



MIDTERM REPORT FOR GAME DEMOCRACY MAKERS IN LEBANON

**Project period:
March 2014 - October 2015**

**Reporting period:
March - December 2014**

"In Qasqas zone, most members have different religions and nationalities. At the beginning we noticed that there was a lack of communication between them, so the Playmakers tried to change this by teaching them how to play together and be one team. It worked after a while. They started to act as one team regardless of the difference between them being Lebanese, Syrian or Palestinian."

Mohammad Kobeisy, Playmaker

The budgeted expenditure for the project: 635.451 kr.
The total actual expenditure: 353.739 kr.

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**Camilla Paulsen - Midterm evaluation of The Democracy Makers project
2014-2015**
Beirut 2015 © GAME

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Activities, Aims and results

In the following section the activities carried out will be listed. The aims are shortly explained, and afterwards the results will be explained.

Capacity building in Denmark

Aim

Two capacity buildings will be held, one in Denmark in 2014, and one in Lebanon in 2015. The aim is to exchange knowledge between Danish and Lebanese coaches. To develop methods in working with democracy, conflict prevention, gender equality and clubs managing. And create and on-going dialogue between GAME Denmark and Lebanon to exchange knowledge.

Results

The 8th and 9th of May 2014 GAME held a capacity building workshop in Denmark with 4 participants from Lebanon and 4 participant from Denmark. The participators from Lebanon were GAME Lebanon Director Ibrahim Hourani, Head Coaches Mona Istambouli, Raed Bayrakdar and Ahmed Hourani. The participants from Denmark were Director Simon Prahm, Junior Coordinator Camilla Paulsen, development director Mikkel Gjelstrup, project coordinator at the your game program Nikoline Olsen and project coordinator in GAME Reva Hagins.

The days was divided in one with a street soccer focus and street basket, which involved visits to GAME zones in Denmark and drills illustrated by Danish coaches with democracy, anti-racism and gender equality focus. But the main part was discussions and workshops on how to develop the trainings and the democratic awareness among the Playmakers and players.

10 rules was developed additional to the compendium, as guidelines to ensure the Playmakers to act in democratic, anti-racist, gender equal manner, when running the practices in GAME zones in Denmark and Lebanon. Five of the guiding principles were on-court regarding drills etc. And five was off-court and related to the organization of the players and Playmakers, evaluation of the training etc.

It was also decided to develop the compendium into an electronic app, so that it would be easier for the Playmakers and players to engage in developing and participating in the practices by ex. Uploading videos.

Since, it has been decided that GAME Lebanon is participating 4 times a year on GAME Denmark's knowledge sharing meeting via Skype. This creates an ongoing dialogue, which also was the aim of the capacity building.

Playmaker bootcamps

Aim

Throughout the whole project 150 Playmakers will have participated in the 3 bootcamps about street sports and conflict prevention and democracy activities. They will have gained leadership and will have the ability to run street sport activities and teach different life skills through weekly practices. The Playmakers will know how to incorporate democracy, gender equality, anti-racism and conflict prevention training into the practices so that they are Democracy Makers. The focus on how to initialise and manage clubs have been emphasised for the Playmakers from Beirut, Bekaa, Tyr and Nabatieh.

Results

2 bootcamps where held. The first was held the 27th of April in Gemayze on Sacre Coeur College and the second was held the 3rd of august, the same place. 139 Playmakers participated in total, which is

more than the objective (50 Playmakers pr. Bootcamp = 100). The Playmakers participated in different workshops, and gained knowledge about drills that enforce democracy encouragement, anti-racism, gender equality and conflict prevention. The Playmakers learned how to teach others in sport and at the same time incorporate a democratic focus and encourage the players to believe in themselves and that they can make a social change.

Street activities

Because the street activities and tournaments isn't funded by ActionAid (Excluding Dance Activities), this is attached in Annex 1.

Advocacy

Aim

The aim is to have 10 news pieces and 20 raps and videos about the 'good stories' concerning the youth who has gained democratic skills - both young women and men - and made a change in their communities are expected to improve the general feeling, among the broader public, of citizenship and social responsibility of integrating people with different backgrounds - especially Syrians - into their societies, which will involve anti-racism and conflict prevention.

Results

Rap workshop

GAME had a studio build in order to record the raps, which were made. The 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th of August 2014 GAME held a rap workshop in Beirut together with the organisation RAPOLITICS, where 15 participated. Friday the 8th RAPOLITICS brainstormed with the youth on the problems and challenges they see in the society. The youth learned how to develop texts. They day after they recorded the songs in the studio GAME has built in the office. Sunday they performed at a GAME tournament with 420 spectators of kids and youth. Monday the crew recorded videos for the raps on different spots in Urban Beirut. 3 songs are recorded and available online, and the studio is now open for the public. The raps are about being a refugee, escaping from war, being a revolutionary etc. The raps have been played on Danish radio P1 and Lebanese radio Radio Beirut, and have been shared on our online platforms.

Videos

7 videos has been made and posted on YouTube and Facebook. The videos have showed young men and women, with different nationalities, playing together and cooperating together. The videos are dealing with teamwork, an 'including all' approach, showing the young men and women improving their local society by working together. The videos are also including some of the raps and the messages that they contain.

Social media

The GAME Facebook page in Lebanon has increased in likes from 500 to 3800+. All the activity pictures, videos, rap and information where posted on the pages. Some of the posts with the biggest reach (1800- 6700 persons) are about events, live reporting and 'behind the scenes'. Monthly there has been posted pictures from Lebanon on the Danish Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn, with Danish descriptions and explanations, which also was a part of the cultural exchange.

Articles in Lebanon

See annex 2 for overview.

Articles in Denmark

In Denmark there have been 5 articles about the project. Every time there has been an event during the project, press releases has been written and send to the big Medias in Denmark. The Danish radio station P1 responded positively, but the published articles has been written by Camilla Paulsen from GAME, with one exception, which has been written by Poya Pakzad MS.

See annex 3 for overview

Target group

Playmakers

138 Playmakers have participated in boot camps, and been educated to being Playmakers 34,5 % are Syrians and non-Lebanese and 65,5 % are Lebanese. 60 % of the 138 Playmakers are active as trainers in the zones.

Coaches

4 coaches participated in the capacity building, 21 coaches participated in boot camps, 21 coaches participated in the zones.

Players

1.682 kids have participated in activities in the zones. 56 % Syrians and 35 % girls.

Partners

Spray Can/Hip Hop International, RAPOLITICS, Basmeh w Zeitouneh, Amel, Grassroots, Lebanese Scout Association, GAME Denmark, CYC, Josoor.

Difficulties and adjustments

Baabdad zone

Baabdad zone was skipped because it is a non-poor area, and it wasn't possible with funding from USAID. Instead a zone was established in Shatila, because there was a big need, which is seen in the fact that 26 % of all the kids in the project are from the Shatila zone.

New possibilities and adjustments

Roller Derby

A woman called Elisabeth Wolffhecel who is a coach and on the national team in Roller Derby in Denmark has contacted GAME. She wants to start at project up I Beirut in the spring 2015, in collaboration with GAME. The project will target young women, who also are participants in Democracy Makers, and give them strength, self-confidence and teamwork skills. Elisabeth has collected used Roller Derby gear, which she will bring with her to Beirut in the spring, when she is going to implement the project.

Renovation of courts

GAME has had two courts renovated during the project. In Chiah a full renovation of the basketball courts has been executed. In Bourj el Barajneh a renovation of the Basketball court has taken place. GAME is using the courts for practices, but it will also benefit other users e.g. the students in the school and kids in the neighborhood.

FIBA partnership

GAME Finals 2014 was the first GAME tournament in Lebanon endorsed by the international basketball federation (FIBA). The partnership during this tournament went well, and FIBA was satisfied with the results. FIBA are interested in continuing the cooperation in the final tournament, in the future.

GAME house workshop

The Intern Signe Lund (DK) has carried out a GAME House workshop with the Playmakers, to involve the youth in what a GAME house should contain. The idea behind the GAME house is to make GAME in Lebanon sustainable by getting member fees and renting out the house for events and conferences. Also GAME would have a place for the office, the practices and tournaments. GAME has current meetings with the Chiah municipality about possible locations and two Playmakers, who study architecture are involved in the plans for the GAME house.

Volunteering

The 7th of July the Playmakers volunteered in Iftar event during Ramadan, where they helped another organization called 'Grassroots Lebanon' by serving food for people, from disadvantaged areas, who lack economical resources.

The weekend 20th - 21st of September Playmakers volunteered at an arrangement with B7 Lebanese Scouts Association at a sports tournament. The first day they did exercises for the small kids. And the next day the facilitated drills for the bigger kids and judged Basketball matches the day after.

Impact

Youth participation in democratic reform processes

138 young Playmakers participated in boot-camps, where they were taught about democracy, gender-equality, anti-racism and conflict prevention. 60 % of the Playmakers that participated in Playmakers boot-camps, has continued with coaching and being Playmakers in the GAME zones and learned more about democracy from GAME coaches and zone managers. Some Playmakers were asked which most significant change had been to them during the project. Hassan Haffar answered that to him it was the development of democracy. He says: *"A very simple example is when shooting at the basket, the youngsters believe, that everyone should practice and that no one should take another's turn"*.

Another playmaker Mohamad Harakeh explains that they have had some on-going problems in one of the zones, with some other players, who want to play at the same time as GAME practice and irritate the GAME Players. Mohamad says: *"The zone manager always solved the problems, with them and asked to come back when we finished the practice. It was nice to see how he always solved the problem by talking to them"*. Here it is seen, that the Playmakers learn how to argue for their arguments by talking and how to find non-violent solutions to problems by learning from the zone managers and coaches in GAME.

Another Playmaker Mohammad Kobeisy talks about solving communication problems between kids with different religions and nationalities. He says: *"In Qasqas zone, most members have different religions and nationalities. At the beginning we noticed that there is a bad communication between them, so the Playmakers tried to change this by teaching them how to play together and be one"*

team. It worked after a while, they started to act as one team regardless of the difference between them being Lebanese, Syrian or Palestinian.” Here the impact the Playmakers have on the players is seen, the Playmakers use the tools they have gotten in how to handle conflicts generated by race, nationality or religion, and the Playmakers take active part in creating an anti-racist community.

Another Playmaker Rabih Moarawi tells about the change the project has generated in the community. Rabih says: *“I was walking from my home to one of the GAME zones, when I met some parents to one of the kids from one of the zones. They stopped me and thanked me for doing such a great job teaching their kid how to play equally. They also mentioned the great environment we are providing.”*

Cultural exchange

There has been cultural exchange on different levels throughout the project.

Two days capacity-building workshop was held in Copenhagen the 8th and 9th of May 2014 with 4 participants from Lebanon and 4 participants from Denmark. The group went on trips to Danish zones, one of them in Mjølnerparken to see how the practices went on. But the Lebanese participants also went on other trips in Copenhagen to get a broader cultural impression, than street culture.

Signe Lund has been an intern for two months in Denmark and three months in Lebanon, and has been given the rest of the organization up to date knowledge about what is happening in the other country and the other organization. Søren Ballhausen has volunteered in Lebanon for a month and has been working with the Lebanese webpage. He has also participated in zones coaching kids in basket, which has been a new cultural perspective compared to what he is used to in the Danish Basketball club Falkon.

Facebook has been a useful tool for players, Playmakers and volunteers of GAME in Denmark and of GAME in Lebanon, to follow the other organizations. Pictures and videos has been shared, and it has been possible to see how things are running.

The rap workshop has provided an opportunity for Lebanese, Syrian and Danish youth to exchange cultural views. 15 participated in the workshop, and when they performed at one of GAME's tournaments 420 spectators. But one of the raps was also played in Danish radio P1 Morgen, where an explanation followed, in this way Danish listeners were presented to the situation in Lebanon with the Syrian refugee challenges.

Promotion of women's participation

The methods earlier used in the Gender Equality Makers program have been used to involve girls in the project. Different colored application schemes have been used for boys and girls, so that the teachers in schools etc. couldn't give all the application schemes to the boys. The fact that there is a lot of female coaches and Playmakers also make participation more open for the girls, because they see the females coaches and Playmakers as role models, but it can also be away to persuade the parents to allow their daughters to participate. Therefore they are an important part of creating equal access. The percent of female participation has been 36%

Monitoring

Skype meetings

More than one monthly Skype meeting has been held, which was the aim. Skype meetings between Director in GAME Denmark Simon Prahm and Chairman Ibrahim Hourani has been held, skype meetings between Camilla Paulsen Junior Coordinator, Ibrahim Hourani and Signe Lund Intern and Skype meetings between GAME Lebanon and GAME Denmark. In that way it had been possible to follow and share knowledge on the project.

Quantitative data

After each practice in the zones and at the tournaments the zone managers have written the quantitative data into google drive. These numbers are among others the foundation of this midterm report.

Qualitative data

12 Playmakers have filled out a Most Significant Change Scheme, in order to clarify if the changes are equivalent to the objectives of the project. The answers have been used in this report, and in the light of these, it will be monitored if the project is running in the right direction, or if changes need to be made regarding democratic awareness, gender-equality, anti-racism etc. Which can be useful in the coming trainings, bootcamps and tournaments. A Qualitative interview has been executed with Ibrahim Hourani, chairman in Lebanon, to get exact information about formalities and changes in the program.

Financial management

We haven't encountered any irregularities between budget and expenditures. And we haven't planned to make any major budgetary adjustments compared to the approved budget.

Annex 1 - Street activities

Aim

3.000 kids will participate in weekly practices in 9 zones all over Lebanon and learn about conflict-prevention, gender equality, democracy and gain life-skills that will encourage them to stand up against racism and conflicts in their communities and show the leadership skills they've gain from Democracy Makers. The Playmakers will play a main role in arranging activities and implement what they learned at the boot-camps.

Results

9 zones has been running, 36 % have been females and 56 % are Syrians.

Zone	Activity	Participants	Show-ups
Qasqas	Baskeball zone	215	1.361
Bourj Hammoud	Basketball and football zone	91	979
Bourj el Barajneh	Basketball zone	233	2.245
Chiah	Basketball and football zone	168	2.093
Dekwaneh	Dance zone	45	445
Shatila	Football zone	437	2.851
Nabatieh	Football zone	221	2.158
Sour Maarakeh	Basketball and Football zone	211	1.770
Zahle	Football zone	61	911
Total		1.682	14.813

Tournaments

Aim

8 tournaments and training camps will bring 2000 players from all over Lebanon together, through out the project period. Through the different events the youth will show the skills that they have gotten from the street activities in the zones, and hereby get self-confidence in standing up for themselves and the values, that they have gained from being a part of Democracy Makers. They will

in that way contribute to a social change, which will spread as rings in water to the rest of the communities.

Results

3 tournaments/events has be held in 2014:

- 1) 'We are the world training camp', the 10th of August with 420 participants.
- 2) 'Football against racism' the 23rd of September, with 40 football teams and 400 participants
- 3) And the final and biggest Tournament 'GAME Finals' the 12th of October, with 60 Basketball teams, 27 football teams, more than 500 players and 20 dancers and rappers. The tournament was the first FIBA endorsed tournament in Lebanon.

And 3 internal tournaments in Bourj el Barajneh, Shatila and Sour, with a total of 500 participants

In total there were 1820 players, who participated in tournaments and events in 2014. The aim is to have 2000 participating in 2014-2015, which is close to the goal. The players and dancers have improved and used the

Annex 2 - Articles in Lebanon

Media	Source	Reach
Sportskello	http://www.sportkello.com/other-sports/302-other/18645-2014-05-20-08-37-23	Sportskello is a Lebanese website, which deals with sport on a high level, and is known for providing new and reliable sport news. The articles discuss the different activities of Democracy Makers.
	http://www.sportkello.com/other-sports/302-other/19669-2014-08-18-13-14-03	
	http://www.sportkello.com/basketball/basketball-lebanon/19670-2014-08-18-13-15-52	
	http://sportkello.com/other-sports/302-other/20440-game-finals-beirut-2014	
El sport	http://www.elsport.com/	Elsport is a sport website connected to a well-known news website Elnashra.com
	http://www.elsport.com/	
Malaeab	http://www.malaeab.com/pages/article/9708-%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9%20GAME%20%D8%AA%D8%AE%D8%AA%D8%AA%D9%85%20%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%A7%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D9%81%D9%8A	Malaeab is also a well-known website, for providing new and reliable sport news.

Annex 3 - Articles in Denmark

Media	Source	Reach
The Arabic initiative	http://detarabiskeinitiativ.dk/nyheder/gadeidraet-og-demokrati-gar-hand-i-hand-i-libanon/	The article was both published on DAI's homepage and send out with the newsletter. The target group of The Arabic initiative are People and organizations interested in the Middle-East and especially people working within the field of development.
U-landsnyt.dk	http://www.u-landsnyt.dk/nyhed/14-05-14/sport-skal-ge-forst-elsen-mellem-unge-libanesere-o	Focus is on the project Democracy Makers and how the situation with the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. The target group is people and stakeholder involved or interested in development in the third world.
Opinionen	http://opinionen.dk/global/jeg-var-revolutionaer-foer-jeg-blev-foedt-teaser	The article was about the rap workshop, and especially about a guy who is Palestinian, fled from Syria and his limited options in Lebanon. The article gives an impression of how it is to live with war, and always being a refugee. The article was both published on Opinionen's webpage and in the paper version of the magazine
Verdens Bedste Nyheder	http://verdensbedstenyheder.dk/news/streetsport-oeger-forstaelsen-mellem-unge-syrere-og-libanesere/	The project was a part of the campaign the 'Worlds Best News', in which a newspaper is made about the best news from third world countries, and the articles are also published on their webpage. The article was about how Syrian and Lebanese youth work together on promoting democratic awareness to Syrian and Lebanese kids in the Lebanese society. The campaign reached out to 1.1 million Danes.
Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke	http://www.ms.dk/en/node/537	The article is about the project and the importance of it due to the situation in Lebanon. The article is a blog post by Poya Pokzad, who is a well-known debater within Middle East issues. Mellemfolkeligt Samvirkes target group are people interested in volunteering, development, third world countries etc.
P1 morgen	http://www.dr.dk/radio/ondemand/p1/p1-morgen-801/#/	Director Simon Prahm was guest in P1 Morgen to tell about the project and especially the rap workshop, where some of the raps were played. The feature lasted 7

		minutes and focused on the Syrian refugees in Lebanon and the need to raise awareness about democracy, because the government haven't acknowledged the problem with the Syrian refugees. P1 Morgen is listened to by decision makers and journalists and has a daily average number of 227.000 listeners.
GAME Denmark	http://gamedenmark.org/news/rap-workshop-unge-libanon/	GAME Denmark has written news from Lebanon on their webpage and in the newsletter. The newsletter is sent to 6000.