

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



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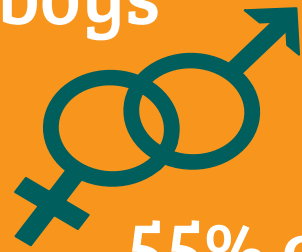
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5

local teachers

45% boys



55% girls

408



hours taught in person



2021



4

months of
online classes

75



children taught



5

classrooms

Note from our founder



After closing our centre in Zaatari Village in 2020 due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic, we also started 2021 not knowing when we would be able to open again. Working with vulnerable communities who have already received less assistance, the fear that this pandemic would contribute to further inequalities was high. Luckily, we had the organisational and financial capacities to continue our programmes online before opening the centre again in September. The AFCI team has always been working from different locations all over the world, therefore the operations besides the centre management were not disrupted.

I am proud that we managed to ensure basic literacy training even under these difficult circumstances. I would like to thank our amazing partners and the AFCI team for their continuous efforts to ensure that the children in Zaatari Village receive the education they deserve. We are looking forward to a new year 2022 where we will hopefully return to normality but also push for the change needed to achieve quality education and well-being for refugees in the Middle East and around the world.

Kotaiba Alabdullah



Thank you



We would like to thank our partner RefugEase for their continuous financial and organisational support throughout 2021.



RefugEase is a UK-based registered charity that is dedicated to helping refugees who are fleeing war and conflict.

www.refugease.org

We would also like to thank everyone who supported us during 2021 whether it was volunteering on ground, giving organisational advice or expressing their support of our work.

Special thanks go to:

7Hills Park
Hannah Owens

Our mission



At Acting for Change International, we firmly believe that all people have the right to decent living conditions and opportunities and we work to address important gaps in humanitarian and development assistance.

- Empowering the host community in a holistic way
- Providing children and youth with education and opportunity
- Building capacity, to build resilience

Our current focus is on providing literacy training services in the Zaatari Village refugee host-community in Jordan, where Syrian refugees live side-by-side with Jordanians, many of whom are themselves vulnerable and living in poverty. It is estimated that at least 79% of Jordan's refugee population live outside formal refugee camps, receiving less assistance from established NGOs who tend to work more in the formal camp environment.

As a result of both the conflict and gaps in assistance, host-communities in Jordan face significant economic and social pressure. Through supporting both Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians, our projects promote the social cohesion and peaceful coexistence that is vital for both successful human development and mitigating future conflict.



*Students at our centre
in Zaatari Village*

Children, in particular, have been affected significantly by the conflict and displacement of the Syrian crisis. Additionally, the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted previous efforts and put an abrupt hold on many educational programmes. As a result, our priority is to invest in the training and personal development of the younger generation who have lacked access to education as a result of the crises.

At the core of our work is capacity building to provide the community with the ability to overcome the long-term challenges themselves in an independent and sustainable way. We do this through designing our projects on the ground, and in collaboration with beneficiaries and key members of the community. Through operating as such, we contribute in a positive and meaningful way to the long-term prosperity, peace, and security of the community and the host country.

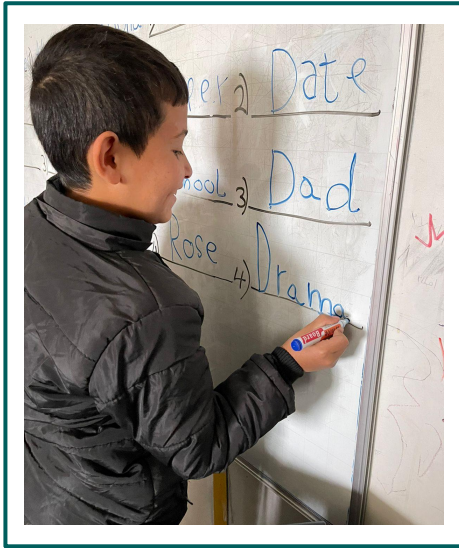


Providing literacy training in Zaatari Village

In 2021, our literacy center in Zaatari Village remained the main focus of our actions. The formal education in Zaatari Village operates a dual shift whereby the Jordanian students attend school in the morning and the younger Syrian children attend for several hours in the afternoons. Our classes help to support the public education system by providing complimentary teaching hours that the children otherwise do not have access to. Due the Covid-19 pandemic, our centre was the only source of education for most of the students in 2021.



Students taking their exams



Playing word games in our English classes



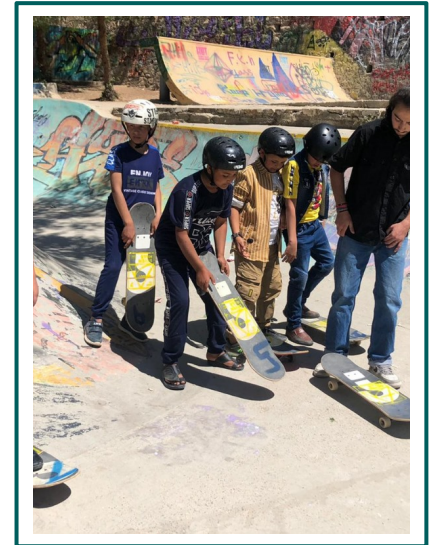
Due to the ongoing government restrictions against the Covid-19 pandemic, the centre remained closed during the first six months of 2021. Thanks to the donation of tablets in 2020 by our partner Refugease, we were able to continue the lessons online. The children stayed in close contact with our teachers through WhatsApp groups. It proved to be a challenging period for everyone as many families in the village lack a continuous internet connection and the children often shared their study space with their siblings.

Nevertheless, we were able to provide basic literacy training for the students who otherwise would have been out of school for more than one year.

During the online learning period, we renovated parts of the centre and repaired furniture to ensure that the students would come back to a safe and productive learning environment.

After being stuck at home for so long, we were glad that some of the children had the chance to go to Amman for skateboarding lessons in June, thanks to the collaboration with 7Hills Park. For many of them it was the first time leaving Zaatari Village and being on a skateboard. Collaborations with organisations outside of Zaatari enable us to expose the children to new environments which they usually would not be able to experience.

In July, we hired three qualified local English teachers to provide English classes to our students over the summer holidays. Thirty-five students, split into three classes, attended the summer school where they had time to practice their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Especially after learning English at home, it was a great chance for the students to catch up and prepare for the regular English classes in the fall semester.



Skateboard lessons at 7Hills Park



We provided 408 hours of teaching



We taught 75 children



We employed five local teachers

In September, we finally welcomed our students back at the centre! We also had new children join our kindergarten class for the first time. Our classes follow the Jordanian government school's schedule, therefore, our fall semester lasted from September until December.



At our centre, we provided Arabic, Maths and English classes to 75 students, ages 5-15, split into five grades. The students learn how to read and write both Arabic and Latin letters using age-appropriate teaching methods. All classes are taught by local teachers from Zaatari Village coordinated and monitored by a head teacher. Most teachers have been with us for multiple years and know the students and their families well.

Every Thursday, we provided additional "life skills" lessons taught by an experienced psychologist and social worker. The class focused on the student's social skills and personal development and were very well received by the children. We started by talking about social skills in the classroom, including social etiquette in the classroom, and exam and revision skills. Furthermore, conflict and anger management skills were discussed. This was particularly important as many of the students can become easily angry during play time, often leading to violence and disrupting the lessons.

While regular attendance of students had been a problem in previous years, we saw an increase in attendance in 2021. Many students expressed their happiness at having the opportunity to come to the centre, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic. This was reflected in their academic performance and their behaviour in the classroom. Additionally, we saw an increase in the parents' support of the centre with some of them even preferring to send their children to our centre instead of the government schools.

The semester ended with the final exams in December. The results were mixed with a few students per class achieving outstanding results. Overall, the students made good progress throughout the semester and have become more confident in their abilities.

*The students received new backpacks
for the fall semester*



Staff



**Kotaiba
Alabdullah**
Founder



Anna Prescott
Director



**Ali
Okab Allom**
Director AFCI
Jordan



Lena Hoffmeister
Partnerships and
Communications Officer



**Five local
teachers**

In July 2021, we unexpectedly had to announce the passing of our centre manager and head teacher Ahmad Aladad, known by everyone as Abu Sultan.

A Syrian refugee himself, he dedicated his life to helping others and giving back to his community. He has impacted the lives of hundreds of children, providing education and giving them a sense of hope. Our centre would not have been possible without him.

He will be sorely missed by the people in Zaa'tari village, the AFCI team and everyone that came to the centre.

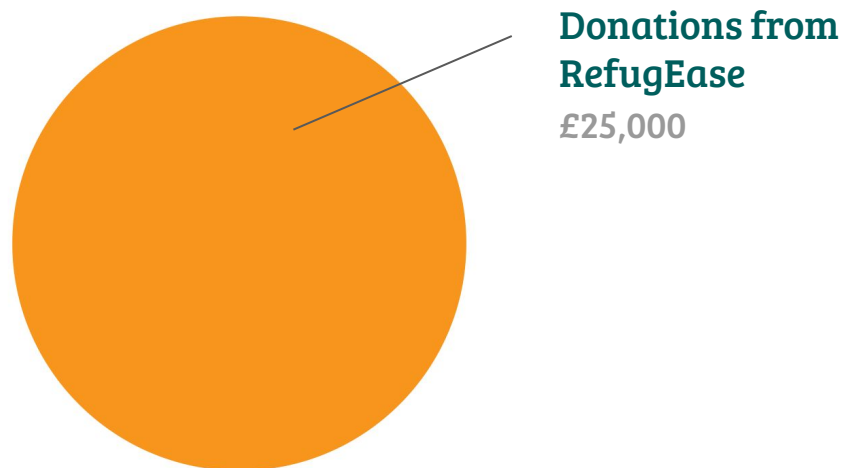


**Ahmad Aladad
(Abu Sultan)**

**AFCI Centre Manager
2016-2021**

Financial overview

Total income



Total expenses

