day where a total of **134 teachers (109 F, 25 M)**. PDEP training was conducted for parents where a total of **61 sessions were conducted, and 155 parents (155F) attended in 8 schools.**

3. Protection Program



Tamer Institute conducted **286 awareness sessions** for parents where **717 parents** joined with **case managers on child protection, and 19 interactive workshops** were conducted with parents, focusing on using techniques applicable to working with their children at home. Tamer Institute also conducted **286 awareness sessions** for parents where **717 parents** joined with **case managers on child protection.** Case

managers introduced methods for parents on how to interact with child behaviors to limit damage of children and enhance positive behaviors among families. In addition, training on Case Management- Refresher (2day training, 6 hours each), targeted **22 newly case managers and well-experienced** case managers to share knowledge, skills and capacities with trainer Ibrahim Abu Harbeed.

Since the beginning of the war on Gaza and its effects on all of Palestine, Tamer Institute focused on conducted capacity building sessions on psychological first Aid (PFA) and Psychological Support to Children During Crisis. In addition, Tamer Institute conducted a training on Psychosocial First Aid among the activities of creating the first PFA network in CBOs. The workshop, focusing on the question of "What do we do?" and "How do we do it?" was attended by **48 librarians (46 females, 2 males) over 4 training days.** In addition, Tamer

Institute conducted a training on Psychosocial First Aid in the activities of creating the first PFA network in CBOs in Palestine as Tamer is working across **7 CBOs in the WB and GS. 51 students** in education and psychology from Hebron University and Al Aqsa University took the 3-days training on PFA manual and on incorporating stories in stress release and PSS activities.

Second: Physical interventions and improvements

Tamer Institute works with its **Library Friends Committees and School Development Committees** to assess the physical needs and interventions that community libraries and schools' libraries need to have a safe learning environment for children, youth, and caregivers and to also activate these learning environments in the Palestinian communities. Tamer works with the committees to **develop plans** that contribute to the physical interventions in schools and libraries. In 2023 and after assessing the needs of community libraries, Tamer Institute contributed to provide physical interventions for **19 community libraries** in the WB and GS. These interventions include graffiti paintings, providing curtains, wallpaper and paint, tables, chairs, shelves, screens, LCDs as well as books for children and young adult where **182 titles of** story books from Tamer Institute's publications were added to **22 school libraries** in Gaza Strip as well. In addition, **11 schools have received 24 physical rehabilitations** or equipment benefiting **3125 (1656 F, 1469 M), 234 teachers (184 F, 50 M)** following the needs identification in the schools during the meetings held with the SDC with the MoE. The interventions included improving the electricity, water, rehabilitating the yards, rehabilitating some classes, rehabilitating outside walls, safety installations, procurement of some items like fences, chairs, ladders among others.

Third: Provision of Supplies to the Network of Community Libraries

In collaboration with different partners from publishing houses or organizations like "Book Aid" and Dar Al Muna, Tamer Institute continued to support community and school libraries in 2023, in addition to cultural and community centers, kindergartens, and Palestinian universities (Palestine University, Al Quds Open University, Gaza University) with various lists of books that varied between the Institute's publications and books from other publishing houses.

Strategic Goal 4: Empowering Tamer Institute's Team and enhancing the Institute's sustainability to spread its learning approach inside and outside Palestine.

At the beginning of the war on the Gaza Strip, Tamer Institute used its online platform as a platform for advocacy for Palestine to the world at large, targeting our friends and partners for their role in pressuring and influencing their governments and decision makers. Many press interviews on what is happening in Gaza were organized by the staff in Gaza and the West Bank.

This comes from Tamer Institute's belief in the role of local and international communities in providing protection to children and youth to provide a safe and inclusive space for all of them without exception to exercise their right to learn and express themselves, which is part of the Institute's vision of a "free and secure Palestinian educational society."

At the beginning of 2023, Tamer Institute developed its annual operational plan jointly with the primary and field staff in the West Bank and Gaza, which was subsequently endorsed by the Board of Directors.

First: Endorsement of Internal structures, Systems, Policies and Culture

These include Integration and Pluralism Policy, Gender Policy, Prevention of Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse Policy, and Tamer Institute's Child Protection Policy. Tamer also added these policies to its old employees' contracts by adding an annex and they were added in paragraph in new employee's contracts.

The Institute held **12 monthly** meetings in the West Bank and **9 meetings** in the Gaza Strip to exchange views, assess the implementation of activities, exchange ideas, discuss books and articles on children's literature and plan future activities. The Board also approved the amended procurement system, the discussion of emergency projects and their relationship to the Institute's identity and stressed the need to balance long-term projects with emergency projects. Also, the Board of Directors followed the preparations for the General Assembly meeting and the institute's administrative and financial general reports.

Second: Tamer Institute is supportive of its team and capable of diffusing its learning approach

- Supporting Team Capabilities

Empowering Tamer Institute's Team and enhancing the institute's sustainability to spread its learning approach inside and outside Palestine is Tamer's fourth strategic goal where it has developed its **MEAL system** through manuals and tools that were used particularly during the activities of the National Reading Campaign. In addition, training sessions were conducted for Tamer's team both in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip via Zoom on the project's life cycle and the role of **MEAL**. Tamer has also been working on developing **its archiving, documentation, and IT systems** as a form of sustainability to spread its learning approach for 34 years. Noting that Tamer has added to its institutional policies a paragraph endorsing **PSEA** and safeguarding its old and new contracts. Furthermore, Tamer contracted a media agency that worked with the team through sessions on **communication and digital media strategies and SEO** that were developed, such as Tamer's online presence, verbal and visual identity and lobbying and solidarity campaigns. Tamer has developed its website to be more friendly and accessible as well.

Tamer participated in meetings with stakeholders and representatives **from MoE, MoC, PNGO** and other relevant institutions on Advocating “**Participatory education, inclusive education, child safeguarding**” notions at the formal level. Tamer Institute joined meetings with the Education Cluster, Protection Cluster, and the National Movement Committee where in 2023, many violations took place against organizations working in the Palestinian cultural field. Furthermore, Tamer Institute is part of a committee with the **MoE** to choose the digital platform for reading as well as in the excellence committee for Reading with the **MoE** to identify best readers, students, teachers, and supervisors.

Many members of the Foundation's working committees have been active in reading and following up on research that enhances the Foundation's approach to expressive arts and its relationship with protection and inclusivity.

Tamer Institute finalized its reviewed **MEAL manual in English** and conducted a training on the manual for Tamer’s staff in the WB and GS where **19 members (9 F, 10 M)** participated. In addition, Tamer began working on a practical **MEAL manual in Arabic** in 2023 which was finalized in April which will be the base for **digitalizing the MEAL manual** in the future. **Two team members (2 F)** participated in the training for the Arabic MEAL manual in 2023 as well with the expert.

- Disseminating of Tamer Institute’s educational methodology

During the year, Tamer Institute formed new partnerships with 26 community libraries and community centres making them an effective part of the Institute’s network of community libraries. The Institute also disseminated its approach through the implementation of discussions between the librarians of these new libraries/centres and libraries within the network, as well as its participation in dialogues and various activities, including campaigns to promote reading and its Librarian Days. In addition to forming new youth teams in both the Swedish camp in the Gaza Strip and the village of Carmel in Hebron.

List of new libraries and centres and their respective locations:

Library Name	Location	Library Name	Location	Library Name	Location
Al-Ma'sara Community Library	Betlehem	Nersan Community Library	Hebron	Al-Jeep Community Library	Jerusalem
Keesan Community Library	Betlehem	Al-Abeer library	Hebron	Dar Qindeel	Tulkarem
Pontifical Mission Library	Betlehem	Ashtar Community Library	Hebron	Feminist Centre, Nour Shams	Tulkarem
Marah Ribah Community Library	Betlehem	Qarawa Bani Zeid Library	Ramallah	Al Awda Library	Tulkarem
Al Walajeh Community Library	Betlehem	Childhood Development and Protection Centre Library	Al Bireh	Beit Kad Community Library	Jenin
Al-Manar Cultural Centre	Betlehem	Birzeit Women's Association	Ramallah	Al Khuljan Community Library	Jenin
Wildlife Society Library	Betlehem	Siraj Library	Jerusalem	Child's Cultural Centre Library	Nablus
The 'We Are Here to Build Women's Capacities' Centre	Betlehem	Al-Aqsa Library	Jerusalem	Joloud Community Library	Nablus
Hassan Village Centre Library	Betlehem	Al I'zaryyeh Cultural and Arts Centre	Jerusalem		

The Institute's points of sale were also diversified during 2023 with the aim of disseminating its approach, with Tamer expanding into wider Arab and global points of sale in bookshops specializing in selling books to the public, to include Casablanca in Morocco through Tamer Institute's participation in the Casablanca Children and Youth Book Fair. In addition to Qatar Library, and via Dar Alef for Publishing and Distribution.

As discussed earlier, the Institute distributed its publications to school libraries in the Gaza Strip. In addition to supplies to the libraries of the network of community and school libraries, as well as cultural and community centres, kindergartens and Palestinian universities (University of Palestine, AlQuds Open University, and Gaza University) with various lists of books that varied from Tamer Institute publications to other publishing houses.

