

Final Report – Activity Day Christmas Appeal

Submitted by: The East Jerusalem YMCA

Location: Jenin

Date: Friday, 19 December 2025

Target Group: 400 displaced boys and girls (8–15 years) from Jenin Refugee Camp



1. Activity Overview

The Activity Day Christmas Appeal Campaign was designed to provide psychosocial support to displaced children from Jenin Refugee Camp who were temporarily residing in the *Arab American University* residences and the Zababdeh area. The needs and context analysis in the proposal show that prolonged displacement had left many children experiencing high levels of anxiety, emotional distress, loss of routine, and very limited access to safe spaces for play and social interaction. These conditions were negatively affecting children's emotional well-being and their ability to cope with ongoing uncertainty.

In response to these identified needs, the campaign implemented a large-scale recreational and psychosocial support activity for 400 displaced children, creating a safe, structured, and supportive environment where children can play, interact with peers, and experience positive emotional communication. Through organized group activities, shared meals, and supervised recreational sessions, the campaign aimed to reduce stress and fear, support emotional recovery, and restore a sense of dignity, belonging, and a normal childhood experience for children affected by displacement.

2. Activity Implementation

The Activity Day Christmas Appeal Campaign is a recreational and psychosocial support activity designed to provide displaced children with a safe space to relax, play, and regain a sense of normalcy amid prolonged instability and repeated displacement. It was implemented at **Haddad Resort in Jenin**, where the setting and program were specifically selected to create a child-friendly and emotionally supportive environment. Before the activity, coordination meetings were held to assign staff roles, organize children into age groups, and finalize the schedule. Close coordination was also carried out with responsible accommodation and housing authorities to ensure transparent identification of participating children and to uphold child protection and

safeguarding standards. Site visits were conducted in advance to assess safety, facilities, and space suitability, and contingency plans were prepared to reduce risks and ensure a timely and safe response to any unexpected situations. Food services were also reviewed beforehand to ensure quality and timely delivery.

On the day of the activity, eight buses transported children from the Arab American University residences and Al-Zababdeh to the resort. Children were grouped by age and assigned color-coded identifiers, which were used across buses, staff, and supervisors to maintain order, support child safeguarding, and enable the organized distribution of meals and gifts. Accommodation supervisors accompanied the children during transportation and remained present throughout the day, helping maintain a supportive and well-managed environment.

Upon arrival at 11:00 a.m., children were welcomed, provided with snacks, and briefed on the day's activities before being divided into their groups. The program included a combination of structured recreational games, free play, lunch, and an interactive theatrical performance featuring humor, music, and educational messages that encouraged emotional expression, engagement, and peer interaction. The day concluded with the distribution of gifts and chocolate bags by theatrical characters and volunteers, followed by departure at 2:30 p.m.

3. Challenges Encountered

Despite the overall success of the activity, several challenges were encountered during implementation. Children aged 12–15 showed greater interest in sports-based activities, which required on-site adjustments to better engage this age group. In addition, cultural sensitivities related to gender mixing required the separation of some groups.

Logistical challenges were also noted, as sound system malfunctions on the day of implementation caused minor delays at the start of activities. Documentation was another challenge, as the absence of a professional photographer limited the availability of high-quality photos. Finally, some children arrived without prior registration in the activity. However, existing contingency arrangements ensured that all children were accommodated without disruption.

4. Implementation approach

A child-centered approach guided all activities. Each group was supported by one officer, one trainee, and one volunteer, ensuring close supervision and attention to children who needed extra support. The budget covered transportation, meals, recreational activities, chocolates, the theatrical performance, and gifts. The gifts included *an EJ-YMCA-branded drawstring bag, teddy bear, UNO card game, Jenga-style blocks game, drawing book, set of colored pencils, and a feedback leaflet, in addition to Sanat clause chocolates*, all selected to encourage play, creativity,

and emotional expression, and to give children moments of joy, safety, and relief during a very difficult period.

5. Lesson Learnt

Following the evaluation meeting with the EJ-YMCA team in Jenin, several lessons learnt were identified to improve future activities of a similar size. Activities need to be designed in a way that suits children's ages, culture, and physical conditions. Using clear group identification helps with organization and distribution. Allowing some free time gives children space to relax and interact naturally. Smaller group sizes should be considered to improve supervision and engagement. For large events, professional documentation support is recommended. Finally, registration procedures should be strictly applied to avoid unplanned participation when resources are limited.

6. Conclusion and quotes

The Activity Day Christmas Appeal Campaign successfully addressed the psychosocial needs, particularly the need for children to release stress, overcome fear, and reconnect with feelings of safety, joy, and normal childhood. This impact was clearly reflected in feedback received from caregivers and community members. Parents described how their children returned home noticeably happier and emotionally lighter, noting that the activity "***brought joy into the children's hearts***" and allowed them to feel relaxed and comforted after long periods of displacement and distress. One parent shared that the children came back full of happiness and excitement, while another expressed gratitude that the activity helped ease their children's emotional burden and brought moments of relief and positivity. These spontaneous community messages confirm that the activity directly contributed to reducing anxiety, supporting emotional well-being, and restoring a sense of dignity and belonging, in line with the needs outlined in the proposal Finally achieving the main objective of the campaign.

Photos from the activity are included below.







