Layali Ramadania/Storytelling Festival 2017

Storytelling and Music for children and their parents From 10-15/6/2017 in three villages, two refugee camps and Jordan Valley.



Introduction

The project of Layali Ramadania/ Storytelling Festival has been supported by the Gymnasium Finkenwerder “Colour Run for Storyteller”[1], and had been developed between the Goethe-Institut and Seraj Library project and Tellers without borders in cooperation with the local communities in palestine. The goal of the project was to refresh the storytelling - Hakawati culture that has been missing in the Palestinian community. Children with their parents were invited to hear and share stories under the stars to unleash their imagination. Layali Ramadania 2016 was the first Event specializing in storytelling during Ramadan in Palestine.

How did the fund come?

[1] In July 2015 the Clour Run for Storyteller took place with students from the Gymnasium Finkenwerder in Germany.

For every round they ran money was collected for the chosen project. They were in total 15 rounds.The school council selected the initiative “Storytellers without borders” as addressee of the donation. The organization founded by Micaela Sauber is a network of storytellers from different countries. They also launch projects in crisis zones and refugee camps in order to delight children and youth by fairytales and stories as well as to give them hope and consolation. These professional “storytellers” are also working in Palestine, both in the west bank and in gaza strip.

The Layali Ramadania festival that was financed throughout.This collected money included storytelling for children and families in the Palestinian Territories in six different villages and refugee camps, the festival was organized in a cooperation between the Goethe-Institut and the Siraj Library Network. Additionally Seraj Library donated for each library 100 $ for hospitality in Ramadan, the communities

contributed in Iftar and NBC gave a juice , The event took place during the “Nights of Ramadan” (10.June-15.June 2017) . The project was coordinated by the Storyteller Fidaa Ataya.

Layali Ramadania event specializing in storytelling during Ramadan in Palestine with the following schedule

- Sat.10. June, Al Jiftlik - Jordan Valley, 10 pm-12 am
- Sun.11. June, 9 am-12 am, Deir Ammar Refugee Camp, 8:30-11:00 pm
- Mon.12. June, Kafr Ni’ma - Ramallah,10 pm- 12 am
- Tues.13. June, Aida Refugee Camp – Bethlehem, 8:30 pm- 11 pm
- Wed.14. June, Al Mazra’a Al Sharqiya - Ramallah, 10:30 pm- 12:00am
- Thu.15. June,Burham - Ramallah, 8:30 pm-11 pm

Before the beginning of the project, we had a meeting with all the partners at the different areas. Together, we decided the places for the performances and the times; we informed them that the audience should be maximum 80 people (children and parents), the same rules like the last year.

More details

Sat. 14 June, Al Mazra’a Al Sharqiya - Ramallah, 10:30 pm -12 am.

- **The partners**: Al Mazra’a Al Sharqyia Club
- **The place**: outdoors, the field of the Club.
- **The Audience**: 370 children, 210 women, 450 men, 32 young adults (in total more than 990 people) with Guests from villages around.
- **The event included:**-

1. Storytelling by Fidaa (The story of Ala' Eddin)
2. Music by Osama (Songs and playing the Oud Instrument)
3. Traditional Market lead by the women include food, books, embroidery, hand crafts, sweets..)
4. Sing the story (Guest from village around)
5. Children sang a song (7 females, 8-10 years old)

Our event Layali Ramadania was an opening of Al Mazra'a Ehsarjeh Layali Ramadania for three days from 14-16 June.

Sun. 13. June, Aida Refugee Camp – Bethlehem, 8:30 pm -11 pm.

- The partners: Al Rowwad center.
- The place: inside Al Rowwad Center
- The Audience: 5 children, 22 women, 24 men, (in total 51 people)
- The event included:-

1. Storytelling by Fidaa (The story of Ala' Eddin)
2. Music by Osama (Songs and playing the Oud Instrument)
3. Mix Music by an artist from the center and Osama.
4. Dabka dancing by youth from the Center (17-21 years old).
5. Dr. Clown (Guest).

Thu. 15. June, Burham - Ramallah, 8:30 pm - 11pm.

- The partners: Burham association and the school of the village and the Kindergarten.
- The place: outdoors.
- The Audience: 48 children, 30 women, 26 young adults and men. (in total 104 people).
- The event included:-

1. Storytelling by Fidaa (The story of Ala' Eddin)
2. Music by Osama (Songs and playing the Oud Instrument)
3. Storytelling by Shadia and Rinad (The Shepherd)
4. Poem by two girls (10-12 years old)
5. Fazazeer (Ramadani Competition) for children and Adults prepared by the volunteers.
6. Fawanees (lights) event (by the little children from the kindergarten.
7. Zajal (Traditional songs include the Audiences) by a Guest from a neighbour village.

Sun. 11. June, Deir Ammar Refugee Camp, 8:30 pm - 11 pm.

- The partners: Hayat Association.
- The place: (indoors) at Hayat Association next to the library, there is no place outside in the camp.
- The Audience: 55 children, 12 women, 11 men. (in total 78 people)

- The event included:-

1. Storytelling by Fidaa (The story of Ala' Eddin)
2. Music by Osama (Songs and playing the Oud Instrument)
3. Storytelling by child 7 years old from the Camp.
4. Dabka Dance by children (8-10 years old) from the camp.
5. Poem by a child from here i finished

Mon. 12. June, Kafr Ni'ma - Ramallah,10 pm - 12 pm.

- The partners: Kafr Ni'ma village council
- The place: Kafr Ni'ma public Garden (Outdoors).
- The Audience: 125 children, 68 women, 60 men (in total 253 people).
- The event included:-

1. Storytelling by Fidaa (The story of Ala' Eddin)
2. Music by Osama (Songs and playing the Oud Instrument).
4. Poem written and read by Amani Rasheed.
5. Children Talents

Sat. 10. June, Al Jiftlik - Jordan Valley, 10 pm - 12 pm.

- The partners: Jordan Valley Solidarity Campaign and Al Sanabel Association.
- The place: Outdoors Al Sanabel Association field.

- The Audience: 32 children, 21 women, 11 men, (in total 64 people).
- The event included: -

1. Storytelling by Fidaa (The story of Ala' Eddin)
2. Music by Osama (Songs and playing the Oud Instrument)
3. Dihhayah Songs by two children (11 years old)
4. Children from the audience participated in storytelling.
5. Women handcraft exhibition (created by women from Jordan Valley made from natural resources).

the photos and the event on Facebook

Layali Ramadania/ Storytelling Festival was successful due to

- Our partners were waiting Layali Radania from the last year, many people from the communities asked about it.
- We reached many different places in the west bank areas A, B and C, which have less services and Education. 60% of the west bank is recognized as area C, which means land for Palestinians under Israeli control. We went to Al-Jiftlik (area C) and we also covered two refugee camps.In Deir Ammar refugee camp for example children there have no place to play.The storytelling event was a need for such places.
- Our Audience was a mixture of children, parents, youth and women, which strengthen family relations and the Guests from the Villages around. Their participating encouraged the national tourism.
- We decided with the partners to have 80 people maximum as an audience per event (this means that our audience should be maximum 480 person for all the festival), but surprisingly there was more than 80 people every night

and our Audience was 1489[1] people for all nights, due to the fact that the children's school vacation and they were allowed to stay up all night in Ramadan. They also need such activities during Ramadan, we were ready to for this amount of people also we were lucky to have good microphones.

Returning to our aims from Layali Ranadania to inspire the partaners and the communities and to refresh the heritage and the art of the storytelling, this year we reached this aims through:

In Al Mazra'a Al Sharqiya they created their own Layali Ramadania at the village for three days and our Layali Ramadania was the opening of their Layali Ramadania, they created a team from the village who organized the event having Music, storytelling and Market, and they included the villages around, which made Layali Ramadania extended to new people from other communities, maybe they will inspire, we are proud of this seed we planted which have a deep roots in the earth from our heritage.

In Burham Seraj Library have two young storytellers, Rinad and Shadia, they collected an old traditional story from their village and they worked around it and perform it again in front of the community, the story was about the shepherd who developed his own life little by little to have his freedom in the end.

In Al Jiftlik we discovered two children male who can sing Aldihhia (improvise bedouin tradition songs returning to what's going on and who is here from the community and the Audiences) , The community and us surprised when we noticed that they were improvised the words following Al Dihhia Rhythm.

This year we had an artist at Layali Ramadania were invited from the communities come from other communities to participate at the event, and they came to us

[1] this information came from the partners after they wrote us a small report inclouding the numbers, also we counted the Audiences for each event.

asking for if we can make layali Ramdania in their villages, that was in Burham and al Mazra'a Alsharjeh.

Al Ameer Austodio gave us a camera to take photos at the events as a contribution from the community

- **Advertisement:** we printed 600 flyers and 20 posters, we distributed the flyers and posters to our partners and we put some at Goethe-Institut and Seraj Office, We created an event on Facebook and we put the festival schedule at the monthly program of the Goethe-Institut. Our partners shared the event on their Facebook pages and groups and they distributed the Flyers.

- We had a photographer during Layali Ramadania/ Storytelling Festival. He took photos every day. We uploaded them on the facebook page day by day.
- We had two volunteers with us every night, they were helping us in the set up and the closing.

Recommended for next time:

- To change the background and make it easier at the set up.
- To have a sound system with the logistic person.
- To find other fund to extend the festival as the people and the communities asked
- To always organize the event in Ramadan and at the school vacation.
- To make a film about the festival to show some of the activities and the settings unfortunately, our budget was not enough to make such a film.
- To give more time for organizing before and after the Festival.
- To keep performing the events outdoors.
- To keep the background and development.
- To have a big lighting for the places, which have poor electricity.

- To have\link storytellers from Germany and other countries with the Palestinian storytellers.
- To always combine music with the storytelling event.
- To keep having two volunteers in each event.
- To have a meeting with the young storytellers before the festival starts, in order to check the story, if it suits our goals or not, and the activities in the best way.
- To have meetings with the partners before the beginning of the event in order to put the best strategy and schedule for the event
- To keep having storytellers from the Palestinian Communities.

Some Feedback from audience collected by Raneen:

- Zeinab from Jiftlek, "we are so happy to have Layali Ramadanieh here, as you know Jiftlik is area where kids need this kind of change and events"
- Sameh from Jiftlek, 11 years old "this event is so nice and we felt Ramadan, thank you"
- Yamen from Der Amar Camp, 12 years old "I loved the story."
- wala from Al Mazra- Sharqeh, 18 years old " this kind of events make Ramadan special and joyful for us"
- Mohamad from Aida Refuges Camp, 16 years old" the show was so great and we enjoyed the music with Osama and the story with Fida, hope to have this event every year."
- Ghadeer from Burham, 34 years old " Layali Ramadaineh became a part of Ramadan in our village and hope to keep this for next year and to keep the kids smile and happy."
- Rami (Staff) "this pleasure to see how the kids are happy to hear the new story and to learn new things from Fida. I think everyone was happy in these events"
- Osama (Musician)" I were so happy to sing with kids and to make them feel special when we sing to gather, the music is a language of love, peace and happiness and I hope that our performance make them feels Ramadan."

Written by Fidaa Ataya