**“Beyond Museum Walls” Project**

**A fun-science project for children in hospitals, refugee camps and host communities**

**Summary**

The Beyond Museum Walls project is a mobile scientific educational project that includes science-based shows delivered to children in the form of comedy-drama. This project targets children in hospitals, refugee camps and host communities in Jordan.

**Challenge**

*Can you imagine that the quarantine life the world living because of COVID-19 crises is the usual life of some, or actually is way better?!*

The crisis and the war in Syria have had many negative effects on refugee children, including long out-of-school periods and unstable and difficult living conditions. On the other hand, many children in hospitals have been forced by their health conditions to leave school for treatment due to serious and terminal diseases, such as patients with cancer or war-wounded children.

**Solution**

The Children’s Museum Jordan developed the “Beyond Museum Walls” project as a mobile educational project that applies science communication through science shows. The shows are an informal educational tool to explain scientific concepts in a clear manner with simple terms that are familiar to children while also using comedy to keep them engaged. The shows are immersive and do not require any physical effort from children which is why they are perfect for the target groups as they are also effective in engaging them in the educational process.

**Long-Term Impact**

Raising hope and curiosity! This project draws a smile on the faces of children in difficult conditions and brings learning to children during chemotherapy sessions, to others who have not been to school because of their refugee status and others who have been isolated in their host communities. The program contributes to helping refugee and sick children end their isolation and to integrating them in society.

“*It was a gloomy room with the children in bed receiving their chemotherapy, the laughs filled the place despite the pain, and the joy was contagious from a child to the other. As we were putting our equipment to leave, a shy mother approached us with teary eyes, thanking the team for she has finally saw her child’s smile again since he was diagnosed with cancer six months ago*.”

*Rasha Dababneh – Project Manager, from the first visit to King Hussein Cancer Center*

**Additional Information**

**Project Objectives**

* Promoting the role of interactive learning - based on experiments, interaction and play in delivering scientific concepts and presenting them in an exciting and fun manner.
* Stimulating children's curiosity and increasing their love for research, knowledge and learning.
* Introducing positivity into children's lives, and igniting their passion for learning and knowledge, thus transforming their classrooms and environments into spaces full of laughter, science and hope.
* Making the Children’s Museum’s interactive educational experience accessible to all children regardless of their circumstances, serving different communities and contributing to balanced and equal learning opportunities available to them.

**The First Phase of the Project**

The first phase of the project was from April 2017 to April 2018. The locations where the project was implemented were:

* The King Hussein Cancer Center
* Al Mouwasat Hospital in Amman (A Doctors’ without Borders hospital)
* Queen Rania Al-Abdullah Children's Hospital in Amman
* Al Azraq Refugee Camps (2 camps)
* Al Zaatari Refugee Camp
* A number of schools and associations in various areas

**Project Achievements in the First Phase**

The number of beneficiaries of the first phase was 4,884 reached in 84 visits in the locations previously mentioned.

**Local and International Support and Cooperation in Implementing the First Phase**

The project received local and international attention and support, and received support from MedLabs Laboratories in Jordan for its implementation in hospitals, as well as a grant from the German charity organization Heart for Children (Ein Herz für Kinder). The International Red Nose Foundation (RNF) also joined the Museum’s team in its visits to hospitals to contribute through its team of professional clowns to drawing a smile on the faces of children whose health conditions did not allow them to attend the science shows; thus leaving no child behind.

Visits to refugee camps were coordinated in collaboration with Relief International (RI), and in host communities through the Jordan River Foundation. It is worth noting that visits to Azraq and Zaatari camps required security measures to allow the Museum’s team to enter and present the interactive shows.

**Planning for the Launch of the Second Phase**

The Museum is looking forward to continue the project and implement its second phase, but the current financial challenges are hindering this ambition. The Museum is currently planning on raising funds for the second phase of the project.

*Draw more smiles by supporting the continuity of this project!*