Opportunity and Dignity for All

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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1. FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters,



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Ayadina Association, I am honored to present our Annual Report for 2025, reflecting a year of continued commitment, resilience, and solidarity in the face of Lebanon's ongoing socio-economic challenges and security uncertainties.

Throughout the years, Ayadina association remained steadfast in its mission to support vulnerable members of our community, particularly children, youth, and older persons in Sin el fil, Bourj hammoud–Nabaa and surrounding areas. In a context where many families continue to face severe financial hardship and next to no access to essential services and opportunities, we remained a hub for providing meaningful support that responds to both immediate needs and long-term development.

Our programs continued to create opportunities for children to learn, express themselves, and grow through arts education, while educational support helped them strengthen their academic skills and pursue their learning with greater confidence. At the same time, our Community Kitchen continued to offer nutritious meals to older community members, offering not only essential nutritional assistance but also a sense of care, dignity, and human connection.

Our work goes beyond the programs we run. At Ayadina association, we strive to be a place where people feel safe, valued, and supported to grow. We hold firmly to the belief that every person, regardless of religion, background, or circumstances, deserves the opportunity to have their basic needs met and to develop their potential and live with dignity.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the collective efforts of our dedicated team, committed volunteers, and generous donors. Their trust and shared belief in our mission have enabled us to sustain our programs and continue serving those who need our support most. We extend our sincere appreciation to each of them for standing alongside Ayadina association and the community we serve.

As we reflect on the year 2025, we recognize both the progress made and the needs that remain. The multiple challenges facing our community reinforce our determination to strengthen our programs, expand our reach, and build new partnerships that will allow us to respond more effectively to emerging needs.

With gratitude for all those who have contributed thus far to our journey, and with renewed determination for the years ahead, we remain committed to creating opportunities, nurturing potential, and promoting dignity and well-being for all. Indeed, the provision of opportunity, hope, and dignity sum up the reason for our existence.

Sincerely,

Maya al Georr Najjar
President

2. ABOUT AYADINA ASSOCIATION

Institutional Profile

Established in 2004 (Notification No. 88/AD, dated September 15, 2004), Ayadina association is an independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization operating in the socio-economically marginalized neighborhood of Bourj Hammoud–Nabaa, Greater Beirut, Lebanon.

Our Vision: Opportunity and Dignity for All.

Our Mission: To empower disadvantaged children, youth, women, and seniors by providing quality education, creative learning opportunities, skills development, psychosocial support, nutrition assistance, and humanitarian aid, enabling them to live with dignity and contribute to resilient and inclusive communities.

Strategic Orientations

- Arts & Creative Expression: Support arts education, creative expression, and youth talent development.
- Educational Access: Improve access to quality education and remedial learning support.
- Youth & Women Empowerment: Advance youth leadership, civic engagement, women's vocational skills, and socio-economic participation.
- Child Protection & Psychosocial Well-Being: Strengthen protective factors and emotional resilience for vulnerable children.
- Socio-Geriatric Support: Provide care, nutrition, and dignity-centered social inclusion for older adults.
- Food Security: Deliver essential food assistance and immediate humanitarian relief during crises.
- Community & Environment: Promote sustainable community development, social cohesion, and environmental protection.

Core Organizational Values

- Respect: Honoring the inherent dignity, agency, and rights of every individual.
- Inclusion: Serving all vulnerable populations without discrimination based on religion, race, nationality, gender, or background.
- Excellence: Upholding high standards in program design, delivery, and institutional management.
- Accountability: Maintaining transparency, ethical governance, and sound financial stewardship.
- Community Participation: Engaging local residents, facilitators, and volunteers to foster community ownership and sustainable impact.

3. OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

In 2025, Ayadina association continued to offer children and youth safe, nurturing spaces where they could learn, grow, express themselves, build meaningful connections, and experience the joy of childhood, while providing regular nutritional support, social connection and wellness activities to vulnerable adults and elderly persons in the community.

PROGRAM	REACH
Arts, homework support and mental math classes	353 beneficiaries, 152 boys and 201 girls A total of 422 enrollments across programs
Community kitchen	108 beneficiaries, 15 men and 93 women A total of 4,968 hot meals
Community engagement activities	82 beneficiaries, 20 men and 62 women

Key Programmatic Breakdown

A total of **543** vulnerable and underserved beneficiaries residing in Sin el fil, Bourj hammoud - Nabaa and neighboring areas were served.

- Arts Education: 299 children
- Homework Support: 53 children
- Mental Math: 22 children
- Total enrollments across arts education, homework support and mental math: 422 enrollments
- Community Kitchen: 108 vulnerable older persons supported with 4,968 hot meals.
- Adult Arts and Wellness Activities: 82 adults

** A number of children enrolled in more than one program*

Beyond the Numbers

Our programs have multi-year long term effect that is measured not only by the number of children attending activities or meals distributed, but also by the **opportunities, skills, dignity, and sense of belonging that our programs seek to foster.**

Through education, arts, skills development, and food assistance, Ayadina association continued to respond to practical needs while creating supportive spaces where children can learn and grow and older persons can receive care and remain connected to their community.

4. ARTS EDUCATION PROGRAM

Access to creative arts is often limited for low-income families due to financial constraints and standardized school curricula. Ayadina association's Arts Education Program offers children and youth a safe, structured space to explore visual arts (drawing and painting), performing arts (dance, music, and theatre), and physical wellness (gymnastics).

Beyond developing artistic skills, the program serves as a vital psychosocial and protective intervention. In Lebanon's context of economic hardship, urban overcrowding, and recurrent insecurity and conflict, creative activities allow children to express their feelings, process difficult experiences, and find joy and respite from daily stress. Through artistic expression and shared activities, children strengthen their self-confidence, emotional well-being, and resilience while building positive relationships with peers.
By encouraging collaboration, teamwork, and respect for diverse ideas and perspectives, the program fosters a sense of belonging and supports children's holistic development, helping them thrive despite challenging circumstances.

This year, 353 children and youth, 126 boys and 173 girls, aged 5-20 years, took part in the various art classes: Visual Arts, Music (Guitar, Derbakeh, piano and solfege), Dance (Ballet, Dabkeh, hip-hop), Theater, and Gymnastics.





"In Ayadina's center, we feel safe and we are comfortable and happy." Visual arts student

Feedback from children attending Ayadina association's Arts Education Program highlights its positive impact on emotional well-being, self-confidence, resilience, and social skills. Children described the classes as a safe and enjoyable space where they experience happiness and excitement, express themselves, relieve stress, and build friendships.
By overcoming challenges and mastering new skills, they develop a sense of achievement and pride in their abilities, which they enjoy sharing with family and peers. The program also strengthens concentration, time management, and a sense of belonging.
The children's strong attachment to the classes underscores the program's importance as a valued source of joy, emotional support, personal growth, and social connection.

80% of surveyed children reported that the art activities helped them express their feelings, cope with fears and problems, understand the feelings of others, and feel more confident and capable.



"I spent one month to learn the Sak on the derbakeh. Sak is very difficult and very few people in Lebanon can do it. When I was able to do it, I was mentally relieved, and felt proud" Derbakeh student



"I like when we meet all together. That we help each other and rely on each other." Guitar student



"I feel accomplishment. I feel that I am stronger. At school they say that I am the king of the derbakeh." Derbakeh student



"I feel happy. During the class, I focus and I erase what makes me sad." Ballet student

"I used to be shy and now I have more confidence in myself." Ballet student

End of year performance: United in Creativity – Exploring Cultural Heritage

In June 2025, Ayadina association celebrated the achievements of its Arts Education Program students through its annual end-of-year performance, **"United in Creativity – Exploring Cultural Heritage."** Attended by parents and community members, the event brought together music, dance, visual arts, and gymnastics in a vibrant celebration of creativity, cultural identity, and artistic learning.



A mini-exhibition of children's artwork welcomed the audience, showcasing their imagination and progress in visual arts. On stage, young performers demonstrated their skills and dedication through ballet, gymnastics, Lebanese Dabkeh, Derbakeh, piano, and guitar performances. A special highlight combined an Armenian dance melody.

Beyond showcasing the children's talents, the event celebrated the confidence, discipline, perseverance, and self-expression fostered through arts education. It also highlighted the role of the arts in preserving cultural heritage and strengthening children's connection to their community.



The performance was a testament to the children's progress and the dedication of their teachers, reaffirming Ayadina association's commitment to making the arts an accessible and enriching part of children's development.

5. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAM

5.1 Homework Support

The daily Homework Support Program provides school children aged 8–15 years, from grade 1 to grade 9, with a safe and supportive, academically enriching environment. Qualified local teachers help students complete their daily assignments, understand core concepts, overcome learning difficulties, and develop effective study habits.
Particularly valuable for children who lack a quiet space to study at home, the program also fosters confidence, motivation, and independent learning, supporting children's academic progress and long-term educational success.

Throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, 53 students benefited from daily, structured homework support. The program was particularly important in helping children maintain their learning progress amid disruptions to educational continuity caused by the prevailing insecurity and armed conflict that erupted in September 2024 and which is still casting its long shadow on children and their families.

86% of children reported positive changes in their children, including improved academic grades, improved study habits and homework completion, better time management, greater interest in learning, increased self-confidence, and/or a better understanding of lessons.



"We have known the association for more than five years. It takes good care of children, uses excellent teaching methods, and maintains a good educational standard. That is why my son attends the program. He used to struggle with his studies, but he has improved significantly."
Mother of a boy enrolled in the homework support program

"I enrolled my two girls in the Homework Support Program because of my positive past experience with Ayadina association and my complete trust in the organization. Since they joined, they have improved significantly, and their school teachers have praised their progress."
Mother of two girls enrolled in the Homework Support Program



5.2 Mental Math

Our Mental Math classes aim to strengthen children's numerical abilities, concentration, and problem-solving skills through interactive and engaging learning activities. Using innovative methods and practical exercises, the program helps children develop faster calculation skills, improve memory, and build confidence in working with numbers.

Beyond mathematical skills, the program encourages critical thinking, discipline, and perseverance by challenging children to approach problems creatively and independently. Through regular practice in a supportive learning environment, children enhance their cognitive abilities while developing a positive attitude toward mathematics and learning.

In 2025, 22 children aged 8-14 years, participated in the weekly specialized mental math sessions offered by Ayadina association.



In the mental math class, I finish earlier, and I help my classmates, I explain to them and they learn with me." Mental math student

"In school, I understand the concepts faster now. The math teacher is shocked when she sees how fast I am." Mental math student

6. COMMUNITY KITCHEN PROGRAM

In response to rising food costs and growing food insecurity among vulnerable older residents in Bourj Hammoud - Nabaa, Ayadina association's Community Kitchen provides on a weekly basis freshly prepared and nutritious hot meals.
Beyond addressing food insecurity, these meals help ease some of the daily pressures experienced by beneficiaries and offer a sense of care and solidarity. We remain committed to ensuring that every meal is prepared with a strong focus on quality, nutritional value, and dignity, recognizing that access to healthy food remains an essential right for many members of our community.

This year, our dedicated volunteers prepared and distributed 4,968 nutritious hot meals for 108 vulnerable older beneficiaries, serving them with love, care, and compassion.





7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

7.1 Arts Education for Adults

In addition to its core Arts Education Program for children and youth, Ayadina association offered arts, cultural, and recreational activities for adults, including piano, dabkeh, derbakeh, singing, and Zumba.
A total of 82 adults enrolled in these classes, reflecting the community's interest in creative expression, cultural engagement, and recreational opportunities



7.2 Children Movie Night

Ayadina association organized weekly movie nights for children from the local community, offering them a welcoming space to relax, have fun, and enjoy shared experiences with their peers. These gatherings provided opportunities for entertainment, social interaction, and friendship, strengthening community bonds while giving children a chance to unwind and create happy memories together.



7.3 Clowning Show for Children



In collaboration with **Clown Me In**, a local NGO, Ayadina association organized a clowning show for children aged 5 to 16. The performance created a lively and joyful atmosphere, giving children an opportunity to enjoy laughter, entertainment, and shared moments with their peers. The activity contributed to providing a welcoming space for recreation, positive interaction, and emotional well-being

7.4 Christmas Celebration with our Seniors



Ayadina association hosted a festive Christmas lunch for its senior beneficiaries, bringing them together for an afternoon of companionship, music, and celebration. The gathering featured a shared meal, live music, and dancing in a warm and joyful atmosphere, offering participants an opportunity to socialize, strengthen bonds, and create cherished memories. Ayadina extends its sincere gratitude to **Mersaco** for sponsoring the meal and entertainment and helping make this celebration a special occasion for the seniors.

7.5 Outing for the Seniors

In May 2025, Ayadina association organized a recreational outing for its senior beneficiaries to a restaurant in Dlebta, offering them a welcome opportunity to step away from their daily routines, enjoy a pleasant meal, and share moments of friendship and conviviality. The outing contributed to enhancing their emotional and social well-being by providing an opportunity for relaxation, social interaction, and enjoyment in a welcoming environment. Such activities reflect the Association's commitment to improving the quality of life of older persons, fostering social connections, and promoting their overall well-being and social inclusion.



7.6 Participation in the Social Institutions and NGOs Exhibition in Bourj Hammoud



In October 2025, Ayadina Association participated in the exhibition of social institutions and NGOs serving Bourj Hammoud and Sin El Fil, held on the occasion of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The events was organized by the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud in collaboration with the Coordination Committee of Organisations in Bourj Hammoud and Sin El Fil, and under the patronage of the Governor of Mount Lebanon.

Ayadina's participation provided an opportunity to present its mission and programs to visitors, raise awareness of its work, and strengthen connections with local stakeholders. The event also highlighted the importance of collaboration in promoting social inclusion and addressing the needs of vulnerable community members.

7.7 Visit of Poet Henri Zgheib



A Special Cultural Visit

Ayadina Association was honored to welcome renowned Lebanese poet Henri Zoghaib, accompanied by Dr. Jana Makarem Bayoud. His visit celebrated the richness of Lebanese poetry, culture, and heritage. As a special tribute, he also created an anthem for Ayadina, a meaningful gift that reflects our identity and mission. This memorable occasion reaffirmed our belief in the power of words and the arts to inspire, heal, and bring people together.

8. LOOKING AHEAD, 2026 AND BEYOND

As Lebanon continues to face economic and social challenges, recurrent security threats, and periods of instability and displacement, the needs of vulnerable children, youth, women, and older persons continue to grow. In response, Ayadina Association aims to expand and strengthen its interventions to reach more community members, address emerging needs, and provide consistent, meaningful support. Beyond meeting immediate needs, the Association seeks to empower individuals, strengthen families, and build resilience by investing in education, psychosocial well-being, skills development, and community engagement. Through these efforts, Ayadina aspires to create lasting, sustainable impact and contribute to a stronger, more resilient, and self-reliant community.

1. Program Expansion: Scale up enrollment capacities in the Homework Support and Mental Math programs to meet growing community demand.
2. PSS: Offer structured psychosocial support activities for children and parents.
3. Women's Skills Building: Reactivate structured vocational and entrepreneurial workshops targeting women's economic empowerment.
4. Youth skills building and youth lead initiatives.
5. Emergency Preparedness: Strengthen humanitarian response mechanisms to quickly address acute regional crises or displacement.
6. Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with local actors.

9. CLOSING STATEMENT

Ayadina association has existed for nearly a quarter of a century against overwhelming odds because its mission has touched a deep chord with so many. We wage war on a daily basis against hunger, despair, loneliness, and marginalization. On equal footing, we cast a ray of hope on a daily basis in creating opportunities, stimulating learning, and developing hidden talents. Unlocking potential is the brighter side of our mission. For the elderly and the young, Ayadina association is a vibrant hub and a warm, inclusive and safe space where troubles are put behind and new prospects for a better life where pressing needs are met and dreams are fulfilled.

10. TOTAL EXPENSES

94 800 USD

11. DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

Ayadina association extends its heartfelt gratitude to the donors, corporate sponsors, and individual benefactors whose generosity and commitment sustained our programs throughout 2025. We are equally grateful to our dedicated volunteers, whose time, compassion, and kindness keep our Community Kitchen running and bring warmth, dignity, and human connection to the lives of our older beneficiaries.

Fundraising Events

In 2025, Ayadina association organized four fundraising events, bringing together members, their friends, and supporters of the Association. These gatherings created warm, welcoming occasions for the community to connect and show solidarity with Ayadina association's mission. The funds raised helped sustain our programs and activities throughout the year, and we are deeply grateful to everyone who attended, contributed, and helped make these events a success.

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

AYADINA ASSOCIATION

Opportunity and Dignity for All

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