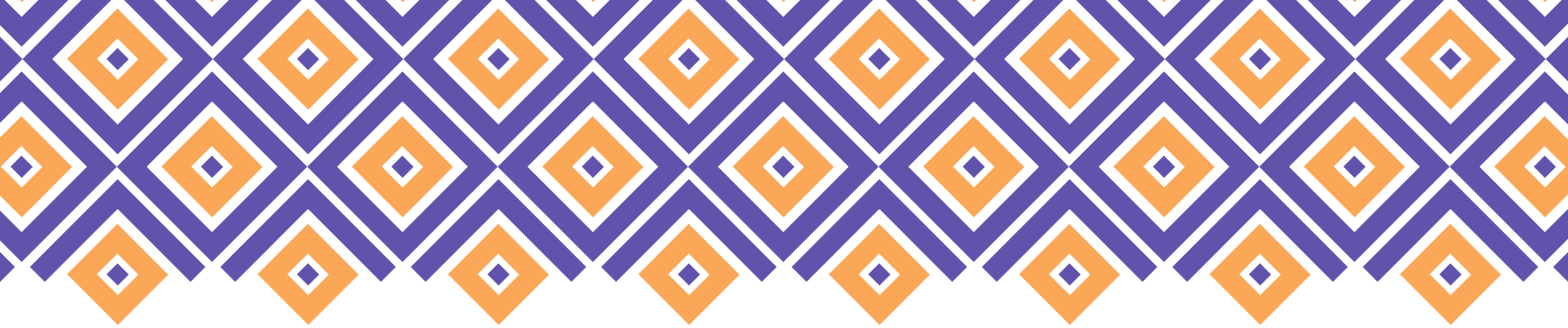




*send us where
love is needed*

**2022
Annual
Report**



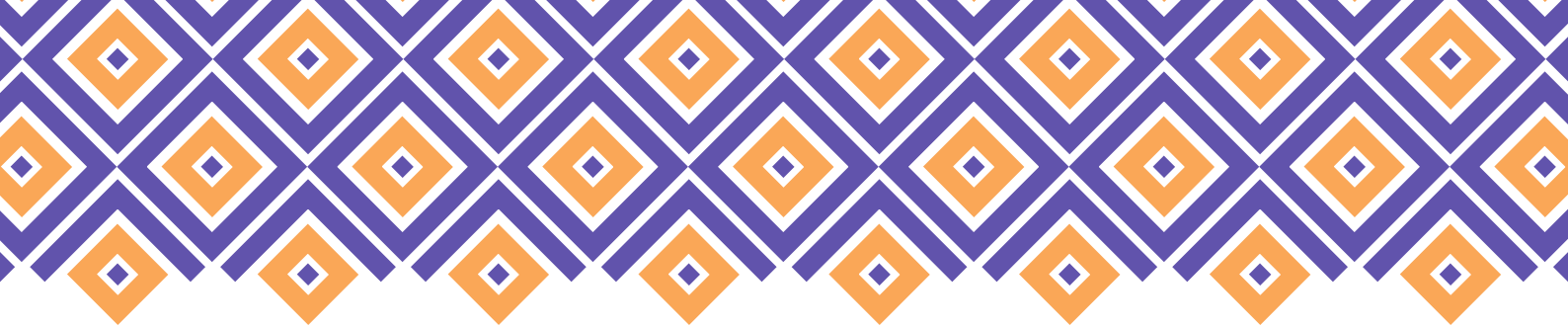
Overview

Clown Me In is a clowning and street theatre NGO based in Lebanon, founded by Sabine Choucair. Through interactive workshops and performances, we use clowning to spread laughter and provide relief in disadvantaged communities while shedding light on important social, environmental and humanitarian issues. Clown Me In has worked with communities around the world, including Mexico, Myanmar, the Balkans, Lebanon, India, Brazil, Morocco, Jordan, Syria, Greece, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

We are currently a team of **30 people**, including clowns/performers, freelancers and volunteers, an operations officer, project managers, an accountant, and videographer.

Our experience ranges from street performances, to social therapy workshops and event hosting. We use creative and playful means to work with displaced and/or disadvantaged communities and work to bring people together using laughter and fun. We also aim to take the arts from urban to rural areas, as well as from closed, private spaces to the streets.

Through 2022, the situation in Lebanon continued to worsen, with the effects of the 2020 Beirut Port explosion still felt two years on, and the extreme neglect of the ruling class and the financial collapse affecting everyone's physical and mental well-being. Although the challenges and obstacles are immense, we have been adapting and responding by reaching out to the most vulnerable communities through laughter, play and workshops, committing to social change through art.



*In 2022 Clown Me In partnered with:
Clowns Without Borders USA, Sweden and Spain (Payasos Sin Fronteras), All-Around Culture, Yaraqa, Yazan, DROSOS Foundation, Kayani Foundation, Flying Seagull, UNICEF, UNDP, and the American University of Beirut.*

Our total budget in 2022 was: 555,000 USD

We held 39 workshops

We performed 60 shows

We reached over 30,000 people in person

Projects

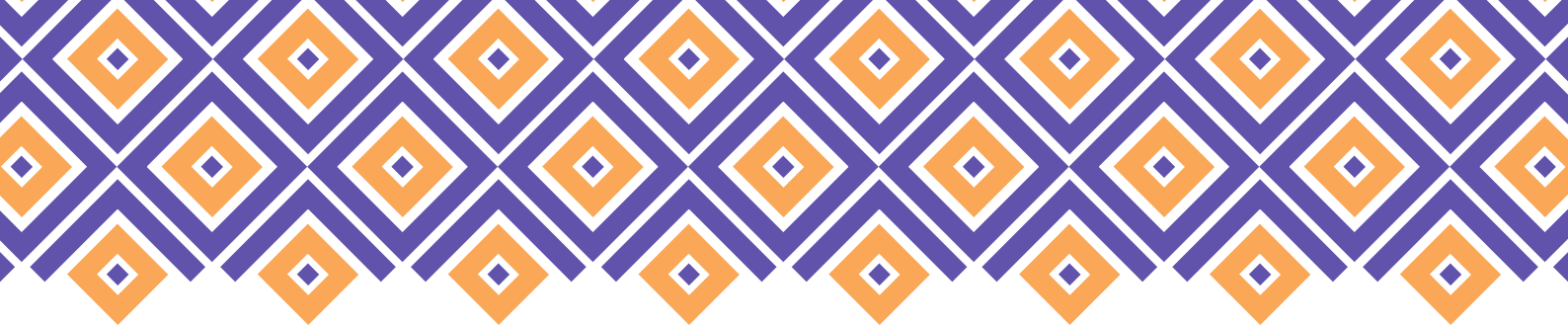
IIVVSS (The International Institute for Very, Very Serious Studies)

IIVVSS is in its third consecutive year, giving courses in participatory art, clowning, mask work, bouffon technique, puppetry, physical theatre, music, multimedia, proposal writing and storytelling with professionals and teachers from Lebanon, Italy, the United Kingdom, France and the United States. The newest group attended the various courses until end of September, after which they worked on the end-of-year show, which was presented at the end of November. For the coming year, the students will be working in the field with communities, to come up with street performances that tackle the concerns of the youth.

In parallel, the 2021 students were in the fieldwork phase of their learning. They were divided into three groups that recruited young people from three different regions, between the ages of 14 and 19, who want to improve their surroundings and are interested in arts. Together, over a period of three months, they devised three different street performances that were performed in different regions of Lebanon.

This project is funded by DROSOS.





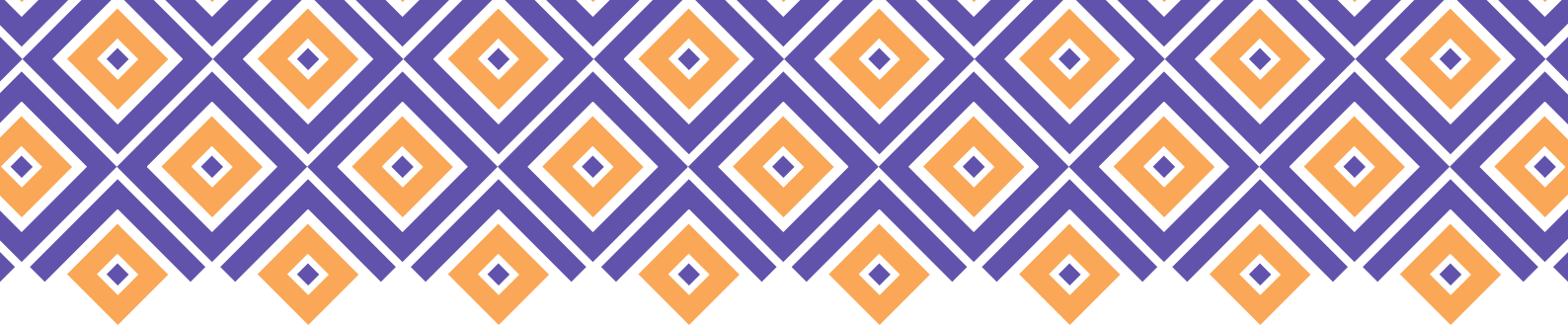
Click the button to learn about the 2021 community field-work in Kahhale



Click the button to watch a video about the Bouffon class



Click the button to watch what the students learned about clowning with Hilary Ramsden



CAPE (Creative Arts for Peace and Equality)

CAPE is a project that began with Clown Me In and Clowns Without Borders Sweden as CATCH in 2017. The aim of the project is to support girls and women affected by war and conflict, minority groups, people in vulnerable economic situations and women and girls exposed to violence and harassment, by strengthening their psychosocial wellbeing - a way to find peace within, while working for peace in the world. At the very beginning of the project, in 2019, local artists from Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine and Syria were trained in Clowns Without Borders creative methods. The trained artists have since worked with women and girls in their local communities and have collectively worked with over 2500 people.

In 2022, we gave 11 social therapy workshops with 11 different groups and associations for young Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian women all around the country. We also opened up in a new country, Yemen, where we invited three women to do CAPE technique workshops. In their turn, they worked with women in Moukalla, Yemen.

Funded by: Clowns Without Borders Sweden



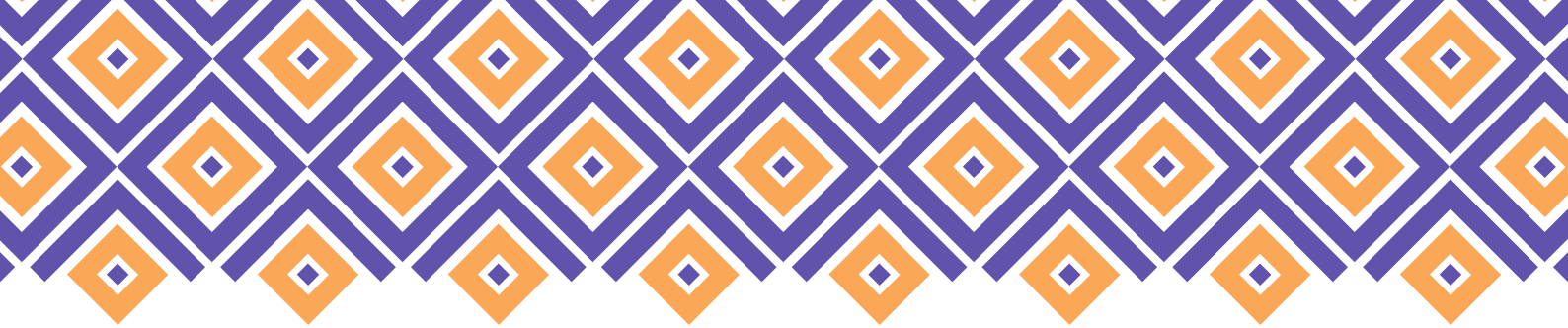
Click the button to watch Saad from Yemen talking about her experience with CAPE

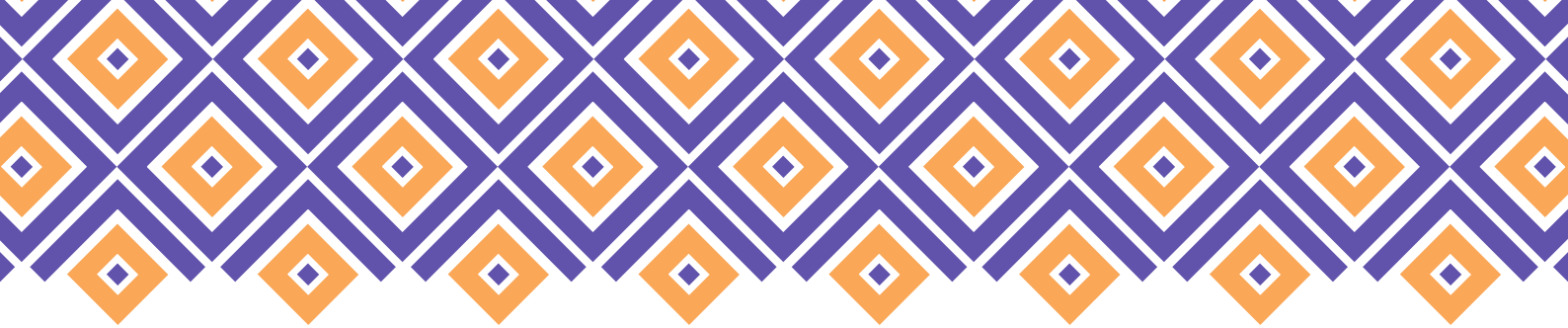


Click the button to watch Nour from Yemen talking about her experience with CAPE



Click the button to watch Maryam from Yemen talking about her experience with CAPE





UNDP Anti-Violence

Over a period of ten months, we had the opportunity to work with 42 communities in Lebanon to promote a culture of non-violence, by forming a team of facilitators/clowns that met with a task force in these different communities. Together, they came up with ideas for activities for a public event day in their respective communities. The event was divided into two parts; one for play and activities, and a forum theatre play created by the CMI team. Each group had to choose two of four scenes proposed by CMI, which were about regular violent situations that happen on a daily basis at home, at school, or even on the streets. The spectators were invited to come up on stage, take the role of one of the characters and change the flow of the action to prevent violence and deal with the problem in a more peaceful way. Through this project, we were able to reach 9,200 people across 42 events.

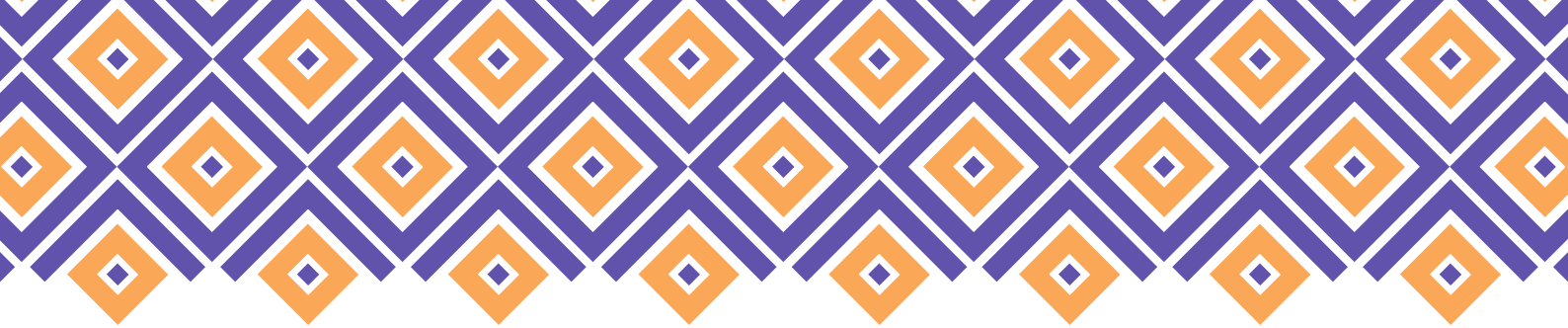
Supported by UNDP

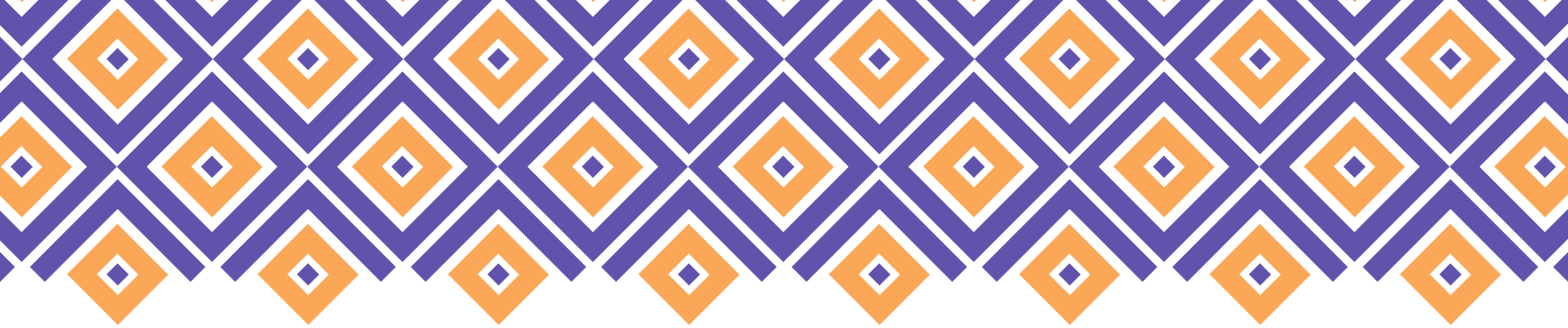


*Click the button to watch
a behind-the-scenes
video of the rehearsals*



*Click the button to watch
a video of the project in
action*





Network for Cultural Outreach - NCO

Three Lebanese associations - Yaraqa, Yazan and Clown Me In - formed an alliance, entitled the Network for Cultural Outreach, based on the belief that municipalities are the key partners to decentralizing culture and performing arts, and providing sustainable touring in Lebanon. The objective of NCO is to facilitate the dissemination and outreach of the alliance's programs and to encourage other cultural actors/associations (national, regional or even international) to develop relations with a wider audience over time. These relations will in turn create more inclusive cultural work and develop more opportunities through the touring of cultural events in Lebanon.

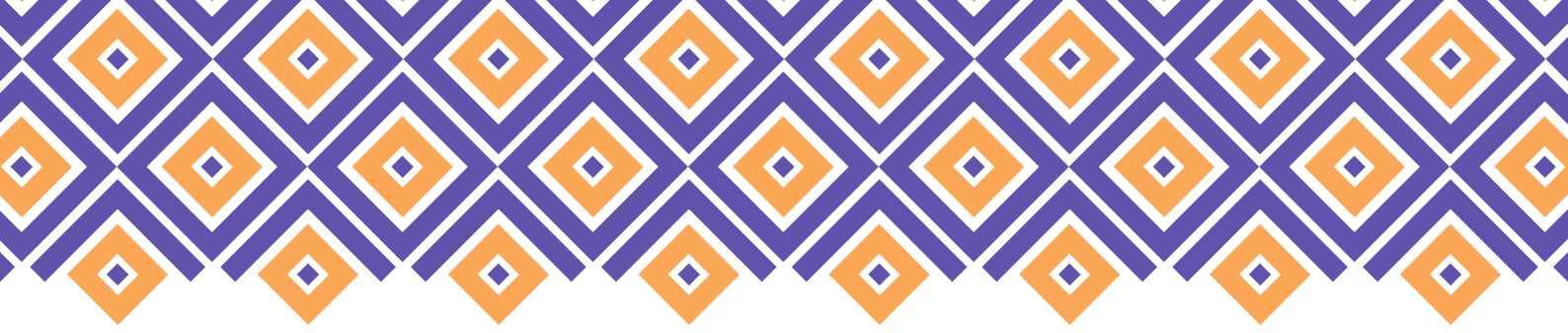
At the end of August, the NCO presented its 'Pilot Tour 1', which consisted of various performances: Yazan presented "Al Aadiloun", a play by Albert Camus, directed by Caroline Hatem. Yaraqa presented "Along the Way", an invitation to walk along a three-stop trail and engage in three dance performances set in public and private spaces, all while being on the move. Clown Me In created an interactive clown show to have fun, laugh, and enjoy a wonderful, family-friendly experience. Six clowns walked the streets, putting on an entertaining clown performance for all ages and family members, reaching 600 people.

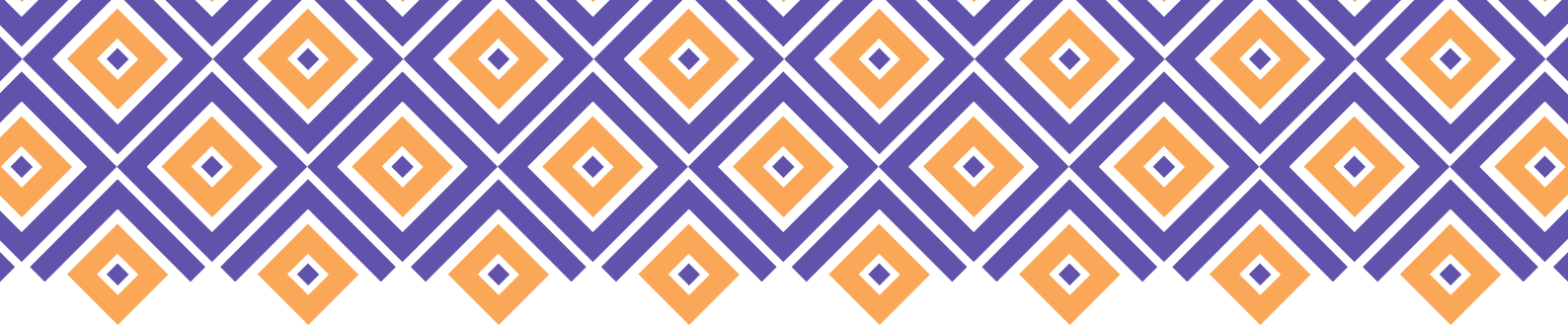


Supported by All-Around Culture



Click the button to watch a recap video of our performances in the pilot tour



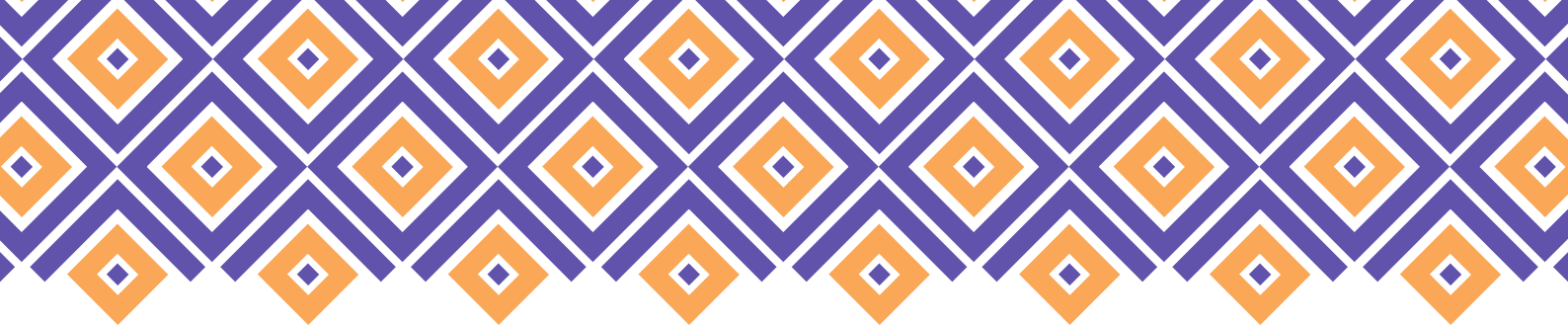


Annual Clown Tours

Our annual shows once again took us across different regions of the country, performing 13 shows for children and adults between June and August, in addition to two shows in December, in partnership with Tabitha, Payasos Sin Fronteras, Kanafani Foundation SOS, and Mouvement Sociale. Through these shows, we reached 2,462 people.

Supported by Payasos Sin Fronteras





Allo, Beirut?

Allo, Beirut? is a series of street performances directed by Sabine Choucair, based on extensive research on Prosper Gay-Para and the era of the 50s and 60s in Lebanon. Six actors toured ten performances around Beirut in September, in a pick-up truck that was transformed into the famous Les Caves Du Roy nightclub of the Excelsior Hotel. The performances also led up to the opening of the Allo, Beirut? exhibition at Beit Beirut museum.

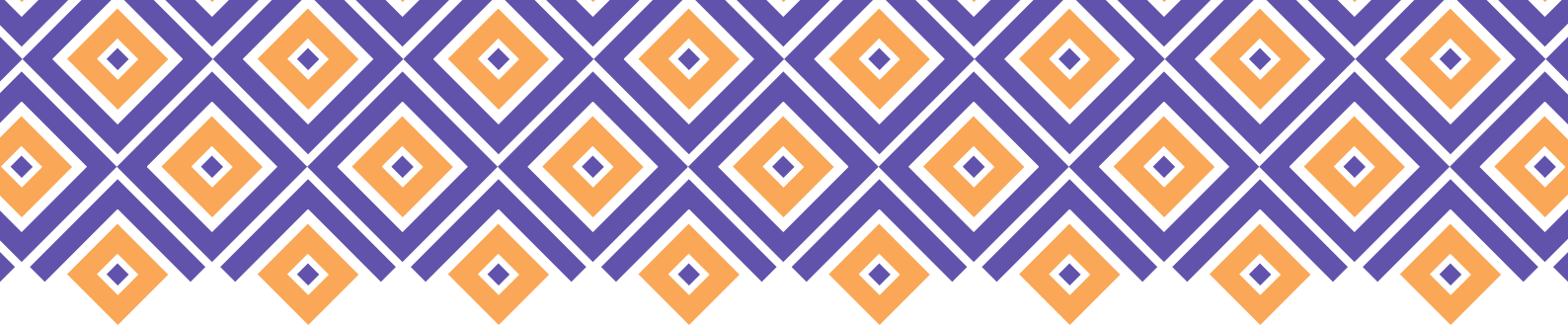
Supported by IREX



Click the button to watch Sabine Choucair's interview on VDL



Click the button to see the Allo Beirut video playlist

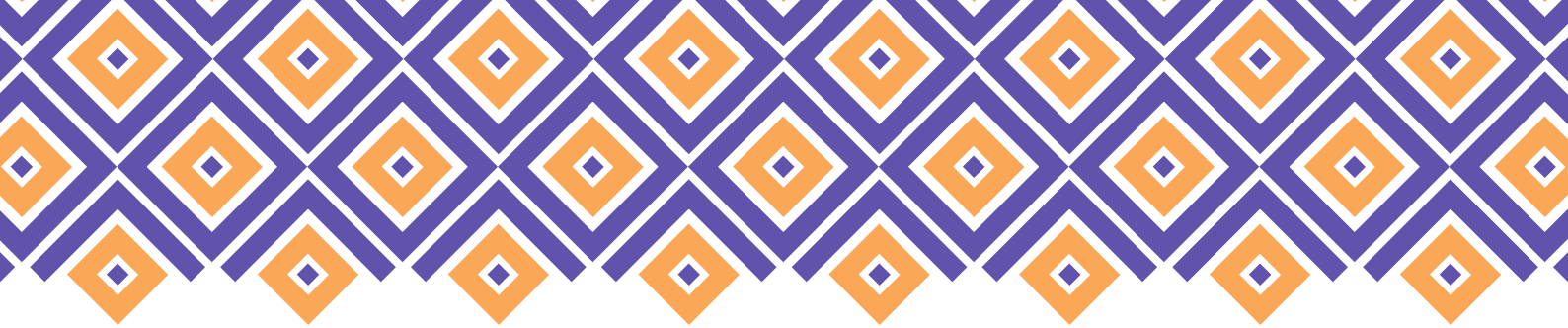


Mouvement Sociale

The CMI team, along with UNICEF, Mouvement Social and different communities, are co-developing innovative tools and games that ensure the transfer of key messages on inclusion and pave the way for attitude and behavior change regarding disability. A facilitator guide is being prepared based on pretested tools, set to be launched in 2023.

Supported by UNICEF



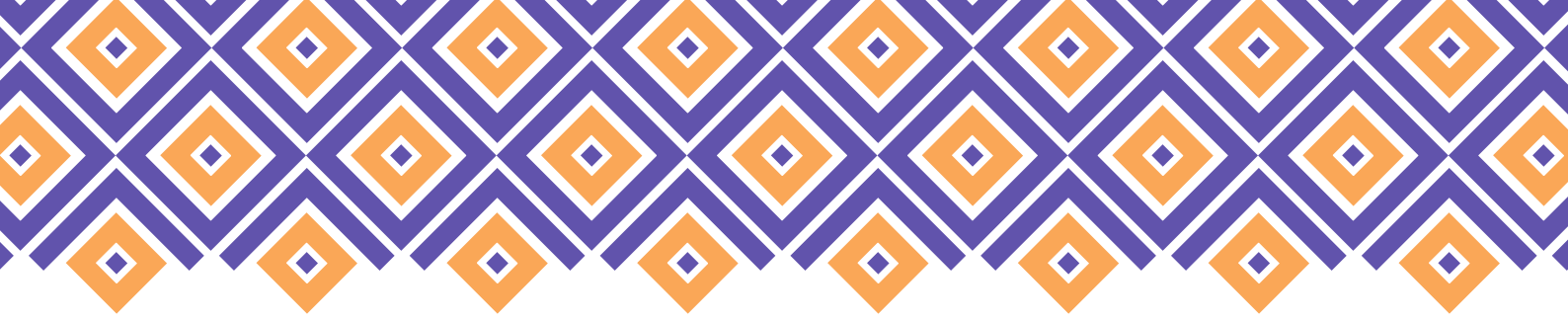


TuTunis Show

Clown Me In performed at the 35th Neapolis International Kids Theatre Festival in Hamammet, Tunis and Neapolis in Tunisia. The festival invited 13 theatre groups from Algeria, Tunisia, Brussels, Brazil, France, UAE, Cyprus, Serbia, Egypt, and Lebanon. CMI also participated in talks with other performers, street performers, theater performers, actors, and puppeteers, while promoting theater for children and young audiences.



Click the button to watch a short recap of the TuTunis show



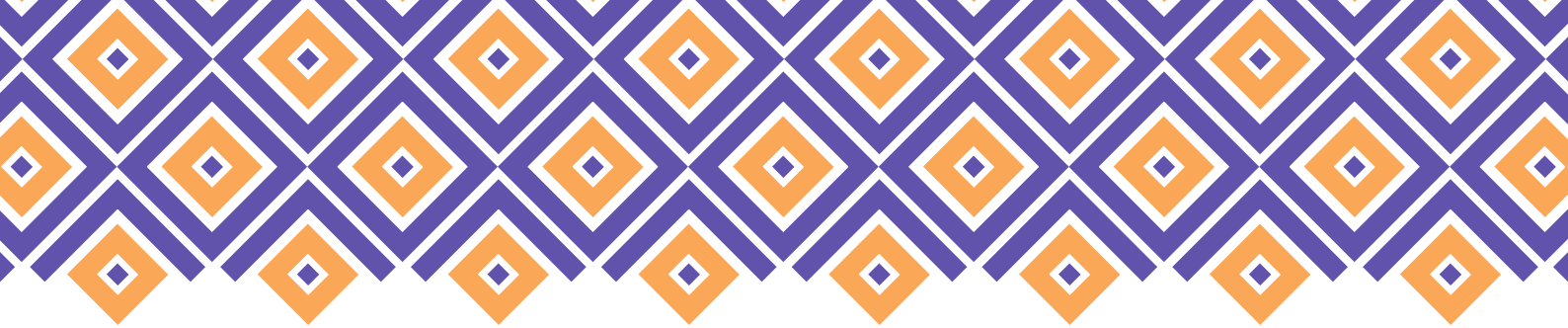
Clowns Without Borders - CMI Tour Lebanon and Iraq

Members from CMI joined Naomi Schafer and David Tinn of Clowns Without Borders USA and toured for four days, performing nine shows. Some were in public spaces with more than a thousand people watching and some were in orphanages and smaller centers, reaching a total of 3,045 people. Sabine Choucair from CMI later went to Iraq and performed in different camps in Erbil.

Supported by Clowns Without Borders USA



Click the button to watch audience reactions to the tour performances



Performing with Flying Seagull

Two of our artists, Jana Mghames and Dany Harb, toured for a whole month with the Flying Seagull project in different parts of Lebanon, offering workshops and clown shows to displaced and refugee communities. Through 60 performances, they reached 4,655 people across the country.



RICA festival (Rencontres Interculturelles du Cirque d'Abidjan) 5th edition

Samer Sarkis represented CMI at the RICA festival in Abidjan, where he performed five shows and gave twenty workshops, reaching over 3,600 people.



Click the button to watch a video of Samer representing CMI at the RICA festival



Talks & Trainings

In 2022, Sabine Choucair:

- Gave a 45 min workshop for 60 international team members of the PricewaterhouseCoopers PwC. The team spent time playing, dancing and laughing.
- Gave a one day workshop to 50 team members of the Becton Dickinson company in Dubai with Mynditude. They were from different parts of the world and the workshop was part of their yearly meeting. They learned how to perform, tell a story and create performances.
- Gave a two-day “clown activist” class to MA students of the “Ecologies of Transformation” program at the Sandberg Institute in Amsterdam. Ten international students from an artistic backgrounds and explored activism and art in different spaces.
- Mentored Maha El Boukhari as part of her project Kloona, which revolves around a female clown exploring the power of the tiny red nose in rural areas in Morocco.
- Gave an hour and a half self-care and clowning workshop to 35 activists from Iraq and Sudan, comprised of laughing exercises, dancing and relaxation along with a short discussion about using clowning for activism and self care.
- Gave an hour and a half interactive presentation on Empathy for the Bridgestone European management team, composed of 16 leaders, each managing around 1000 people.

Media Highlights

Click logo to see media

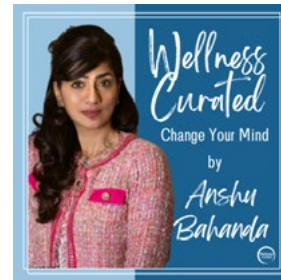
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