

ولاد الكل

Every child is ours.

Where safety returns, expression opens, and life moves again.

1. Context: Where This Comes From

Lebanon is, yet again, living through a prolonged state of instability, where displacement has become part of everyday life for a large portion of the population.

Today, more than 25% of people in Lebanon are displaced.

Among them are **thousands of children, many of whom have already experienced multiple displacements in their short lives.**

These children are currently supported by a wide network of NGOs and individuals providing essential services such as food, clothing, shelter, and access to education. Still, and given the order of priorities, one critical dimension remains largely under-addressed:

The child's internal state: their sense of safety, their ability to process experience, and their access to imagination and expression.

Without this foundation, children may remain overwhelmed, scattered, or withdrawn, limiting their ability to fully benefit from the support already available to them.

ولاد الكل is designed to address this essential layer, **strengthening and enhancing the impact of existing efforts.**

2. The Response:

ولاد الكل means "children of everyone."

It is both a program and a perspective:

That every child, anywhere, is in many ways our shared responsibility.

This program is a pre-foundational layer of support, designed to restore the child's internal capacity before any academic or technical learning takes place.

It focuses on three core pillars that together restore the child's internal capacity:

1. Nervous System Regulation
2. Nurturing Imagination
3. Creative Expression

1. Nervous System Regulation

Helping children feel safe again in their bodies and environment.

Children exposed to repeated stress and displacement often operate in heightened states of alert (fight/flight) or withdrawal (freeze).

Research in trauma and child development (including the work of **Bessel van der Kolk** and **Stephen Porges**) highlights that: **A regulated nervous system is a prerequisite for learning social engagement and emotional resilience. Through movement, rhythm, breath, and grounding practices, the program supports children in returning to states of safety and regulation.**

2. Nurturing Imagination

Reopening access to creativity, possibility, and inner worlds

Imagination is not a luxury, it is a core developmental function.

Educational and developmental theorists such as **Lev Vygotsky** emphasized that **Imagination allows children to process reality, explore possibilities, and build meaning beyond immediate circumstances. For children in unstable environments, imagination becomes a critical space for resilience, hope and identity formation**

3. Creative Expression

Providing safe channels for emotions, thoughts, and lived experiences: children need ways to express what they cannot yet articulate cognitively.

Approaches such as expressive arts therapy and child-centered pedagogy (e.g., **Carl Rogers** and **Virginia Axline**) demonstrate: **Expression is essential for emotional processing, integration, and psychological well-being. Through art, movement, voice, and storytelling, children are given multiple pathways to release internal tension, communicate experiences and reconnect with themselves.**

◆◆ Integrated Outcome

Together, these three pillars support **Learning Readiness**

restoring the child's capacity to engage, focus, and benefit from educational and vocational opportunities.

3. Program Design (Initial Implementation)

The first implementation will take place in the **Flora center by Offre-Joie**, hosting approximately 1,000 displaced individuals, including around 300 children. To ensure depth and quality, the program will focus on 100 children aged 6 to 10.

Duration | This program is designed as a 3-month immersive cycle, allowing for:

- continuity and trust-building
- gradual nervous system regulation
- deeper emotional processing and expression
- visible shifts in engagement and readiness

Structure | The program is delivered through a multi-modality approach, facilitated by a team of 8 practitioners:

- Theater and role-play
- Drawing and visual arts
- Dance and rhythm
- Mindfulness and slow movement
- Music, voice and storytelling
- Crafts and nature-based activities

Children are free to explore different modalities and engage according to their natural inclinations.

Key Pedagogical Principle

Children who are too activated, disengaged, or disruptive are not punished or excluded. Instead, they are gently redirected to a dedicated activity space where they can:

- Release energy (e.g., sports, movement, group games)
- Be supported without pressure
- Re-enter the program when ready

The essence, in a nutshell

ولاد الكل fills a critical and often under-structured space in current humanitarian responses:

- It operates before academic learning, not in parallel
- It prioritizes internal readiness over external performance
- It uses creative and embodied practices as primary tools
- It integrates non-punitive behavioral approaches

Rather than adding another layer of instruction, it restores the foundation that makes all other interventions more effective.

4. Impact

ولاد الكل is designed to create conditions for learning, resilience, and long-term development.

Immediate Impact

- Increased sense of safety and grounding
- Emotional release and processing
- Reconnection to play and joy

Medium-Term Impact

- Improved attention and readiness to learn
- Better integration into educational programs
- Healthier social interactions

Long-Term Vision

- Children who remain connected to their creativity and inner resources
- Children who are able to process experiences and navigate change with resilience
- Children who grow with a sense of agency, expression, and inner stability

And fundamentally:

Children who are supported in discovering what makes them come alive and who, through that connection, are naturally oriented toward contributing meaningfully to the world around them.

5. Scalability & Replicability

This program is intentionally designed as a replicable and scalable model.

Key principles:

- Focus on states (regulation, expression, imagination) rather than fixed content
- Adaptability to different cultural and environmental contexts
- Training-based transmission to local practitioners
- Modular program structure

The long-term vision is to:

- Expand to other locations in Lebanon
- Share the methodology across regions facing similar challenges (e.g., Palestine, Sudan, Yemen)
- Build a global network of practitioners trained in this approach

6. Funding Model — A Dual Approach

To ensure sustainability and resilience, Oulad el-Kil operates through a dual funding model

1. Institutional Support

- Partnerships with NGOs, foundations, and funding bodies.

2. Alive Contributions — Mothers of All

Alongside institutional funding, we are activating a global network of women under the initiative: **Mothers of All**

Women from around the world are invited to contribute through what makes them come alive: Hosting a workshop, offering a class, organizing a gathering, creating a small event or initiative... Each contribution becomes **an Alive Contribution**, where personal passion meets meaningful impact.

This model diversifies funding sources, creates global engagement and ownership, all while transforming giving into **a lived, embodied experience**

ولاد الكل

is rooted in a simple yet powerful understanding

Before a child can learn, build, or contribute,
they must first feel safe, expressed, and alive.

By restoring these fundamental capacities,
we are not only supporting children in the present,
we are shaping the quality of the
future they will help create.

Notes & Ongoing Developments

Contribution Channels

A secure, transparent, and globally accessible contribution structure is being finalized and will be shared shortly.

Partners & Expansion

The initiative is currently adopted by Beit Bel Jnoub, Beirut Art Center, Reconstruire ensemble (Swiss chapter). We welcome aligned organizations, practitioners, and initiatives to connect and explore collaboration

Visual identity

The visual identity (logo, colors, design system) is currently in development. Elements shown here are temporary

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