

Game

ناهنو
NAHNOO

Lebanon's Youth Building Dreams
GAME - NAHNOO

"CONTEXTUAL LEARNING RESEARCH"

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Table of Contents

Acronyms	6
Overview	7
Context and Rationale	8
Research design	9
Research limitations	12
Geographical scope of the project	13
I- Findings - Youth Perception of public spaces.	22
1. Uses and Activities.	24
2. Access and linkages (connectivity-Accessibility)	27
3. Connectivity.	30
4. Comfort and Image (amenities, Safety...)	31
5. Sociability	36
A- Abbassieh	40
B- Abra	43
C- Ghazieh	46
D- Sarafand	50
E- Btater	54
F- Bourj Hammoud	57
G- Tarik Jdideh	60
H- Karantina	63
II- Community Engagement	66
III-Sports playgrounds	75
1. Youth perception of the sports playgrounds	75
A- Abbassieh	80
B- Abra	83
C- Ghazieh	86
D- Btater	88
E- Bourj Hammoud	91
F- Tarik Jdideh	94
2- Sustainability of the sports playgrounds.	97
IV- Case Study: Abra- “Al Hay” sports playground	99
“Al Hay” playground	100
V- Conclusion and recommendations. 132	106
VI-List of References	109
VII- Annexes	110

List of Figures

Figure 1: What makes a successful place. _____	22
Figure 2- Pictures of favorite town public spaces and usage _____	26
Figure 3-Abra Public Garden _____	28
Figure 4-Abbassieh Public Beach _____	29
Figure 5-Sarafand Coast _____	29
Figure 6-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	42
Figure 7-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	45
Figure 8-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	49
Figure 9-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	53
Figure 10-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	56
Figure 11-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	59
Figure 12-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	62
Figure 13-Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1 _____	65
Figure 14-Pictures of youth involvement with local authorities _____	74
Figure 15- Accessibility of activated sports playgrounds in South area _____	79
Figure 16-Accessibility of activated sports playgrounds in BML area _____	79
Figure 17-Activated Sports playground in Abbassieh _____	82
Figure 18-Activated Sports playground in Abra _____	85
Figure 19-Activated Sports playground in Ghazieh _____	87
Figure 20-Activated Sports playground in Btater _____	90
Figure 21-Activated Sports playground in Bourj Hammoud _____	93
Figure 22-Activated Sports playground in Tarik Jdideh _____	96
Figure 23: "Al Hay" Playground _____	105
Graph 1- Respondents' satisfaction with local public spaces. _____	23
Graph 2- Respondents' views on good public space _____	23
Graph 3- Respondents' favorite town public spaces and usage _____	25
Graph 4-Respondents' transportation means to town public spaces. _____	30
Graph 5- First five key factors for good public spaces by respondents. _____	31
Graph 6-Time spent in public space and influencing factors. _____	33
Graph 7- Gender-based public space accessibility _____	34
Graph 8-Comfort of visiting public space with partner. _____	35
Graph 9-Passive and Active engagement of respondents in Public Spaces. _____	36
Graph 10-Percentage of youths engaged in their communities. _____	68

Graph 11-The percentage of youth reported either already voted or willingness to vote. _____	69
Graph 12-Percentage of youth aware of local committees and plans. _____	69
Graph 13-Youth communication tools and municipality response perception. _____	71
Graph 14-Percentage of youth confident approaching local authorities. _____	72
Graph 15- Perception of public space importance by respondents. _____	73
Table 1- LYBD Numbers _____	76
Infographic 1-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Abbassieh _____	14
Infographic 2-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Abra _____	15
Infographic 3-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Ghazieh _____	16
Infographic 4-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Sarafand _____	17
Infographic 5-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Btater _____	18
Infographic 6-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Bourj Hammoud _____	19
Infographic 7-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Tarik Jdideh _____	20
Infographic 8-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Karantina _____	21
Infographic 9-Findings summary related to public spaces in Abbassieh _____	41
Infographic 10-Findings summary related to public spaces in Abra _____	44
Infographic 11-Findings summary related to public spaces in Ghazieh _____	47
Infographic 12-Findings summary related to public spaces in Sarafand _____	51
Infographic 13-Findings summary related to public spaces in Btater _____	55
Infographic 14-Findings summary related to public spaces in Bourj Hammoud _____	58
Infographic 15-Findings summary related to public spaces in Tarik Jdideh _____	61
Infographic 16-Findings summary related to public spaces in Karantina _____	65
Infographic 17: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Abbassieh _____	81
Infographic 18: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Abra _____	84
Infographic 19: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Ghazieh _____	87
Infographic 20: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Btater _____	89
Infographic 21: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Bourj Hammoud _____	92
Infographic 22: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Tarik Jdideh _____	95
Map 1-Location of the targeted areas _____	13
Map 2-Youth perception of public spaces in Abbassieh _____	40
Map 3-Youth perception of public spaces in Abra _____	43
Map 4-Youth perception of public spaces in Ghazieh _____	46
Map 5-Youth perception of public spaces in Sarafand _____	50
Map 6-Youth perception of public spaces in Btater _____	54
Map 7-Youth perception of public spaces in Bourj Hammoud _____	57
Map 8-Youth perception of public spaces in Tarik Jdideh _____	60
Map 9-Youth perception of public spaces in Karantina _____	63
Map 10-Youth perception of activated sports playground accessibility _____	77

Acronyms

DB: Dream Builder
PM: Playmaker
FGD: Focus Group Discussion
KII: Key Informant Interviews

Playmakers

Playmakers (PM): street sports volunteers and social change makers aged between 15–25 years old. They are trained to conduct weekly sports activities in the activated sports public to make a positive difference for children and youth in public spaces.

Dream Builders

Dream builders (DB): youth aged 18–25 years old residing in the targeted eight areas. They were recruited in the framework of the project to advocate for and activate identified public spaces. DBs guided by mentors they are also responsibility of managing and overseeing their designated sports playground, ensuring smooth organization of sports activities with the PMs, and fostering a sense of ownership within the community.

Overview

'Lebanon's Youth Building Dreams' project is a youth-led project aiming to establish safe public spaces in eight localities around Lebanon. Young people, called Dream Builders, are being trained to take the lead locally in advocating and creating public spaces for sports and in activating the spaces by hosting free weekly street sports activities for youth and children.

With this intervention, GAME and NAHNOO will create the pathway to civil society engagement for Lebanese and refugee youth by supporting and training the youth as positive role models and volunteer as street sports instructors in their local community. Youth that are selected and trained to be Playmakers¹ and Dream Builders², were supported in mapping and advocating for public spaces and using public space to gather kids and youth around positive street sports activities. In this way, the intervention promotes active citizen participation among youth taking the lead to ensure their right to gather and gain knowledge and agency to act upon challenges such as societal divides and the lack of access to affordable activities for youth and kids in Lebanon.

In each area four Dream Builders were selected after recruiting youth in the eight targeted areas. Dream Builder (DB) is a role that comes after Playmaker (PM) training in the GAME empowerment model. Dream Builders are trained to take the lead in advocating for and activating public spaces in their communities. They work to find more public spaces and provide children and youth access to those places to play sports and be physically active together. They handle leading advocacy campaigns at the local and national level, engaging in public consultations, and community outreach initiatives. Essentially, Dream Builders are youth leaders who are trained to take charge of making positive changes in their communities, particularly regarding public spaces and opportunities for physical activity.

The recruitment of Playmakers was conducted through an online call, which was open to youth with a sporting interest who met the project's age and gender requirements. Applicants had to complete an interview with representatives from GAME and NAHNOO, following which the four Playmakers for each area were selected. This recruitment process helped to identify individuals who were passionate about sports and had the necessary skills and background to serve as effective Playmakers.

The role of Playmakers (PM) is to become volunteer street sports instructors and social change makers. They are trained to plan and conduct weekly street sports activities that make a daily difference for children and youth in public spaces in different communities. The Playmaker training and weekly sports practices are structured around GAME's empowerment model, which builds on the core life skills laid down by the WHO. Basic life skills amongst children and youth form the basis for addressing important societal issues such as democracy, gender equality, good citizenship, peace, and prevention of health and social problems.

[1] Street sports volunteers making in the activated sport playgrounds.

[2] Youth managers of the activated sport playgrounds

Context and rationale

Public spaces in cities can be associated with anonymity, diversity, with life quality and bien-être. They offer a platform for the unfurling and change of social practices. They are indispensable from a psychological perspective as they offer space for social interaction, or, as Danish architect Jan Gehl puts it, for “the informal web of civic relations that characterizes our “life between buildings “.

Despite the vibrant and lively public spaces in Lebanon, there is also a lack of adequate public spaces in the country. With a rapidly growing population and limited urban planning, many areas suffer from overcrowding, congestion, and a lack of public spaces. This is particularly evident in urban areas, where buildings and commercial developments dominate the landscape, leaving little room for public spaces. The lack of public spaces has been identified as a significant issue in Lebanon (Nazzal & Chinder, 2018), as it restricts opportunities for social interaction, community building, and recreation.

In Lebanon, according to the World Bank data, as of 2020, 89% of the Lebanese population was living in urban areas with lack of access to public spaces (The World Bank, 2020). For example, in Beirut, public spaces only make up 0.8 % of the city compared to the 15-20% recommended by UN-Habitat (Nazzal & Chinder, 2018). In addition to the shrinking availability of urban public spaces, “In Lebanon, most urban public spaces have been invaded by sectarian struggles, ideological slogans and religious symbols.” (El Khoury (2016)) The current crises in Lebanon in addition to COVID 19 pandemic highlight the lack of accessible and inclusive public spaces where citizens from diverse backgrounds, including refugees and host communities, can experience positive interactions. Indeed, As stressed in the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP 2017-2020), women (37.4 per cent) are even less likely than men (43.7 per cent) to interact socially on a daily or regular basis with a member of another nationality. In addition, 18–24-year-olds (35.2 per cent) are the least likely of any group to have this regular social interaction with a member of another nationality, meaning that particular attention should be given to engaging women and youth in activities that foster positive interactions.

Indeed, as of 2023, Lebanon still hosts the highest number of refugees per capita in the world with an estimated 1,5 million Syrian refugees (amongst which only 814,715 are officially registered with UNHCR)³ with some 12,159 refugees of other nationalities and 300,000 Palestinian refugees, for a total population estimated at around 6,856,000 inhabitants. A myriad of factors fuel tensions towards refugees, among which, the lack of opportunities to interact. In some areas, the interaction between residents from different nationalities is limited due to several reasons enhanced by the fact that these localities have extremely few spaces accessible to the public, thus preventing the residents from meeting and exchanging in a common area, increasing fear of differences and rejection of mixing with each other.

[3] UNHCR registration of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been suspended since May 2015 through a decision by the Government of Lebanon.

Therefore, the lack of public spaces is identified as one of the essential factors contributing to the continuing social tensions within Lebanon. Indeed, public spaces function as a platform of expression and interaction, allowing people from different socioeconomic backgrounds to interact, and share their goals and needs, thus representing a key space for strengthening social cohesion. Public spaces are especially important for youth, who can use these sites to exercise their civic duties and freedom of expression; thus, engaging with their local realities and contributing to positively changing their political and social realities, be it through dialogue or various forms of activism. With the current economic and financial crisis even more limiting the opportunities for youth to meet and exchange, it is within the Municipalities duties to ensure such spaces are available to their population in an inclusively, accessible, and safe way.

Research Design

Public spaces are an important part of any community and play a crucial role in the physical and social well-being of individuals. However, the perception of public spaces can vary among different age groups, especially youth. The purpose of this study is to explore the perception of youth of public spaces in the eight targeted areas: Abbassieh, Abra, Ghazieh, Sarafand, Btater, Bourj Hammoud, Tarik Jdideh, and Karantina. In addition, this research aims to study the impact of the created activated sport playgrounds as well as the link between their perception and the vision of the local authorities through answering the below questions:

- Are there differences between ages groups and populations of different geographical locations.
- What is the perception of youth regarding the created/activated sport playgrounds? Are they involved and participating?
- Is there a link between the perception of youths of the importance of public spaces with the vision of the local authorities?

This study employed a mixed methods design, including surveys, key informant interviews (KIIs), focus group discussions (FGDs), and observation to collect opinions and situation analysis about the public spaces in the targeted locations in each context as well as to provide measurable statistics and derive results from the sample of the population.

The study was conducted over a 18 months, and it was done through a participatory approach, the Dream Builders were involved in the study without being contributing directly in the analysis phase, the aim is to make them involved in the whole process as they have accessibility to some data, raise their awareness about the importance of public spaces and to make them advocates in these locations and to be prepared to engage in their community affairs. Youth of different areas, specifically the DBs mapped the available public spaces in their areas in addition to the informal gathering points and spaces used as public.

Youth also contributed to generate a village/town profile that included basic information related to the population, the area, the available youth organizations, educational facilities, public spaces, and others. In addition, youth were involved in most of the steps (as elaborated in the methodology section below), they helped in spreading the pre and post surveys and participated in the FGDs.

After recruitment of Dream Builders (DB - project core participants) in the 8 targeted cities, and in parallel with conducting the research with the DBs, NAHNOO conducted the following training program to the DBs in each community that will serve the study:

- Workshops on Effective Communication & Leadership and on Municipal governance
- Training on Participatory and Community-Based Research and the concept of public spaces and how to identify, map and assess public spaces.
- Training on Civic engagement (including introduction to Advocacy) and community mobilization (case study: public spaces)
- Mentoring to support the DBs in promoting their effort in identifying public spaces, engage with and visit identified decision-makers and key stakeholders and rally the community to activate them.

Village profiling was conducted to understand the demographic, social, local active organizations, available facilities, and public spaces of the selected areas. This step was implemented with the help of the DBs and validated later with the stakeholders during the KIIs. This step helped in developing the research tools and in providing the basis toward formulating the final set of questions, as well as determining the number of Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and the sampling process for the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs).

Public spaces mapping was done to identify and locate all public spaces in the villages, including parks, playgrounds, community centers in addition to gathering spaces that are considered by locals and especially youth as public. The trained teams of DBs mapped the available public spaces in their own location to assess them, studied the context and discussed the potential of activating these spaces and selected the most suitable one to be activated/reactivated. This step was done through the first -FGD but mostly like a workshop where youths (including the DBs) were asked about the available public spaces and other spaces in their neighborhoods and translated the data into maps.

Annex VI: The list of participants in the first FGD/Workshop

Surveys: A convenience sampling method was used to recruit youth participants between the ages of 15-30 years from the selected community. To ensure diversity, participants were recruited from different socio-economic backgrounds, genders, and nationalities. A total of 372 Pre and Post surveys were conducted to collect quantitative data on the perception of youth of public spaces. The surveys included questions on the frequency of public space usage, types of public spaces most visited, safety concerns, and satisfaction with the existing public spaces. In addition, the survey studied the level of engagement of the locals, especially youths in the community. The goal was to have at least 70% youths among the respondents. In this step the DBs filled out the survey and they helped in spreading the link to their friends and locals.

Annex I: The survey targeted residents and mainly youths in each area.

Key Informant Interviews: A total of 15 KIIs were conducted with community leaders, local organizations, scouts, and local government officials. The KIIs helped in validating information gathered through the desk review step, and in exploring the current state of public spaces, challenges faced in providing adequate public spaces, and potential solutions to improve public spaces for youth. In addition, KIIs allowed to have an idea on the vision of the local authorities/stakeholders regarding public spaces and projects targeting youths; the level of communication with youth, and tackled topics related to spaces management, partnership, and sustainability. The role of DBs in this step was to link the research team to the relevant actors/stakeholders in case needed.

Annex III: The guiding questions targeting stakeholders.

Annex VI: The list of interviewees.

Focus Group Discussions: Two FGDs per area were conducted with selected youth participants to gain a deeper understanding of their perceptions of public spaces. The FGDs explored the social and cultural factors that affect youth's use of public spaces, their expectations of public spaces, and suggestions for -improving public spaces. The first phase FGDs were conducted before the activation of the selected space, more like a workshop where youths gave and discussed their perception of the public spaces in their town/village and then worked together as groups and mapped the needed information. However, the second phase FGDs were conducted in the last three months of the project, after using the selected space, the aim was to have youth's feedback about the space, assess and evaluate the whole process and get their input regarding their future plans.

Annexed II is the guiding questions for the first FGDs with youths.

Annexed V is the guiding questions for the second FGDs with youths.

Annex VI is the list of participants in both FGDs.

Observation: Systematic observation of activated sport playgrounds was conducted to supplement the survey and qualitative data. The observation included collecting data on the usage of public spaces, physical features, and the presence of social behaviors.

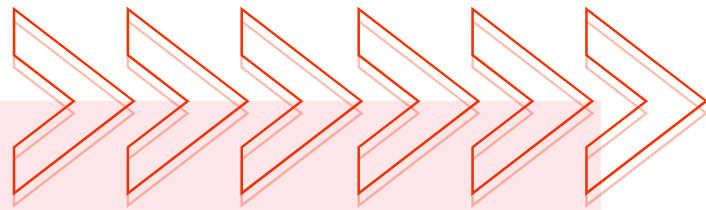
Annexed IV is the observation tool.

Data analysis and report drafting: Quantitative data collected from surveys were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The qualitative data from KIIs, FGDs, and observation were analyzed using thematic analysis. Triangulation of the data from the different methods were done to identify patterns and discrepancies in the data. The findings of this study provided insights into the perception of youth of public spaces through a comparative study of the 8 locations of the targeted areas' local contexts regarding public spaces and of the DBs' project experience, learning and perspectives within their local community in addition to lessons learned and best practices of the project process.

Research Limitation

Some limitations must be considered when evaluating the findings of this study. This is inevitable in any prospectively conducted research project. These difficulties required us to be flexible in our approach and derive innovative solutions.

- The methodology of this study relied mainly on qualitative and quantitative data. However, it is not possible to build on the quantitative results due to the small sample size of 40 surveys per locality. Because qualitative research is open-ended, participants have more control over the content of the data collected. As such, the researcher is not able to verify the results objectively against the scenarios stated by the respondents. However, verification of some data was done by the researcher through investigating the same information with two or more stakeholders.
- The time factor and the challenging circumstances in Lebanon, including the economic crisis and imposed restrictions, had a notable impact on the data collection phase. The engagement of youth in work and education further complicated the scheduling process, requiring flexibility to accommodate their availability. This necessitated rescheduling some focus group discussions (FGDs) to meet their availability to ensure that the information gathered would be effective and representative of the youth's perspectives.
- The delay in the implementation of the sports playgrounds in some areas, Sarafand and Karantina, which prevents the team from getting youth's perspective and input about the sports playgrounds.

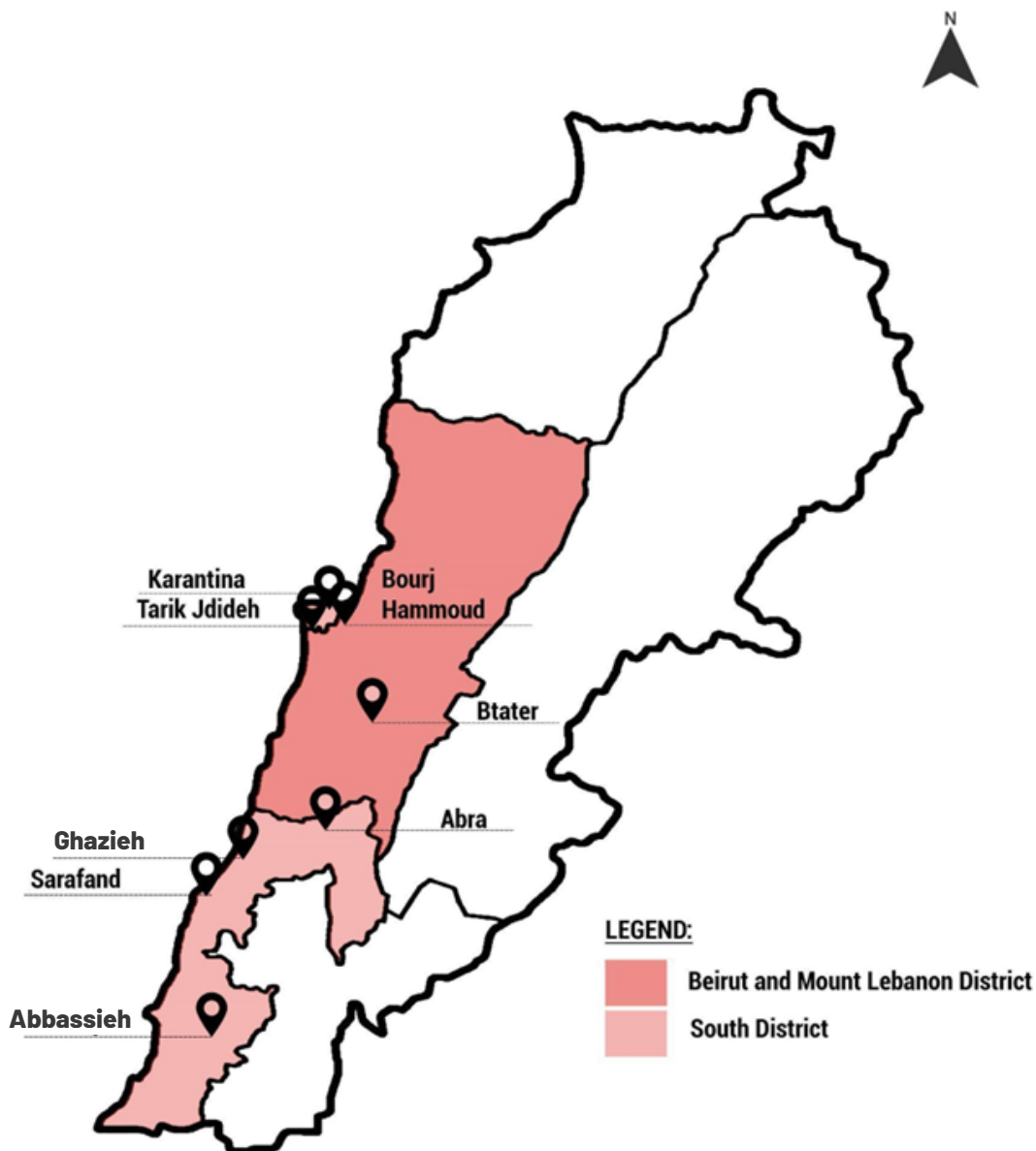


Geographical Scope of the Project

The project was implemented in eight communities across Lebanon, selected based on their vulnerability, diverse population and need for active public spaces as well as partners' reach and experience:

South: Sarafand, Abra (Saïda), Ghazieh and Abbassieh (Sour)

Beirut/Mount Lebanon: Shatilah/Tariq el Jdideh, Bourj Hammoud, Karantina and Btater.



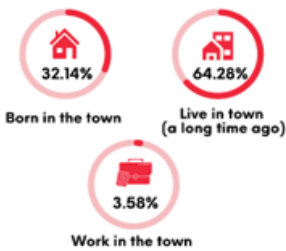
Map 1 - Location of the targeted areas

Abbassieh

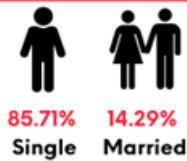
Pre and Post 48 Responses



RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



MARITAL STATUS



AGE



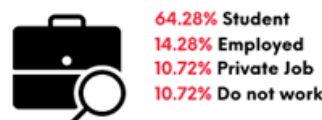
NATIONALITY



EDUCATION



OCCUPATION



Abbassieh is situated in the South Governorate, northeast of Tyre, and about 77 kilometers from the capital city of Beirut. The village stretches along the coast, with its highest point reaching approximately 150-200 meters above sea level. Its neighbors include Tyre and Burj Al Shemaly to the south, Deir Qanoun al-Nahr at Tura to the east, Bourj Rahal to the north, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west. The townspeople are a diverse mix of Shiites, Sunnis, and Christians, as well as Syrian refugees, who make up a population of 5000 to 7000.

Abbassieh is composed of different neighborhoods having different characteristics: Shabriha district is mostly inhabited by Palestinian refugees, and to reach the town, they must pass through the highway. Jal El Baher is an unrecognized Palestinian gathering in Al Berka neighborhood, space for gathering during elections and other social actions and activities beside other neighborhoods.

Infographic 1- Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Abbassieh

Abbassieh offers a range of public spaces, including parks, street corners and sports playgrounds with various sports facilities like tennis and football, which are accessible to the public for a small fee. The neighborhood also has a popular seaside promenade for walking and socializing, although residents feel that it is disconnected from the sea due to urban development and the presence of the highway.

Several small kiosks, cafés, and restaurants are available for those seeking relaxation or a quick bite and a meeting point for young males. Socially, Abbassieh is a diverse and dynamic neighborhood that embraces various cultures and traditions. Its powerful sense of community and friendly locals make visitors feel welcome and connected.

Three interviews, two FGDs, 48 pre and post surveys and several site visits were conducted in Abbassieh to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Abra

Pre and Post 49 Responses



RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



2.86% People with Disabilities

MARITAL STATUS



AGE



NATIONALITY

85.71% Lebanese
8.57% Syrian
5.72% Palestinian



EDUCATION



100% Educated

42.86% University
8.57% Vocational
28.57% High School
14.29% Elementary
5.71% Technical Technician

OCCUPATION



34.3% Student
20% Employed
31.42% Private Job
11.42% Do not work
2.85% Retired

Abra is a Lebanese town located in Saida district of South Lebanon Governorate. The town is situated on a hill, 164 meters above sea level. It is a historically Christian village, but many of its native community members left during the civil war, either to other Lebanese areas or overseas. They have become a minority in their own town largely due to Saida's growing demand for real estate over the last two or three decades. As a result, Abra has developed into a sprawling suburb adjacent to the rural town with a tight-knit community, for middle-class residents from Saida city. Currently, approximately 25,000 to 30,000 people are living in New-Abra, and it is considered a part of Saida's fabric. Old-Abra, on the other hand, is a typical Lebanese village with a small population of 700 residents. The town has several facilities, including 5 Catholic churches, 3 mosques, 3 schools, 4 public gardens, and the Jesuit University, located between New-Abra and Hlelieh village.

Infographic 2- Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Abra

Youths and women in **Abra** also partake in public life through several local organizations, such as the woman fraternity committee or MIDADE. The lack of a social place for youths to gather, as the public park is closed, has led to Kadmous club being out of work due to power control by different influencers in the village. The town also boasts a Horsh with a picturesque hiking trail and several archaeological sites, adding to its charm. Despite the lack of dedicated social spaces for youths, they still find ways to gather in places like Al Saha, the village square near the Church, public gardens, and even hidden spaces where they have created makeshift meeting places and sports fields such as the popular "Al Hay" sports playground.

Three interviews, two FGDs, 49 pre and post surveys and several site visits were conducted in Abra to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Ghazieh

Pre and Post
53 Responses

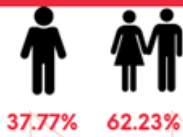


RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



2.17% People with Disabilities

MARITAL STATUS



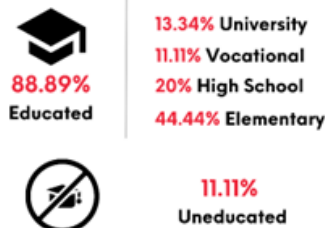
AGE



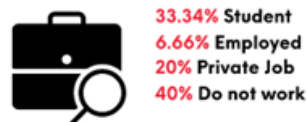
NATIONALITY



EDUCATION



OCCUPATION



Ghazieh, a coastal town located 9 km away from Sidon in Lebanon. The town is well-known for its historical landmarks and strong sense of community, making it an interesting case study for investigating the relationship between public spaces, community life, and social cohesion. The numerous archaeological sites in Ghazieh, especially the well-known water spring, are evidence of the city's lengthy past. The town's historic buildings, narrow streets, and active cultural scene add to its distinctive personality, which reflects both the spirit of a village and the vitality of a city. Ghazieh includes a public garden and a coastline that are well-liked for picnics and family get-togethers. A sports complex also has a basketball court, a soccer field, and many small cafés and restaurants for leisure and socialization purposes.

Infographic 3-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Ghazieh

The corniche of **Ghazieh** holds significant importance as it provides an excellent opportunity for young people to access and enjoy the area. Its proximity to the sea offers a unique and valuable space for leisure activities and recreation, which is essential for the physical and mental well-being of young people.

Two interviews, two FGDs, 53 pre and post surveys and several site visits were conducted in Ghazieh to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Sarafand

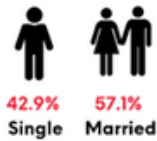
35 Responses



RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



MARITAL STATUS



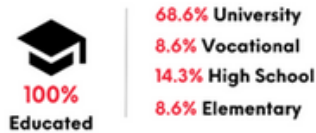
AGE



NATIONALITY



EDUCATION



OCCUPATION



Sarafand is a coastal town situated in the Saida District of South Lebanon Governorate, serving as a local authority. With a rich history dating back several centuries, Sarafand has been an essential center for commercial activities in the region. The town experienced a significant demographic shift due to an influx of immigrants from neighboring areas, contributing to its diverse population. The town has several public spaces that serve as important gathering places for its residents. The main square, garden, Al Dhour, a commercial active neighborhood, and near kiosks “The Express” are popular spots for locals to socialize and enjoy the fresh air. The town's beach is another attraction that draws visitors from nearby areas during the summer months.

Infographic 4-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Sarafand

The town's religious locations, including religious places, play an important role in the social and religious life of the community, serving as centers for congregational prayers and other communal activities. All these public spaces play a vital role in bringing the community together.

Two interviews, one FGD, pre surveys and several site visits were conducted in Sarafand to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Btater

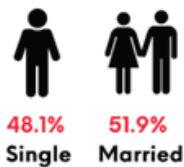
38 Responses



RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



MARITAL STATUS



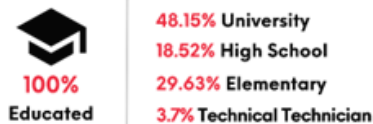
AGE



NATIONALITY



EDUCATION



OCCUPATION



Btater is a rural village located in the Aley district, around 30 km away from Beirut. The village is composed of approximately 10 neighborhoods, each with its own distinct features and characteristics. For example, the Sebaal Neighborhood is known for its agricultural work, particularly in wine production, while Al Na'ayes and Al Chawi neighborhoods are popular summer destinations for Btater residents. Other neighborhoods in the village contain churches and are home to Christian residents. The village has preserved its traditional character and architecture, with neighborhoods such as Al Dayaa'a, Al Joura, Al Kodam, and Al Hara showcasing their unique qualities.



Infographic 5-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Btater

Due to its location and diverse features, **Btater** is a popular destination for natural and heritage tourism. The village is also home to an active sports club that organizes various events such as hiking, football, and festivals matches with the cooperation of the municipality and collaboration of youth, attracting visitors from nearby areas such as Benay and Choueifat in different public spaces such as Al Rous, public squares, and in the sports playground. The residents of Btater are primarily locals, with some families (around 30 families) who have migrated to the village. Some Christian residents live outside the area and return for events, weekends, summer, and holidays.

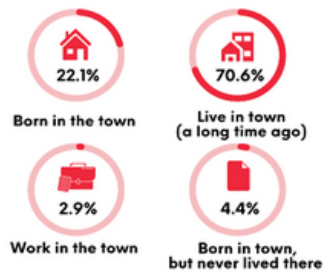
Two interviews, two FGDs, 38 pre and post surveys and several site visits were conducted in Btater to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Bourj Hammoud

Pre and Post 81 Responses

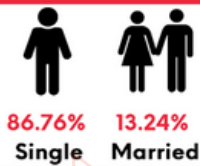


RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY



7.35% People with Disabilities

MARITAL STATUS



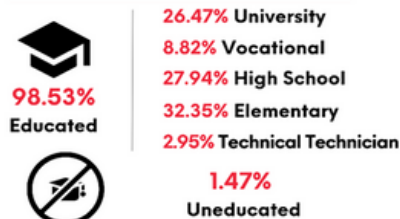
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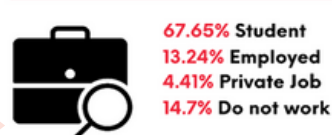
NATIONALITY



EDUCATION



OCCUPATION



Bourj Hammoud is a densely populated suburb located in the eastern part of Beirut, Lebanon. Originally established as a refuge for Armenian Genocide survivors, it has evolved into one of the most vibrant and diverse neighborhoods in the city. The area is renowned for its rich history, culture, and distinct character, with streets lined with shops, cafes, and restaurants offering a wide variety of Armenian and Lebanese artisanal fare. Bourj Hammoud is also an important economic hub in the region, with numerous small businesses, factories, and workshops located there.

The suburb is known for its strong sense of community, with residents enjoying close-knit relationships and supportive social networks. This is reinforced by the presence of several community centers, churches, and schools, which play a vital role in the social and cultural life of the neighborhood.

Infographic 6-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Bourj Hammoud

While public spaces are limited, **Bourj Hammoud** has found ways to make the most of the available space, with the central square in the heart of the neighborhood serving as a popular gathering spot for residents, especially male youth, as well as in front of stores.

Bourj Hammoud is divided into several neighborhoods, each with its unique character. Marash, for example, is known for its number of churches, schools, and cultural institutions, while Arax is a commercial area that caters to the local community with shops, restaurants, and cafés. Al Nabaa is home to numerous schools and healthcare facilities, among other neighborhoods, all of which contribute to the vibrant and diverse community that makes Bourj Hammoud a unique and special place in Beirut.

Two interviews, two FGDs, 81 pre and post surveys and several site visits were conducted in Bourj Hammoud to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Tarik Jdideh

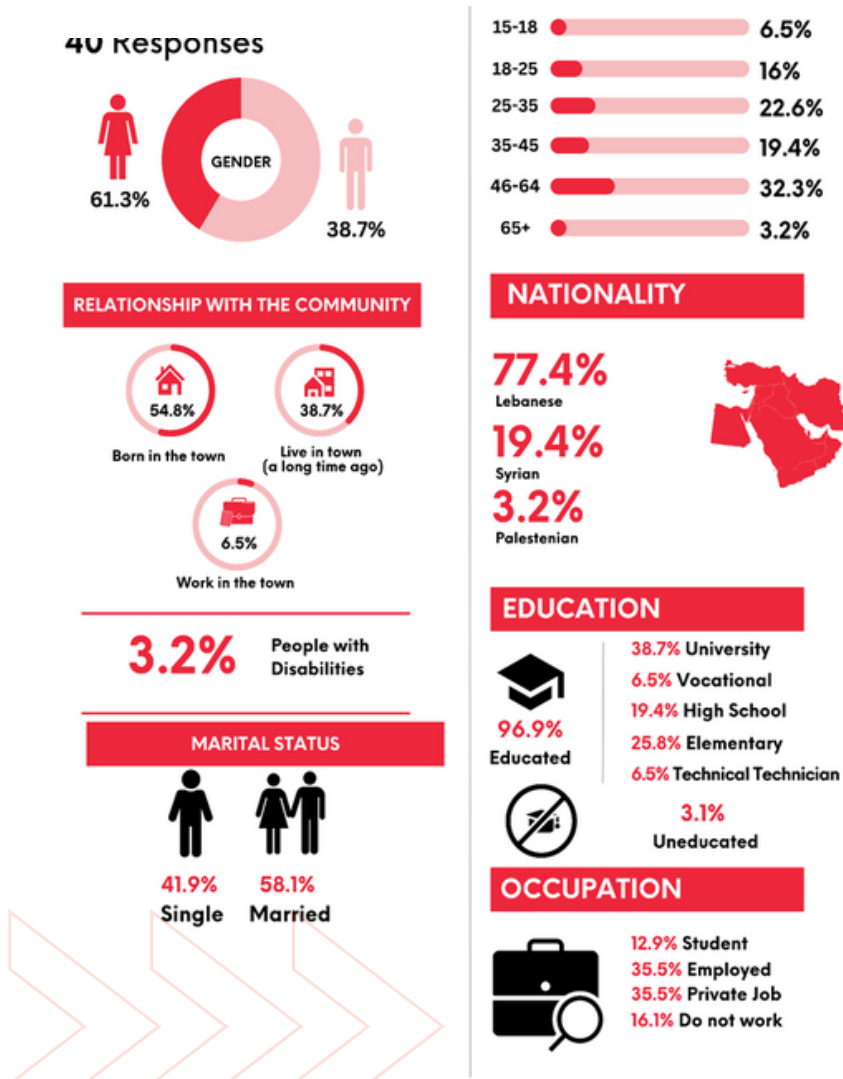


Diagram 7-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Tarik Jdideh

Tarik Jdideh is a neighborhood that has a lot of history and cultural significance in Beirut and has long been known for its vibrant community life. The neighborhood is in the eastern part of the city, and is home to a diverse population, including both Lebanese and immigrant communities. Over the years, Tarik Jdideh has gone through many changes, from being a rural area with orchards and gardens, to becoming one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Beirut.

In terms of public spaces, **Tarik Jdideh** has several parks and green areas that provide a welcome respite from the busy streets. The Horsh Beirut forest, which is the largest green space in the city, is located near the neighborhood and is a popular destination for outdoor activities like picnics and hiking. Tarik Jdideh also has several public schools, hospitals, and other community facilities that serve the needs of the local population.

One of the most notable features of **Tarik Jdideh** is its vibrant social scene. The neighborhood is known for its bustling streets and lively atmosphere, particularly in the evenings when families and friends gather to socialize. The area has many local shops, cafes, and restaurants that offer a wide variety of food and drinks, making it a popular destination for both locals and tourists.

However, like many neighborhoods in Beirut, **Tarik Jdideh** has faced challenges in recent years due to political instability and economic crisis. The neighborhood has also been affected by the explosion that occurred at the port of Beirut in August 2020, which caused significant damage to many buildings in the area. Despite these challenges, the people of Tarik Jdideh have shown great resilience and continue to maintain their strong sense of community. The neighborhood is still an important cultural hub in Beirut and continues to attract visitors from all over the city and beyond.

Two FGDs, 40 pre and post surveys and several site visits were conducted in Tarik Jdideh to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

Karantina

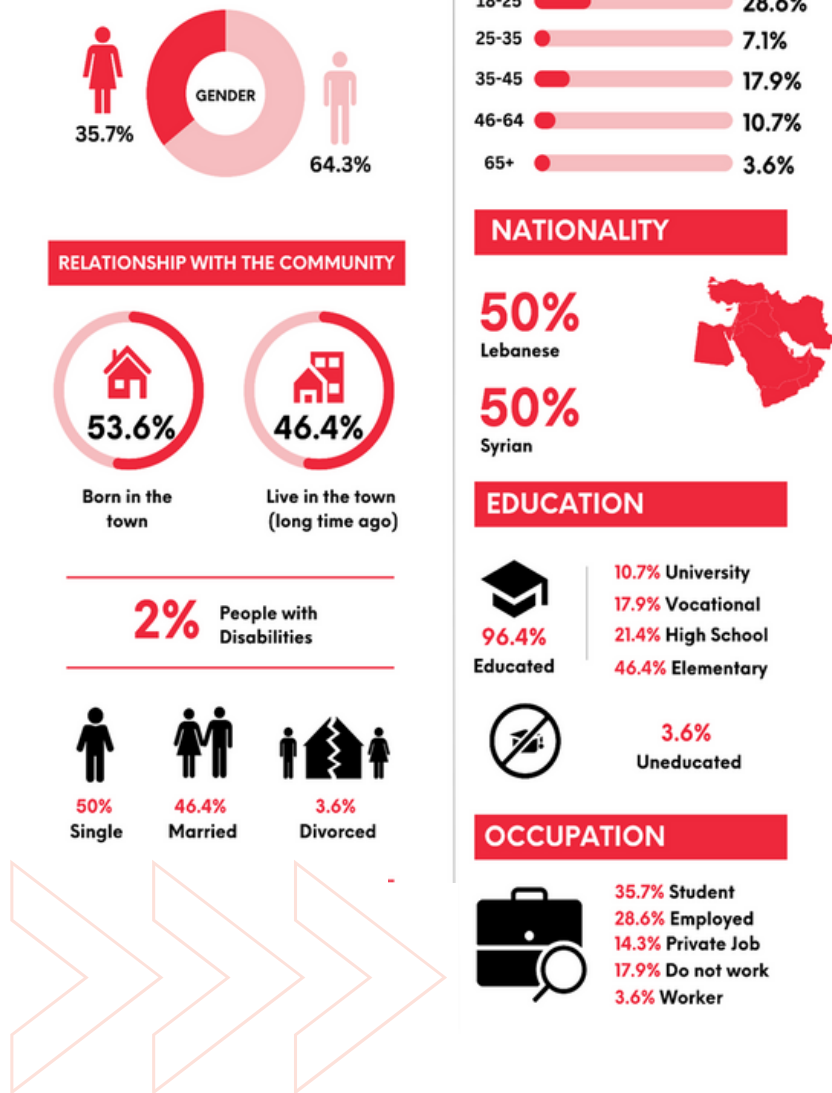


Diagram 8-Pre-post Survey respondents' profile in Karantina



Karantina is a neighborhood in the city of Beirut, Lebanon. Historically, the area was known for its industrial and commercial activities, it was home to several ports and warehouses. The neighborhood was also home to a large population of immigrants, including Armenians and Palestinian refugees, who fled persecution and violence in their countries of origin. It was a working-class area known for its industrial and commercial activities. However, in recent years, the neighborhood has undergone significant redevelopment and gentrification.

It is now a diverse and vibrant area with a mix of residential, commercial, and cultural spaces. **Karantina** is also home to many popular restaurants, cafés, and bars, which regularly host events and exhibits that are open to the public. Additionally, Karantina is home to several art galleries, museums, and cultural centers that showcase the work of local and international artists- According to locals the space is divided into two neighborhoods: Hay al Khoder and Hay Alsayeda and is part of the Medawar region. In terms of public spaces, Karantina has several parks and open spaces that are sometimes accessible to all residents. These spaces provide opportunities for residents to come together and engage in activities such as sports, picnics, and community events; in addition to the road being also used as a gathering space for youth males generally.

One interview, one FGD, 28 pre surveys and several site visits were conducted in Karantina to get youth perception toward public spaces and the impact of the intervention done in this area.

I-Findings: Youth Perception of Public Spaces



“People create “public life” when they connect with each other in public spaces-streets, plazas, parks, and city spaces between buildings. Public life is about the everyday activities that people take part in when they spend time with each other outside of their homes, workplaces, and cars. “

Jan Gehl, (Project for Public Spaces [PPS], n.d.)

Successful public spaces meet the needs of people of various social classes, ethnicities, and backgrounds in general. As young people become more independent, they look for sites where they feel safe and that can fulfill their needs for social interaction, self-expression, and retreat. Safe public spaces, such as civic spaces, enable youth to engage in governance issues; public spaces afford youth the opportunity to participate in sports and other leisure activities in the community; and well-planned physical spaces can help accommodate the needs of diverse youth, especially those vulnerable to marginalization or violence. Yet public space is formed and transformed by multiple factors, including economic, social, cultural, political, and conceptual.

Researchers argue that the dimensions of a public space consist of several attributes that make a public space successful and contribute to enhancing the quality of public life. 1. uses and activities; 2. accessibility and linkages; 3. comfort and image; and 4. sociability. These indicators, according to PPS’ diagram “What Makes a Great Place” refer to: how easy and convenient it is to access the space; considering issues such as walkability, connections, and proximity, the perception of users in matters of safety, cleanness, and greenery, the purpose of use, and the social interactions taking place considering matters of diversity, cooperation, interaction or welcoming...

(Jan Gehl, Project for Public Spaces [PPS], n.d.)



Figure 1-What makes a successful place.

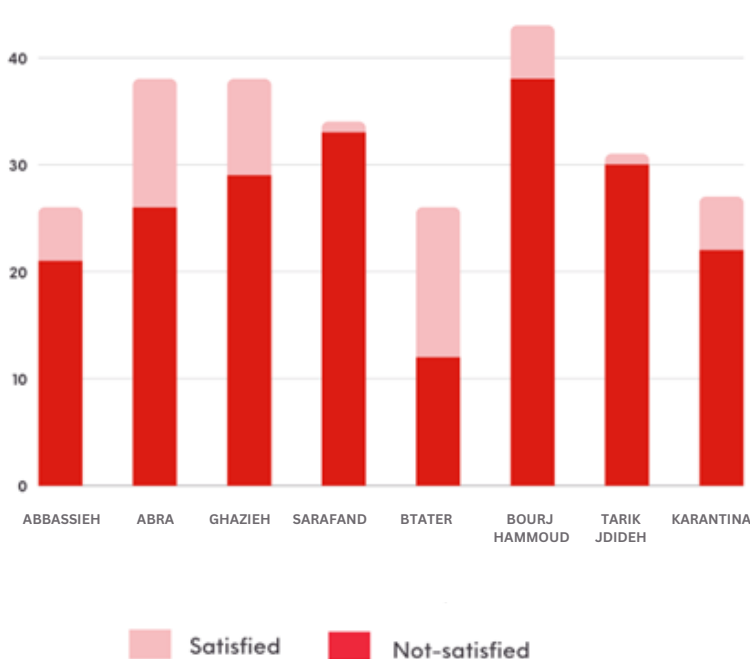
Source: Project for Public Spaces [PPS]

The actual use of public spaces is significantly impacted by human perceptions of and preferences for such spaces.

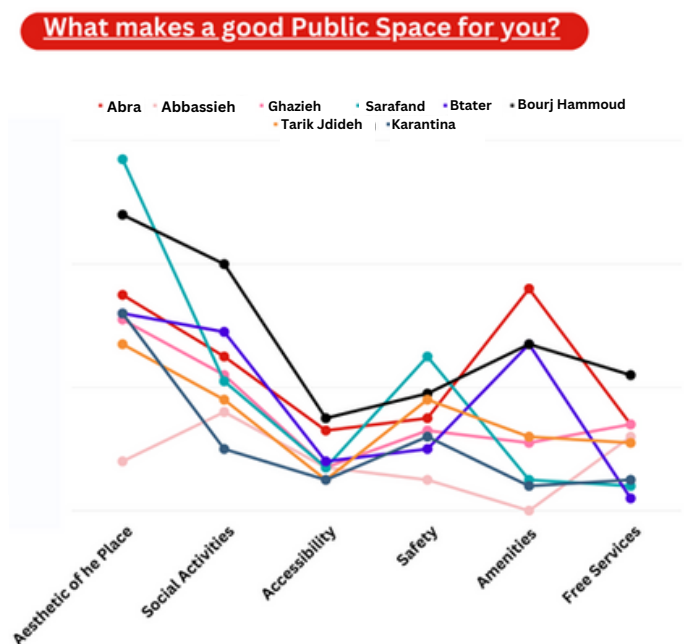
According to the surveys and FGDs conducted with youths in the eight targeted areas on their perception of public spaces in various aspects, including definition, utilization, and desirable qualities, youth expressed the need to use public spaces for group activities according to their age and lifestyle. Youth primarily evaluated factors such as aesthetic characteristics, which are mostly related to the amenities and surroundings, including hygiene, facilities, accessibility, and safety, while deciding whether to utilize the space or not. (Figure below). Usually, young females especially in the city’s context consider safety as the main need to have in any space. In addition, youth and respondents who have children give importance to the variety of activities, the accessibility and the safety at the same time. Non-Lebanese youth give the priority for safety, depending on the context, being safe and accepted by the locals would motivate them to use the public spaces more and comfortably. It is to note that all youth regardless their age, gender or nationality consider the aesthetic of the place including amenities, hygiene, and the organization of the space is a must.

Interesting responses from the survey are related to the availability of free internet connections. Growing up with the internet, today’s youth view, perceive, and expect public spaces to be a place where everyone can equally participate in the decision-making process, freely express opinions, and reasonably discuss and argue to find a common solution. It should also be a place where they feel safe. Thus, youths no longer perceive public space as a physical space, such as a park, a square, and others, but prioritize “the sense of public and belonging.”

According to the conducted surveys, most of the respondents expressed their dissatisfaction regarding the public spaces available in their areas. Compared to the other areas, Btater was an exception, where around 50% of the respondents expressed their satisfaction of the available public spaces in their village.



Graph 1- Respondents' satisfaction with local public spaces.
Source: Pre-Surveys



Graph 2- Respondents' views on good public space
Source: Pre-Surveys

1- Uses and Activities

The fundamental components of outstanding places are their activities; they are the factors that draw visitors and keep them coming back. They contribute to a place's uniqueness and specialness. A place will lie vacant and underutilized when there is nothing to do there, which is a strong sign that something needs to change.

Few public spaces are created with the needs and preferences of young people in mind. It's important to comprehend how young people view their surroundings and value public places while creating them, as well as the elements that affect their choices. The preferences of young people are related to their social, emotional, and cognitive growth. They have an impact on and are linked to important factors such as the sense of autonomy, the sense of security, the sense of self, enjoyment, and peer relationships.

Public spaces that promote a variety of activities and uses attract people of different socio-economic backgrounds, different educational backgrounds, and groups, which groups usually enhance the social cohesion and interaction and flow of ideas between people, and inevitably create a socially diverse open public space for the citizens (Jacobs, Appleyard, 1987) (DETR and CABE, 2000) (Carmona, 2010). Thus, the “more public” situation in open public spaces encourages active and passive engagement- or as referred to as Jan Gehl- supports social and optional activities.

The main activity that youths are observed and reported doing in the public spaces beside doing sport (37%) is gathering and socializing (17%), relaxing (11%), Picnic (17%) and other activities (18%).

Surveys conducted in the eight targeted areas show that youth usually select their preferred space according to the availability of the public or gathering spaces, the activities related to them, and most importantly, the accessibility to these spaces. It is crucial to highlight that youth reported using “non-public spaces' ' more than formal public spaces in some areas, especially in the areas with more or less rural context dynamic. Thus, the importance of these spaces plays a vital role in the sense of belonging to the towns. Usually people who have children prefer to go the public spaces with amenities and services and provide variety of activities. Female youth prefer to be in groups in some spaces for safety issue and depending on the social context that will be elaborated in each area and in some cases, they prefer to go outside the town due to the social dynamic. Youth male usually gather in streets and main squares, and they do not express any issue related to the time or safety.

The graph below number 3 shows that a high percentage of surveyed youth in Sarafand, Tarik Jdideh, and Karantina do not have a favorite space in the area. In Karantina, youth tend to gather in the streets, the squares, and the small spaces between or near the buildings. The informal gatherings in the street and meeting points near the buildings in the residential area reflect the dynamic of the social context in each locality such as the case in Karantina, where youth usually gather either in the streets or near specific shops, a barber shop for example. However, Female youth for example prefer to gather on the roofs. However, in Btater Both genders gather in the square.

While youth tend to gather in the main square in Btater within a rural context, youth in Abra gather in the square located near the church to socialize and participate in religious activities.

Even though Abbassieh is a coastal town like Ghazieh and Sarafand, it is important to note that youth do not select the coast as one of their preferred spaces. Youth in Abbassieh described the coast as an unsafe place. According to youth, it is uncontrollable space, not monitored neither by the local authority nor by other parties, it is a hidden space and considered as fragmented from the town due to the coastal highway, moreover, the lack of activities, amenities, and usage of this beach by locals exacerbate youth perception of the beach. Thus, youth perception of public spaces relies not only on the available resources but also on other factors such as, but not limited to accessibility, safety, and activities.

“The beach in Abbassieh is a hidden place, lots of animals are there without any control; I prefer to go to Tyr.” (Youth male participant in the FGD)

In both Abbassieh and Btater, youth reported that they usually spend their time in Al Horsh to meet friends and gather, as in both areas Al Horsh is one of the most visited spaces, especially during spring. In Abbassieh, Abra, and Bourj Hammoud, sports activities were found to be very important, considering that Abbassieh and Abra host active sports clubs, and Bourj Hammoud is a local famous sports playground.



Graph 3- Respondents' favorite town public spaces and usage

Source: Pre-Surveys

In this study, 372 questionnaires were administered before the refurbishment to collate the regularity of respondents' visits to their preferred public spaces. The frequency with which respondents used public spaces was categorized into everyday visits, weekly visits, monthly visits, and occasional visits. Youth visit and use of preferred spaces are directly correlated with the nature of the space, the activities, the amenities offered, and the background of the respondents.



Figure 2- Pictures of favorite town public spaces and usage

Source: DBs, Btater BYC, NAHNOO team

2- Access and linkages (connectivity-Accessibility)

Accessibility and linkage are crucial elements for successful public spaces. The ability to access a public space easily and safely, regardless of one's physical ability, socioeconomic status, or transportation mode, ensures that everyone in the community can benefit from it.

A well-connected and visible public space that provides easy access to surrounding areas and transportation networks also helps to promote social interaction and economic development. Accessibility and linkage facilitate community engagement, enable efficient movement of people and goods, and create a sense of place that encourages people to visit and spend time in public space.

Centrality and connection are two crucial factors that are used to evaluate the physical layout of the public area. Diverse social groups frequently congregate in locations that are more centrally located and have better connectivity, such as public areas that are strategically placed next to the town's main square, key facilities, and areas where there is a lot of potential movement from the surrounding neighborhoods. So, the ability to clearly see the inside of a space is known as “visual accessibility.” Whereas gateways, or main pathways leading to public space, represent “physical accessibility” (Porta, Latora, 2008). Thus, poorly located public spaces within the city or town witness little to no activity, regardless of their design, unless an improvement in connectivity between both entities occurs.

Apart from the connectivity and the physical accessibility to the spaces, temporal accessibility refers to the ability to access a space at any given time. Researchers may investigate whether the space is accessible 24/7 or if there are certain times when the space is not accessible. Moreover, researchers may explore the impact of temporal accessibility on the social participation of individuals with disabilities. Who has access to space is another key factor in accessibility research. This involves examining whether the space is accessible to all individuals, including those from marginalized groups, such as those from low-income backgrounds or non-native passengers. Which can reflect the presence of discriminatory policies or practices that prevent access to the space for some individuals. Lastly, accessibility may include exploring the legal and ethical requirements for using the space, as well as the social and economic benefits that come with it.

It is worth noting that when considering accessibility, there are differences between rural and urban areas. In rural areas, such as villages, there may be a stronger sense of community and social cohesion, as people tend to know each other and have closer relationships with their neighbors, such as the case in Btater and in some neighborhoods of Karantina. Based on discussion with youth in the FGDs and our observation, this can create a safer environment for children to play and engage in activities on the road, as there may be a higher level of supervision and awareness among community members. Additionally, the lower population density and less crowded roads in rural areas may also contribute to a safer environment for children, such as in the case of Abra, where the young people indicate that they perceive the area as a safe space and are familiar enough with it to know when to move off the road and when it is appropriate to use the middle of the road.

Thus, with fewer cars on the road, the risk of accidents or collisions is lower, which can make it safer for children to play and engage in activities on the road; unlike in urban areas, such as Tarik Jdideh and Karantina this may not always be the case as the spaces are often filled with people from diverse backgrounds and the roads are typically busy highways, which can increase the risk of accidents, particularly for young people and children, making the space less safe for them. However, it is important to note that despite these advantages, there are still potential risks associated with children playing in open spaces in rural areas. For example, there may still be risks associated with crossing the road, even if the overall risk is lower than in urban areas, which was the case in Ghazieh and Sarafand. Overall, while there are some advantages to children playing in open spaces in rural areas, it is still important to ensure that proper safety measures are in place to protect children from potential risks and hazards. This may include implementing traffic calming measures or providing safe crossing points for pedestrians around these spaces as recommended by the locals.

Even though there are many public spaces in the eight targeted areas, especially in the rural ones, they are not always easily accessible to all residents for a variety of reasons. For instance, the site's high fences serve as a physical barrier and limit visual access for onlookers. They also reduce visual accessibility. According to stakeholders, local government officials, and some youth, it is necessary to place physical barriers like fences around public spaces. It plays an important role in safety control. In fact, these barriers may have a role in promoting the safety of the public spaces, but they may also act as a social barrier and limit the interaction between the users, the passengers, and the locals, which creates a dilemma between the importance of these barriers and the negative role that they play at the social level.

Youth in some areas, such as in Abra reported that they do not go to the public garden and some of them are not even aware of it. A garden with a high wall and narrow, gated entrance on the street side doesn't look like a public space, whereas the same garden with a broad, open entranceway and a series of wide steps leading to it from the street gives the opposite impression.



 **Abra Public Garden**

Figure 3-Abra Public Garden

Source: NAHNOO team

Apart from the Horsh, the coast in Abbassieh is not very accessible for the public due to the high retaining wall along roadsides. It not only acts as a physical barrier but also restricts visual access. In contrast with this, high connectivity, visual permeability, and a lack of explicit entrances or thresholds enable greater access to the place. Consequently, Youth prefer to go to this area in groups for safety reasons.



 **Abbassieh Public Beach-Turtle Reserve**

Figure 4-Abbassieh Public Beach
Source: Abbassieh DBs

On the other hand, Sarafand Beach is accessible only from limited entries from the coastal highway, buildings and violations on the coast affect the accessibility and the visual continuity in the spaces.



 **Sarafand Coast**

Figure 5-Sarafand Coast
Source: NAHNOO team

Therefore, features like retaining walls and dense vegetation isolate the spaces visually as well as physically from the streets, thereby discouraging curiosity to visit the places, whereas other spaces that are physically as well as visually better connected, for instance, the Horsh in Btater and Abbassieh, and the corniche in Ghazieh enhance visitation frequency. Thus, apart from physical accessibility, visual accessibility is equally important and affects the use of these spaces. However, stakeholders and local authorities tend to restrict the accessibility to public spaces for the sake of safety. They consider the fenced spaces to be more controlled than the open public spaces. Moreover, the restricted public spaces need less maintenance than the open public spaces and thus less effort and resources from the local authorities.

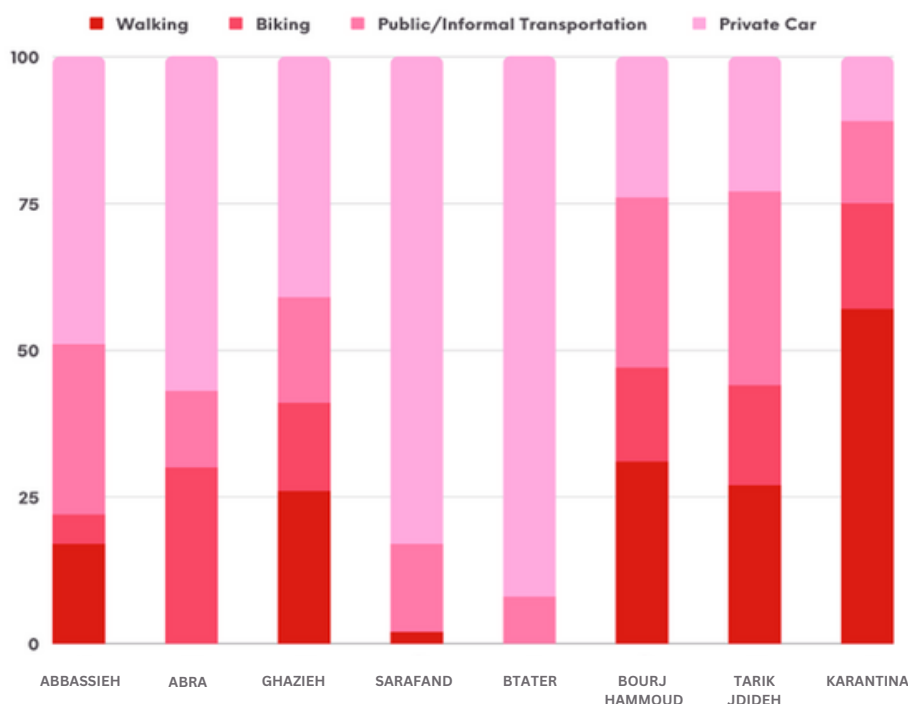
3-Connectivity

*Accessibility is one of the factors that need to be considered when measuring walkability. Walkability refers to how friendly an area is for pedestrians. (Azmia et al., 2013).)*⁴

In general, urban residents who live in higher density areas with more buildings and destinations along most routes would consistently overestimate the distance to their destination. While residents in low density areas with larger buildings, and more open space would tend to underestimate distances. Several studies have concluded that age and gender have different impacts on distance perception (Lee, 1970; Nasar, 1985; Popp et al., 2004).

In fact, the location of public spaces and their connectivity affect their accessibility. The graph below shows that the means of transportation used the most in all targeted areas in the south and Btater is private cars. However, in Beirut and Bourj Hammoud, walking is the main means of transportation used by the surveyed youths to reach their favorite public spaces in their areas.

Results show that the topography of the areas and the locations of these spaces are the two main factors contributing to the means of transportation used by youth. It is notable that in the agglomeration of Beirut, a high percentage of the respondents reported that they access the public spaces by walking, which is not the case in the rural areas such as Btater. In other areas such as Ghazieh and Sarafand youth reported using cars to go to public spaces listed as: coast and corniche which are disconnected from most of the residential neighborhoods due to the coastal highway that divides the towns.



Graph 4- Respondents' transportation means to town public spaces.

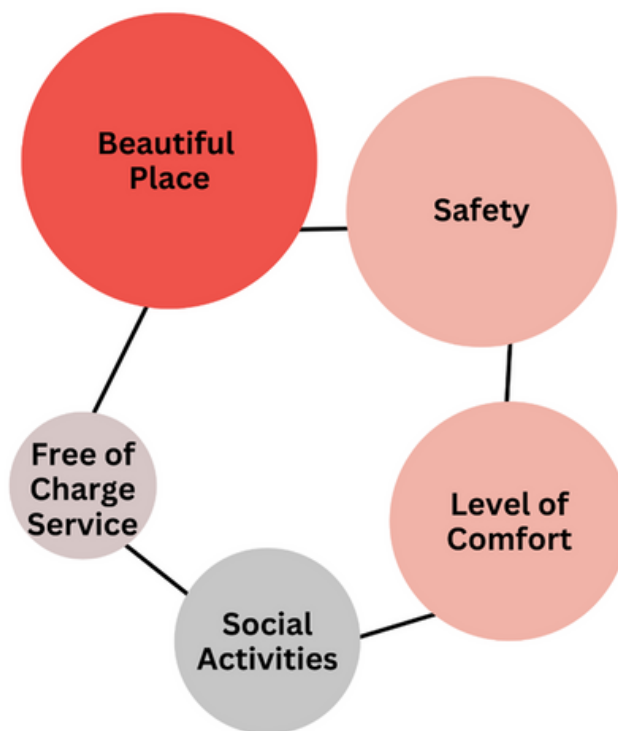
Source: Pre-Surveys

4-Comfort and Image (amenities, Safety...)

A user initially needs to feel safe, secure, and at ease (Carmona, 2014). Those feelings are directly related to the degree of a public space’s ability to promote a sense of safety. The design of a public space’s street furniture is vital, the sitting area, shade, shelter, and landscape elements, amongst other physical characteristics, highly contribute to a sense of belonging and comfort within the space (Lang, 1987).

A comfortable public space provides a welcoming and enjoyable experience for visitors, encouraging them to stay longer and return in the future. Comfortable seating, shade, lighting, and amenities such as public restrooms all contribute to the overall comfort of a public space. A positive image that is well-maintained, clean, and aesthetically pleasing can attract more visitors and increase community pride. Conversely, a negative image, such as a space that is perceived as unsafe or uninviting, can deter people from using it. A safe public space promotes community well-being and encourages social interaction, physical activity, and economic activity. Safety can be enhanced through various measures, such as adequate lighting, surveillance cameras, visible and accessible emergency call boxes, and trained security personnel.

Based on the study, respondents stated that there are several factors contributing to a good public space. These factors are mainly overlapping, but the first five factors reported by surveyed youth are related to the esthetic and the appearance/environment of the public space and to the safety which is considered an important factor under the level of comfort attribute. The availability of social activities as well as being free of charge are the other two main factors reported by surveyed youth. (Refer to Graph: 5)



Graph 5- First five key factors for good public spaces by respondents.
Source: Pre-Surveys

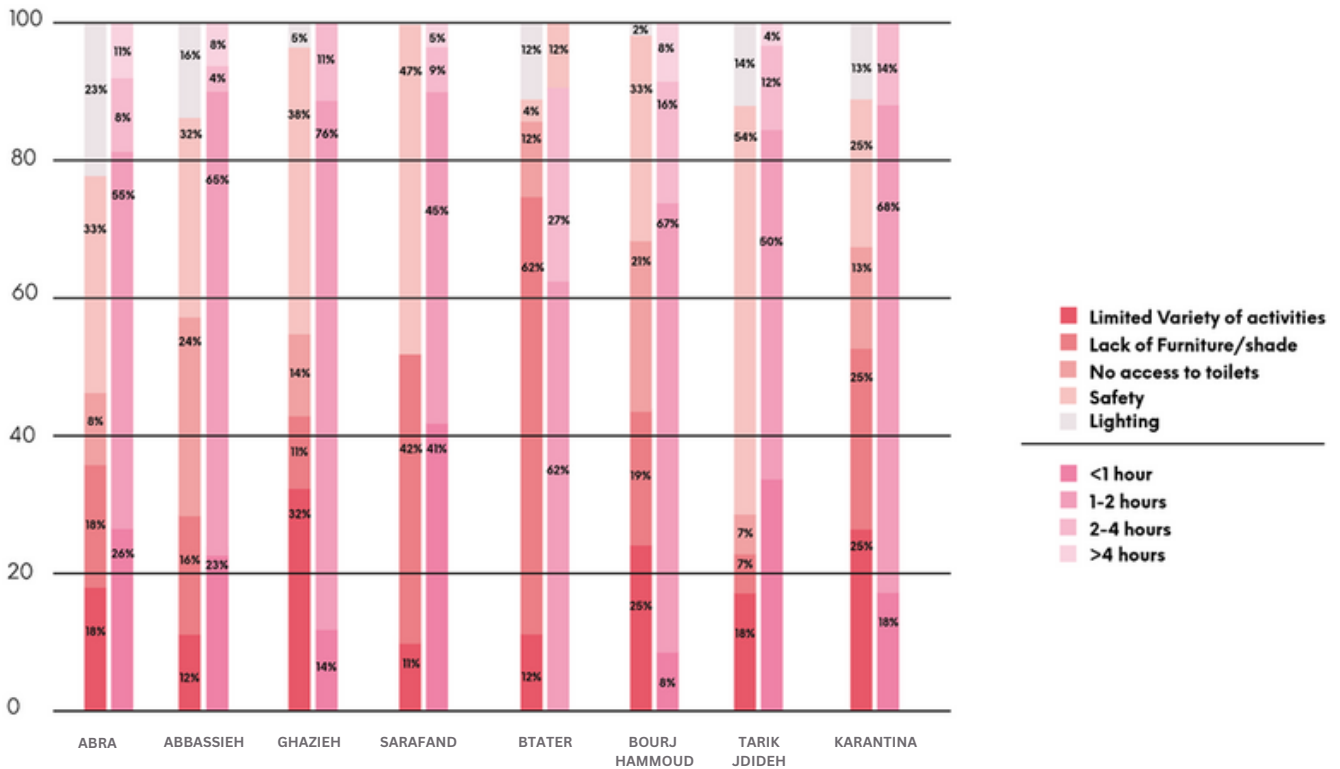
Based on the study, safety and amenities are two factors stated by youths to be the most important factors affecting their frequency of use of public spaces as well as the duration of their stay.

Among the questions, the survey asked youths, “How long do you stay at this place?” The most frequently reported answer among respondents was “1 to 2 hours” (60%) while the second most frequent answer was “less than one hour” (21%). Very few respondents reported that they spend more than four hours in public spaces. In general, youth who spend more than two hours in public spaces are more likely to do sports or similar activities. (Refer to Graph 6)

Youth surveys revealed that in all areas except Btater, the main factor affecting their duration of stay is their perception of safety in these spaces. More than a third of the respondents reported that the lack of safety and lighting affected their visit and presence in the available public spaces. The safety concern was reported regardless of the background of the respondents in most of the areas. Youths linked the safety issue with the availability of lighting, a guard or/and security camera, and a monitoring system. What is remarkable is that in some areas, especially rural ones and those in the South, youth consider being in a group and accompanied by friends or family sufficient to feel safe. Moreover, they consider the existence of an electronic security system impractical considering the crisis affecting the electricity provision.

Youth in the city context, and especially Tarik Jdideh believe that crowded areas are not safe, and they usually try to avoid them, they link their feeling of safety with the users of the space. Moreover, in Karantina, for instance, youth stated that the presence of a guard is a must, but this guard should be from the locals, taking into consideration that Karantina is a neighborhood in Beirut that somehow has a special social context closer to the rural ambiance due to its historical background.

On the other hand, youth surveys in Btater revealed that the lack of furniture/shades is the main factor contributing to their limited duration of stay. Considering that the majority of surveyed youth in Btater reported that their preferred space is Al Rouss- Horsh which is an area mostly visited by groups, friends, and families for picnics, it is expected that the main need is related to the furniture or shades, which are directly related to the type of users and the activities needed. Furthermore, youth in Btater link safety with the accessibility of the space; some youth reported that a close space far from the highways and the car lanes is the ideal one. (Refer to Graph 6)



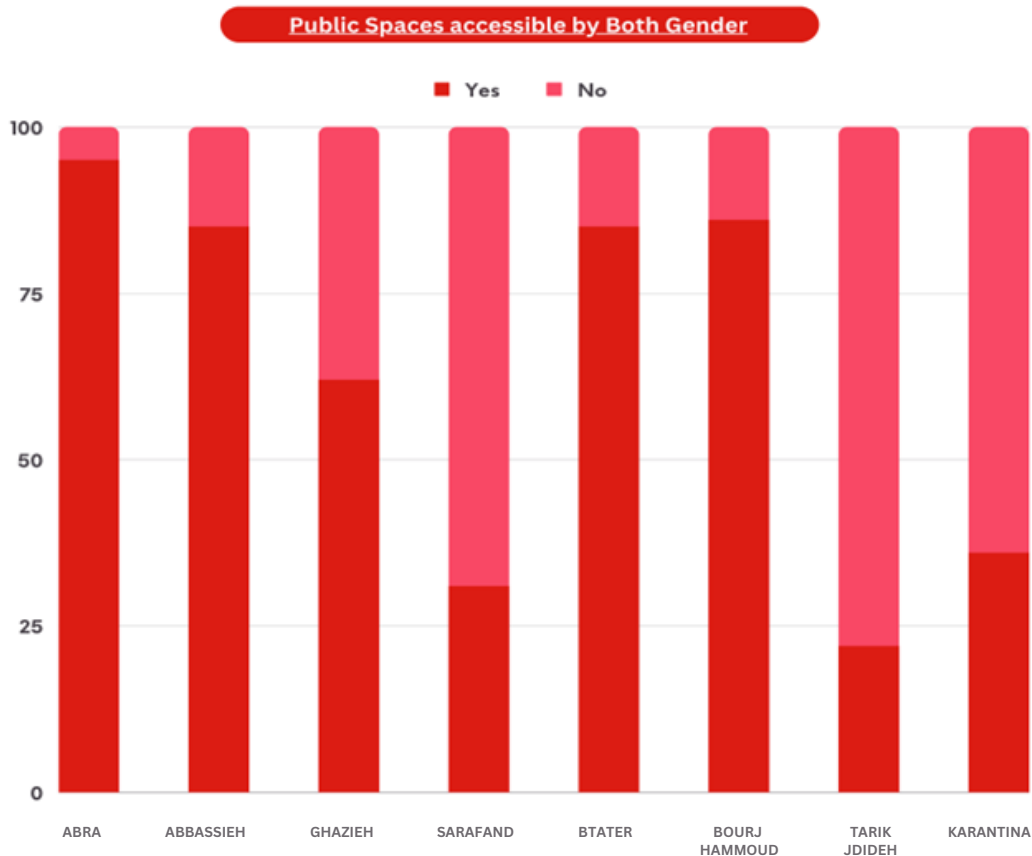
Graph 6- Time spent in public space and influencing factors.
Source: Pre-Surveys

Linking Comfort and Image attributes to gender, it is important to highlight that around 37% of surveyed youth consider public spaces not accessible equally by both genders.

The study found that public spaces are largely dominated by men. The number of females in the public domain varied throughout the day. The change is consistent with the overall trend of users in the reported public spaces, except the sports playgrounds: It peaks during the day and drops nearly as low in the evening. Though this drop affects the presence of both genders, it leads to a near-absence of women after sunset, except when accompanied by family members. (Refer to Graph 7)

It is worth noting that economic activity decreases noticeably in the evening, which can be one of many contributing factors that affect the presence of people, particularly young females, in the outdoor environment, especially given that the reported spaces except the corniche offer little option for activity beyond the necessary, work-related mobility. Another factor could be the lack of lighting, turning the neighborhoods into what seems like an “unsafe ghost town.” As stated by one of the surveyed youths in Karantina. Spaces with the strongest registered female presence are the most inner, residential ones, where there is a dominant sense of family community. There are also economic and societal reasons for this gap. Depending on the context, women are often expected to limit their use of the public space to certain times and activities that are deemed socially acceptable such as the religious activities, and family gatherings. To elaborate more, it is noticeable that more than 70% of surveyed youths in Btater, Abbassieh, Abra, and Bourj Hammoud reported that public spaces are equally accessible to both genders.

During the discussion, the reasons behind these percentages are different; while in Abbassieh and Bourj Hammoud it is related to the sports playgrounds in the areas, in Abra and Btater it is linked to the social context. While in Abra youth gather near the church and under the umbrellas of religious organizations, in Btater the rural “closed” context contributes to this perception.

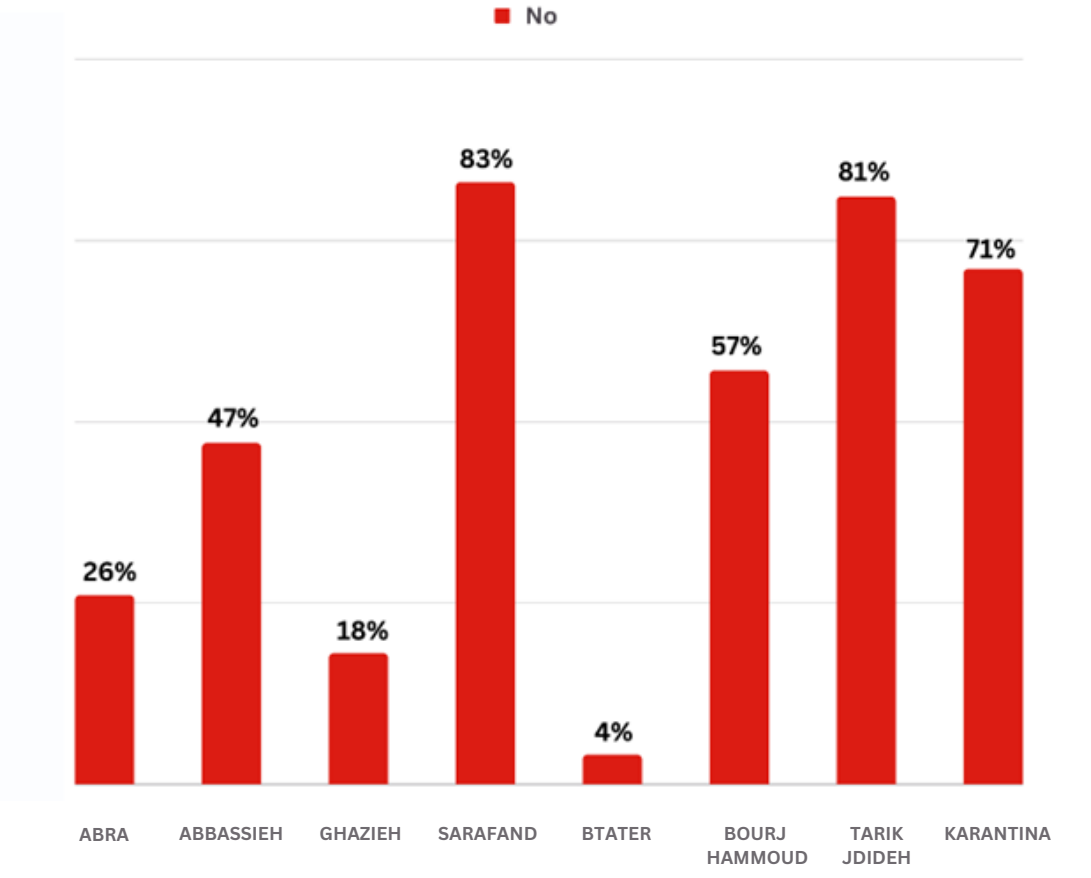


Graph 7- Gender-based public space accessibility
Source: Pre-Surveys

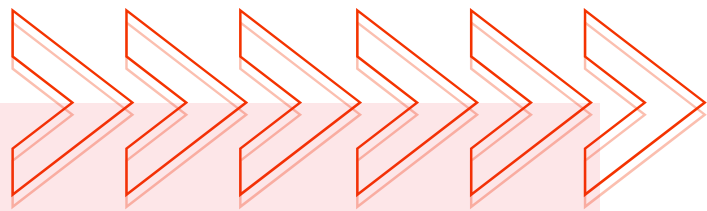
As shown in the graph below, Btater is the only area where more than 90% of youth reported being comfortable going out with their boy/girlfriends regardless of their gender. Regarding Ghazieh, despite being one of the “conserved” areas, the majority expressed their feeling comfortable to meet their friends in public; however, it is worth noting that their favorite space is the corniche, which is especially active and full of people⁴. Regarding other areas, the comfort perception of youth is directly related to their genders and the context where females are less comfortable than male. In addition, most of the youth reported not feeling comfortable being with their girl/boyfriend in their areas, they surprisingly expressed their comfort going out outside their areas, justifying that in their towns all people know each other, and they prefer to have their own privacy and not to be prejudged by the locals. (Refer to Graph 8)

[4] It is worth noting that asking about individuals' comfort levels when accompanying their romantic partners to public spaces in their respective locales yielded interesting results. Out of the eight villages surveyed, six expressed a preference not to use the terms "girlfriend" or boyfriend," as they were deemed potentially sensitive. Instead, the term "friend" was suggested as a suitable replacement. This finding highlights the importance of being sensitive to cultural and social norms in survey research, particularly when addressing intimate relationships.

Do you feel comfortable going with your Girl/Boyfriend to Public Spaces in your area?



*Graph 8-Comfort of visiting public space with partner.
Source: Pre-Surveys*



5- Sociability

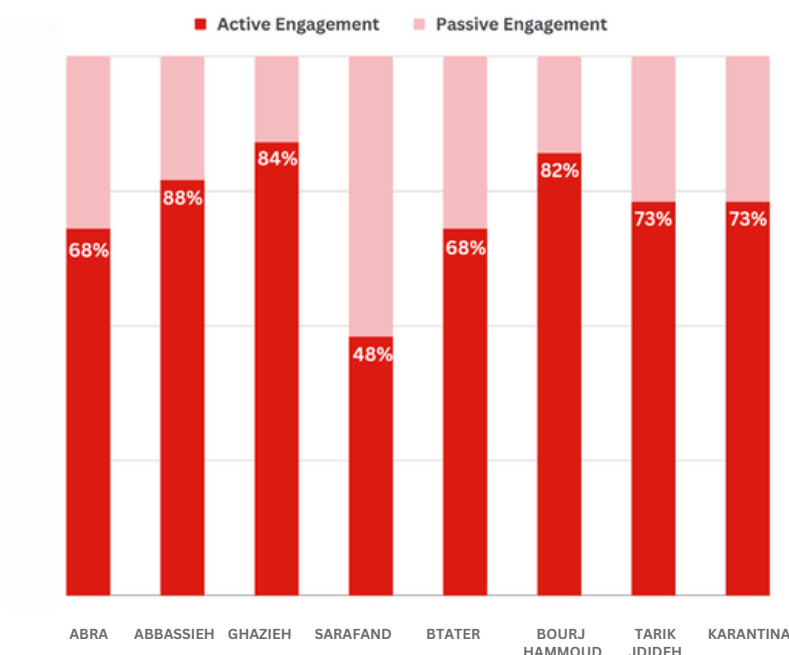
The sociability attribute of public spaces is essential for creating a sense of community and social cohesion. Sociable spaces encourage social interaction and communication between people, which fosters a sense of belonging and community pride. By providing opportunities for people to gather and engage in various activities, public spaces can help break down social barriers and promote inclusivity. Sociability can also enhance economic activity, as people are more likely to spend time and money in places where they feel comfortable and welcome (Rada & Bin Ngaha, 2013).

Two types of engagement are present within a public space: passive and active engagement. Passive engagement usually promotes a sense of relaxation and explains the need for people to interact with the surroundings without getting actively involved. For example, someone sitting on a bench in a park and watching people walk by. On the contrary, active engagement entails a more direct interaction with the environment and its inhabitants. This can take many forms, such as playing a game in a park, attending a concert or event, or participating in a community activity (Chehab, 2022).

Hence, while some like direct touch and connection with people—whether family, friends, or other users—in the public area, others prefer places that give opportunities for observing and enjoying the place.

Lively and interactive environments usually provide opportunities for both engagements simultaneously. In the targeted areas, several of the mentioned public spaces feature passive and active engagements.

Surveyed youth reported the types of their engagement in their preferred public spaces. The below graph shows that active engagement is more present in the public space reported by youth. However, more than 50% of the surveyed youth in Sarafand reported using the space for either enjoying the scene or sitting and spending time. It is to note that the most reported used spaces in Sarafand are the beach and the square or some meeting points between the buildings.



Graph 9- Passive and Active engagement of respondents in Public Spaces.

Source: Pre-Surveys

Talking about the beach and the corniche in Ghazieh and Sarafand, the available activities encourage people to interact and engage with one another. The sociability attribute here is further enhanced by the sense of community that can develop among regular beach/corniche-goers, as well as by the many social events and gatherings that take place there. The walkway provides a scenic and safe place for people to walk, jog, or bike, and its proximity to the sea makes it an ideal place for socializing and enjoying the natural beauty of the ocean. The presence of benches, shaded areas, and other amenities along the Coastal Sea Corniche encourages people to pause and engage with others, whether it's chatting with a neighbor, watching a sunset with a loved one, or joining a group for a workout or game.

Squares and plazas are the equivalent of the Agora in ancient Athens or the Forum in Rome, where citizens came to do business, engage in politics, and socialize. In old Abra, and Btater, locals enjoy both types of engagement; these squares serve as gathering places for the locals. Families take their evening walk around the square, exchanging greetings with others and stopping to talk or snack on ice cream or other street food.

As reported by youth, activities include sitting on a bench or under a tree, enjoying the scenery and the atmosphere, and socializing with friends or family. They also involve people-watching, observing the daily lives and routines of the town's inhabitants. This type of engagement is typically more prevalent in rural towns where the pace of life is slower and more relaxed. In the old Abra, active engagement in the square is mainly reflected by the participation in cultural and religious events, social gatherings, and other activities. These events are organized by the municipality or other community organizations, mainly the church, and provide opportunities for residents to engage with each other and create a sense of community.

The balance between passive and active engagement in the mentioned squares depends on several factors, including the size of the town, its cultural and social norms, and the availability of resources and infrastructure to support community events and activities. In the smaller towns, such as the case of old Abra, Sarafand and Btater, the public squares serve as important community gathering places, where people can engage in a variety of activities. Due to the smaller size of the town, these squares may be more accessible to all residents and serve as a central hub for community events, such as occasional markets, religious activities, and cultural celebrations. In this context, the balance between passive and active engagement may be more evenly distributed, with people engaging in both types of activities depending on their personal preferences and interests. On the other hand, in Beirut and Bourj Hammoud, the squares are more specialized and serve a particular function, such as a commercial hub or just a passage for the residents.

In other targeted areas such as Sarafand, locals may lack the resources and infrastructure necessary to facilitate regular active engagement in the square, resulting in a greater emphasis on passive engagement.

Karantina is a neighborhood known for its lively streets and vibrant community. The study revealed that locals, especially youths, gather in the streets and abandoned lands that become streetscapes, outdoor living rooms, and destinations. Engagement in the streets and at the gathering points involves various forms of social, cultural, and economic activities. While children play and enjoy their time, youth gather and sit on a bench or in a street cafe “called Express by locals,” which is usually the meeting point of the locals. Women in Karantina usually gather between the buildings, sit, and spend the afternoon together. However, it is noteworthy that women and female youth tend to gather in the upper levels, on the roofs instead of the streets and ground level, for reasons of safety and social concern.

In Bourj Hammoud and Abbassieh, the sports playgrounds are the most visited places reported by youth, even though they are not public. Sports playgrounds are particularly fertile areas of interaction, where parents have a ready-made topic of conversation—their children—and a vast amount of shared experience. Furthermore, the same parents are likely to meet at the same sports playgrounds often and thus have the opportunity to develop real relationships. While youth in Abbassieh reported going to the Elite sports playgrounds and doing sports, they added that their relatives and parents go to the sports playground’s surroundings to walk and enjoy their time. In Bourj Hammoud, either youth go to the sports playground in groups and usually children go with them, or if the children are accompanied by their parents, parents spend the time shopping, walking in the streets, or waiting for their children near the sports playground. In both areas, during peak play times, such as after school or on weekends, the sports playgrounds may be more conducive to active engagement, while in the early morning or late evening, they may be better suited for passive engagement.

On the other hand, in Abbassieh and Btater, youth reported going to Al Horsh regularly, especially in the spring and summer seasons. In addition to providing a quiet green spot amid the concrete and traffic, the Horsh can serve as a town focus, with sports playgrounds, picnic tables and grills, sports fields, and other facilities that bring adults and children from all neighborhoods of the area and from the surroundings. At various attractions; waterfalls, geysers, scenic viewpoints; people seem more comfortable contacting others than they might be in other settings. The fact that everyone is there with the common goal of enjoying their time and creating a sense of shared experience that breaks down social barriers.

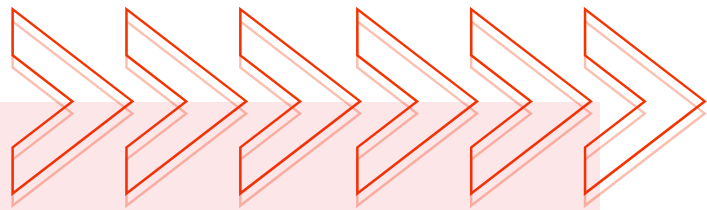
In both areas, youths reported that they go to Al Horsh to simply sit and observe the natural surroundings or enjoy a picnic with family and friends; thus, passive engagement is dominant most of the time in these spaces, which offer a peaceful and tranquil environment, allowing the space users to disconnect from the stresses of everyday life and find inner peace. It is to be noted that where elderly people usually enjoy both, they prefer passive engagements such as sitting on benches and viewing the people within the open public space, as well as having conversations with their friends or younger people.

Despite the presence of Horsh Beirut, youth reported that they don't have a preferred space to gather in Tarik Jdideh, which can be driven by several reasons. According to youth, Horsh Beirut is not easily accessible or convenient to gather. Distance, transportation options, and other barriers make it more difficult to access. Moreover, youth may perceive Horsh Beirut as a more formal, nature-oriented space that may not necessarily be conducive to socializing and gathering.

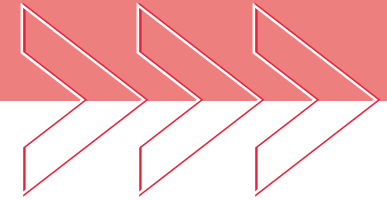
They stated that Horsh Beirut is more geared towards nature walks, picnics, and other passive activities than social interaction. It is crucial to highlight that youth reported not being able to access the Horsh or being aware of the opportunities and potential for gathering and socializing at the Horsh Beirut, as well as of the various activities, events, and facilities available there that could cater to their social and recreational needs. The perception of the surveyed youths of Horsh Beirut dates to the historical situation of this space within its context since the civil war and the forceful closure until recent years.

On the other hand, considering that they do not have a preferred space, discussions with youth indicate that the area lacks social and community spaces, which negatively affect the social well-being of youth. The availability of such spaces provides them with the opportunities to interact with others, develop social skills, and engage in activities that promote personal growth and learning. In addition, these spaces offer a sense of belonging and connection to the community, which is particularly important for young people who are still developing their identities and sense of self, thus the lack of these spaces may lead youth to experience feelings of isolation, loneliness, and boredom, which can lead to mental health issues such as depression and anxiety resulting in a lack of support systems and potentially contributing to feelings of alienation and disconnection. Bottom of Form.

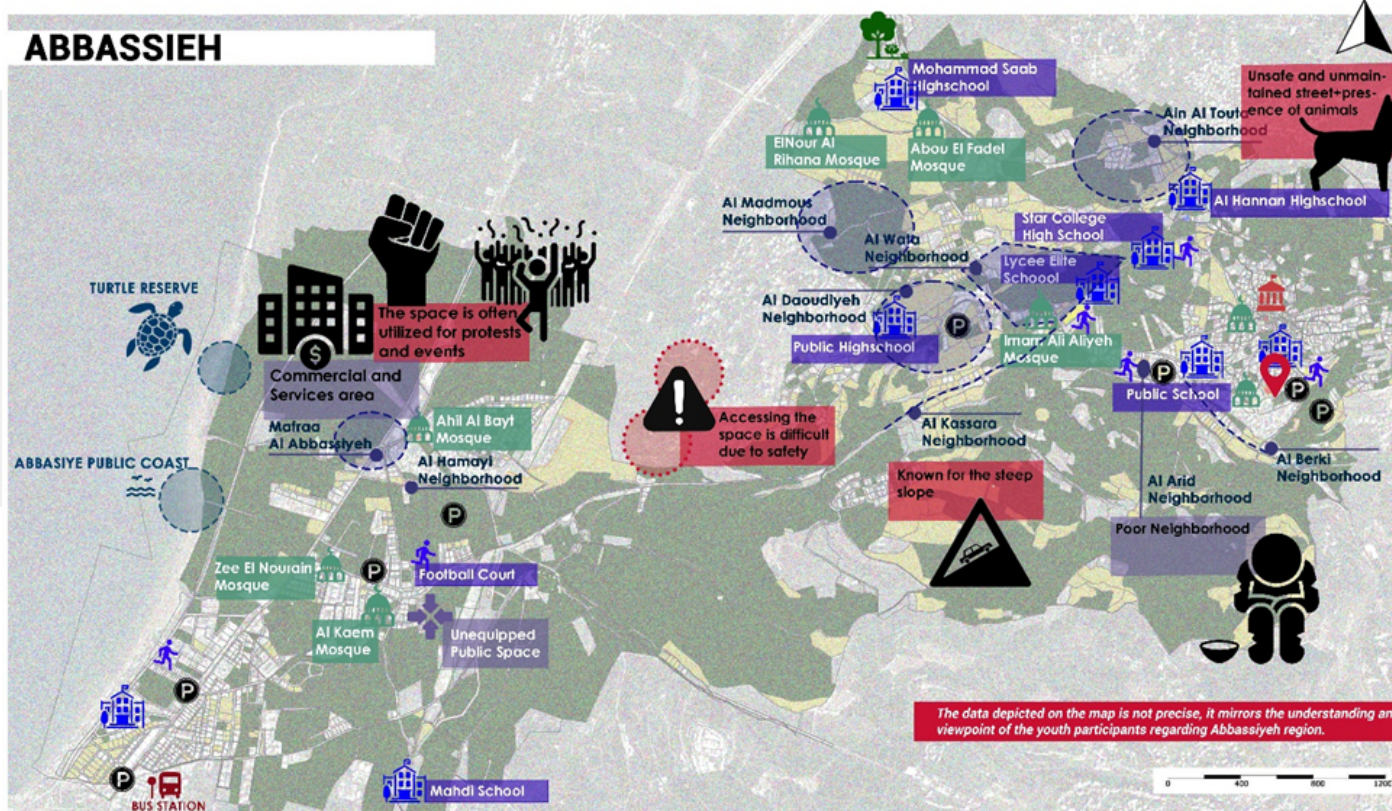
In addition, it is highlighted that there is a disconnection between youth and their neighborhood, which can result in a lack of ownership of the place they live in. This disconnection can stem from various factors, such as the background of the respondents, a lack of green spaces, poor infrastructure, or a negative reputation of the neighborhood. Male youth in Tarik Jdideh reported gathering in the streets in their neighborhoods while female youth stated that they feel unsafe and that it is socially unacceptable to gather in the streets in the city context which limits their moves in their areas.



Abbassieh



Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability



LEGEND

STUDIED AREA	GOVERNMENTAL FACILITIES	GREEN SPACES	EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES	SPORTIVE FACILITIES	RELIGIOUS PLACES	OTHERS
GAME/NAHNOO Sport Playground	Municipality	Public Garden	School	Sportive Playground/Stadium	Islamic Spaces	Parking Lots
						Area/Neighborhood

The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

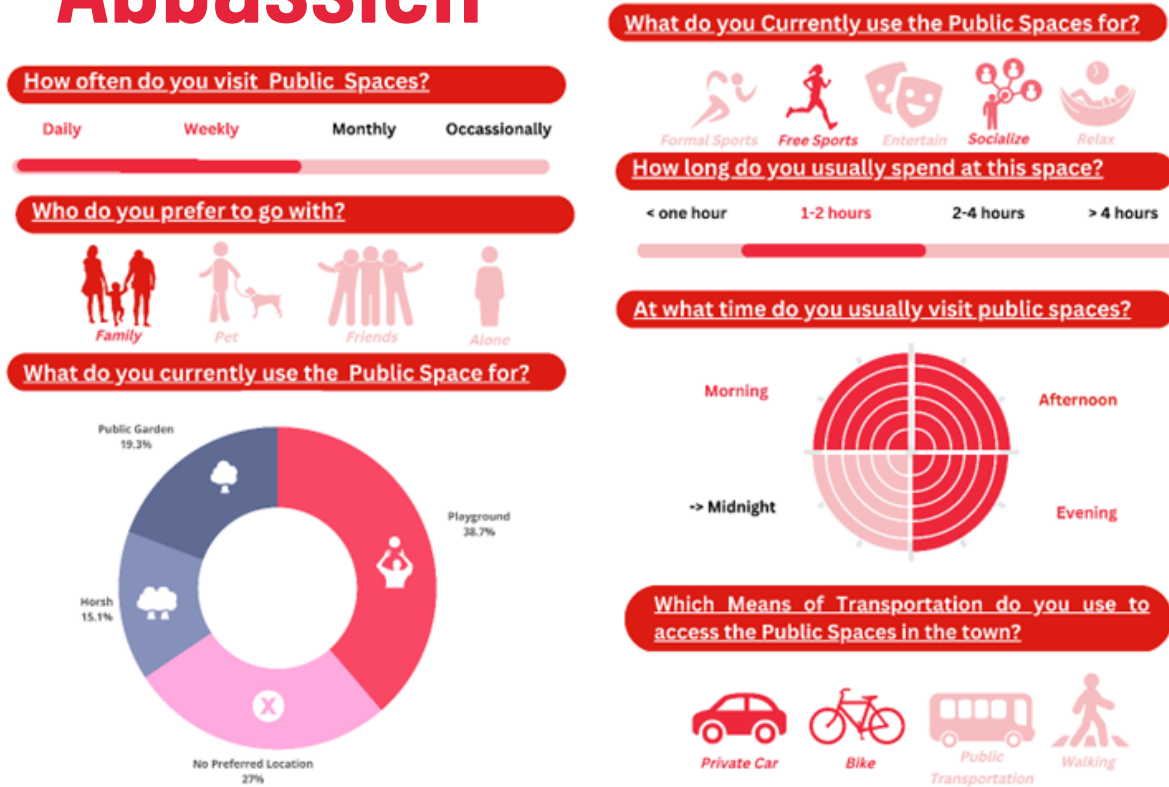
Annex VI : Youth Mapping-FGD1

Abbassieh map shows the availability of various public spaces, such as sports playgrounds, street corners, and the open beach, most young people are unable to fully utilize them due to their inaccessibility (not free of charge) or the lack of facilities and amenities. This highlights the importance of providing free and accessible public spaces and equipping them with necessary amenities to meet the diverse needs and interests of the local population.

Map 2- Youth perception of public spaces in Abbassieh

Source: FGD1

Abbassieh



Clarification Section

- **Free Sports:** Includes walking, exercise, walking with the pet, bike riding...
- **Formal Sports:** Includes matches that need reservations, group, time, and/or paid
- **Entertain:** Includes Picnic
- **Socialize:** Includes Friends and family meetings
- **Relaxation:** Includes appreciation of Nature

- **Morning:** 6:00am-12:00pm
- **Afternoon:** 12:00am-7:00pm
- **Evening:** 7:00pm-12:00am
- **-> Midnight:** After 12am

- **Public Transportation:** Taxi, Bus, Uber/Bolt, Service...

Infographic 9-Findings summary related to public spaces in Abbassieh
Source: Pre-Surveys

Surveys conducted in Abbassieh found that, according to youths, public spaces should ideally be free of charge, flexible in use, and aesthetically pleasing. Respondents report using public spaces for sports activities like walking, football, basketball, and meeting friends. The youth recognized the importance of free public spaces, as the available sports playgrounds in the area are not free. Responses of youths through the surveys about their preferred public spaces are distributed into four main categories: public gardens (25.1%), sports playgrounds (20.1%), Al Horsh (19.6%), and no preferable spaces (35.2%), and most of the respondents stated that they use these spaces for either meeting friends for a picnic or for practicing sports. It is obvious that youth in Abbassieh give remarkable importance to sport; they expressed in several discussion their enthusiasm for the sport activities and their awareness about the importance of sport. Most of them are involved in sport clubs or at least sport activities even before GAME and NAHNOO interventions. This could be due to the active sports and youth organizations/clubs available in the town, in addition to the available sports playgrounds in the town: Elite⁵.

Youth who participated in FGDs mentioned that Elite is one of the most visited spaces, although it is not free, due to many reasons, such as the availability of maintenance, control, amenities, and different activities.

[5] Elite Collège Franco-Libanais Elite is a French international school in Abbassieh. It is a part of the Association Franco-Libanaise pour l'Education et la Culture (AFLEC) network. Youth in Abbassieh usually rent the sports playground to do sport or walk around the sports playground of the school.

Even though Abbassieh is a coastal town like Ghazieh and Sarafand, it is notable that participants do not consider the beach/coast as their favorite space or even one of the spaces used by locals. Participants prefer to go to Tyr beach, as they consider Abbassieh beach a hidden space surrounded by trees with the presence of unfriendly animals and no lighting available. It is important to point out the geographic location of Abbassieh considering that, although it is a coastal town, the coastal highway divides the town into two zones which affect the accessibility to the beach.

Public spaces in Abbassieh are used by both genders on a daily to weekly basis, with an average duration of 1 to 2 hours, due to safety concerns and a lack of amenities such as restrooms and benches. Youths in Abbassieh use private cars and bikes to reach their favorite spaces.

In Abbassieh, interestingly, safety was only considered a main component of public spaces by 19% of respondents, with 60% of those being males. This suggests that safety is not related to gender, although the study was limited to Lebanese respondents with only 3% non-Lebanese respondents. The findings suggest that public spaces in Abbassieh could be improved by providing more amenities and services, addressing safety concerns, and ensuring that the spaces are aesthetically pleasing and flexible in use.

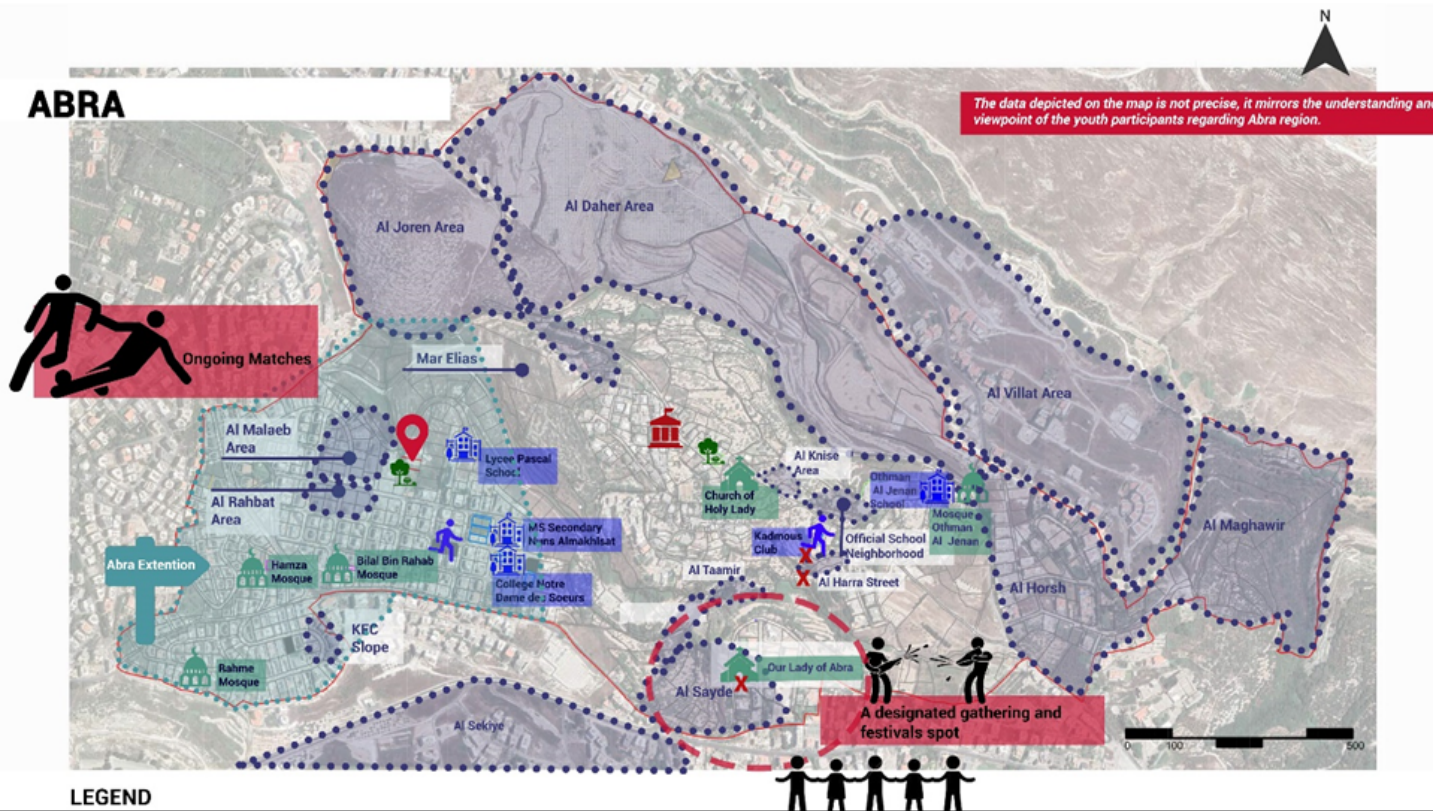
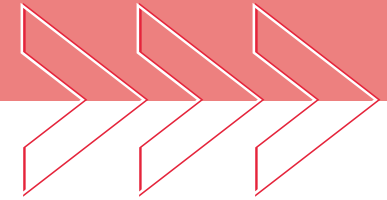
Some respondents in the Abbassieh survey show that public spaces are not equally accessible for both genders due to safety concerns, particularly for females. This is because some public spaces have many males gathered, making it uncomfortable for females to use the space. In addition, when respondents were asked if they use public spaces to meet with their romantic partners, the majority answered affirmatively, but some specified that it was only during the daytime and that they considered it to be a normal meeting with a normal friend, which is directly related to the cultural background of the studied area.



Figure 6- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1
 Source: NAHNOO team

Abra

Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability



The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

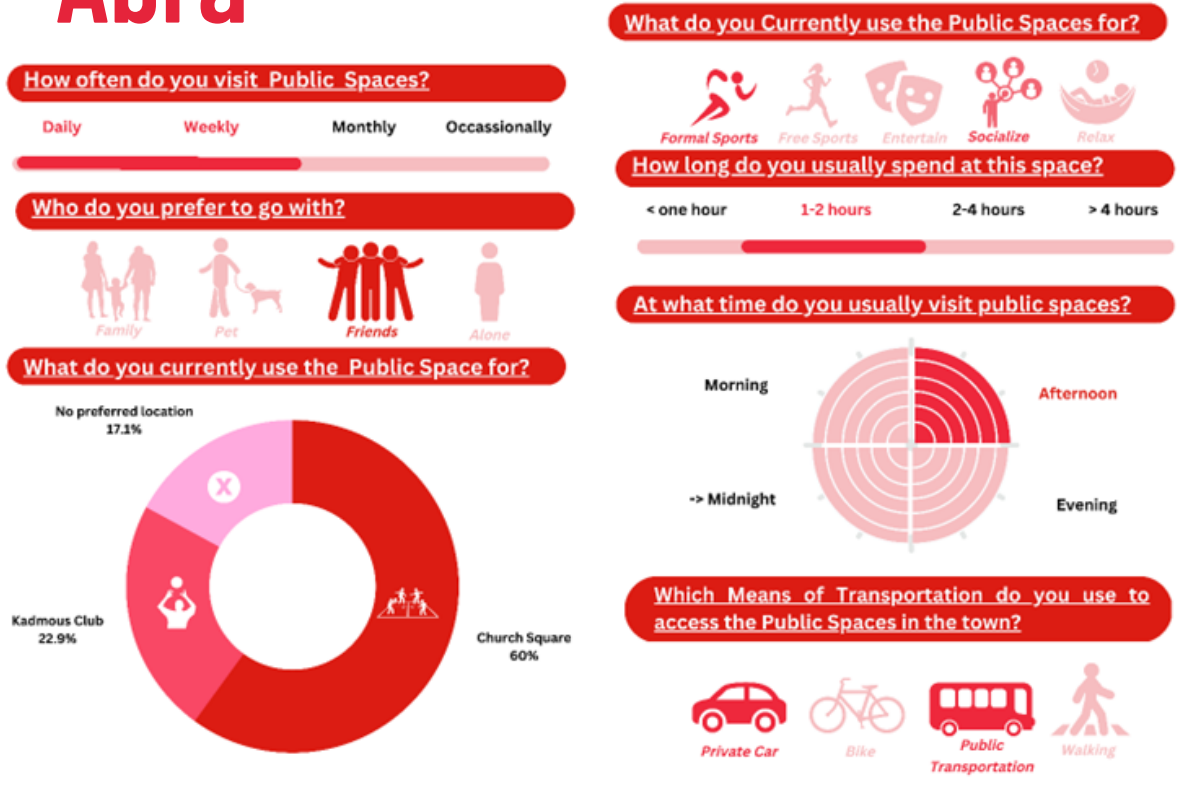
Annex VI : Youth Mapping-FGD1

The map illustrates the perspective of young participants regarding Abra's public spaces, particularly the roads and public square situated near the church, and how they creatively utilize these areas for various purposes, such as gatherings and different events. Through this map, we can gain insights into the ways in which youth culture and needs interact with urban landscapes and how their unique needs and preferences shape the usage and interpretation of public spaces.

Map 3- Youth perception of public spaces in Abra

Source: FGD1

Abra



Clarification Section

- **Free Sports:** Includes walking, exercise, walking with the pet, bike riding...
- **Formal Sports:** Includes matches that need reservations, group, time, and/or paid
- **Entertain:** Includes Picnic
- **Socialize:** Includes Friends and family meetings
- **Relaxation:** Includes appreciation of Nature
- **Morning:** 6:00am-12:00pm
- **Afternoon:** 12:00am-7:00pm
- **Evening:** 7:00pm-12:00am
- **-> Midnight:** After 12am
- **Public Transportation:** Taxi, Bus, Uber/Bolt, Service...

Infographic 10-Findings summary related to public spaces in Abra
Source: Pre-Surveys

Findings about youths’ perceptions of the important factors that contribute to a good public space indicate three key factors. Firstly, the aesthetics of the space, including the view and environment; secondly, the availability of lighting; and lastly, the accessibility. These factors reflect a major concern for the respondents about having spaces open and accessible at any time. During discussions, safety, inclusivity, and social activities are mentioned as crucial factors for a good public space. Based on Abra responses, results show that creating a good public space involves striking a balance between aesthetics, accessibility, safety, and social activities.

Various field observations, surveys, and FGDs in Abra suggest that youth gatherings occur mostly in an informal manner in the main square and near the church. In fact, during the FGDs, youth in Abra (the old village) are mostly active in religious youth organizations such as MIDADE (Mouvement International D’Apostolat Des Enfants)⁶ and JEC⁷, which justify their selection. (Noting that most of respondents are from Abra, the village, On the other hand, youth perception towards their area is related to the social context; youth in old Abra stated that they prefer not to go to the neighborhoods in new Abra, and thus, there is no preferable space for them. On the contrary, the youth of the new Abra reported that their favorite place is the public garden, which is in the new Abra.

[6] MIDADE: Mouvement International D’Apostolat Des Enfants (International Movement of Apostolate of the Children); present in 41 countries including Lebanon, it aims to promote and sustain the expression, the training and the realization of the children. It is an organization allowing the children to organize and act to defend their rights. In this way, contribute to building a world of justice and peace. It is highly active organization in Lebanon and especially in the East Saida Christians villages; Abra is an example.

[7] JEC: Jeunesse Etudiante Chrétienne (Young Christian Students); It is worldwide group of young Christian present through a branch in Lebanon students and active in the Christian villages, their objectives are to make students more aware of their social responsibilities and to help them maintain their faith. The JEC encourages its members to work for social change in their own environment.

Although the youth of the new Abra do not mention that they do not feel comfortable being in the old Abra neighborhoods, they state that they do not have anything in common and there is no need to be there. Therefore, it is important to create a common platform or space to promote social cohesion among the locals.

In Abra, the need for lighting was reported by the respondents and the participants. This could be related to the fact that the absence of lighting creates a barrier in the time usage of the space, thus youth are not able to use the space at night for accessibility and use reasons during the time between 4:00 and till 7:00pm and for two hours, which could be related to school and work time and to the activities organized by the church. As also per the question if there are any factors that limit their stay in public space mentioned: the lack of play opportunities, shelter/or cover, and absence of lighting limit their stay.

In Abra, in contrast to the females, only 17% of male respondents mentioned safety measures as important as creating a good public space; and 16% of the male respondents mentioned lighting as an important component of the public space but did not mention safety being a major one. On the other hand, lighting was identified as an important measure for creating a good public space, with safety being particularly important for 70% of female youths. It is worth noting that safety was not considered a major factor for females over the age of 35. It is also important to note that in Abra the selected place being most visited by respondents is the church square, which is considered a safe place as it is located near a residential area and under the supervision of the church administration, which could give a sense of safety for users as well as for the older female respondents who did not mention safety being a major factor as there are no problems detected in the space used by youth, which is the church square.



5

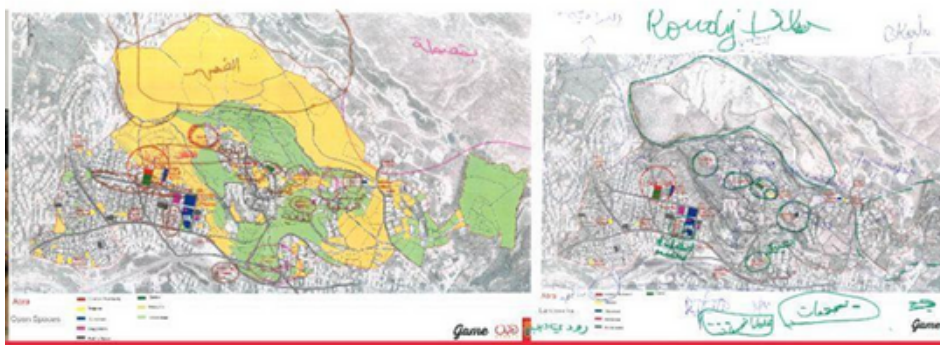
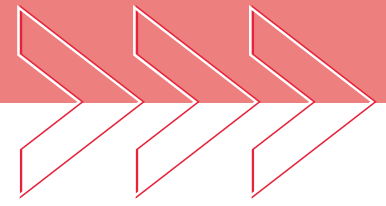
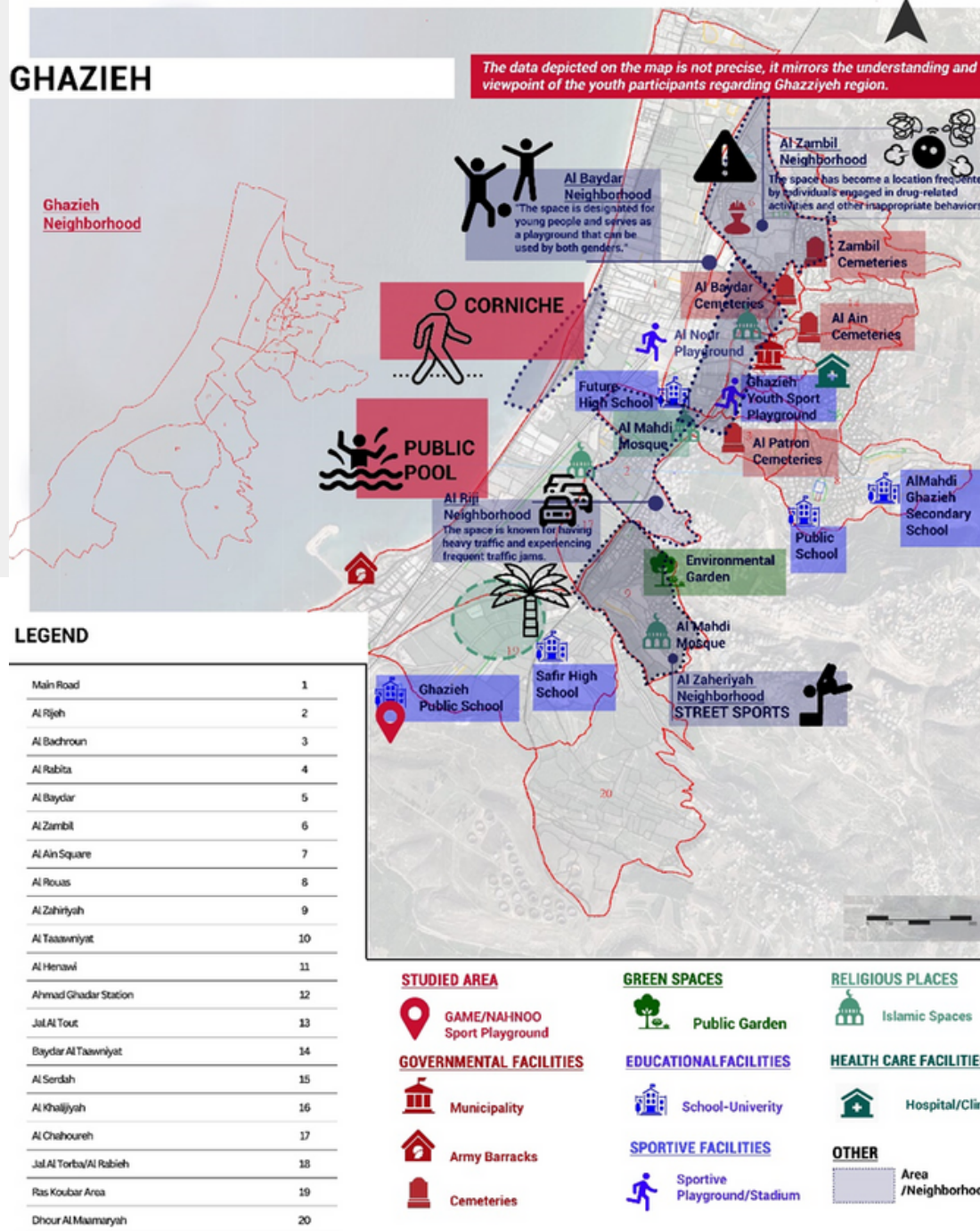


Figure 7- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1
Source: NAHNOO team

Ghazieh



Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability



Map 4- Youth perception of public spaces in Ghazieh

Source: FGD1

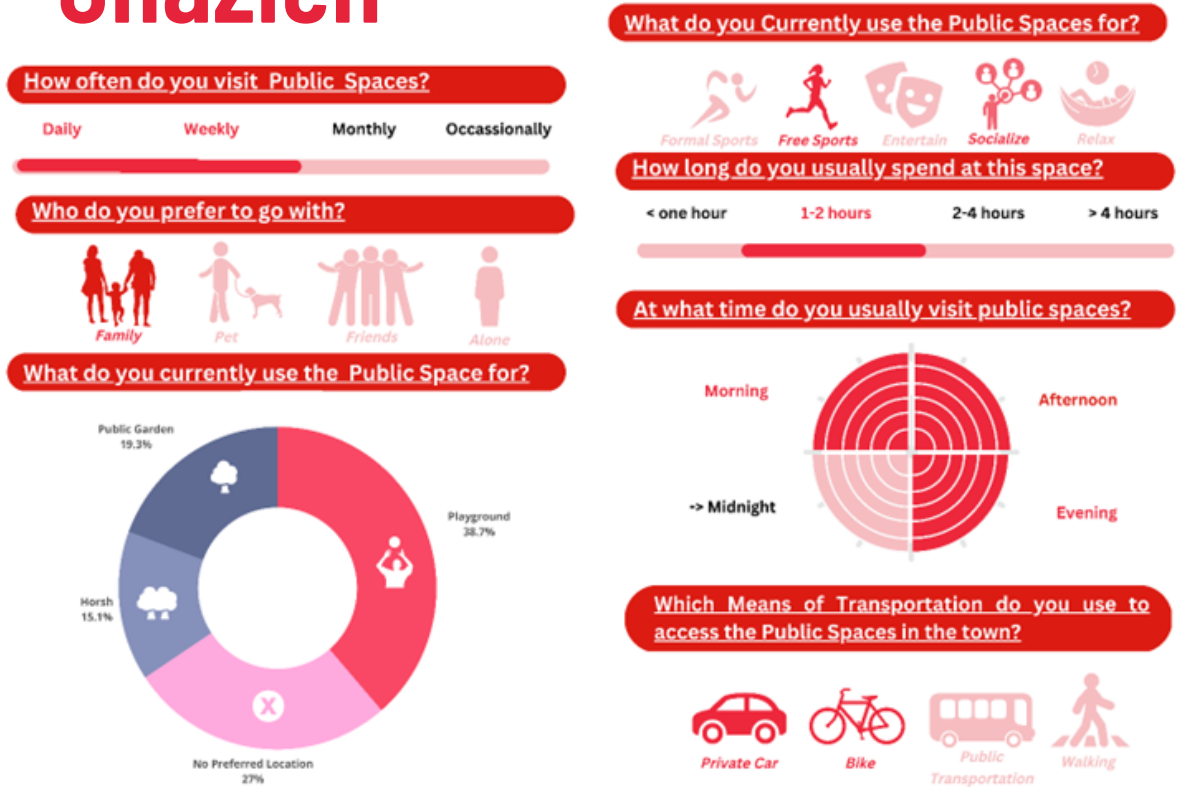
The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1

The town's neighborhoods have their own distinct characters, offering various social spaces for residents to meet and interact. For example, the Al Baydar, Al Rabita, Al Ain, and Al Rous neighborhoods are known for having social spaces for youth to meet or street sports, while the Al Zahriyah neighborhood is known for its close public garden and ecological garden for the environmental association of the town.

The map of Ghazieh depicts the various types of public spaces that are available to residents and visitors alike. Despite the diversity of these spaces, the coast remains a significant and prominent feature, serving as a hub of activity and social interaction for the Ghazieh residents. Additionally, the public pool located on the coast is an important resource that is accessible to all. Furthermore, youth expressed their interest in the sports playground, as it is accessible and safe to be used by both females and males, becoming an interesting meeting point and sporting hub for youth.

Ghazieh



Clarification Section

- **Free Sports:** Includes walking, exercise, walking with the pet, bike riding...
- **Formal Sports:** Includes matches that need reservations, group, time, and/or paid
- **Entertain:** Includes Picnic
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- **-> Midnight:** After 12am

- **Public Transportation:** Taxi, Bus, Uber/Bolt, Service...

*Infographic 11- Findings summary related to public spaces in Ghazieh
Source: Pre-Surveys*

According to the surveys and the discussions conducted in Ghazieh, youths consider three main factors to be the most important. The first and foremost factor is the beauty of the place, followed by social activities and the level of comfort and safety. Findings suggest that the lack of public and recreational spaces within the Ghazieh zone has made it imperative for residents to have well-equipped, clean, and beautiful spaces that can attract people. Social activities play a critical role in creating an active and engaging environment that facilitates interaction and boosts the overall experience of the visitors. All these factors are closely linked to the level of comfort that residents can feel in such an equipped and active space.

In regard to the most popular locations in Ghazieh, surveys and FGDs revealed that there is a lack of public spaces available in the area and that youth usually tend to go outside Ghazieh to hang out, mainly to Saida and other nearby towns, but the corniche and the Baydar are the most frequently mentioned spaces, noting that around 69% of surveys revealed that the coast/corniche is the most visited or preferred place inside Ghazieh despite limitations on public use due to the privatization of many amenities. Despite the corniche being a popular spot for both locals and other visitors, many residents expressed dissatisfaction with the corniche due to various factors, including safety concerns and a lack of amenities for relaxation and socializing. Analysis of the usage patterns revealed that most visitors are families engaging in walking and sports activities, with others utilizing the space for leisure and meeting friends. Additionally, it is important to point out that the Corniche tends to have occasional visitors, and this is often linked to various factors such as weather conditions, school schedules, work obligations, and other circumstances.

Furthermore, it is a lively destination, as it is visited from noon until midnight, appealing to both genders and individuals from diverse backgrounds, particularly when favorable weather and other factors are present. Additionally, the survey revealed that 13% of respondents reported spending between 2 and 5 hours in the Corniche area, specifically in the sports playgrounds and sports and entertainment facilities offered in the area. This suggests that the presence of diverse activities and amenities in the space can increase its attractiveness and encourage visitors to spend more time there. It can be inferred that the longer the duration of time that visitors spend in the Corniche, the more active and engaging the space is perceived to be.

A noteworthy observation is that while 34% of respondents indicated that the Corniche is not safe for both genders, most female respondents (92%) expressed that the space is not safe for women. This perspective is particularly prevalent among women between the ages of 25 and 45 who have children, as they perceive it as risky to have their girls alone in the area. It should be acknowledged, however, that this perception could mainly be applicable when visiting the Corniche alone, rather than in the company of family or friends, which is when the space is perceived to be safer. On the other hand, although only 5% of male visitors, who are all foreigners, perceive safety as important, the majority of male visitors frequent the Corniche daily, possibly due to the nearby cafés that make it a popular gathering spot. Despite these issues, public spaces in Ghazieh are accessible to all and serve as a connection point for individuals outside the local community, offering a diverse range of activities to those who visit.

The Corniche offers public activities and is an attractive gathering space for both Lebanese and non-Lebanese visitors, but the majority of the respondents are dissatisfied with it. This dissatisfaction may be related to a variety of factors, such as safety concerns, social activities, a lack of comfort, and other issues. Upon closer examination, it is evident that the Corniche is primarily used for walking and sports activities, with few visitors using the space for recreational activities, relaxation, or meeting friends.

These findings provide valuable insights in understanding the needs and preferences of youth in Ghazieh. Creating well-equipped, safe, and attractive public spaces that offer social activities and recreational opportunities can go a long way in improving the quality of life and enhancing the overall experience of residents and visitors in Ghazieh and making it a more inclusive space for different types of visitors, such as families and foreigners.

It is important to note that the majority of the responders reach the space by car, or using public transportation, which also reflects a safety measure when highlighting the safety of the area, even though the space cannot be reached by walking as the corniche is not easily accessible. It is also worth mentioning that no public space is well-designed if it does not consider the 5 elements of a public space: accessibility, use and usage, amenities, environment, and safety. The lack or absence of any of these elements makes the space a challenging place, regardless of its importance.

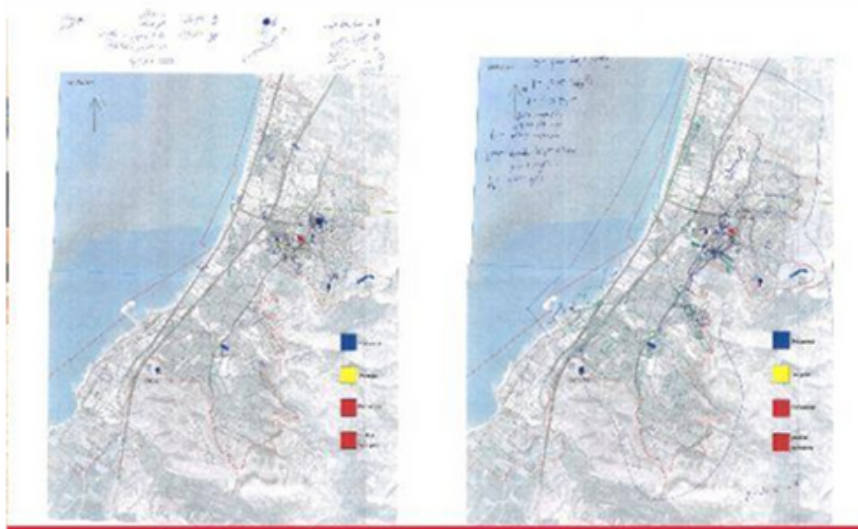
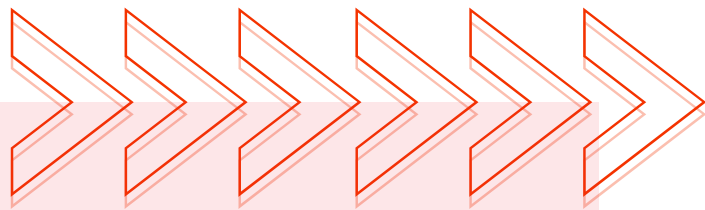
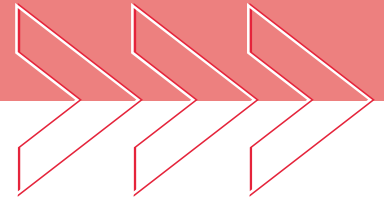


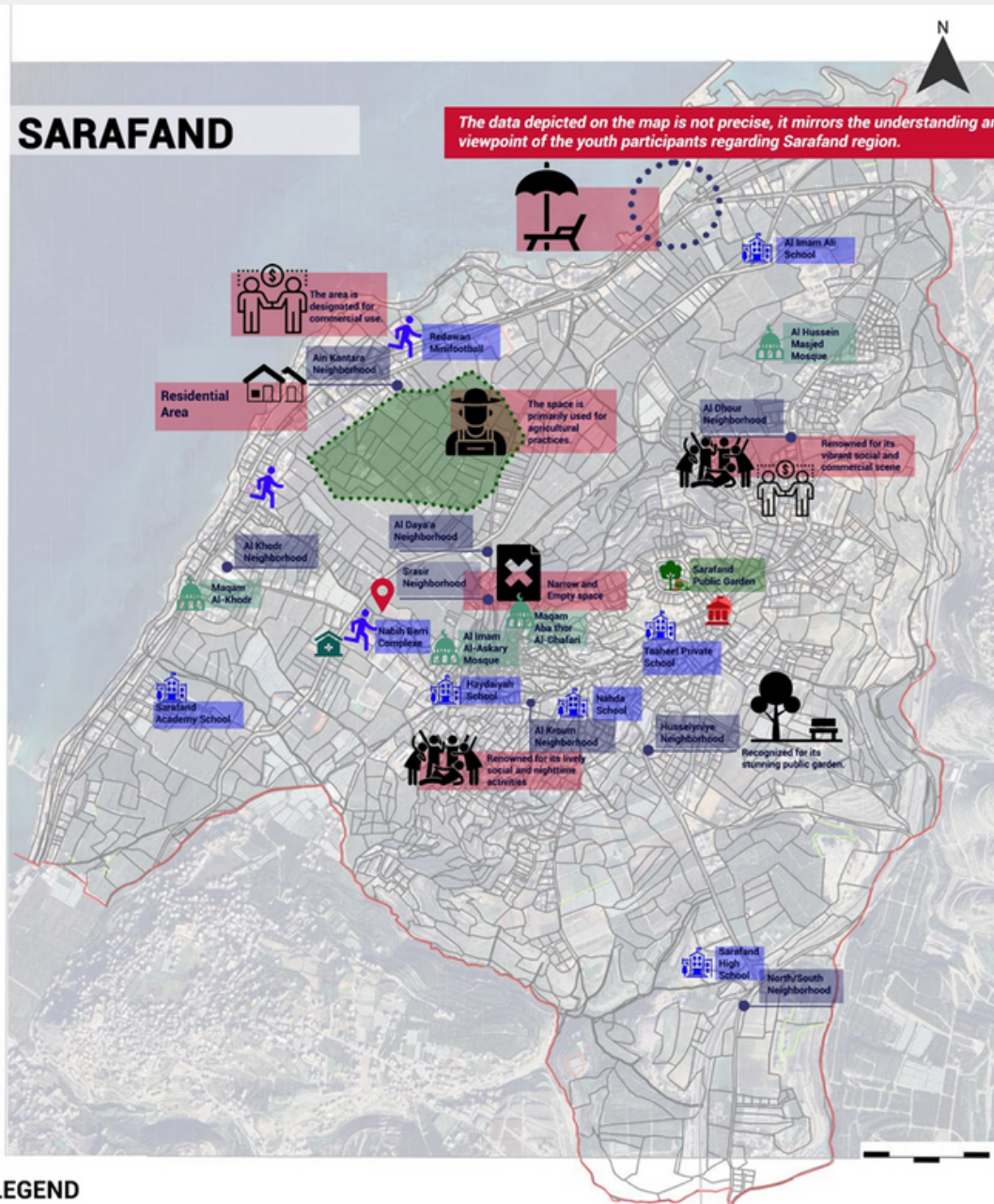
Figure 8- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1
Source: NAHNOO team



Sarafand



Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability



The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

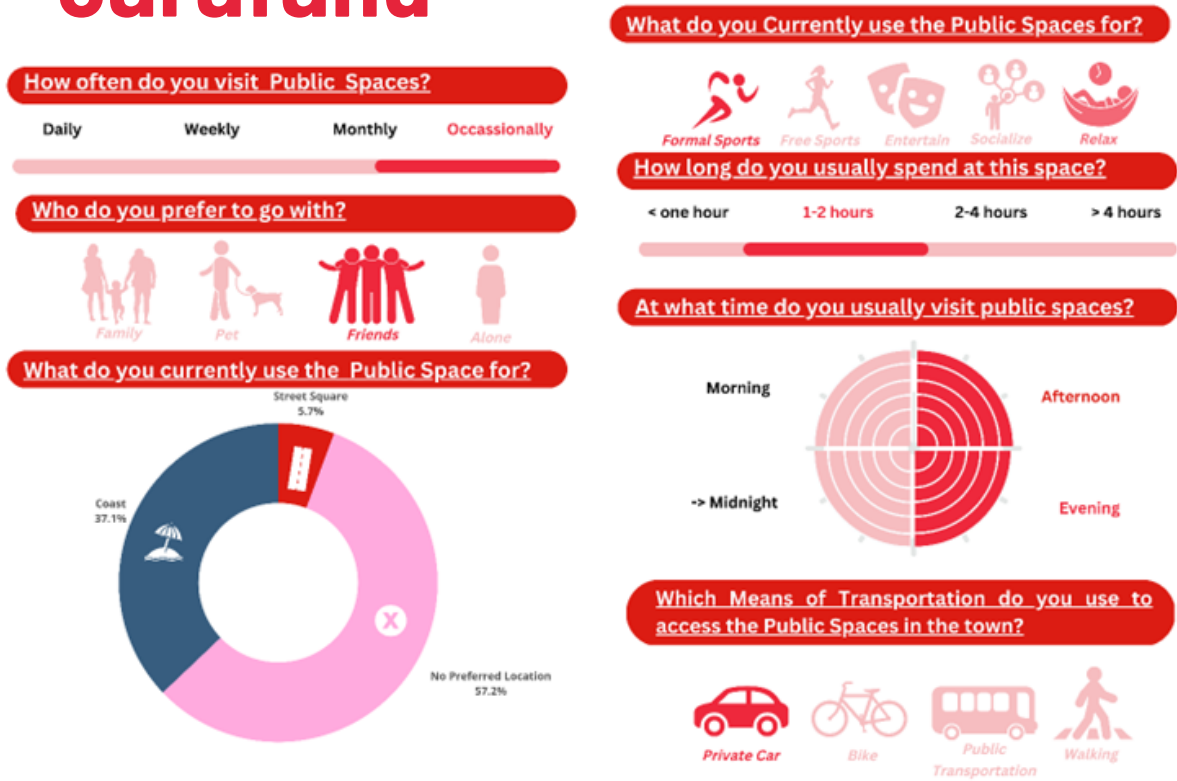
Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1

According to the reflections of Sarafand's youth, neighborhoods are the primary hubs of social activity and interaction for young people in the community. These spaces provide a sense of familiarity and belonging, allowing youth to connect with peers and engage in various forms of leisure and entertainment. Moreover, the public coast is another important meeting area for youth, serving as a popular destination for swimming, sunbathing, and other outdoor activities. Its accessibility and openness to the public make it an inclusive space where youth from all backgrounds can come together and socialize.

Map 5- Youth perception of public spaces in Sarafand

Source: FGD1

Sarafand



Clarification Section

- **Free Sports:** Includes walking, exercise, walking with the pet, bike riding...
- **Formal Sports:** Includes matches that need reservations, group, time, and/or paid
- **Entertain:** Includes Picnic
- **Socialize:** Includes Friends and family meetings
- **Relaxation:** Includes appreciation of Nature

- **Morning:** 6:00am-12:00pm
- **Afternoon:** 12:00am-7:00pm
- **Evening:** 7:00pm-12:00am
- **-> Midnight:** After 12am

- **Public Transportation:** Taxi, Bus, Uber/Bolt, Service...

*Infographic 12-Findings summary related to public spaces in Sarafand
Source: Pre-Surveys*

According to the targeted youths in Sarafand, three main factors were identified as important for public spaces: aesthetics, comfort, and safety. Creating public spaces that are aesthetically pleasing and well-designed can help attract individuals and encourage them to spend time in these areas. Comfortable seating, shade structures, and other amenities can also make public spaces more appealing and enjoyable for visitors.

Through surveys and FGDs youth listed some of the public spaces they usually use in Sarafand, such as the garden near the Houssainieh, the main square, the beach, Al Dhrou area, the entrance of the town... The public spaces reported are related to the streets and squares where youth in Sarafand usually gather for a long time, for instance, Al Dhour is a roundabout where there are many shops and youths usually tend to sit, eat, and chat altogether. Moreover, residents living in this area in their ground-floor houses interact with the passengers and the gathered youths in the streets, which creates a special dynamic linking the ground level and the upper level. (The streets, the public spaces, and the residents.)

It is important to note that not all the streets and zones in Sarafand are mentioned as comfortable spaces for youth; they mention issues and problems happening in some of the areas, especially near the highway.

The available sports playgrounds are reported by youth as one of the spaces used by them. Considering that the sports playgrounds are not free of charge, youth users are limited to those who can rent the space. Consequently, youth use the space in groups and for a limited time of one to two hours.

It is remarkable that surveys show that 57% of the respondents do not have a preferred space, while around 37% consider the coast to be their preferred public space. In fact, Sarafand is a coastal town where the locals' lifestyle is somehow linked to the coast. However, the coastal highway divides the town, and consequently, most of the locals who live in the non-coastal neighborhoods need transportation to reach the coast, which affects their perception of the coast as an accessible space.

Youth participants stated that they lack the concept of public spaces in the town, which also lack maintenance and control, which meant that they often ended up sitting with their friends along sidewalks and near their houses instead of using more pleasant and comfortable public spaces.

It is noteworthy that safety and comfort were identified as important factors by all respondents in Sarafand. This suggests an important finding: both genders consider the need for a public space important and desirable, with 91% mentioning the importance of the location's beauty when designing a public space. The importance of the safety factor is reflected in the youth responses about their frequency of visits to public spaces, with most respondents indicating occasional visits and 54% spending less than 2 hours in public spaces. This could be attributed to the lack of safety measures and amenities reflected in the factors that affected the respondents' stay in the space. Findings from the study in Sarafand provide some interesting insights into the factors that people of different genders and ages consider when identifying a good public space. Safety and comfort were consistently cited as important factors, indicating that individuals place a high value on feeling secure and at ease in public settings. Around 70% of the respondents emphasized the significance of safety and comfort in determining a good public space. It is worth noting that most of the respondents who do not consider safety a priority are males; on the other hand, males who emphasize safety are over 35 and have children. Therefore, the safety concern could be directly related to their children and families.

Furthermore, most respondents use private cars to access public spaces, which could be due to the location of the most visited public spaces (coast) or as a safety measure of the town; and respondents also reflected that public space is not equally accessible to both genders as around 69% found the space equally accessed. In addition to this the space being visited mostly in groups either with family or friends and with no one visiting the space alone could also be linked to the level of safety respondents feel in the area. The majority of respondents showed that they visit the place to entertain and spend time with their companies and in parallel around 92% answered that they do not visit the space with their boy/girlfriend as the majority know each other and they either do not feel comfortable or due to the absence of amenities and maintenance of the spaces found there.

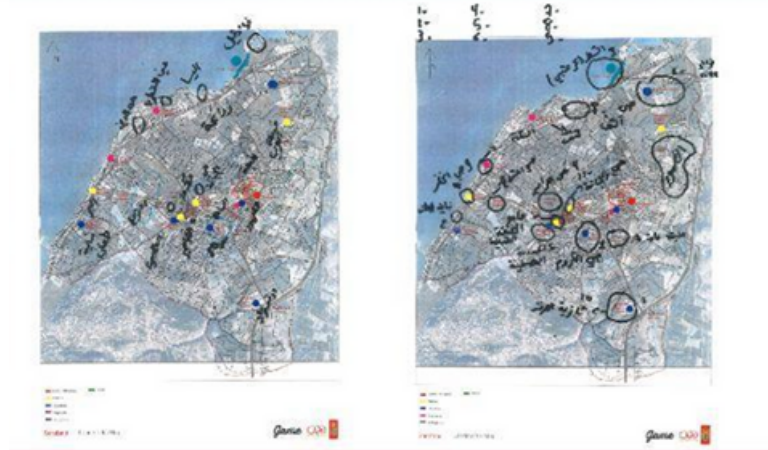
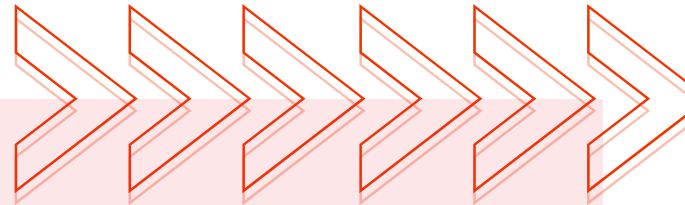
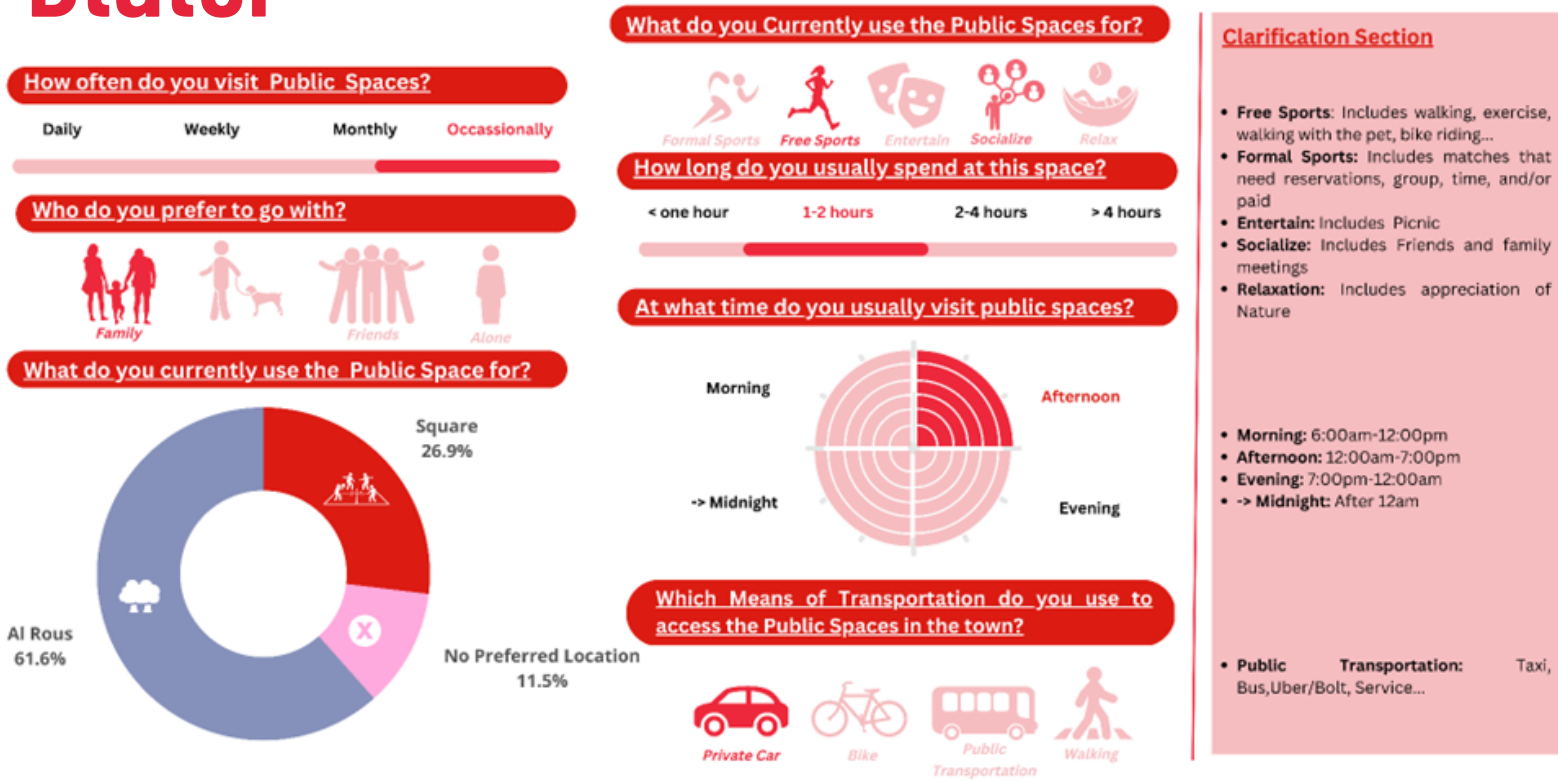


Figure 9- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1
Source: NAHNOO team



Btater



Infographic 13- Findings summary related to public spaces in Btater.

Source: Pre-Surveys

Surveys in Batater reveal that the aesthetic of the space, comfort, and social activities are the most important factors for public spaces. It is suggested that this could be related to the natural resources found in Btater such as Horsh and other green spaces, which make the residents more appreciative of the beauty of the space, comfort, and even social activities.

Btater survey respondents show that Al Rous is the most popular destination in Btater. The survey also indicates that all respondents use cars to reach the location, and this could be related to the challenging accessibility linked to the area's topography. They spend around 1 to 2 hours there, while 38% of them spend more than 2 hours there for activities such as picnics, sports activities (walking), (walking) and gatherings. Btater is an active village in terms of activities, especially during the summer with festivals and hiking. Thus, events and activities could be contributing to the popularity of the space.

The survey shows that the space is used occasionally by the majority; this could be related to the various activities, such as drifting, that happen on occasion. The individuals who visit the site on a daily basis are exclusively males between the ages of 18 and 25. This may be attributed to the cultural background of Btater, where females do not frequently meet in public spaces. It could also be because this space serves as a convenient, free-of-charge location for males to gather and spend time without restrictions or limitations; or because of the lack of amenities that create a comfortable place for females of different ages to use the space daily.

Around 96% of respondents said that they are comfortable meeting their boyfriend/girlfriend in Btater, noting that, unlike other studied areas, they viewed it as a normal friend meeting. Thus, this suggests that the space is seen as a safe and comfortable space for socializing and meeting with friends and not loved ones.

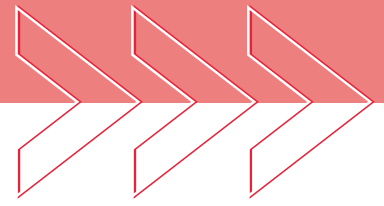
Although safety, a lovely location, and social events are available, the majority of responses to the Btater survey indicate that the respondents are not satisfied with the neighborhood. This could be related to the lack of amenities, which may serve as a significant deterrent to people visiting the area.

Surveys and discussions revealed that safety is not a challenge in Btater for both genders. Youth expressed that they all know each other, thus, they feel safe even in the evening. In fact, Btater is a rural context where locals consider their village controlled especially when talking about “non- locals” visitors. More than 80% of the respondents stated that they feel safe in the spaces available in Btater despite their age, background, and gender. It is worth mentioning that even though Btater respondents find the space safe, they also reflect that they visit it with friends and family, thus reflecting that the sense of safety is also related to being in groups. However, the survey found that the lack of urban furniture and covered spaces is the main challenge for people who want to stay for an extended period. This suggests that this reflects the importance of amenities as a factor on the time of staying, especially as Btater is affected by the winter season, which demands a closed and covered space for the residents to meet.

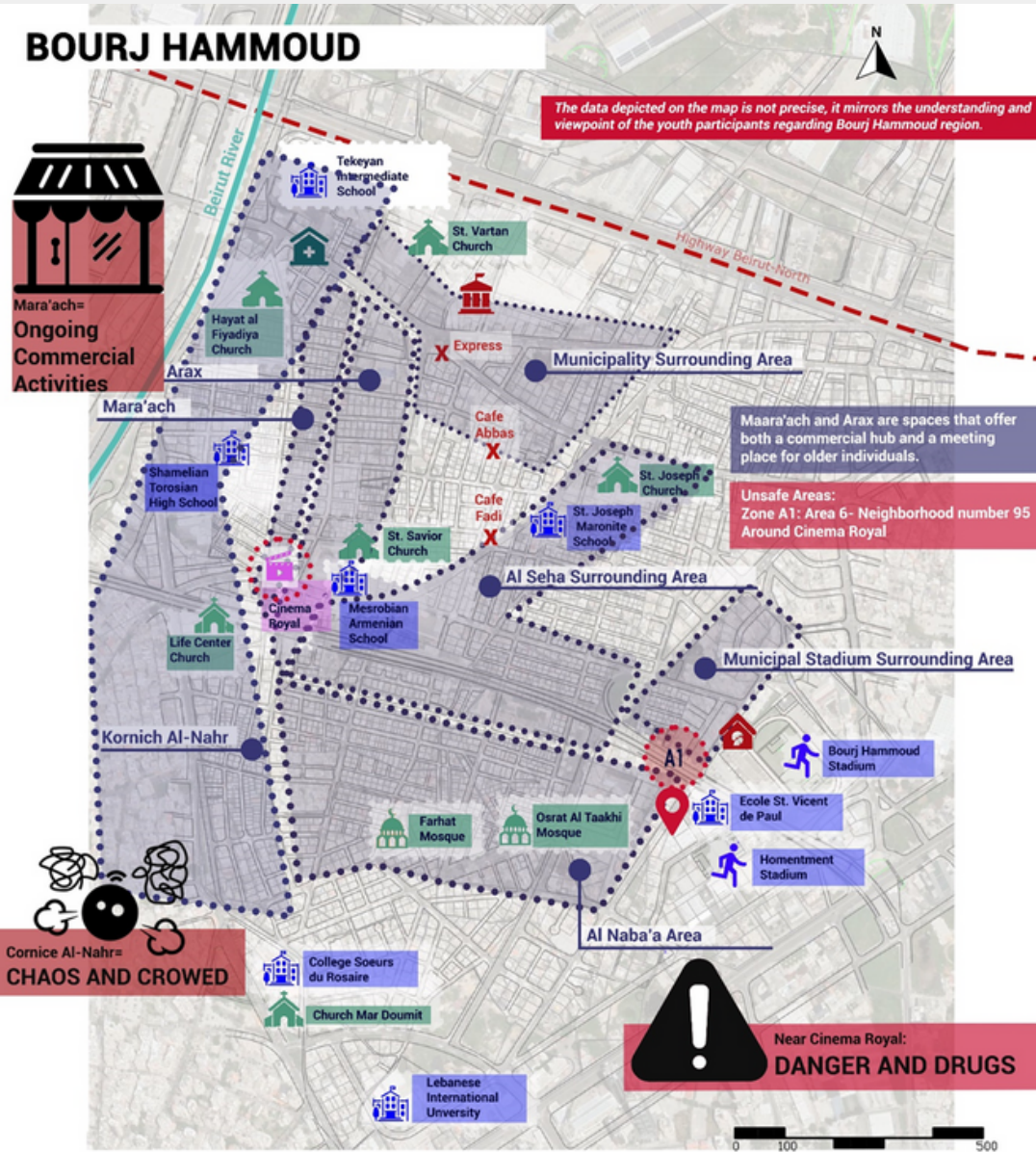


*Figure 10- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1
Source: NAHNOO team*

Bourj Hammoud



Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability



The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1

The map of Bourj Hammoud drafted by the participants reveals that the commercial neighborhood, roads, and shops are the primary gathering spaces for youth and elderly people in the community. These areas provide a lively and dynamic social environment where young people can interact with one another, explore new interests, and engage in various forms of leisure and entertainment.

Map 7- Youth perception of public spaces in Bourj Hammoud
Source: FGD1

Hammoud

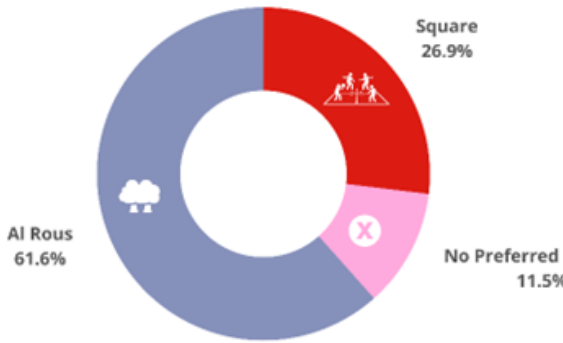
How often do you visit Public Spaces?



Who do you prefer to go with?



What do you currently use the Public Space for?



What do you Currently use the Public Spaces for?



How long do you usually spend at this space?



At what time do you usually visit public spaces?



Which Means of Transportation do you use to access the Public Spaces in the town?



Clarification Section

- **Free Sports:** Includes walking, exercise, walking with the pet, bike riding...
 - **Formal Sports:** Includes matches that need reservations, group, time, and/or paid
 - **Entertain:** Includes Picnic
 - **Socialize:** Includes Friends and family meetings
 - **Relaxation:** Includes appreciation of Nature
-
- **Morning:** 6:00am-12:00pm
 - **Afternoon:** 12:00am-7:00pm
 - **Evening:** 7:00pm-12:00am
 - **-> Midnight:** After 12am
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- **Public Transportation:** Taxi, Bus, Uber/Bolt, Service...

Infographic 14-Findings summary related to public spaces in Bourj Hammoud

Source: Pre-Surveys

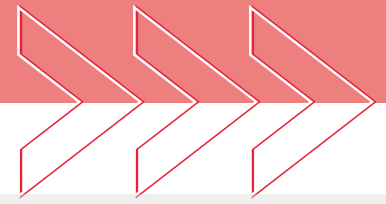
According to a survey conducted in Bourj Hammoud, most respondents rated aesthetics as the most important factor in public spaces, followed by the availability of free space and level of comfort. Safety and social activities were also considered important. Youths in Bourj Hammoud reported that the available public spaces in the area need to be revived. Most of the public spaces are either closed or need maintenance, and the situation was exacerbated after the crisis.

The most frequently used space reported by the participants is Vache Sports playground, which is not a free public space, contradicting the idea that public spaces should be free. This is related to the fact that the respondents highlighted the importance of having spaces accessible without charge. Although people visit the sports playground for sports activities, the lack of facilities like restrooms and limited play opportunities make it uncomfortable for longer stays.

Around 24% of respondents could not identify a preferred public space in Bourj Hammoud, and this could be related to the lack of amenities, the entrance charge, and/or lack of services.

The combination of aesthetics, social activities, and level of comfort reflects the respondents' perception of the importance of having an aesthetically pleasing space that hosts social events and provides comfort for both genders. Around 51% of respondents use public spaces with their partners, citing the public's presence. Others, on the other hand, stated that they avoid public spaces due to their poor condition; thus, the condition of public spaces has a significant impact on how the space is used.

Tarik Jdideh



Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability

TARIK JDIDEH



The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

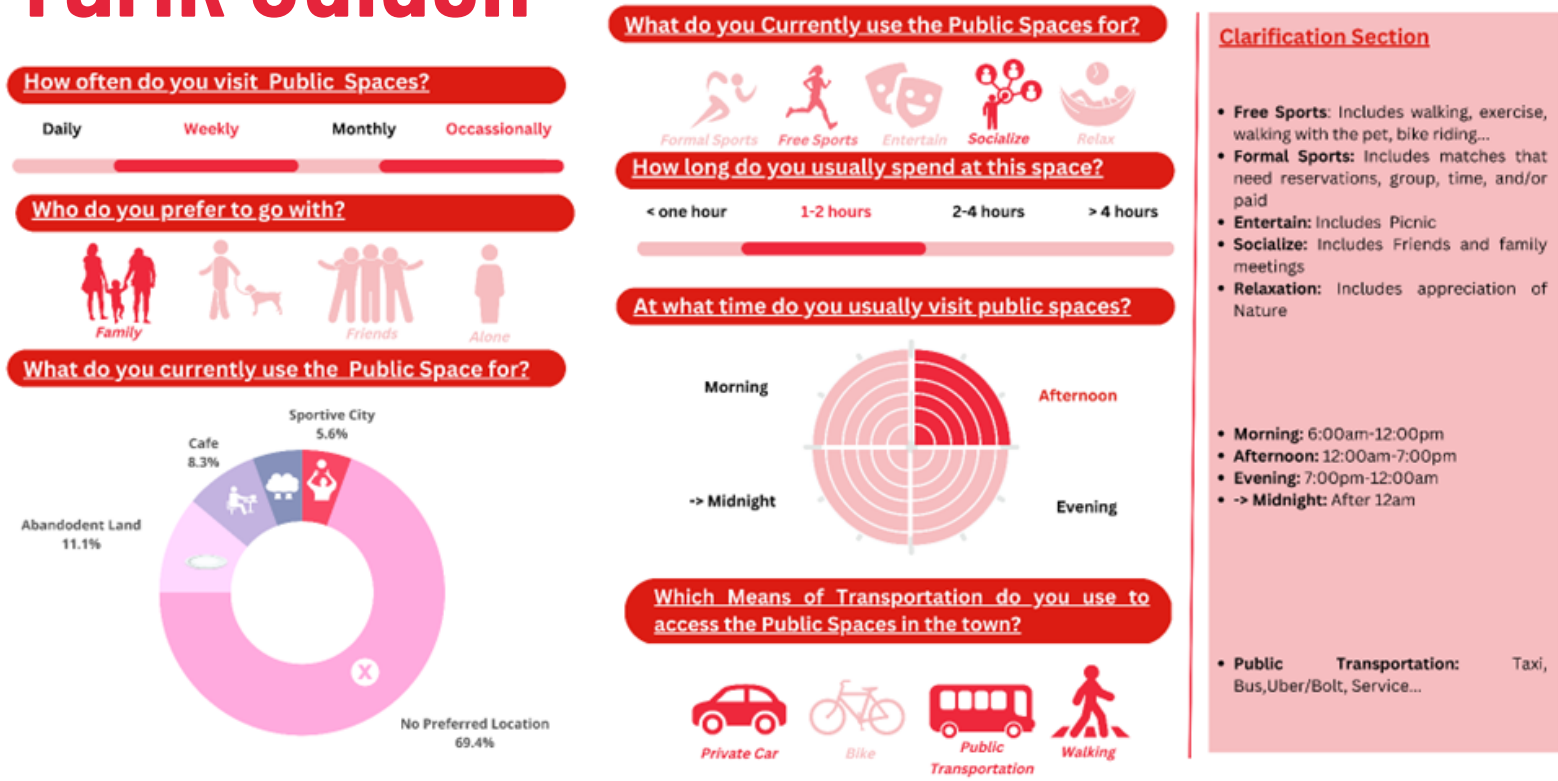
Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1

The map of Tarik Jdideh drafted by the participants reflects the richness of public spaces in the area, particularly in the vicinity of cafes and the presence of Horch, which serves as an active hub for community engagement and recreation. These spaces provide a range of opportunities for social interaction, relaxation, and entertainment, catering to the diverse needs and preferences of the community. Youth also mentioned the cafes in Tarik Jdideh as popular meeting places for youth and elderly alike, providing a space for people to gather, converse, and socialize. Moreover, the presence of Horch provides a green space where people can enjoy free outdoor activities, such as walking, playing, or skating.

Map 8- Youth perception of public spaces in Tarik Jdideh

Source: FGD1

Tarik Jdideh



Infographic 15- Findings summary related to activated sports playground in Tarik Jdideh
Source: Pre-Surveys

According to the survey conducted in Tarik Jdideh, 69% of the respondents did not find any preferred public space in the area. Among those who did, only 11% considered abundant empty space to be the best option, and around 6% favored Horsh Beirut as their favorite public space. The fact that Beirut has the largest public space and yet it is not accessible could be directly related to the fact that the space is closed most of the time. The majority of respondents who were asked about the characteristics of a good public space named safety as the most crucial element, followed by aesthetic appeal, degree of comfort, and ease of access.

This reflects the need for a good, and safe space for both genders to be accessible and well utilized. The respondents mainly used the space for walking, exercising, and socializing, but they visited it only occasionally due to the lack of safety, security, and amenities. Moreover, 77% of the respondents perceived the public spaces as less accessible to women due to inappropriate behaviors in the area. However, a small number of female respondents visited the space daily for sports.

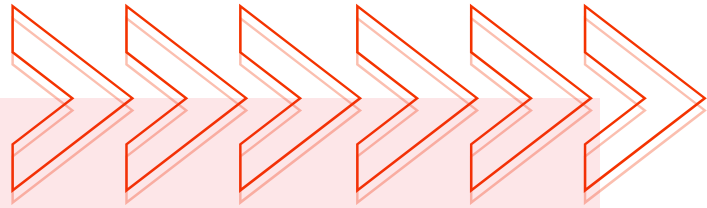
Youth who participated in FGDs mentioned that sports playgrounds and streets are the most visited spaces, mainly used by children between 5 and 12 years old. It is to note that the elderly spends their time in the streets mainly near the mosques.

In Tarik Jdideh, surveys found that people spent less than 2 hours in public spaces, likely due to the perceived lack of safety and amenities. Furthermore, around 33% of the respondents reached the public spaces walking with friends and family, not alone, which highlights the importance of feeling safe in groups. Thus, safety concerns create a barrier for respondents to spend more time as they mainly use the space between 4 p.m. and p.m. before nightfall.

Additionally, only 22% of the respondents reported visiting the space with their partner during the day, citing discomfort, the presence of non-Lebanese people, and accidents as possible reasons. The survey also reveals that around 97% of the respondents are dissatisfied with the public spaces in Tarik Jdideh, including Horsh Beirut, which, despite being the largest public space in Beirut, was perceived as closed and unsafe due to the presence of many foreigners.

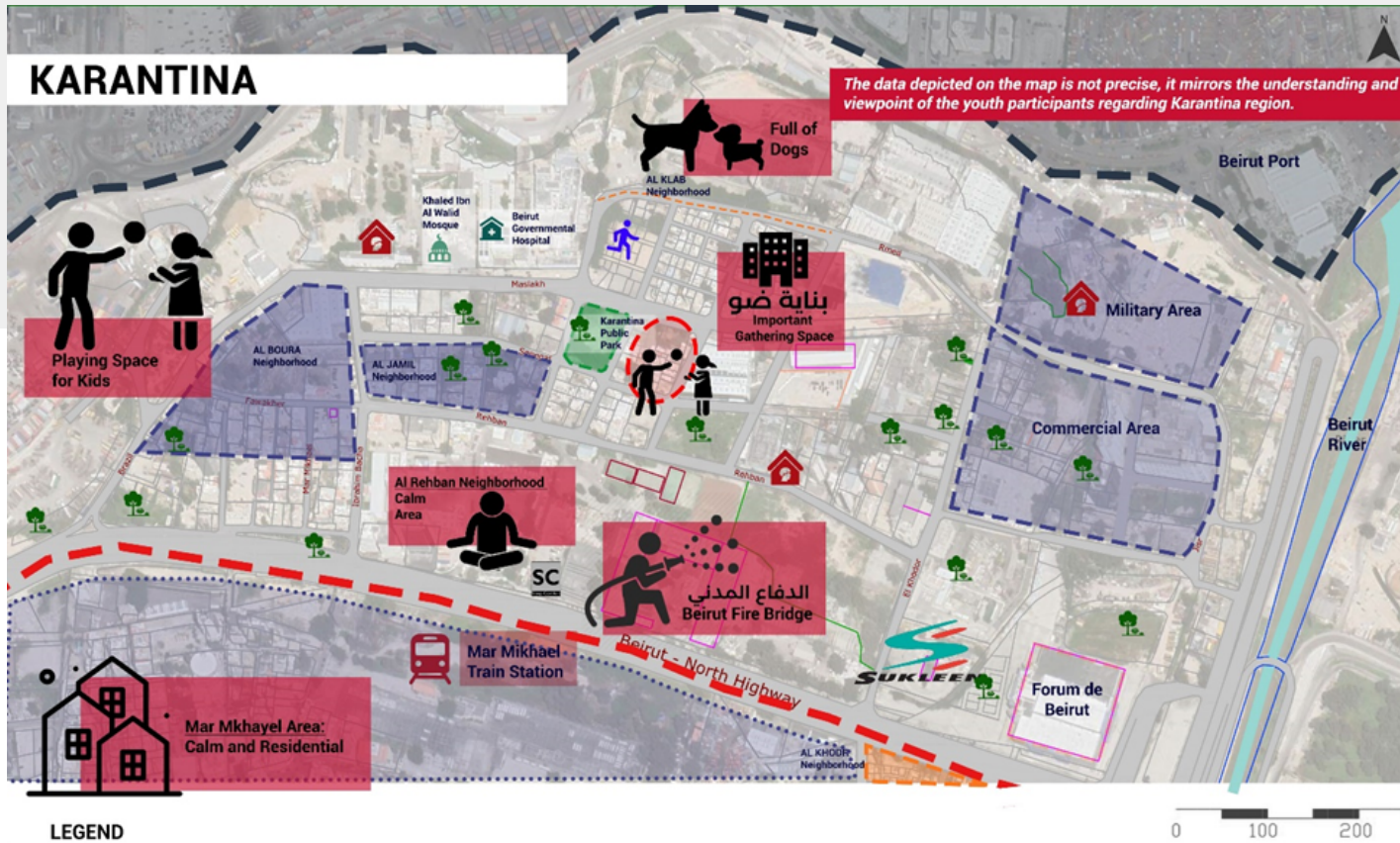


Figure 12- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1
source: NAHNOO team



Karantina

Use and Activities, Access and linkages, Comfort and Image, and Sociability



The map provided represents the landmarks, public spaces, and neighborhoods that the youth identified and mapped during the FGD 1 in their respective areas of residence. It serves as a visual translation of their insights and knowledge about the local surroundings.

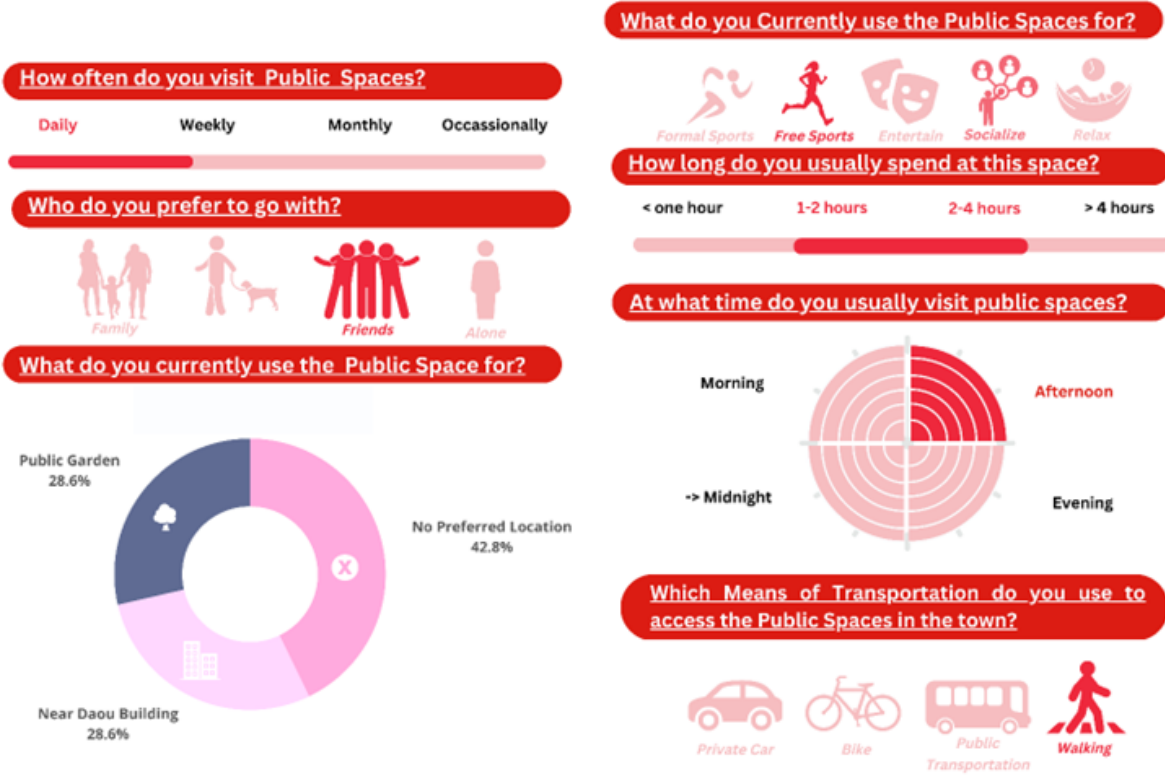
Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1

The map of Karantina drafted by youth reveals that while there are many public gardens available in the area, the youth are more drawn to the roads as a space for meeting and interaction, even though females tend to spend less time in these areas than males. Both youth and elderly people find the roads to be the best gathering space, providing a lively and dynamic social environment where people can interact, engage in leisure activities, and explore new interests. However, it is important to note that the majority of public gardens in Karantina have rules enforced by the municipality, which often results in them being closed off to the public. This limited access to green spaces may contribute to the youth's preference for gathering on the roads, as they offer a more accessible and inclusive space for social interaction.

Map 9- Youth perception of public spaces in Btater

Source: FGD1

Karantina



Clarification Section

- **Free Sports:** Includes walking, exercise, walking with the pet, bike riding...
- **Formal Sports:** Includes matches that need reservations, group, time, and/or paid
- **Entertain:** Includes Picnic
- **Socialize:** Includes Friends and family meetings
- **Relaxation:** Includes appreciation of Nature

- **Morning:** 6:00am-12:00pm
- **Afternoon:** 12:00am-7:00pm
- **Evening:** 7:00pm-12:00am
- **-> Midnight:** After 12am

• **Public Transportation:** Taxi, Bus, Uber/Bolt, Service...

Infographic 16-Findings summary related to public spaces in Karantina
 Source: Pre-Surveys

According to Karantina surveys, 42% of the respondents did not have a preferred public space in Karantina, while 28% mentioned that the public garden and the space near Daou Building were their favorite public spaces. Although the public garden is not always accessible for all, it remains the best to be visited by some. This highlights the importance of urban design and the need for public spaces to be visually appealing and attractive to visitors. It also suggests that investing in beautifying public spaces can have a significant impact on how much they are used and enjoyed.

When studying what makes the space a better public place, the majority of respondents (78%) mentioned the aesthetic of the place, followed by safety (which was the second most important factor), the level of comfort, and social activities found there. Around 51% of the respondents reach public space daily, spending around 2 hours there, especially from 4 pm to 7 pm. This could be related to school and work timing, which makes them go down to meet their friends or do some sports; and to the fact that during the daytime they use the space.

Participants in the FGDs in Karantina stated that their favorite spaces in the area are either the gardens or the gathering spaces in the streets, as well as the corners near some famous shops. It is important to note that the majority of surveyed youths in Karantina reported that they do not have a preferred space. In Karantina, locals usually gather in front of their houses, in the spaces created between the buildings, where neighbors smoke “Shisha” and drink coffee, children play, and youth gather. In addition, youth in Karantina use the Boura,” where most of the children play. It is an abandoned land, usually sandy, and is used by the locals without formal permission or control. This term was also mentioned by several participants who experienced street play/gatherings in their childhood or more recently.

It is worth mentioning that some participants stated that female youth usually tend to gather in the upper levels, mainly on the roofs, while male youth gather at ground level. Some of the statements expressed by them are the following:

“Due to the culture background of people, Females and males are hanging out in separated spaces.”

“It is difficult for male friends to visit their female friends, but it is easier for male friends to visit their female friends.”

Safety is another critical factor that affects people's use of public spaces. Although safety concerns are present in Karantina, they do not appear to be a significant deterrent to people using the public space, as more than half of the respondents said they reach the space on foot. However, the fact that over 60% of respondents said that the public space is not equally accessible to both genders is a concerning issue that needs to be addressed as respondents due to the fact that there are foreigners in the area creating some safety concerns. Safety could also be related to the absence of amenities such as lighting which always make the space unsafe.

Despite safety being a major concern in the area, this does not affect the fact that around 55% of the respondents reach the space walking. However, 62% found that the space is not equally accessible for both genders-this could be related to the fact that they go to the public spaces with friends and not alone. When asked if they come to the space with their girlfriends or boyfriends, 86% mentioned yes, but not everywhere, depending on the space and how much it is equipped. The absence of equipment makes the space uncomfortable, which is the only barrier preventing some from coming to the space with their partners. As the spaces are not equipped, and safe, around 75% showed their dissatisfaction with the space.

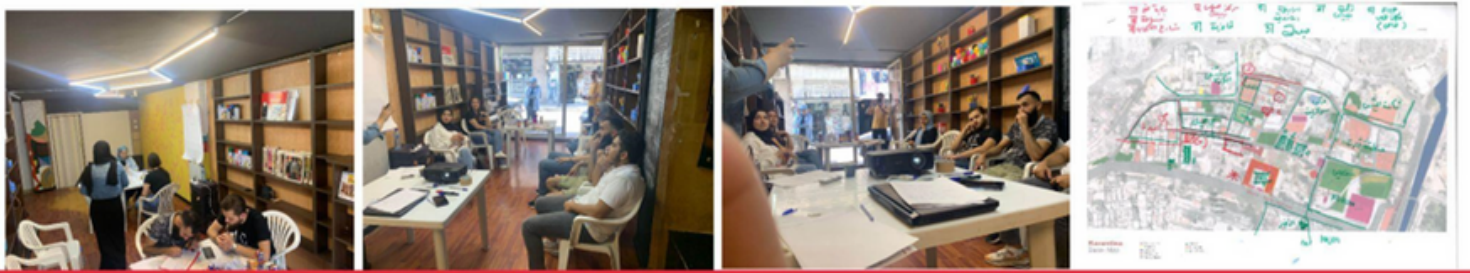


Figure 13- Youth mapping of town public spaces in FGD1

Source: NAHNOO team

II-COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Community engagement of youth is critical for the development and sustainability of any society. When young people actively participate in their communities, they gain valuable skills, knowledge, and experiences that help them become responsible and engaged citizens. They also bring fresh perspectives, energy, and creativity to community projects, which helps with developing innovative solutions to social and environmental issues and develop a strong attachment to their communities and a desire to contribute to their well-being.

Moreover, community engagement fosters a sense of belonging and identity, helping them develop a strong attachment to their communities and a desire to contribute to their well-being. Ultimately, the community engagement of youth can have a positive impact on the social, economic, and environmental health of communities, creating a more vibrant and resilient society for all.

Except for Karantina and Tarik Jdideh, which fall under the jurisdiction of Beirut Municipality, the six remaining targeted areas fall under their local authorities, or municipalities. The municipality of Beirut has no membership in a union of municipalities. However, unlike local governments in other parts of Lebanon, it closely coordinates the management of public services with government ministries. The ongoing problems that the nation is currently facing, including the economic crisis, are having an adverse effect on the municipalities. Thus, municipalities are working on addressing a number of issues to improve their capacity for implementing projects and providing basic services for the locals. Consequently, projects related to public spaces and youth are not considered a priority by most of the municipalities and stakeholders.

Collaborative efforts are noticed in some of the targeted municipalities, where they usually work with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), schools, clubs, scouts, and others. Community involvement is more obvious in some targeted areas than in others for a variety of reasons, including but not limited to communication tools, transparency, and the presence of numerous active local NGOs, clubs, and scouts, which is the case in Bourj Hammoud. Usually, the rural context as well as the municipal believe in participatory mechanism are the main factors affecting the level of community involvement such as the case in Abbassieh, Abra, and Btater.

The context of each locality is the main factor contributing to the level of community engagement, noting that Btater is the only locality with a rural context while other localities in the south are more like towns and the remaining three localities are part of the city: greater Beirut.

It is important to note that the relationship between youth and municipalities differs as per the geographical location and the context of each locality.

Youths in the rural communities communicate more with the municipality either through an existing club, as in the case of Btater, or through a local committee, as in the case of Abra and Abbassieh⁸. Moreover, there are some religious groups in Abra where youths are usually active. However, in the case of Ghazieh, for example, there is a complete disconnect between youths and the municipality, although there is a public library in the municipal building where activities used to happen before the crisis.

Knowing the importance of the involvement of youths in their communities, the DBs were trained in municipal law, civic engagement, and advocacy. Youth were engaged in the entire process. They were trained in public space concepts, participatory research, municipal law, conflict resolution, effective communication, team building, safeguarding, and advocacy, etc. DBs were able to conduct a preliminary public space mapping and contribute to the data collection about public spaces. In addition, they contributed to the negotiation with some municipalities, such as Ghazieh, Sarafand, Abbassieh and Abra.

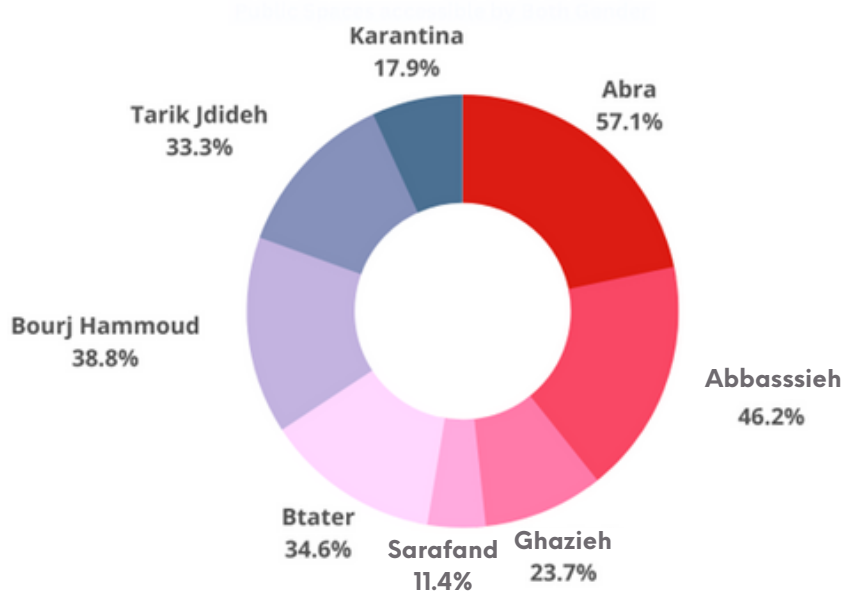
In addition, youth in Abbassieh continuously advocate for the opening of the sports playground. Youths in Abbassieh expressed their dissatisfaction with the rules and the limitations imposed by the municipality related to the opening of the sports playground and its schedule, and thus its accessibility. During the discussion with the mayor, the youths raised the objective of the opening of the sports playground and discussed the concept of public spaces as an argument in favor of their request. The mayor justified his decision as the sports playground is near the school therefore it is not possible to keep it open without control for security reasons related to the school equipment. After several discussions between youth and the mayor, it was also suggested either to assign a specific guard from the municipality for the sports playground or to pay extra fees for the school guard to keep the sports playground open all day. However, due to the limited financial resources of the municipality and priorities related to basic services provision, the mayor decided to open the sports playground at a specific time according to the guard availability. The Youths used their knowledge gained during this project, which reflects the level of benefit of these workshops in terms of both personal knowledge and local engagement.

When asking the participants about their engagement at the local level through existing organizations and established structures, it is noteworthy that in all targeted areas except Karantina, Sarafand, and Ghazieh, more than one third of youth stated that they are engaged in their communities, while the percentage in Abra and Abbassieh is around 50% or more (Refer to Diagram 27). This fact may be due to the availability of existing structures and establishments, which are mostly religious organizations and local organizations.

The availability of active organizations at the local level provides a framework for youths to be engaged in the community.

[8] Two local committees that include youths, women and community representatives were established in Abra and Abbassieh in 2019 under the MSLD process conducted by UNDP and NAHNOO where a local development plan was developed through a participatory approach and social/sport activities had been organized. The local committee in Abra is considered the communication channel between the locals and the municipality, especially since two of the Dream Builders are members of the committee.

Youths expressed their willingness and motivation to be engaged in their communities. This willingness was clearly expressed during the FGD and the workshop/ DB camp.



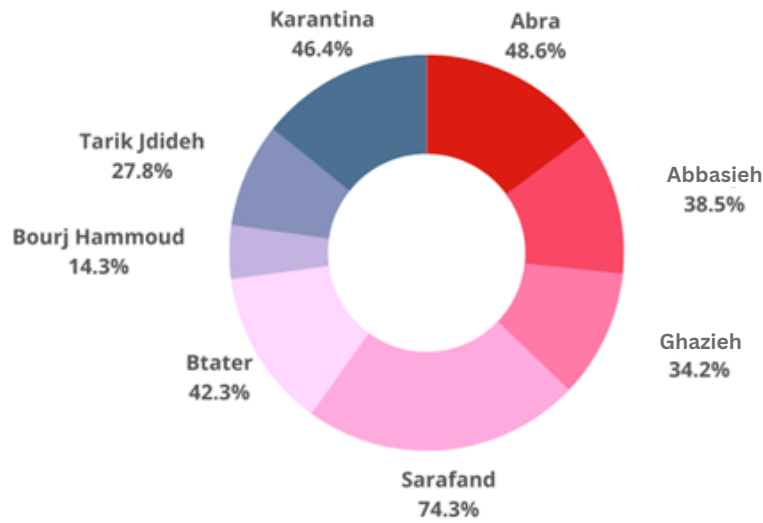
Graph 10-Percentage of youths engaged in their communities.

Source: Pre-surveys

The level of engagement of youths is also reflected in their willingness to participate in the local/ municipal election.

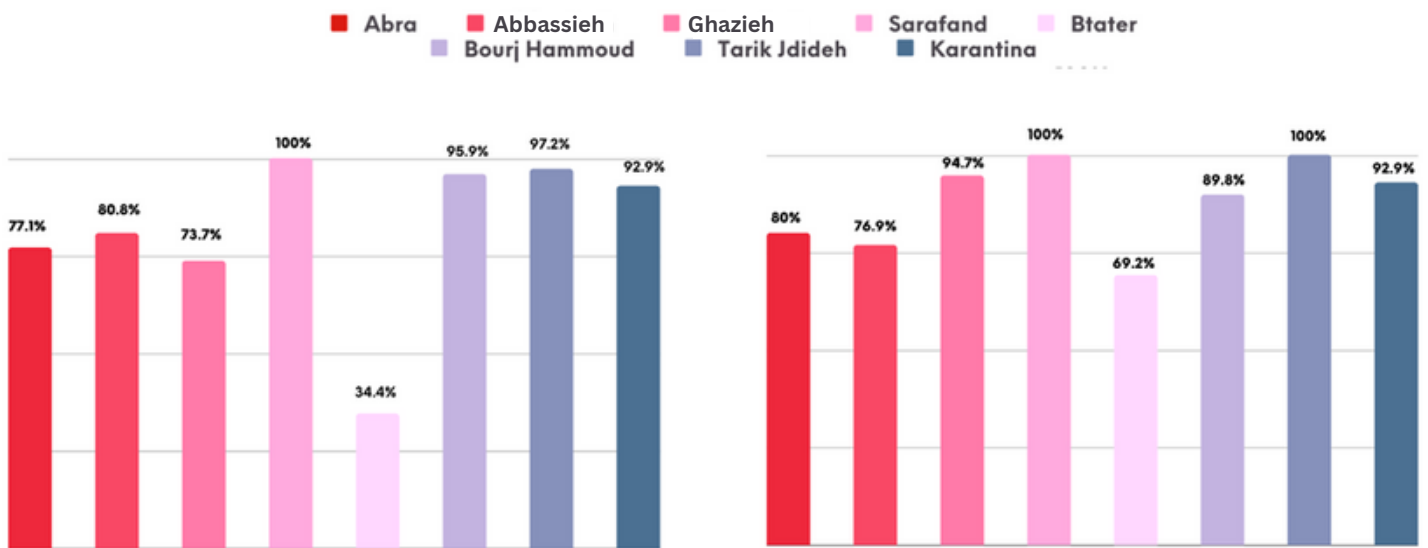
It is interesting to note that the highest percentage of youths expressing interest and willingness to participate in the municipal election is in Sarafand. The youths of Sarafand expressed several times the need for change in their community. Youths discussed with the mayor and during workshops and FGDs the need for a street library near the public garden. Youths in Sarafand expressed that they have lots of ideas for projects and interventions, especially for youths. It is important to note that there was an attempt to establish a youth municipal council (shadow council) before the crisis, but it was not successful, as stated by the mayor, because the concept of civic engagement is not very well known and this step needed previous preparation and awareness, which was not implemented. The mayor of Sarafand expressed his willingness to repeat the experience, taking into consideration the lessons learned from the first one. In addition, the mayor expressed his satisfaction with the Dream Builders, who can be a core team to support the municipality for the development of their community and for organizing activities and interventions targeting youth, especially considering the unhealthy trends towards addiction to electronic games. (Refer to Diagram 11).

“There was a youth municipal council (مجلس ظل). But if the ministry of interior is unable to control the municipalities and monitor their work, how could youths do that? The youth tried as much as possible to contribute to the municipal work. However, due to the context they are now inactive.” (Youth Sarafand)



Graph 11-The percentage of youth reported either already voted or willingness to vote.

Source: Pre-Surveys



Graph 12-Percentage of youth aware of local committees and plans.

Source: Pre-Surveys

Although all local stakeholders and mayors stated that there are municipal youth committees as well, all of them except the Btater mayor stated that they have written local development plans. It is notable that most targeted youths in the targeted areas stated that their municipalities do not have committees related to youths or public spaces/projects and local plans (at least 73%) ((Refer to Diagram 12).

Btater is an exception, where youths are aware of the existence of a municipal committee that is mainly linked to the sports field and Btater club. Moreover, youths are aware of the lack of a local development plan, which reflects the level of communication between youth and the municipality and the level of transparency, which is mainly linked to the availability of communication channels and tools and the context of each locality. Btater is the only locality considered a rural one, as the other localities are more like towns and closer to the main cities.

Even though there are established committees in other municipalities, and they were mentioned by both local authorities and some participants, such as in the cases of Abra and Abbassieh, it is obvious that the majority are not aware of their existence or their role.

Those who are aware of the availability of local development plans in their communities mentioned that they are not fully aware of the goals and the proposed projects. Also in this case, Btater is an exception where youths expressed their knowledge about the vision of the municipality and the future projects, especially those related to youths and public spaces, despite the fact that there is no written plan but just promises. On the other hand, it is crucial to mention that the mayor of Btater is aware of the importance of drafting a written local development plan for the benefit of the village.

Existing and Future plan

Source: KII with stakeholders

ABRA

- Existence of a club building and its corresponding playgrounds
- Existence of a human cadre/resources interested in the social work
- Existence of the public garden
- Building a playground open to the public
- Coordinate with schools in the area to organize different activities

ABBASSIEH

- Sport stadium
- Professional football team
- Ghazieh (Check the brochure)

GHAZIEH

- Rehabilitation of Al Ain square
- Support the sportive club
- Sportive festivals

SARAFAND

- Public Garden near Al Houssainiyeh
- Public garden is the old village part
- The covered playground (free of charge)

BTATER

- Leila Solh Playground
- Festivals
- Hiking

BURJ HAMMOUD

- Cultural center (near the highway)
- Sport complex
- Small green public spaces in the neighborhoods (green pockets)

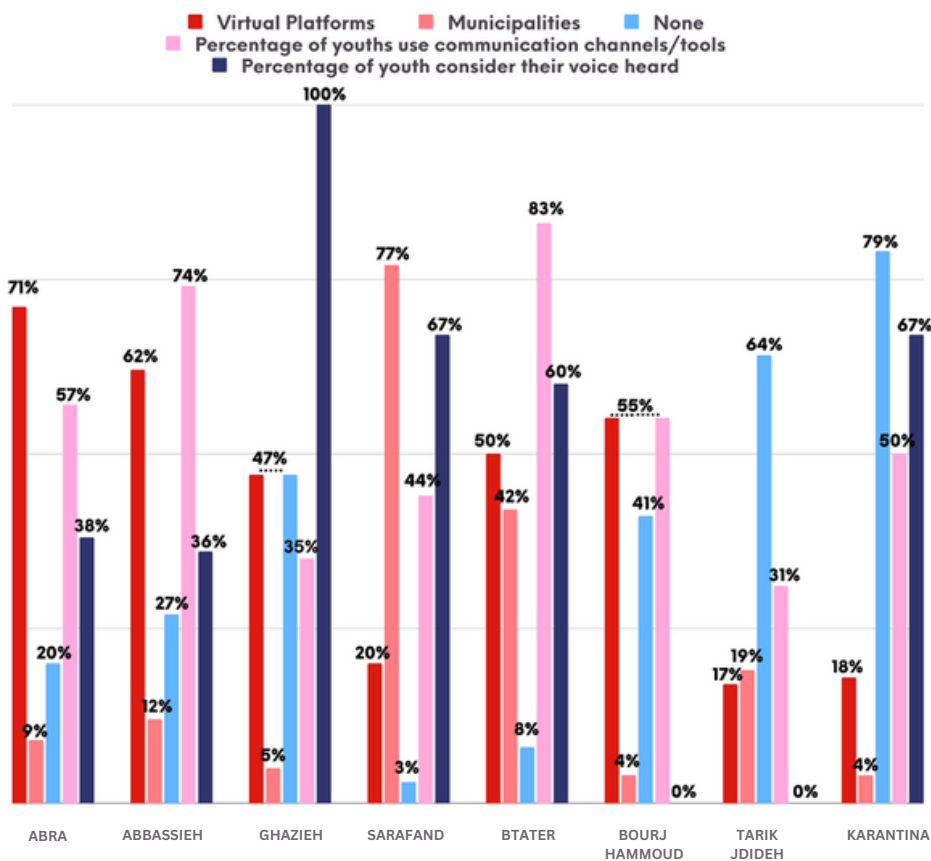
In terms of communication between the municipalities and youths, the local authorities in the targeted areas stated that there is communication between them and the locals through different channels but mainly through social media. It is important to highlight that in all areas the communication process with youths has either started or been promoted since the COVID-19 pandemic when municipalities play an essential role in their communities.

Only Btater and Bourj Hammoud municipal representatives stated that meetings are usually organized locally; the mayor in Btater expressed the importance of collaborative work with youths in all projects. In Bourj Hammoud, the local authority considers there to be a high level of communication with locals, giving examples about the Mara'ach street rehabilitation project, where the municipality formed a local committee of nine members to be involved in the management of the project. Furthermore, Bourj Hammoud municipality opened a specific TV channel especially for the announcements related to the area, which strangely was not mentioned by the participants.

In other targeted areas such as Sarafand, Abbassieh, Ghazieh, and Abra, the communication tools used by locals differ according to the entity; for example, some entities such as scouts, clubs, etc. reported that they communicate directly with the municipality through visiting and regular meetings, which was not stated by other individuals in the same areas. This privilege given to the organization's structures reflects the importance of the presence of active local organizations in the communication process.

Karantina is a special case where a local committee was formed under UNDP's process with the approval of the governor, which is trying to play the role of “bridge” between locals and the municipality.

The graph below illustrates the communication channels available in each locality and the level of knowledge of youths of their presence, the percentage of youths, and their perception of the degree of responsiveness of the municipalities. ((Refer to Graph 13).



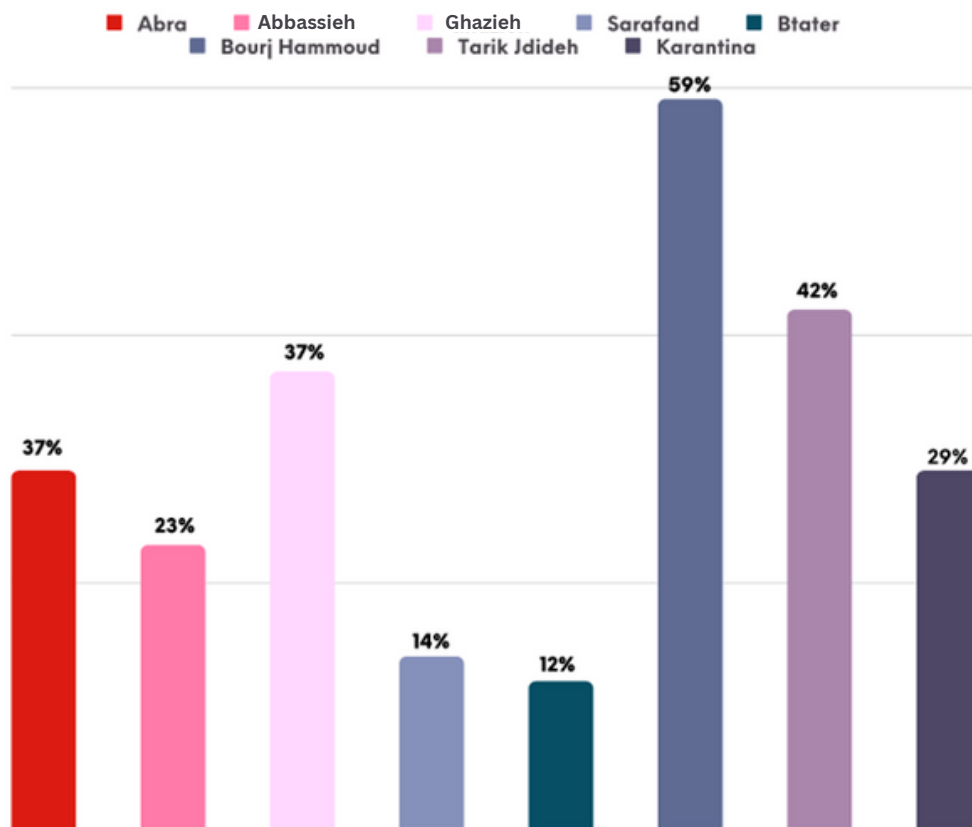
Graph 13- Youth communication tools and municipality response perception.

Source: Pre-Surveys

Surveys show that in all targeted areas except those in Beirut, at least half of the surveyed youths are aware of the communication tools available in their localities, including the municipalities as a local authority. (Refer to Graph 13). Considering Karantina and Tarik Jdideh are two neighborhoods of the capital Beirut, the low percentage can be linked to several factors such as but not limited to: the surveyed participants are not registered in Beirut and thus they do not have the right to vote and so there is lack of communication between them and the municipality of Beirut, the relationships between residents and the local authorities are more concrete in the rural context as the social context (families relations...)

It is noteworthy that there are high percentages of youths who consider going directly to the municipalities as the main communication tool, which are in the Btater and Sarafand areas. This may be due to the structures already established in both municipalities. In Btater, there is the Btater youth club, one of the communication channels that linked youths to the municipalities, which is in the municipal building. In Sarafand, the previous experience with the establishment of the youth municipal council and the family relations/ rural social context may be the factors that contribute to this high percentage.

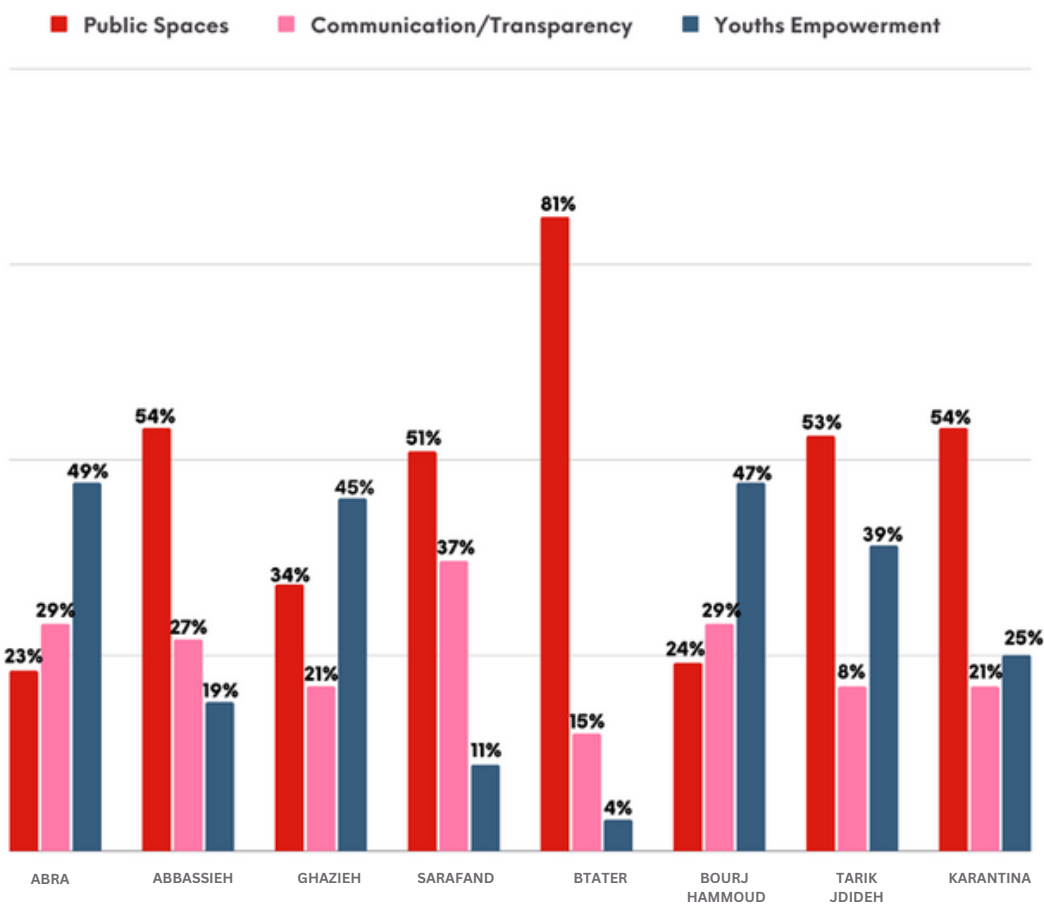
Among the surveyed youths who are aware of the availability of different communication tools in the targeted areas, there are low percentages of youth who use the mentioned tools in Ghazieh and Tarik Jdideh in comparison to other localities. However, all surveyed participants who responded that they use the communication tools available in their communities consider their requests and voices heard by the local authorities, while no one responded that their requests are heard by the local authorities in Bourj Hammoud and Tarik Jdide areas. (Refer to Graph 14)



Graph 14-Percentage of youth confident approaching local authorities.

Source: Pre-Surveys

Among the surveyed youths, it is notable that there is a high percentage of youth who stated that they do not feel confident approaching local authorities and stakeholders to suggest or ask for a solution to a community issue in Bourj Hammoud, Tarik Jdideh, and Ghazieh. While it is the opposite in Abbassieh, Btater, and Sarafand. The level of confidence of youth in approaching the local authorities is affected by several factors, as stated by surveyed youths and participants, which are: the nationality, as non-Lebanese youths consider their voices are not heard by local authorities; the perception of youths towards the local authorities; in some localities, youths consider the municipalities as images of the country and reflect the same system and political/familial structure. (Refer to Graph 14)



Graph 15- Perception of public space importance by respondents.

Source: Pre-Surveys

Among surveyed youth, it is notable that in all targeted areas, more than 60% of surveyed youth consider public spaces where people gather, discuss, and express their opinions, and the percentages reach 100% in both Btater and Sarafand. These percentages reflect the perception of youths in these localities towards the importance of public spaces and their roles. However, it is crucial to link this perception to their definition of public spaces and their favorite ones in their localities. Noting that in some areas, the favorite public or gathering spaces reported by the surveyed youths are either streets or main squares. (Refer to Graph 15)

The availability of public spaces or these gathering platforms in these localities is also reflected in the youths perceptions of the importance of these spaces, and it is further reflected in their perceptions of the role of public spaces in contributing to the promotion and communication between locals and municipalities, as shown in the graph, where surveyed youths consider the availability of public spaces as one of the most important factors in addition to youth empowerment.

“We believe that public spaces, by providing a communal area for individuals to gather and interact, can foster the exchange and development of ideas and culture. Additionally, utilizing these spaces for sports can help to reduce conflicts and delinquency within society” (Abbassieh stakeholder)

The perceived quality of public spaces appears to be strongly associated with a sense of community. The presence of high-quality public spaces in local neighborhoods, irrespective of whether used frequently or not – may be important for enhancing a sense of community amongst residents. Moreover, the approach followed by local authorities in providing locals the opportunities to engage and participate in their communities directly contributes to the level of youth engagement. Therefore, improving public spaces should be partnered with an efficient mechanism for communication and community engagement.



Figure 14-Pictures of youth involvement with local authorities

Source: DBs

III-PLAYGROUNDS:

Abbassieh, Abra, Ghazieh

Btater, Bourj Hammoud, Tarik Jdideh



(Post surveys were done only in 6 localities out of 8. The aim of the FGDs 2 and the post surveys is to have youth input and feedback and exchange experience related to the sports playground management, and as the implementation of the sports playgrounds of Karantina and Sarafand was delayed until last phase, it was agreed to have youth input through FGDs. in addition, since the Dream Builders of Sarafand were active in Ghazieh zone until the opening of Sarafand sports playground, both youths from Ghazieh and Sarfand participated in the same FGD).

1- Youth Perception of the Playgrounds

Eight sports playgrounds were either established or rehabilitated in the targeted areas. This process was preceded by several meetings with the stakeholders and field assessments done by the project team and the DBs. The DBs were introduced to the concept of public spaces and the participatory research approach in the beginning of the process.

The process was smoother in some areas than in others due to several reasons: the availability of spaces, the level of response of local authorities... Several challenges encountered the project team in this phase: in particular, the selection of the zone in light of the limited budget. Therefore, some zones were rehabilitated and equipped ahead of the others. Sarafand and Karantina zones were the latest as Sarafand zone was opened in March 2023 and Karantina in November 2022.

Despite all the challenges, the project team succeeded in opening the eight zones and implementing the weekly activities. Beneficiaries from all the areas and the surroundings reported their satisfaction and ownership for the implemented sports playgrounds and similar projects.

The trained DBs and PMs were involved in the whole process, managing the zones, and taking the initiatives to overcome all the challenges.

Outreach plans were developed by the project team, the DBs and the PMs. In most areas, all stakeholders and local organizations contribute to the outreach process. The number of beneficiaries varies due to many factors, the number of residents, the accessibility and connectivity of the zone and others.

In general, youth in the eight targeted areas were informed about the sports playgrounds through friends, schools, neighbors, local actors, scouts, social media of NAHNOO, GAME and the local actors, and other tools. It was like a snowball effect. In some areas

such as Abbassieh and Abra, youth were informed through the local committee active in these areas, In Btater for example, some youths were informed through the sport club involved in the whole process. What is remarkable is that in some areas, youth have been already active in previous zones, such as the case of Bourj Hammoud and Btater. In Bourjj Hammoud, most of the youth reported being either previously active in the Sin El Fil zone or still active in both zones in parallel, while in Btater few youths reported being active previously in Aley zone. The fact that some youths are continuously active in sports and with GAME interventions specifically is a success. The opportunities given to youth to be able to promote, and develop their skills make them feel ownership of the project and thus ensure the sustainability of this intervention.

“I used to be a player in Sin El Fil, but I am now a coach in Bourj Hammoud.”

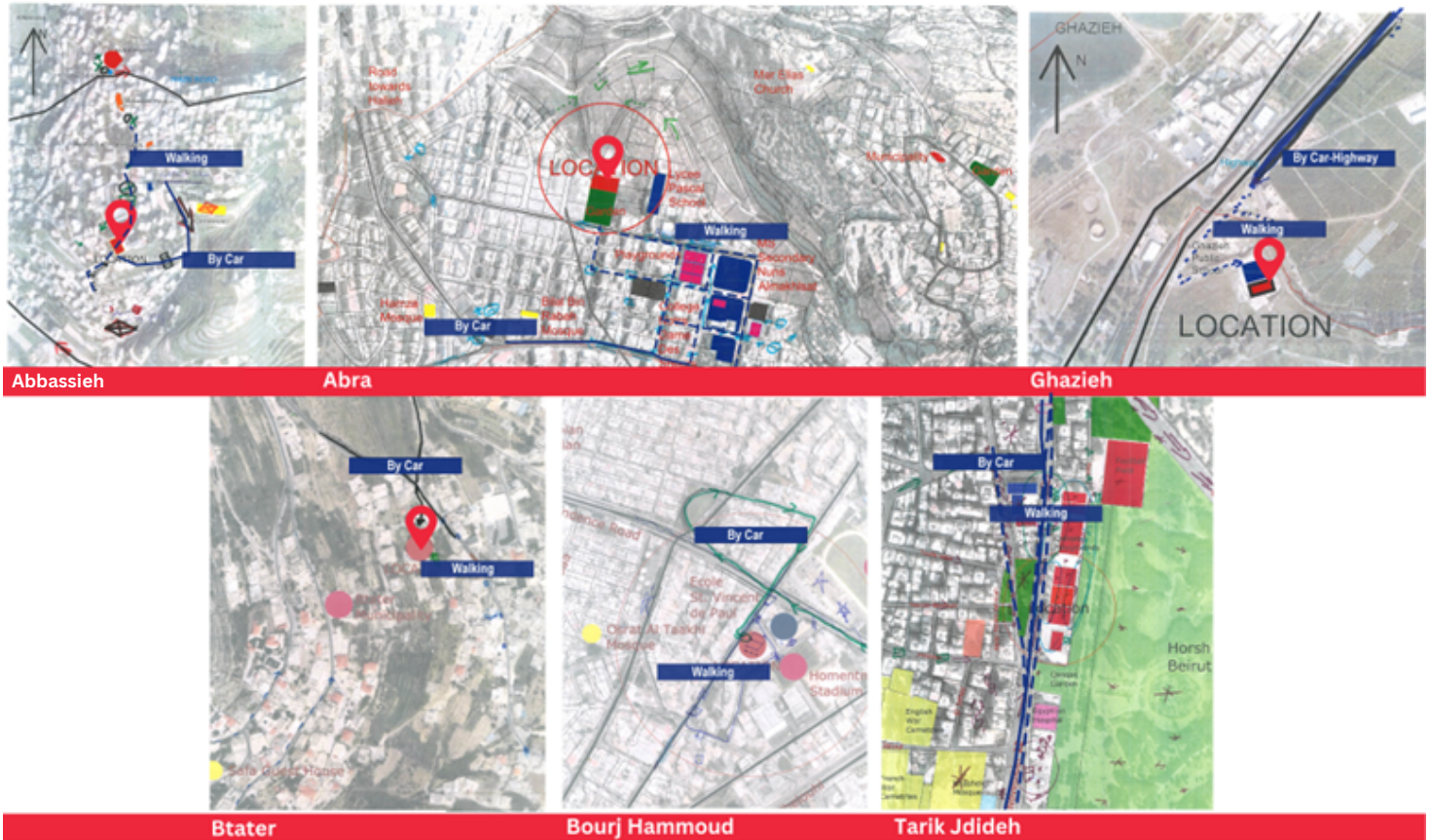
It was reported that all sports playgrounds in the eight targeted areas lack amenities such as lighting, lockers, benches, and other equipment but most importantly WCs. Participants in several areas reported dropping their training to be able to return home. In some areas such as Btater participants go to nearby houses and back to the training and in Abbassieh they use the WCs of the school, while in Ghazieh they are not allowed to use the amenities of the school.

In general, youth and children reach the zones beforehand, so they can talk and mingle together waiting for the training time, youth also buy their needs from the nearby shops and interact with the owners. The Dream Builders stated that they usually held their meetings in the sports playgrounds which reflected the sense of ownership and belonging to the zones.

Until April 2023, 3534 children had been registered in total, while the attendance rate reached almost 21317 children, from different backgrounds and ages.

LYBD NUMBERS - 5/4/2023								
Zone	Start Date	Registered Children	% of Males	% of Females	With Consent	% of Non Lebanese	Attendances	Attendance per Child
Abbassieh	6/4/2022	435	66.67%	33.33%	229	39.30%	3177	7.30
Abra	7/8/2022	292	76.37%	23.63%	103	52.43%	1463	5.01
Btater	8/5/2022	337	56.68%	43.32%	210	0.95%	2777	8.24
Bourj Hammoud	5/27/2022	952	79.52%	20.48%	428	52.10%	8533	8.96
Ghazieh	5/30/2022	726	63.91%	36.09%	478	62.55%	2746	3.78
Tarik Jdide	6/4/2022	555	59.10%	40.90%	261	47.13%	2063	3.72
Karantina	11/20/2022	237	60.76%	39.24%	107	60.75%	558	2.35
Sarafand								
Total		3534	67.83%	32.17%	1816	47.14%	21317	5.62

Table 1-LYBD Numbers
Source: GAME



Map 10- Youth perception of activated sports playground accessibility
Source: FGD1

The maps highlight the perceptions of youth about sports playgrounds. Specifically, during the first focus group discussion (FGD1), the study explored the different means of transportation used by youth to access various playgrounds. The study found that despite safety concerns in some areas like Tarik Jdideh and Ghazieh, some youth living close to these sports playgrounds still preferred to walk to the location. On the other hand, for those who lived further away from the playgrounds, the use of a car was more common.

This information is valuable in understanding the factors that influence the choice of transportation for youth accessing playgrounds. It highlights the importance of safety concerns in shaping the transportation choices of young people.

When we arrive at the different playgrounds in each area, the situation varies. In Abbassieh, the space is enclosed by a gate that only opens during school hours or when GAME Training is taking place. However, the accessibility inside is open to all individuals, regardless of their disabilities. This inclusive design ensures that people can utilize and enjoy the space without facing any barriers.

Moving on to the case of Abra, the sports playground is accessible via a street that prioritizes pedestrian safety, as it is mainly used by pedestrians rather than vehicles. Despite this advantage, it should be noted that the space itself is still not entirely safe, and this aspect will be further discussed in a later section. It is important to note that the entrance to the playground is located directly inside the net, which poses a significant safety issue and acts as a barrier to accessibility.

This design flaw not only compromises the safety of individuals using the playground, but also creates an additional challenge for those with disabilities.

In Ghazieh, there is a gate that remains closed most of the time, allowing passage only during school hours or when Dream Builders open it for training purposes. Additionally, the school gate is also closed, serving its intended purpose solely during training sessions.

The case of Sarafand highlights the inadequate road infrastructure leading to the playground, which not only poses challenges for individuals with disabilities but also creates difficulties for children. The rough condition of the road hinders smooth access to the playground.

In the case of Btater, the main barrier to accessibility lies in the presence of stairs, making it difficult for individuals with disabilities to reach and utilize the space smoothly. Additionally, the gate is sometimes closed, but it can be opened by contacting the Btater Sportive Club. Addressing the issue of stairs and ensuring consistent access to the space should be a priority.

Moving on to Bourj Hammoud, the playground is directly accessible from the road, but it presents challenges for individuals with disabilities due to the presence of stairs and a poorly inclined ramp. These obstacles create barriers and make it difficult for disabled individuals to use the space comfortably.

In Tarik Jdideh, the space is accessed through the highway, which raises significant safety concerns. The area is open to youth at any time. Inside the space, there are measures in place to ensure easy access for everyone. The dangerous nature of the highway as an access point needs to be addressed to ensure the well-being of the users.

Similarly, in the case of Karantina, the space is accessible through the highway, posing risks not only for children but for anyone using the area. Additionally, the steel ramp in place is poorly maintained, further hindering accessibility.



Figure 15- Accessibility of activated sports playgrounds in South area
Source: NAHNOO team



Figure 16- Accessibility of activated sports playgrounds in BML area
Source: NAHNOO team

Abbassieh

Do you know about the playground?



How long do you usually spend at the playground



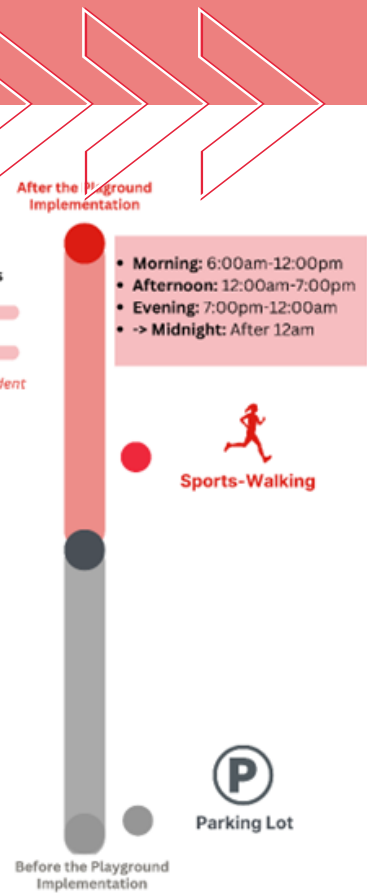
How often do you visit the playground?



Faced Challenges

The playground lacks benches for seating, does not have a ceiling overhead, without toilet facilities (WCs), and lighting.

At what time do you usually visit the playground?



Infographic 17: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Abbassieh

Source: Pre and Post Surveys

The sports playground established in Abbassieh used to be a parking lot near the school where children used to play. Abbassieh zone is one of the successful and active zones, the DBs are committed, and the activities have been implemented regularly since the beginning of the project.

In Abbassieh, 435 children registered with around 33% female and 40% non-Lebanese. The number of participants varies depending on the weather conditions; while it reaches around 120 participants per day in the summer, it does not exceed 45 participants in other seasons. Until April 2023, 3177 participants attended the activities. Based on the estimation of the DBs, the majority of the participants are from 8 to 14 years old from Lebanese, Syrian and Palestinian nationalities. It is to note that the participants in Abbassieh' zone are also from the neighboring towns such as Bourj Rahhal, Deir Qanoun and Midyas which is a great success.

On the other hand, it is important to highlight that the participants do not include youth from Shabriha neighborhood. Different reasons could be stated; first, the Shabriha neighborhood is located near the coast and thus very far from the center of Abbassieh and the location of sports playground, moreover, there is a public sports playground in Shabriha where youth usually play and therefore, they do not feel they need to use Abbassieh sports playground, finally, there is a lack of communication between the locals from both areas mainly due to the geographical division of the town. Bullying and tensions between the participants happen in Abbassieh; but the DBs were able to resolve the issue relying on previous experience with children but also stating that additional training is needed.

“One of the participants was bullied because of her weight. We talked with them, and we were able to solve the issue, and she is still playing there.”

Observations and discussions with youth stated that the space is always not accessible to the public, as this can limit the opportunities for community members to use and enjoy the space. The fact that the sports playground is located within a public school is creating a barrier to public access outside the training time, as the school may have different priorities and needs. It is important to note that a major factor of a public space is to be always accessible and available to all members of the community, to promote social cohesion and well-being. This challenge was raised by the DBs several times asking for clarification and taking the initiative to negotiate with the mayor and the school director to reach a solution, which reflects the sense of belonging and the ownership of the project.

In Abbassieh youth stated that they use a car to reach the sports playground as Abbassieh is a large town and they live far from the sports playground, and if they want to reach it by walking it takes around 20 minutes.

Considering the location of the sports playground near the school, urban furniture such as benches and basic amenities and restrooms are already existing before refurbishment. The refurbishment of the sports playground was limited to the ground and the equipment related to sport; thus, it is noteworthy to highlight that the lack of well-maintenance poses significant issues, particularly for children. Without proper seating and restroom facilities, children may have to interrupt their training and leave the area, which can compromise their safety.

The absence of cover in the sports playground area can limit its usability during periods of inclement weather, such as during the winter month when rain and cold weather can make it difficult for youth to use the space. This can be a significant obstacle to the effective use of the sports playground. Furthermore, the absence of lockers led to some theft incidents, moreover, the equipment provided by the project area was also lost. On the other hand, Female youth stated that they do not feel comfortable being alone in the sports playgrounds, mentioning uncomfortable stares from some males near the sports playground.

In Abbassieh, the sports playground is located near the school and between the residential buildings. In addition, children usually enter the sports playground outside the training time by jumping above the fences.

During the training parents usually come and wait for their children, especially during the summer. Eventhough there are no places to sit, parents either walk, wait in their cars, or stand and chat together. Small problems occurred during the training with the neighbors, not due to the noise but some children used to penetrate to a nearby agricultural land and mess with the plants. In addition, the fact that parents from nearby buildings used to watch the youth playing in the sports playground-their involvement in monitoring the activities of their children in the sports playground area contribute to a safer and more supportive environment for youth and families and in parallel creating more positive connection between the sports playground and its surroundings.

Despite all the challenges, youth stated that the sports playground is an added value for the town, it is the first public sports playground where youth from both genders play together. It is notable that 100% of the post surveyed youth reported that they know the space, while it was only 50% pre-implementation.

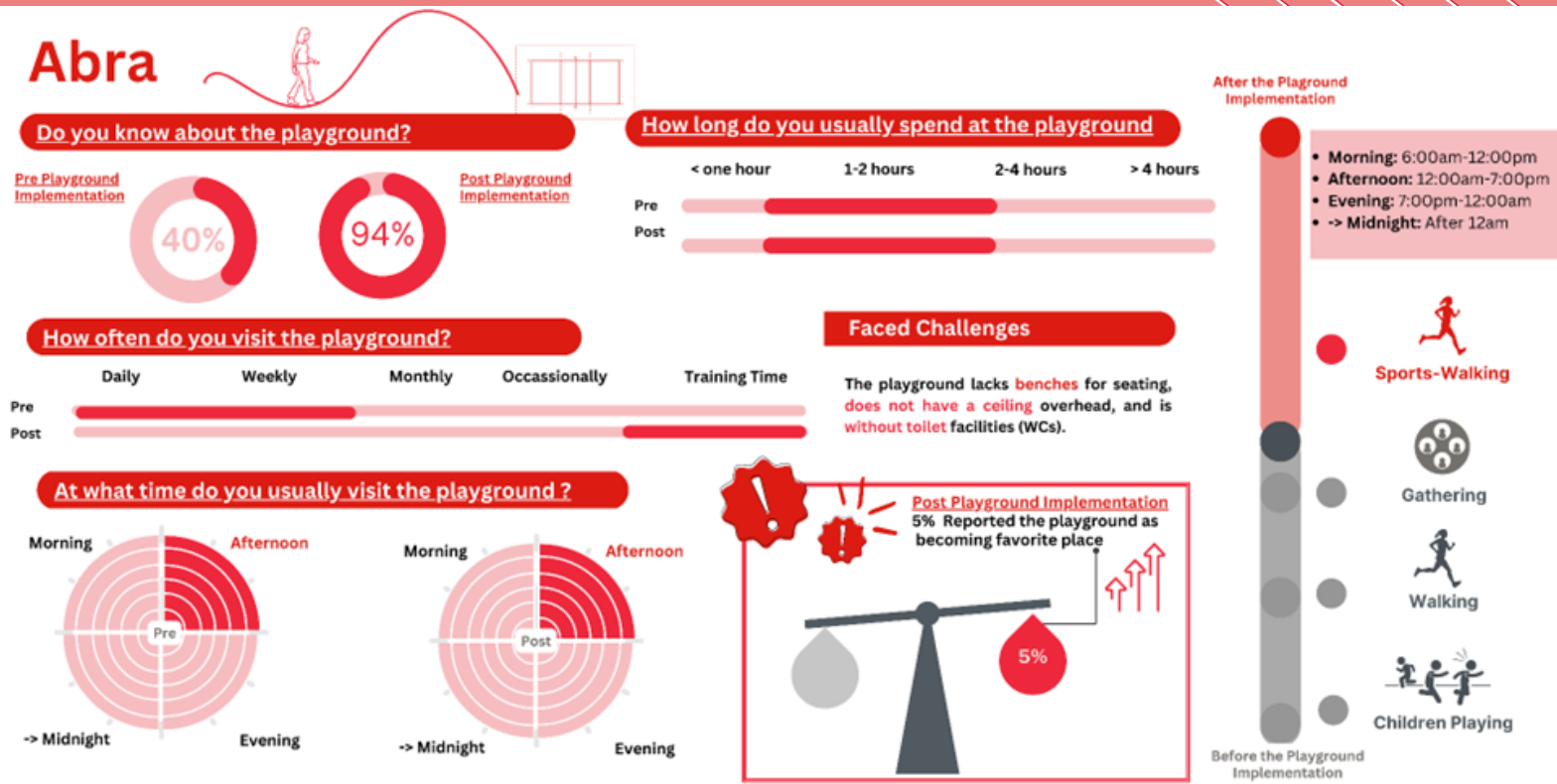
“Imagine not having this sports playground, more than 100 children will miss the opportunity to be playing in a safe sports playground” DB.

Their persistence in discussing and convincing the school to keep the space open at all times is an admirable display of leadership, ownership, and understanding of the value and importance of public spaces. Their efforts have resulted in a space that is accessible to all but not at all times, creating a positive impact on the community by providing a safe and welcoming environment for children to play and socialize. Dream Builders' commitment to this project is an excellent example of how small initiatives can lead to significant and lasting positive change in communities.



*Figure 17-Activated Sports playground in Abbassieh
Source: NAHNOO team and GAME*

Abra



Infographic 18-Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Abra
Source: Pre and Post Surveys

The sports playground established in Abra is located near the public garden; in the extension of old Abra. Discussions with youth in the beginning of the project (before implementing the sports playground) suggested that children of old Abra expressed their non willingness to interact and play with the children from the other neighborhoods, taking into consideration that Abra is socially divided the sports playground is considered the entrance to promote social cohesion through sports activities. 292 children were registered in Abra zone with 25% of them being female and 52% non-Lebanese, while around 1463 attended the activities until April 2023. The users of the sports playground are mostly from the extension of Abra aged from 4 to 16 years old, but the majority are between 11 and 15 years old. Children are from all nationalities with around 70% Syrians. Despite the fact that there are participants from both genders, some parents do not allow their girls to play, instead their children watch the training from outside the sports playground. The Dream Builders reported that the big number of participants makes them uncontrollable and that there is a need to reduce the numbers and organize training through different shifts.

Although the location of the sports playground is very convenient; between the old Abra and the extension near the public garden, the location of the sports playground poses a significant challenge to children from the old Abra who expressed in the beginning of the project their unwillingness to use the sports playground due to the social context. Participants in the FGD consider Kadmous club as their priority, having a perception of marginalization for not implementing the sports playground in the old village. Thus, accessibility to the sports playground is not the only challenge for the children of old Abra, but the social division is the main barrier.

Therefore, the DBs who were participating in the discussion decided to plan for improving social cohesion, reaching children from all neighborhoods and being sensitive towards this problem. The willingness of the DBs to resolve the issue reflects their leadership skills and level of involvement in this project which were gained through all the training and the workshops done.

“I am from Abra, I will not play with them (referring to children from other neighborhoods) I will wait for them to leave to play with my friends.” (A child from old Abra)

In Abra, youth raised the need for the ground maintenance as it is slippery and caused some incidents with the children. Furthermore, the positioning of the goal/net too close to the entrance also presents a potential danger to the participants according to the DBs.

Moreover, the fence needs to be repaired as it is ripped by the children. However, the concierge and his son, and the DBs have taken charge of repairing the net. This kind of collaborative effort and initiative is essential to ensuring the safety and maintenance of public spaces and reflects the community's ownership of the space.

As for safety, youth stated that the lack of amenities is related to their feeling of safety on the sports playground. For instance, the lack of WCs leads the participants to use the WCs in the public garden. However, the Dream Builders reported not sending the children there alone and not being able to leave the zone during the training. They consider the public garden far from the sports playground uncontrolled, and not safe for them to be alone, noting that the garden is not always open. While the garden may not always be accessible, it still offers a serene and captivating atmosphere for parents to wait for their children. The setting encourages relaxation and provides a perfect opportunity for parents to relax. The recent sighting of a woman reading the Quran while waiting for her children emphasizes the significance of the garden's presence. Considering this, it is crucial to consider the provision of additional facilities and amenities to create a more alluring and enjoyable area for visitors. By doing so, the garden together with the sports playground can become an attractive and inclusive environment that serves as a tranquil retreat from the busy outside world as well as a sportive spot.

In Abra, the Dream Builders just come for training, they do not use the sports playground for other activities, just as they do not sit in the nearby public garden. Residents living around the sports playground raised their voice against the activities and the location of the zone due to the noise, which can be one of the reasons for making the municipality close the sports playground outside training time.

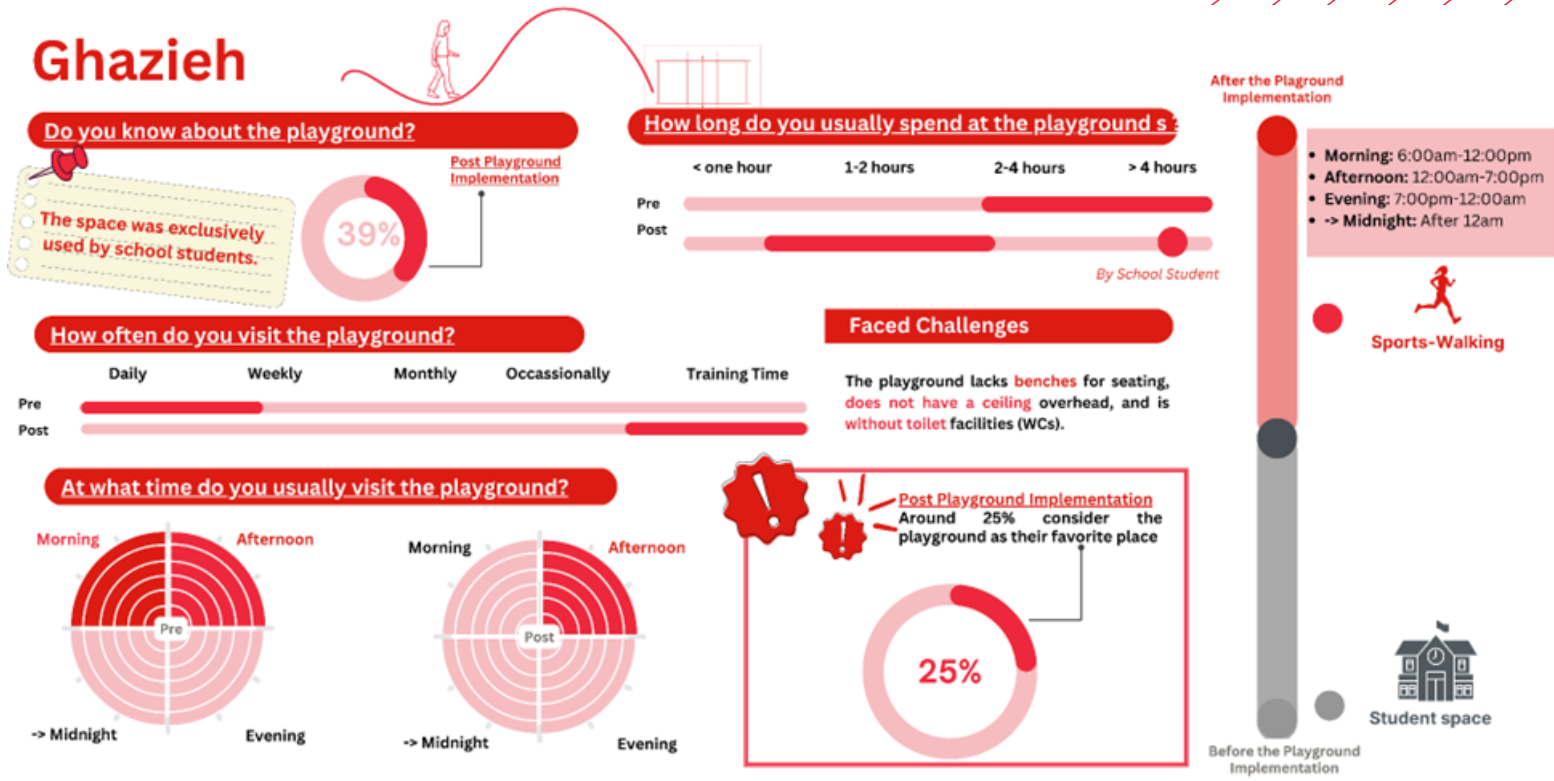
What is remarkable is that the youth of old Abra are not aware of other gathering areas and sports playgrounds in the extension of Abra, which clearly reflect the social dynamic in the town.

Despite all the challenges, while only around 40% were aware of the space before rehabilitation, 90% of surveyed youth reported that they are aware of it. The sports playground in Abra would be an opportunity to promote social cohesion, the trained youth, the regular activities as well as the involvement of youth in the whole process promote the communication between the locals. Taking into consideration the backgrounds of the participants, the sports playground can be considered as a first step towards breaking the division at the town level. Adding to that, there are several sports playgrounds in Abra the extension. However, none of them succeed in bringing youth from all neighborhoods together, like Abra Zone.

The physical environment provided a chance for young people from different areas of Abra to reunite and establish connections. They discovered that engaging in sports and team activities enabled them to interact, play together, and become better acquainted with one another. Moreover, it is worth noting the role of the sports playground in facilitating interactions between foreign residents of Abra, such as Syrians, and local inhabitants. *"When we started playing as a team with the goal of winning, we began to uncover shared interests and objectives that allowed us to better understand each other."* - Elias youth from Old Abra.



Figure 18-Activated Sports playground in Abra
Source: NAHNOO team and DB.



Infographic 19: Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Ghazieh
 Source: Pre and Post Surveys

The sports playground in Ghazieh is in the Ghazieh official school. Thus, youth from outside the school were not aware of it. Similarly, to Abbassieh, youth do not consider the sports playground as a public space as it is not open unless the school is permitted, and the security guard is present to open it.

The highest number of children registered among the area is in Ghazieh where around 726 children registered, 36% of them are female and 62% non-Lebanese. Until April 2023, the participants reached around 2746 children. However, this number leads some parents to withdraw the registration of their children. Problems used to occur among children and the Dream Builders were able to manage them by putting the children in the same team and motivating them to interact and play together. The participants are of all nationalities and the majority are from 4 to 12 years old.

The sports playground in Ghazieh is not considered easily accessible, it is located very far from the residential area, and thus participants cannot reach the sports playgrounds without a car. Therefore, carpooling was used to overcome this challenge. Youth reported that some children did not participate due to the transportation issue.

Safety is one of the issues raised by youth. As the sports playground is located far from the residential area, youth do not feel safe reaching the sports playground unless they are in groups.

It is to note that female youth are more concerned about safety than male who stated that there is no safety issue neither in the sports playground nor while reaching it. The sports playground lacks essential services, such as shelter from rainy days, which can lead to the cancellation of activities. Moreover, the sports playground does not have access to toilets, which can cause inconvenience and discomfort to kids who wish to use them.

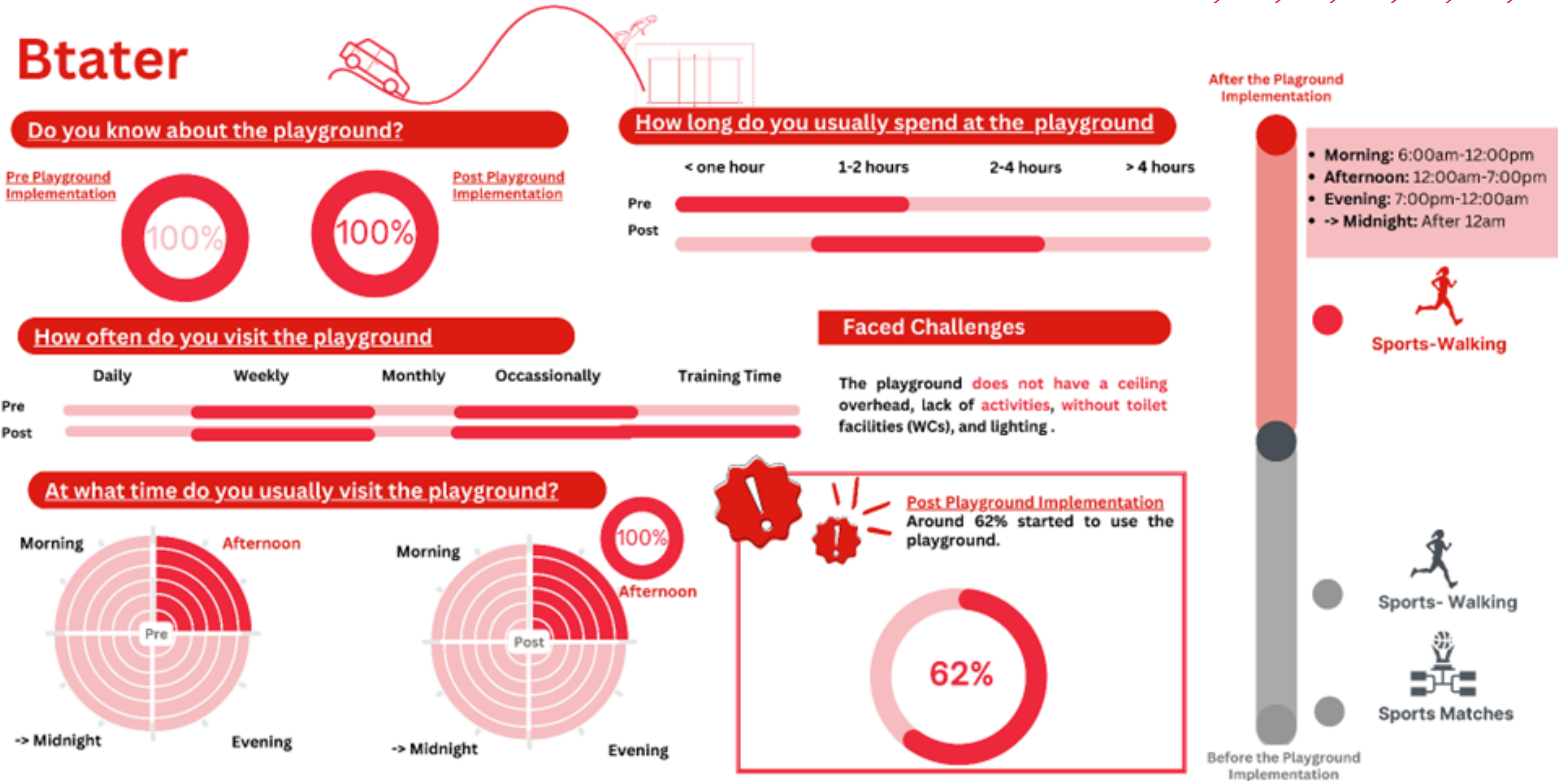
In Ghazieh, and due to the location of the sports playground, most of the parents usually wait for their children, thus another kind of interaction happens between them outside the zone. The zone in Ghazieh is a great success as 25 % of the post surveyed youth consider the sports playground as their favorite space, noting that this space was exclusively used by the students of the school and not known by the locals.

It is fascinating to observe the level of enthusiasm among the children, who eagerly awaited the training sessions to meet and interact with one another. The training sessions provided a free, stimulating, and safe environment where the children could come together to train and socialize. Youngsters from diverse backgrounds joined hands and collaborated to ensure that the training was well-organized, allowing all the children to be actively involved. Their enthusiasm for the space and the activities within it enabled them to take better care of the equipment and maintain the space. Even after the completion of the project agreement, the children were committed to keeping the space open for them to continue using it even after the GAME agreement with the school ended.

"I want to become a DB so that I can train younger children," said a 6-year-old child.



Figure 17-Activated Sports playground in Ghazieh
Source: NAHNOO team and DBs.



Infographic 20-Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Btater
 Source: Pre and Post Surveys

It is crucial to mention that in Btater female youth started using the sports playground after GAME and NAHNOO intervention, and currently they consider the sports playground equally accessible for both genders. Around 337 children are registered in the zone of Btater with 44% of them are Female and less than 1% non-Lebanese. Most of the participants are aged between 6 and 13 years old. The number of children under 10 years old varies depending on the weather conditions. It is to note that in Btater, there is a lack of participation of youth from Sebaal neighborhood, local stakeholders stated that the reason is that most of the residents live in Beirut and visit Btater on the weekends. However, youth expressed their willingness to involve the Sebaa youth in the future training.

“I will never forget the excitement feelings of the children in the first day of training” (DB)

In Btater Youth stated that they reach the sports playground by walking, and it takes between 5 to 10 minutes with them, even those who mentioned that they use their cars added that it takes them only 5 minutes to reach the sports playground, but they prefer their cars as they used to.

Youth in Btater stated that the sports playground already exists and is open for the public, and it continues in the same manner, it is free, accessible for all and used by the locals.

In Btater, youth reported the need for ground maintenance, which prevented them from doing some training and led to some incidents of injuries being detected there. Due to the cracks and lowering of a part of the sports playground, the youth have resorted to using a smaller area of the sports playground. This poses additional safety concerns, as the smaller area could increase the risk of injuries due to overcrowding.

In addition, the seating in the sports playground is not considered safe for the children and handrails should be installed. Lighting is not available in the sports playground due to the electricity cut.

In Btater, the sports playground is located between the houses. However, in contrast to what was expressed about Bourj Hammoud, the residents enjoy the play time with the children. In fact, Btater is a village where locals know each other; in addition, the participants are either living in these nearby houses or relatives of the residents. This social relationship leads to the fact that active and passive engagement are highly present in the sports playground and that the ownership feeling of the project is not just limited to the participants but also to their relatives and the nearby residents. The sports playground holds significant historical and sentimental value for the community, having served as a gathering place for many years and playing an important role in community events and activities. The memories associated with the sports playground and the events held there have become an important part of their memories and the “good old time” of the surrounding villages such as Abbey, Choueifat and others. The fact that the community was more than happy to have the space reopened and brought back to life is a testament to the importance of public spaces in fostering social connections, promoting physical activities, and providing opportunities for recreation and relaxation. During the summertime, the space also served as a gathering place for parents and elders to watch training and gather.

The positive impact of social connections and familiarity creates a safer community for youth to use the sports playground, and the fact that people in the village know each other and have a strong sense of social cohesion and shared values contributes to a safer environment for youth, which makes it a safe place for youth without the presence of cameras or any other security service.

The absence of coverage has significantly impacted the usability of the sports playground area, especially during the winter months, when weather conditions such as rain and cold temperatures make it difficult for youth to enjoy the space. This could not only provide protection from adverse weather conditions, but also allow youth to continue to use the space throughout the year. It could also enhance the overall attractiveness and appeal of the sports playground area, potentially attracting more youth and promoting greater community engagement.

While it is positive to hear that the sports playground is accessible for most residents and free of charge, it is important to consider the needs of all individuals when designing and building community spaces. This includes individuals with disabilities, who may require accommodation such as ramps to access certain areas of the sports playground. The fact that the sports playground includes four steps stairs and a high seating area that may not be fully accessible to individuals with disabilities is a significant barrier to inclusivity and accessibility.

It is important to acknowledge the concerns raised by youth regarding the lack of coverage on the sports playground. As outdoor spaces are a vital component of community life, it is essential to ensure that the space is accessible for all members at any time.

The Dream Builders' statement, *"We accomplished more than the previous generation could, and I believe that future generations will do even better, but the most important thing is to start,"* reflects their enthusiasm and belief in the significance of their efforts. This showcases how the youth organized their time and energies, remaining dedicated to working towards the betterment of their communities. As a result, they became more receptive to new people from their surroundings. This clearly indicates that the sports playground had a positive impact on the mindset of the youth, motivating them to strive to become a better version of the previous generation. It facilitated their personal development and enabled them to engage more constructively with their community. The community around the sports playground was also delighted to see the space come to life and become a hub of activity, in contrast to its previous state of emptiness.

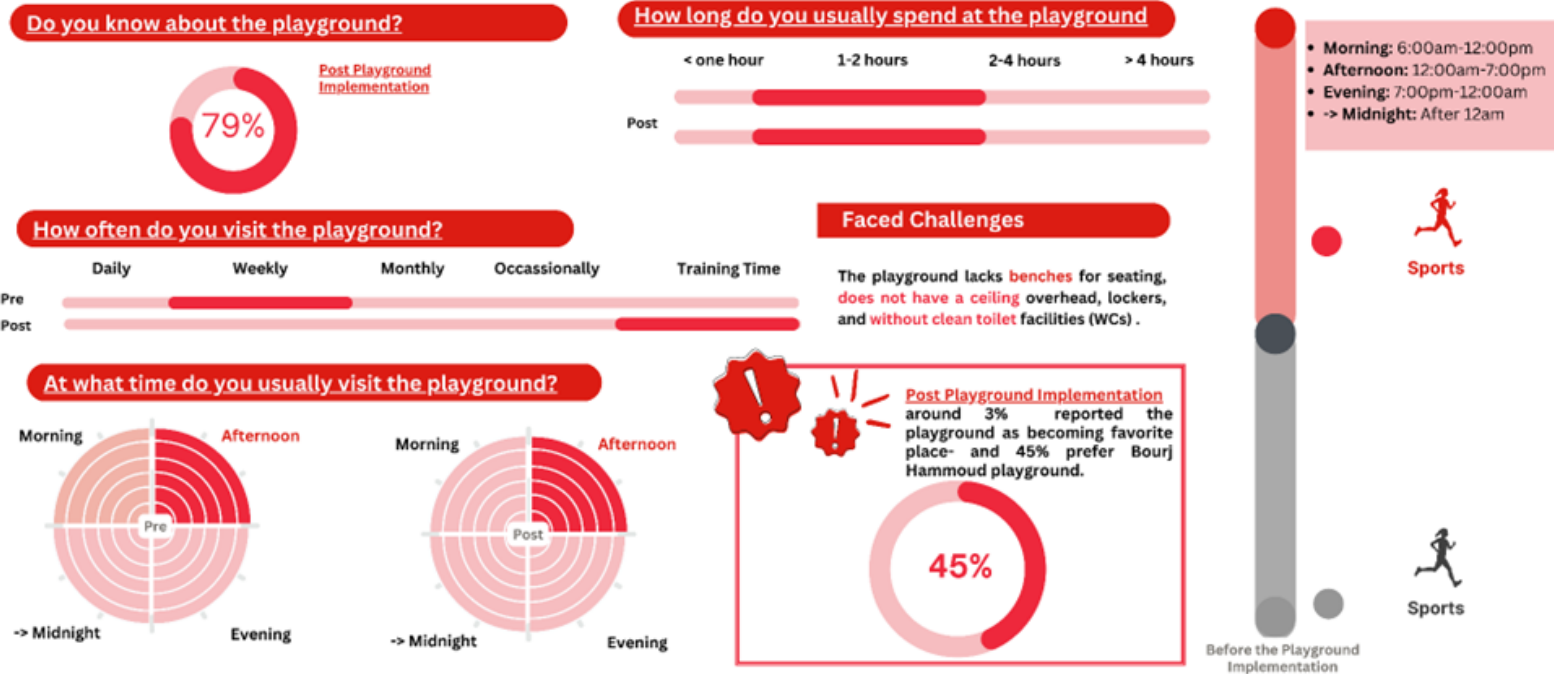
"We used to enjoy watching the children play, and we would sit on our balconies to observe them," remarked the locals.



Figure 20-Activated Sports playground in Btater
 Source: NAHNOO team and DBs.

Bourj Hammoud

Bourj Hammoud



Infographic 21-Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Bourj Hammoud
 Source: Pre and Post Surveys

When asking youth about their perception of the zone in Bourj Hammoud, a debate happened among them whether the sports playground is public or private. Considering that the sports playground is not owned by a public entity and is just opened for free during the training time, youth suggested that this sports playground is a semi-public area.

952 children were registered in Bourj Hammoud zone, only 20% of them are male with around 50% non-Lebanese. Regarding the attendance, Bourj Hammoud has the highest attendance rate among the targeted areas with 8533. The interaction between the participants from different backgrounds and nationalities is very smooth. However, the main challenge is with the parents where some parents raised their concern about leaving their children to play with other nationalities.

“I will not make my children play with them.”

On the other hand, among children, a kind of bullying happens related either to nationality or the skin color. Dream Builders stated that they were able to manage this challenge and they usually discussed together to reach a solution, However, additional training about how to solve similar issues especially with children is a must.

“When the training started no one wanted to play with one of the participants due to his skin’s color, then I started to call him by his name and introduce him to the team and the situation got better. Thus, it’s our responsibility to give “marginalized” participant a role to become part of the team.”

In Bourj Hammoud, there are WCs, however, youth stated that they do not use them at all due to the lack of hygiene which leads some children to leave the training before it is over.

The sports playground lacks lockers and participants leave their stuff on the ground.

“During the training, I lost my wallet that included my monthly salary (2,500,000LBP +\$50) and I couldn’t find it.”

After the Beirut port blast, the sports playground was affected and thus during winter rain falls into the zone, therefore the sports playground needs to be regularly maintained, equipped with lockers and rehabilitation and good management for the WCs.

On the other hand, some youth reported being more comfortable in the Bourj Hammoud zone than Sin EL Fil due to several reasons. Discussions with youth revealed that the number of participants in Sin EL Fil is high and exceeds their ability to manage, therefore that there is some sensitivity between participants that consider the zone is within their area and thus they have the priority to use it. Moreover, the youth mentioned that the zone in Sin EL Fil was more comfortable when it was open to families, which is not the case anymore.

Youth stated that the difference between Bourj Hammoud zone and Sin EL Fil zone is that the latter is in a residential area close to buildings, which leads to some tension with the residents. Furthermore, the sports playground in Sin EL Fil needs maintenance as its situation was exacerbated through the time. The lack of management was raised by youth, stating that Elderly people using the sports playground at the same time of training leads to a mess in the zone.

“The municipality is not responsive, and we are not able to do anything. On the opposite side, in Bourj Hammoud, we feel that we are the owners, we set the rules and we can manage our zone.”

When it comes to creating inclusive spaces, accessibility is a critical factor that cannot be overlooked. While the presence of a ramp may seem like a step in the right direction, it is important to consider its usability for individuals with disabilities. In Bourj Hammoud case, although the space has a ramp, the steep angle (>12 degrees) creates safety concerns that could prevent some individuals with disabilities from accessing the space. This highlights the need to ensure that ramps are not just available, but also designed and installed in a way that maximizes safety and usability for all.

In Bourj Hammoud all youth stated that the sports playground is easily accessible, they reach it by walking, and they accompany the children with them. It is also worth considering the safety implications of youth leaving the space to purchase items from nearby shops. With the road leading to the space being crowded at times, this presents potential safety risks, especially for younger children. Considering this, it may be necessary to explore options for providing essential items within the space to minimize the need for youth to leave the area.

When examining the temporary accessibility of the space, we can see that it is only available to youth with prior reservations, and they must pay to enter. This raises concerns about the inclusivity of the space as a public area. In fact, the space is only considered public during training sessions, which further calls into question its classification as a public space. While there may be legitimate reasons for reserving the space for specific groups or events, it is important to ensure that this does not undermine its status as a public area that is accessible to all.

In summary, creating inclusive spaces requires careful consideration of accessibility in its various forms. This includes ensuring that ramps are not just present but also safe and usable, identifying safe means of reaching the space, and ensuring that temporary accessibility arrangements do not undermine the public status of the space. These considerations are vital to ensuring that the space is truly inclusive and accessible to all members of the community.

Bourj Hammoud exemplifies the vibrant energy and sense of responsibility that the youth have towards their community, and their unwavering dedication to their work is palpable. One individual stated that their sense of fulfillment is dependent on their regular attendance at youth training sessions held every Friday and Saturday. Their level of engagement and commitment has been integral to the project's success. And when considering the diverse backgrounds of the residents of Bourj Hammoud, it is crucial to acknowledge that the heterogeneous population has led to an intriguing fusion of interactions among the youth involved. This mixing and mingling have created a unique atmosphere that has added richness to the training and the project.



Figure 21-Activated Sports playground in Bourj Hammoud
Source: NAHNOO team.

Tarik Jdideh

Tarik Jdideh

Do you know about the playground?

Pre Playground Implementation



How long do you usually spend at the playground?

< one hour 1-2 hours 2-4 hours > 4 hours

Pre



Post



How often do you visit the playground?

Daily Weekly Monthly Occasionally

Training Time

Pre
Post



Faced Challenges

The majority of respondents reported that **safety** was the main challenge faced in the playground, in addition to other issues such as the **lack of a covered ceiling, no toilet facilities (WC), and no lockers.**

At what time do you usually visit the playground?



SAFETY FIRST

Post Playground Implementation
The majority of respondents reported that safety was a significant concern in the playground.

After the Playground Implementation

- Morning: 6:00am-12:00pm
- Afternoon: 12:00am-7:00pm
- Evening: 7:00pm-12:00am
- -> Midnight: After 12am



Before the Playground Implementation

Infographic 22- Findings summary of the activated sports playground in Tarik Jdideh

Source: Pre and Post Surveys

The sports playground is in the Horch Beirut, where young people often gather to play sports, socialize, and enjoy the outdoors. However, despite the popularity of the area, there are significant accessibility issues that pose safety concerns for those using the space. There is a pedestrian path that leads to the sports playground, but still poses some accessibility challenges. The location of the sports playground makes it difficult to access for many, especially children, who may need adult supervision to reach the area safely. In addition, the absence of lighting most of the time at night makes accessibility unsafe, especially for females.

Around 555 children were registered in Tarik Jdideh zone with 40% female and 48% non-Lebanese. The majority of the participants are between 5 and 14 years old from the neighboring neighborhoods and from different backgrounds. It is to note that until April 2023, the attendance rate reaches around 2063.

The lack of amenities in the area is also a significant concern. There are no public toilets available, making it challenging for children and adults to use the area for extended periods. Moreover, during the winter season, the lack of a cover or shelter makes it impossible to use the space during rainy days, forcing people to cancel their activities or look for alternative locations. Another significant safety concern in the sports playground is the broken steel fence that surrounds the sports playground.

Qasqas sports playgrounds are used by youths regularly, the sports playgrounds are open to the public and so youth, children and locals use the space in different ways. While youth and children play sports other locals spend their time watching the activities, walking, relaxing and socializing. Building on an existing space in Tarik Jdideh contributed to the success of the project.

The chosen location has proven to be a successful space, due to its various amenities, including green areas and sports playgrounds, which have allowed for increased interaction and gathering among the youth involved in the project. The fact that the space is always open, and available to all, has added value and fostered a better understanding of the potential of public spaces. This approach has created a welcoming environment for youth to gather and take advantage of the free services offered. It is easy to observe youth playing and enjoying the space at any given time.

“To sum up, it was a wonderful experience to see the children coming every week, and their joy and their parents’ satisfaction with the training.” By using this sentence, Tarik Jdideh ended up describing their experience in the sports playground. This demonstrates how a small initiative can have a major impact on society, highlighting the importance of community building. The project not only provided a safe and enjoyable space for children to play and learn, but it also brought people together and fostered a sense of community ownership. Through this project, the youth involved were able to develop valuable skills and take on leadership roles, which will undoubtedly benefit them in the future.

The insightful perspectives given by young people on public spaces, particularly activated sports playgrounds, showed their deep understanding and appreciation of these communal areas. They emphasized the importance of ensuring safety and accessibility for all users, while also recognizing the challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in fully utilizing these spaces.

The young people acknowledged the presence of certain issues, such as safety concerns, inadequate amenities, and challenges like bullying during playtime. Despite these difficulties, they still considered the space to be interesting, successful, and a place they could call their own. This highlights the sports playground's role as a refuge where young people can escape and spend time in a space that feels belongs to them.

Interestingly, the youth mentioned that they interact with one another without any discrimination based on nationality or religion. However, they observed that some parents tend to engage in such discriminatory behavior (such as refusing that their children play with other nationalities).

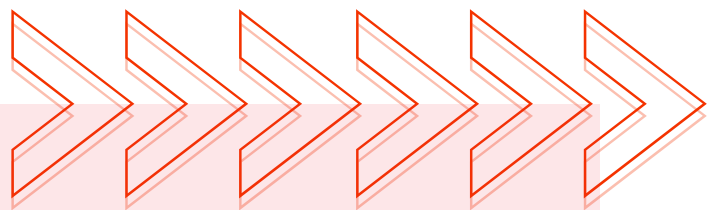
By expressing that "the space is ours," the youth conveyed a sense of shared ownership in the activated sports playground, reflecting the vital role it plays in fostering a sense of belonging among children. This inclusive mindset extends to the amenities and facilities available, with the young individuals showing that the needs of all users, regardless of age or ability, must be met to use these facilities.

The perspectives shared by the youth highlight the importance of designing and maintaining inclusive, accessible, and welcoming sports playgrounds and public spaces. By considering the diverse needs of users and promoting a sense of belonging and encouraging an inclusive and non-discriminatory attitude among all members of the community, including parents.

communities can create environments that are hugely beneficial and enjoyable for everyone, despite the challenges that may arise. Overall, Tarik Jdideh's experience is a testament to the power of small-scale community initiatives to bring about positive change.



*Figure 22- Activated Sports playground in Tarik Jdideh
Source: NAHNOO team*



2- Sustainability of the Sports Playgrounds

All youths raised the concern of the sustainability of the zones. While in some areas, youth suggested management mechanisms to ensure their sustainability, in other areas youth were not motivated due to the challenges and the barriers encountered in the process.

In Abra, youth consider the sports playground to be not sustainable due mainly to the level of cooperation of the municipality. Youth raised their concern about the municipality being unresponsive to their request and thus they somehow lost their confidence in changing or reaching their goals. They expressed their worry about the sports playground being solely open for rented matches/games. Youth in old Abra consider Kadmous club as one of the priorities. According to youth, the rehabilitation of Kadmous club and linking the project to the club is crucial for the sustainability of this intervention. And following a series of discussions, the municipality decided to limit the opening of the sports playground to only three days per week - Friday, Saturday, and Monday - with operating hours from 3pm to 6pm. The sports playground will be open to the public free of charge for play and training during the designated hours. Outside of those hours, youth will need to pay to use the sports playground.

In Abbassieh, youth suggested collaboration with the existing club to ensure the sustainability of the sports playground. In addition, youth expressed their motivation to develop the project and establish a formal basketball team.

For Ghazieh and Sarafand youth, it is important to organize additional activities in the sports playground and to make all the area more viable through adding kiosks, benches, and other amenities. In Ghazieh, youth mentioned the need for another zone near the residential area to be more accessible and safer. Sustainability of the sports playground is not guaranteed as per youth since the school administration is the actual reference. Furthermore, some youth in Ghazieh expressed the willingness to link the library in the municipality and the sports playground and they consider the active participation at both levels a must to sustain.

In Btater, the vision of youth related to the sports playground is to make it known and accessible not only for the locals but also for youths from surrounding areas. It is to note that there is a collaboration between youth, municipality, and the sport club in Btater, which.

In Bourj Hammoud, Youth consider continuing in the same process is a must, they are planning to train the participants to have potential future Dream Builders.

In general, it was clear the positive impact of the sports playgrounds on youth. They stated that these activities are very important for the mental health of the participants. They share cases where children and participants change their attitude throughout the intervention, become more confident, sociable, and comfortable being in a group. Local actors consider these sports playgrounds crucial for youth, especially in the light of the crisis.

It is recommended by youth to extend the activity types in the sports playgrounds. Several ideas were suggested such as dancing classes, psychosocial support training sessions, old street sports, cultural events, outdoor activities...

In addition, youth recommended making the sports playground livelier through drawing on the walls and writing their perception and their ideas.

When asking if there is a need for more similar spaces in the same area, all youth stated that their areas lack these facilities and these kinds of activities and there is always a need for similar interventions. Youth in Abbassieh have concerns related to the sustainability of the sports playground due to its location, they stated that if the security guard is outside Abbassieh they will not be able to play as he has the key, they expressed their readiness to manage the sports playground despite all the challenges.

In comparison to their previous experience of playing either in the sports playgrounds or in the streets, Youth expressed their satisfaction with the zones and the sports playgrounds. However, some youth also consider playing in the streets more enjoyable and makes them feel free. Playing in the streets brings them lively memories with friends and they expressed being the owners of the space and thus the rules were set accordingly. They all added that the ball owner has specific privileges.

“There is more freedom in the street” (Abbassieh)

“The street was a starting point for our experience” (Btater)

“The ball owner is always in the stronger team, and he is the team leader. He decides when to begin and when to stop and he does not follow the game rule.” (Bourj Hammoud)

“When I was young, I used to occupy the neighbor because I had the ball. I prefer to play in the streets because I have more memories and I feel freer” (Bourj Hammoud)

“We used the door of the building as the goal frame” (Bourj Hammoud)

Agreements are made with the municipalities and the relevant stakeholders to ensure the efficiency and the durability of the projects. Taking into consideration challenges related to the location of some sports playgrounds and the involvement of several stakeholders in the process, a specific approach is a must. To summarize, sustainability of the project is mainly related to the local authorities and the stakeholders' approach with the involvement of the DBs and PMs.

IV-CASE STUDY:

Abra- "Al Hay" playground



Abra serves as an example of many Lebanese villages that experience tensions and conflicts among different parts of the community. This case has garnered significant attention and has become a focal point for study. The purpose of the study is to highlight the significance of public spaces within each village, especially for the youth. Despite the existing tension, these spaces provide a platform for young individuals to come together, interact, and form connections. The importance of such spaces becomes apparent as they enable us to understand the needs and aspirations of youth and incorporate them into the planning and design process. The youth are aware of their requirements and strive to create a "perfect spot" that embodies a sense of freedom and provides them with a space to enjoy and cherish.

Furthermore, these public spaces also foster a sense of ownership among the youth. They develop a deep attachment to these spaces and feel a responsibility to advocate for and protect them. The youth actively engage in efforts to safeguard their spaces and ensure that their needs are met. This ownership not only empowers them but also instills a sense of community pride and belonging. By involving the youth in the planning and decision-making processes, we can create spaces that truly reflect their aspirations, fostering a stronger sense of ownership and encouraging their active involvement in maintaining and preserving these vital community areas.

Absolutely, the Hay playground serves as a prime example of the critical need for such spaces in our communities. It highlights the importance of providing dedicated areas for youth to have their own space, where they can freely express themselves, socialize, and engage in activities. The selection of Abra as a case study is particularly relevant because the researcher is from the area and is intimately familiar with its social context and challenges. This firsthand knowledge and understanding of the community dynamics contribute to a more comprehensive study, shedding light on the specific needs and experiences of the youth in Abra. By focusing on this specific location, the research can provide valuable insights that are directly applicable to addressing the unique circumstances and requirements of the community.

Abra is a village that has always placed foremost importance on its public spaces, which serve as significant gathering places for the local community. Despite the numerous changes that took place over the years, including the division of the village into two parts - Old Abra and the extension of Abra, the youth in Abra have continued to utilize these public spaces as a venue for a wide range of activities. However, there seems to be a lack of interaction between the youth in the two parts of the village, as those in New Abra are not using the public spaces in Old Abra, and vice versa.

One of the most notable public spaces in Abra is the "Al Hay" sports playground, which was once an abandoned area in the village. However, the youth recognized the potential of the space and decided to take matters into their own hands.

They collaborated to revitalize and update the playground, transforming it into a vibrant and dynamic public space that serves as a hub for their activities. This playground serves as an excellent case study to highlight the importance of public spaces in community engagement and empowerment.

As we go through this case study, we will focus on the usage and importance of public spaces in the extension of Abra. We chose this sports playground as an example because it is an already existing public space in the area. It demonstrates the value of youth's engagement and empowerment in shaping public spaces, promoting a sense of ownership, and belonging, and fostering community development. The Al Hay playground has become an essential part of the daily lives of the youth in Abra, and it is an outstanding example of how public spaces can be utilized to promote social cohesion and enhance the quality of life for the entire community.

It is worth noting that the case study of the "Al Hay" playground and the importance of public spaces in Abra was conducted by a local member, Nivine Hachicho, an anthropologist, who has a deep understanding of the village and its community. As a result, the study provides a valuable and insightful perspective that highlights the role of public spaces in promoting social cohesion and community development in Abra.

"Al Hay" playground

This study allows us to highlight the question of an anthropological place / non place, the idea that anthropologist Marc Auge worked hard in his book "non-Places", in defining the criteria for non-place to derive the aspects of the "anthropological place".

It is the anthropological place, the land of memory, interactions, and intertwined relationships between the people of this land. This definition and this land may be the neighborhood, the school, or the entrance to the building or in our case the public playgrounds. It is the way through which individuals interact with and behave towards the place is what decides whether the place is anthropological or not. Therefore, in this study, we are looking through the anthropological lens to examine the sports playground of the neighborhood in which we live, which we will call the "neighborhood sports playground" to see if it is an anthropological place to make it a model for comparison with the "association sports playground." We do this to decide if we benefit from the possibilities provided by the anthropological places of building a cohesive, open to other opinions, homogeneous, and diversified local community.

Any study on public sports playgrounds for children and young people presents an idea of what the place can offer towards society and its members. the place's importance springs from its ability to embrace the organic relations that are created between the individuals of a neighborhood or a region, to be a space laden with customs, traditions and cultural heritages that together creates the unconscious structure of these individuals.

Nevertheless, several potentials and dynamics must be realized to transform any place into an interactive place that reflects the culture of its inhabitants.

If the place was relational in nature, it allows the group to be identified without the need for first-hand knowledge of its members. That is because it creates a unique character that distinguishes this group from others.

Public spaces have significant importance and a special role in building society, especially children and young people. Because it often makes up the first line of confrontation for those with the other-any other-within the same society.

Abra is a town in the eastern suburbs of Sidon, it went under a residential expansion because residents from the city moved into it. It became divided into two parts. The first one known as Abra Al-Dayaaa (the town), comprised of the town's arena and the houses around it which are exclusively – some exceptions exist- inhabited by town's people. The second part is known as Abra is comprised of the lands surrounding the town which the people of Sidon urbanized due to an increase in their population. Here it is worth noting that Abra with it is two parts houses both Christians and Muslims. Christians reside exclusively inside the first part, while Muslims reside in the second part or what is came to be known as The New Abra. In this town we are faced with the complications created by this situation as a reflection echoing the bigger picture in Lebanon.

We will address this point to highlight the sources of sectarianism and the role of 'common 'public spaces in alleviating its effects.'

The importance of public spaces grows when public sports playgrounds are spread across neighborhoods, where children and young people are given an excellent opportunity to communicate and interact with the other. They also get to express themselves and practice their ideas, beliefs show their home upbringing in the street.

These places have a fundamental role in building and polishing their personalities and preparing them to engage later in wider societies such as high schools, universities and even the job market that in our society may include children and minors.

The age group that we are talking about includes minors and young people from the age of seven years to the age of twenty years (because this is the age group that we saw the most in the neighborhood sports playground), and it is also the group that carries the seeds of rebellion, and it is also when their personalities are formed. These sports playgrounds become a fertile space for their experiences.

These places are backed by the ideas, traditions, and beliefs of everyone who comes to them. These traditions as a whole form a "colletif "that forms the individuals' consciousness within the community, so we see these children and young people coming to the same place filled with a sense of belonging to it and to each other. This does not mean that their ideas are identical, but the general collective situation is like an umbrella that covers the masses under it. Therefore, even the ones who do not completely belong to this "mentality" (of ideas, beliefs, and educational methods) find themselves unintentionally under this umbrella mingling with others.

It is worth mentioning that some differences do exist, but they do not for a majority, this in turn forces all sorts of thoughts to interact as smoothly as possible.

In talking about the Abra municipality sports playground project in cooperation with the association, we are in fact talking about an existing sports playground in one of the neighborhoods of the town of Abra. Through describing this sports playground and placing it into its general social context, we are aiming to conduct a comparative study that helps in determining the need of children and young people for places like that.

The "neighborhood sports playground" is in the neighborhood in which I live, which allows me to closely see it and witness its various social, cultural, religious, and economic aspects, i.e., everything that results from movement to and from it. (This sports playground is between residential buildings and is visible to pedestrians, children, and parents, in contrast to the association's hidden sports playground, which divides play between basketball players and football players, as there is no basketball ring in it.)

It is a medium-sized sports playground, modestly qualified, but it suffers visible damage, such as its broken floor, open sewage pipes, or holes in one of its walls. On the other hand, it is fenced with iron wires that hide it from the road and protect children who play in it from speeding cars. This aspect is a key factor in making it a safe place for parents to encourage their children to visit and play in.

In addition, it is surrounded by residential buildings making it all the time under the watch and supervision of the parents and the elderly, which is supposed to be a deterrent to children and young people from acting outside the moral, socially, and religiously acceptable frameworks. The existence of this sports playground does not necessarily mean that the children of this neighborhood stop from playing in the street between speeding cars, but the presence of a safe sports playground increases the encouragement of parents for their children to play in the neighborhood.

Despite the modest condition of this sports playground, and its old equipment which need maintenance, it still creates a venting arena for the children of the neighborhood nearby area, and gives them options to play football, basketball, and other sports that children may want to try, since they are in a safe place away from the road.

The importance of such sports playgrounds grows in societies such as the ones in Sidon, since arts such as drawing, dancing, playing music and singing are costly and considered to be "feminine" and males steer away from them.

As we have mentioned earlier, public spaces are of high importance for children and young people in adolescence and beyond, given the rebellious tendency at this age, in addition to the number of problems and differences that arise at homes between children and their families.

For all these reasons, public spaces have become a way out for both parents and children. It also becomes a way for communication and positive competitiveness among children and young people.

These equipped, free, and away from roads' sports playgrounds help the parents to encourage their children to go there. Some parents look at the existence of such a sports playground in their neighborhood as an advantage which they need to keep reminding their children of it.

For children, since they did not choose parents or schools, these sports playgrounds may become their first free choice collective activity. They choose who to befriend and communicate with and who become their enemy (in a childish sense) to play against to develop their skills. They also create their ideas and translate them directly into the way they play with others on the sports playground. In these places they are also introduced into ideas different from what is common and taken for granted, and then enter their internal challenges in either accepting or refusing these differences.

Another great importance of these sports playgrounds is that they are free. Since they are free, this does not help in maintaining them which in turn makes their overall condition worsen by time, but they alleviate some of the expense's parents must pay. They also provide an alternative for "video games" cafés, which are full of cigarettes and long sessions in front of screens.

These sports playgrounds bring children and young people of the poor class together. Parents, from middle classes and higher, tend to push away their children from mingling with children from lower classes through providing costly means of entertainment. These places also serve as a way of eliminating the competition among classes through showing off expensive clothes and shoes. We can easily see children going into these places wearing their pajamas without any embarrassment. Children here try protecting each other's emotions, since they feel that they form a small community within the sports playground. A place they did not build, but they feel responsible for maintaining it. This juxtaposes the overall situation in paid sports playgrounds.

This is what the boys and young people who go to these sports playgrounds expressed in a chat I had with them. They always do minor maintenance to the sports playground, the bare minimum, to keep it operational and open to them. And this is what really happened when one of the sewage pipes exploded in the sports playground. They rushed to try to fix it and communicated with an influential neighbor so that the municipality help with fixing it. To keep the sports playground operational, these young boys buy the needed nets for the two goals and the basketball ring from their own pocket money. Since they don't have a lot, they end up buying low quality brands that soon will be out of service again.

Throughout these chats, ideas that control their minds and behaviors did emerge such as sexism, where boys see that these sports playgrounds are a free space for them to shout profanities and use bad signs which they will not feel comfortable doing if girls came to this place. They also do not prefer the concept of boys and girls mingling together.

Here I go back to the importance of such sports playgrounds, which often grew organically within the neighborhood, and they were managed by children and young people who come to them, to have a responsible management that take the above-mentioned consideration in to account and dismantle them and defy stereotypes.

Contrary to that issue, there is another issue that these boys and young people deal with positively is an idea that associations and authorities concerned with public sports playgrounds and young people may benefit from, which is the normal mingling that takes place between “Lebanese,” “Syrian” and “Palestinian” boys. They all meet in the sports playground, without asking about nationality and country, so they play and have fun without judging nationalities, displacement, and asylum. Although these children might be subjected to bullying because of their nationality, living in the neighborhood creates a safety net that works on protecting them against such attempts and often succeed in doing so.

It is worth noting that Syrian children in particular go to the sports playground in the morning since they go to schools only in the afternoon. While in the evening everyone goes to the sports playground. We are mentioning this detail as it is a repetitive pattern even in non-curricular activities through entertainment programs only to Syrian children. This in turn does not allow for spontaneous mingling among children of the same neighborhood.

A fundamental factor is lacking in this arena, which is the factor of religious mixing. It is rare for the people of Abra Al-Dayaa to visit this sports playground, perhaps because they do not know of its existence. The municipality which is trusted by everyone can play a significant role in introducing this place into everyone so that children and young people from Abra Al-Dayaa go to it and get to know the others who go there in a healthy form of competitiveness.

How can this place be classified as an anthropological place?

If the place is a land of shared memory governed by organic relationships that bind its visitors, then it is an anthropological place that has an interactive form of relationships between children and young people. Since every anthropological place and every societal situation is framed within a specific time and place, this place creates around it a network of relationships and roles circulated among its members which affect several aspects of their daily lives whether being political, economy, religion, or education, ...etc.

Among the manifestations of these relationships, we find the relationship of children and young people with the residents of the surrounding buildings, as they spend long periods of their days on the balconies watching the children play and ready to intervene to stop the children from doing anything or bring down the noises they make and sometimes to root for a team.

The neighborhood shop "Mini Market Fadi" is adjacent to this sports playground, as its back door is located opposite the sports playground. This back door is supposed to be a private door to the shop's warehouse, yet you find children using it permanently to enter and exit the shop, and even to cross to the other side of the neighborhood. since the shop's other door is located on the other side of the neighborhood. This shop has turned into Shortcut in every sense of the word. On the one hand, it is a geographical shortcut for passing from one side to another, and it is also a shortcut for children to get their food and drinks. Where children go in and out throughout the day to buy sweets and drinks so without being obliged to pay right away as they may come the next day to settle the payment.

The location and design of this shop created a close relationship between the owner and the children. It is two-ways relationships where the owner finds himself in the position of looking over these children. He sometimes tries to intervene in the way they speak so that they do not curse God or use profanities, while at the same time laughing and playing with them. This has turned the owner into some form of a mentor where the children resort to resolve some of their problems. On the other hand, he profits from selling candies and drinks and other items since the mothers of these children buy from him.

These children and through the relationships they have created with the shop and the neighborhood always get excited about public events. When the month of Ramadan approaches, they gather and plan to decorate the neighborhood with lights. In the past few years, they used to collect money from each other to buy decorations and ask the permission of the electricity generator to feed the decorations lights with electricity. You find children who believe and those who do not all working side by side to hang Ramada decorations to bring around a state of collective joy.

The children here get in touch with children from other neighborhoods and encourage them to create teams to come and play in the neighborhood's sports playground in an atmosphere of innocent competitions. They admit defeats as much as they admit wins. But this does not mean that these children do not fight sometimes with each other over wins or defeats. The situation may sometime escalate to physical harm. This mirrors the dynamics of the neighborhood: who is stronger, who is more connected, who bows down to who.

We conclude this study by noting that the use of the place in the way that the children in the neighborhood used, has redefined it and put it within the framework of a shared space, the land of memory and history that has its distinctive normal relationships. The mechanism created by the children in a spontaneous way allowed for a normal flow of relationships between this neighborhood and the rest of the area. This mechanism must in turn reflect the needs and aspirations for these kids allowing us to identify the needs of these neighborhoods.

Here we blame the state, who knows the importance of such places, but insists on ignoring its necessary and urgent role in securing these places, equipping them, and opening them to the public.

The question is whether this is intended to preserve the form of the current existing power system that tends to differentiate between people and popular classes whose concerns and living conditions are likely to remain linked to clientelism and the idea of the sole leader?



Figure 23-"Al Hay" Playground
Source: NAHNOO Team

V- CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS



People's movement patterns are typically governed by the amenities and design features of the space, which can be understood by keeping track of users' behavior patterns as well as the kinds of activities they engage in there. This can help in comprehending how the space's features enhance people's activities and spatial utilization for a particular type and group of users.

The space can be made more accommodating for various user groups and at various times of the day and week by addressing these shortcomings and making the necessary design provisions.

It can be realized that public spaces should not only be regarded as a luxury, but also as a crucial element that must exist to improve the quality of both the town and the people's lives.

“First we shape the cities — then they shape us.” (Jan Gehl)

Public spaces play a crucial role in the development and well-being of young people. They offer opportunities for socialization, physical activity, and cultural enrichment, which are essential for healthy growth and development. Public spaces provide a safe and inclusive environment for youth to engage in various activities, including sports, arts, and community events. These spaces also foster a sense of belonging, identity, and civic responsibility, as they encourage young people to engage in the public life of their communities. It is recommended that a successful public space should take into consideration four basic characteristics: 1) There has to be a reason for people to go there, 2) There has to be a reason for people to want to stay once they've arrived, 3) People in the space have to feel safe and comfortable, 4) The space has to be welcoming and accessible to everyone.

The regular uses of public space are changing from necessary to optional and recreational ones. The need for appropriate, well-designed public spaces, democratic, and meaningful and where people choose to spend time is increased by this change in role. These spaces should give people a place to unwind, mingle, and participate in public life. People view public areas as places where they can "escape." Thus, Public space not only improves the quality of life in the neighborhoods it surrounds, but it can also attract tourists by acting as a grand space, which inevitably boosts the local economy. A socially diverse public space is where children, women, older people, low-income groups, and people with different educational backgrounds are able to attend and use.

In addition, when talking about Lebanon, which has a rich history of public spaces and community activities, particularly those associated with the sea and public gardens. Many elderly individuals have fond memories of gathering with loved ones in public spaces for picnics, games, and other recreational activities.

Unfortunately, in recent years, many of these public spaces have been lost or privatized, resulting in a decline in community activities and a sense of disconnection among residents. This has led to a growing interest in understanding what constitutes a public space and why they are so crucial for building strong and healthy communities. Karantina for example is one of the areas that was known for its public activities, such as diving, fishing, and others. However, due to privatization and a lack of understanding about our rights and the importance of public spaces, these areas have become private, resulting in the loss of an essential source of entertainment, economy, and public rights. Therefore, it is critical to raise awareness about the importance of public spaces and prioritize their creation as an essential aspect to highlight for youth and future generations. Doing so will help to preserve what is left of public spaces, develop more sustainable spaces, and support the growth of strong and connected communities.

Local authorities play a key role in shaping public spaces and determining their functions and uses. Based on this study, it is important to mention that when local authorities prioritize and invest in creating attractive, accessible, and safe public spaces that cater to the needs of youth, it sends a message that these spaces are valued and considered important, which can encourage youth to engage with and appreciate these spaces. This can influence their perception of these spaces positively. For instance, youth may feel that the public spaces in their community are more welcoming, comfortable, and enjoyable when they are designed with their interests and preferences in mind. Conversely, when public spaces are neglected or not designed to meet the needs of youth, they may feel unwelcome or marginalized, which could lead to negative perceptions of these spaces and to the role of the local authorities at the same time.

Despite all challenges, the sports playgrounds opened in the eight targeted areas are considered as a success for most of the targeted youth. Although the sports playgrounds target youth and children, the beneficiaries are extended to their relatives, families, and friends. Active and passive engagement are obvious in several areas, which reflect the positive impact of these sports playgrounds on the local community. Since the beginning of the process, youth expressed their willingness to participate in all steps, the mapping of public spaces, the negotiation with local actors, the workshops and training sessions show their commitment and ownership to this intervention.

Based on this study, youth perceptions and preferences concerning public spaces and specifically the sports playgrounds strongly affect their actual use of such spaces. For them, these spaces must include aspects like visibility and self-presentation in public space, as well as comfort, relaxation, passive engagement, active engagement, and discovery.

The provision of benches along the sports playgrounds also gives opportunities for passive engagements to the people to relax, observe youth and children's activities, and interact with each other as well as with the surrounding environment. Features that support passive engagements are equally cherished by the youth. Sheltered canopies also serve as relaxing and resting spaces. Here it is important to note that location and design of sitting arrangements tend to strengthen the symbolic connection of people with space.

Perception differs with respect to gender as well. For instance, in some areas, young male use public places for meeting friends and recovering from everyday stress whereas women are more sensitive towards safety concerns and facilities.

Perception of safety, whether the public space is considered to be safe strongly affects the extent to which it is used. Answers have asserted that perception of safety is highly correlated with the openness of the environment and youth prefer areas where the circulation of the public is more. Taking into consideration the safety factor with respect to the sports playground context, it is not only the safety against anti-social elements but also involves safety from the space's elements. Hence, good infrastructure, lighting, security system and other amenities are crucial. Consequently, taking the essential safety countermeasures to ensure the safety of the visitors is of utmost importance.

Considering youth and especially the DBs as the leaders of this project, it is important to ensure the sustainability of these sports playgrounds. DBs and other potential ones must be trained on several topics related to communication and the way to deal with children to be able to resolve the issues faced by youth during the training time. Furthermore, the framework agreements content related to the management, maintenance and other components must be shared with the DBs to be able to lead the future steps, thus an exit strategy to be developed with the involved stakeholders is a must. Communication with the actors who have participated in the construction of the sports playground is an important aspect of its sustainability and in securing care of the constructed sports playground. Just like during the planning of the sports playground's design, it is important to involve children and youth and to monitor their use of the sports playground, in order to receive feedback and potentially adjust certain elements of the constructed sports playground to the present needs and circumstances.

To insist more on the role of youth in public spaces management and sustainability, even in the absence of designated public spaces, youth have a natural inclination to create and design spaces that fulfill their basic needs for socialization and interaction, such as the case of Al Hay playground, and street corners among many other examples. This innate drive highlights the fundamental human need for communal gathering places. The presence of dedicated public spaces becomes vital in meeting these needs more effectively and providing a safe and inclusive environment for youth to connect, communicate, and engage with one another. Such spaces foster a sense of belonging, promote social cohesion, and contribute to the overall well-being of individuals and the community as a whole. By recognizing and supporting the creation of public spaces, we can enhance the opportunities for youth to thrive, express themselves, and actively participate in the social fabric of society.

Opening sports playgrounds is an opportunity for the locals to gather, as well as for the wider public, children and their families to use the sports playground. This is an exceptional opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of inclusion of children once again with disabilities/developmental delays, as well as of the needs of children to have public spaces that facilitate socialization, play and recreation. It is crucial to replicate the interventions in other areas and different neighborhoods.

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VII-ANNEXES



Annex I: Survey Targeting Residents and Mainly Youth	I
Annex II: FGDs with Youths- Guiding Questions	V
Annex III: Guiding questions (semi-structured interview questions)	VI
Annex IV: Observation Tool	VIII
Annex V: FGD2 with Youths-Guiding Questions	XI
Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1	XII
Annex VII: List of Interviewees and Participants in the FGDs	XXIX

Annex I: Survey targeting residents and mainly youths.

(Before implementation and after implementation)

Section I - profile (PRE)

1-Name

2-Gender

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

3-Age

- 15-18
- 18-25
- 25-35
- >35

4- Nationality:

- Lebanese
- Syrian
- Palestinian
- Other

5-Survey location

- Abbassieh
- Abra
- Ghazieh
- Sarafand
- Karantina
- Bourj Hammoud
- Qasqas
- Btater

Neighborhoods: Divide the towns

6-Link to community

- Live in this town all year long
- Work on this town
- Born in this town
- From this town but I don't live here all year long

7-Level of education

- University
- Technical/ vocational
- Secondary school
- Primary school
- None

8- Occupation

- Student
- Employed
- Self-employed
- Unemployed
- Other

9- Do you have any type of disabilities?

- Yes
- No
- I do not want to answer

10- Marital status

- Single
- Married
- Divorced
- Other

11- Do you have children?

- Yes
- No
- NA

12- Number of children

- 0-2
- 2-4
- >4
- NA

13- Ages of your children (check box)

- 0-5
- 5-10
- 10-15
- 15-18
- >18
- NA

14- Do you have a car?

- Yes
- No

Section II – Public spaces (PRE)

We are interested in understanding how you feel about the public open space in your neighborhood.

1- What makes a good public space for you? (Check box)

- Beautiful space
- Social activities
- Level of Comfort
- Flexibility of use
- Accessibility
- Safety
- Creativity
- Free of charge service
- Availability of internet
- Availability of amenities (toilets...)
- Lighting
- Other? Specify:

2- Below is the list of public spaces in your town:

(To be listed)

3- Are you aware of other public spaces or spaces that are used by youths as public?

·Yes

·No

Specify: location, street name, type....)

4- In general, how satisfied are you with the public spaces in your town?

- 1 – 2- 3- 4- 5

5- What is your favorite public space in your town?

(Name, type, location)

Why?.....

6- What do you currently use it for?

- Walking/exercise
- Walking the pet
- Bike riding
- Formal sport
- Appreciation of nature
- Sports playground use
- Picnic
- Meeting friends
- Other? Specify:

7- At What time do you usually visit public spaces?

- 6:00-9:00
- 9:00-12:00
- 12:00-4:00
- 4:00-7:00
- 7:00-12:00
- After 12:00

8- How often do you visit these spaces?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasionally
- Other? Please specify.

9- How long do you usually spend in this space?

- < one hour
- 1-2 hours
- 2- 5 hours
- > 4 hours

10- Do any of the following factors currently limit your stay in the space?

- Limited variety of play opportunities
- Lack of furniture such as seating
- Lack of shade/Shelter
- No access to toilets
- No lighting
- Security/Safety
- No Cameras/Guards
- Other? Specify:

11- Which means of transportation do you use to access the public spaces in the town?

- Walk
- Ride a bike
- Private car
- Services
- Informal taxi? نمرة بيضا
- Taxi
- Minibus
- Uber/Bolt...
- Other, specify

12- Are public spaces in your area equally accessed by gender?

·Yes

·No

13- Who do you prefer to go with?

- My friends
- My pet
- My family
- Alone
- Others.....

14- Do you feel comfortable going with your Girl/boyfriend to public spaces in your area?

·Yes

·No

Why?.....

15- Choose which are applicable on public spaces from the list below: (check box)

- There is an infrastructure problem in the public spaces
- There is a number of incidents in the public spaces in the town
- There is a number of open public spaces with free of charge in the town
- There is a number of open public spaces with limited access (opening hours)
- The public spaces are accessible for all gender
- The public spaces are accessible for all ages
- The public spaces are accessible for people with disabilities
- The public spaces are accessible for all nationalities
- I feel safe when I go to the public spaces during the day
- I feel safe when I go to the public spaces during the night
- I feel safe when I go to the public spaces alone
- I feel safe when I go to the public spaces with someone
- I feel comfortable when I go to the public spaces if there are cameras or concierge

Explain:.....

.....

*Questions about the selected space (TBD)
(Add the location, map, and a picture) (PRE and Post)*

1- Do you know this space?

- Yes
 - No
- This space is used by locals for: (check all the applicable options)

- Walking/exercise
- Walking the pet
- Bike riding
- Formal sport
- Appreciation of nature
- Sports playground use
- Picnic
- Meeting friends
- Other?

Specify:

2- Do you visit this space? (If yes continue with the below questions if no specify why and go the section III)

- Yes
 - No
- For what?
- Walking/exercise
 - Walking the pet
 - Bike riding
 - Formal sport
 - Appreciation of nature
 - Sports playground use
 - Picnic
 - Meeting friends
 - Other? Specify:

If No, why:

3- You go with:

- My friends
- My pet
- My family
- Alone
- Others.....

4- At What time do you usually visit public spaces?

- 6:00-9:00
- 9:00-12:00
- 12:00-4:00
- 4:00-7:00
- 7:00-12:00
- After 12:00
- Other?

5- How often do you visit this space?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Occasionally
- Other? Please specify.

6- How long do you usually spend at this space?

- < one hour
- 1-2 hours
- 2- 5 hours
- > 4 hours

7- Do any of the following factors currently limit your stay at the space?

- Limited variety of play opportunities
- Lack of furniture such as seating
- Lack of shade/Shelter
- No access to toilets
- No lighting
- Security/Safety
- No Cameras/Guards
- Other? Specify:

8- How do you access this space?

- Walk
- Ride a bike
- Drive
- Public transport
- Other? Specify:

9- Are there barriers that stop or limit you accessing this space?

- Yes
- No

10- What are they?

- Too far to walk
- Steep topography of local area
- Significant barrier (busy road...)
- Other? Specify:
- NA

11- Choose which are applicable on this public space from the list below: (check box)

- There is an infrastructure problem in this space
- There is a number of incidents in this space in the town
- This space is free of charge
- This space is accessible all the time
- This space is accessible for all gender
- This space is accessible for all ages
- This space is accessible for people with disabilities
- This space is accessible for all nationalities
- I feel safe when I go to this space during the day
- I feel safe when I go to this space during the night
- I feel comfortable when I go this space if there are cameras or concierge

12- In what ways, if any, do you think this space could be improved?

.....

13- Anything to add?

.....

We are interested in understanding how much you are engaged in your neighborhood.

1- Have you ever worked together with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community where you live?

- Yes, within the last year
- Yes, but not within the last year
- No, never

2- With: (check box)

- Religious organization
- Political organization
- An environmental organization
- Health organizations
- With local elites
- Others? Specify

3- Do you vote in local elections?

- Yes
- No
- NA

4- Is there a municipal committee? (For example: committee for the public spaces, youth committee etc.)

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

Specify:

5- Do you know if your council has a local development plan?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

6- Are you informed about its goals?

- Yes
- No
- NA

7- What are the platforms that exist in your area to be engaged in the community?

- Town hall meeting
- Mobile application (WhatsApp...)
- Website
- Online social media (Facebook, twitter...)
- Hotline phone number
- Municipality
- None
- Other

8- Have you ever used any of these platforms?

- Yes
- No

9- Do you discuss about public services delivery with your municipal council (including public spaces)

- Yes
- No

10- Was your opinion heard by the council?

- Yes
- No
- NA

11- Do you feel confident in approaching the local authorities/local NGOs to suggest or ask for a solution towards a community issue?

- Yes, because I feel equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools
- Yes, because I am well connected in my area
- Yes, Others
- No, I am not sure
- If no or not sure (please specify)

12- In your opinion public spaces are the places where

people gather and express their opinions and discuss?

- Yes
- No

13- Can you think of anything that might facilitate good relations between community members from different backgrounds in your area?

- Open and accessible public spaces and sports facilities
- More communication with the municipality
- More transparency from the municipality
- Youth empowerment to actively engage in the community
- Other (please specify)

Optional:

Email:

Phone number:

Annex II: FGDs 1 with youths – Guiding questions



Introduction: In your opinion, what makes a good public space for you?

Presentation of the map of public spaces and validate the info with the participants.

- Can you divide the area into neighborhoods?
- How do you describe each neighborhood in the town?
- List all the public spaces in the town/ village
- Who are the users of the public space?
- List all the spaces used by youth as public (street, inner spaces, courtyards, alleyways...)
- Why do you use these spaces?
- How often?
- When do you prefer to use them?
- Do you feel safe in these spaces? Why?
- Do you feel more comfortable if there is a camera, concierge...?
- Which one is your favorite public space in your town/ village? Why?
- Is the space associated with any accomplishments or conflicts?
- Which one is your favorite place (even if it is not public) Why?
- Who manages these spaces?
- Rate the services/ amenities in the public spaces (toilets, lighting....) Discuss what you need to have in these spaces to feel more comfortable?
- Is the space accessible by anyone outside of the neighborhood?
- Is there any fence in these spaces? Do you prefer to have fences and to be controlled or open?
- Is there any unpleasant odor/smell (regarding air quality) that interferes with the user experience?
- After discussion, what makes a good public space for you in detail. (Elaborate each of the following points) accessibility, use and users, amenities and furniture, comfort and safety, environmental component.
- (We may ask the participants to draft sketches about their favorite place)

Presentation of the survey

Annex III: KIIs– Guiding questions (Semi-structured interview questions)



Note: All questions will be asked to all interviewees, the only difference is how some questions are formulated based on each interviewee's position and relation to the question.

Validation of the Village Profile Questionnaire (Municipalities)

With the mayor/ municipality member

Some questions (such as Youth related international organizations, NGOs (local or international), clubs could be discussed with the interviewee from the clubs/NGO...)

1. General Questions about the town and the public spaces in the Village/town

(Common questions)

How many neighborhoods do you have in the town/village?

- From your perspective, how can you describe each (main) neighborhood in the town/village? (Main characteristics, socially, activities, community life...)

Where do people meet/gather? How do they use the space? (Public spaces and other spaces)

- Are the spaces equipped and safe? (Rate the services/ amenities in the public space (toilets, lighting...)
(Bad. good, moderate ... elaborate)

- Do municipalities provide safety measures in existing public spaces (if any) such as maintenance, presence of municipality guards, ...

- How do people usually reach space? (Means of transportation)

- Based on your opinion, is there anything that characterizes this space?

- When do they use it the most? (Time, season, Holidays...) And for what purpose? (Gathering, celebrations, sports...)

- In your opinion, what makes people use public/gathering spaces more (camera, concierge, type of visitors...)?

Who usually manages these spaces?

Are these spaces accessible to anyone from outside the village? Is there any tension happening in these spaces? (Example: with foreign workers, different parties...)

2. Questions targeting municipalities

Does your town have a local development plan (done by the municipality or others)? If yes, what is the plan's consideration of public spaces, particularly sports facilities?

- What are the goals of the plan?

Are there committees in the municipality? Or on neighborhood levels? If yes Mention

Are there any projects in the public spaces field? Sport ones in particular. If yes, who pursues the public space project, the municipality, the donor, the clubs, ...

What are the tools used for communication with the locals (Facebook page, WhatsApp group, meetings...)

Do people use them to express their opinions and needs?

Is there any relation between clubs and youth with the municipality? What tools are used by youth/clubs to communicate with the municipality? Do you work and coordinate together?

- Does the youth have a representative committee in the municipality? Is their role important and considered?

Do you have future projects related to public spaces in the village/city?

Do you believe that public spaces are one of the priorities? Could the public spaces be spaces of youth empowerment, meeting and could also lead to a better relationship between municipality members and locals?

Are there any other ideas done by the municipality to create a better relationship between municipality and youth/clubs...? If yes, what are they?

Municipal perception towards the sports playground

- Can you tell us about the selected/activated space? What is your feedback? How was the process?
- Are you satisfied with the space?
- Is there something you don't like about the space?
- Have you heard any feedback about the space? If yes, what is it?
- Are the residents near the space bothered by the space? (Noise, gatherings...)
- Does anyone feel annoyed by the sports playground from the surrounding or city/village space?

Rate the services/amenities in the space (infrastructure, furniture, management...)

How you can describe the usage of the space before and after the creation of the sports playground (comparison)

- What was the previous use of the space? Did it serve as a gathering/celebration/sport... place?
- Who is using the space? (Age, background, nationalities)- Is there any conflict caused by that?
- When do people use the space most?
- What do you think you need in the space in order to feel safer and more comfortable for all?
- Is the space accessible to all people at any time/Is the space accessible to anyone from outside the village?

If not, is there any procedure taken to make it more accessible? (Time, and type of people)

Do people/ youth use the other spaces as they used before? Or are they using the sports playground more?

Do you have anything to add?

2. Questions targeting: political parties/ sportive clubs/Scouts

Does your town have a local development plan (done by the municipality or others)? If yes, what is the plan's consideration of public spaces, particularly sports facilities?

Are you aware of its goals? If yes, can you explain?

Are there committees in the municipality? Or on neighborhood levels? If yes Mention

Are there any projects in the public spaces field? Sport ones in particular. If yes, who pursues the public space project, the municipality, the donor, the clubs, ...

What are the tools used for communication with the municipality/locals (Facebook page, WhatsApp group, meetings...)

- Do you use them? Do people use them?

Is there any relation between clubs and youth with the municipality? Do you work and coordinate together?

How?

- Do you find that youth and clubs are well represented in the municipality? And how much their opinion is taken into account.

Do you have future projects related to public spaces or youths in the village/city?

Do you believe that public spaces are one of the priorities? Could the public spaces be spaces of youth empowerment, meeting and could also lead to a better relationship between municipality members and locals?

Are there any other ideas done by you or the local stakeholders to create a better relationship between municipality and youth/clubs...? If yes, what are they?

Annex IV: Observation tool



During the observation, look, listen, smell, observe and perceive all the various components of the space.

Area: Empty:

Time:

Duration:

Weather condition:

Number of participants:

Number of groups:

Gender balance:

Age range:

Means of transportation:

Children come by:

Visitors come by:

Do parents/ visitors come and stay near the space?

- About the sports playground

- Can you tell us about the selected/activated space? What is your feedback? How was the process?
 - Are you satisfied with the space?
 - Is there something you don't like about the space?
 - Are you bothered by the space? (Noise, gatherings...)
 - Have you heard any feedback about the space? If yes, what is it?
 - Does anyone feel annoyed by the sports playground from the surrounding or city/village space?
- Do people/ youth use the other spaces as they used before? Or are they using the sports playground more?
- Does this space have a social impact on youths and residents in general? If yes, how can you elaborate?

	Good	moderate	Needs improvement	NA	Notes
Safety and security					
Sound					
Smell					
Enjoyment					
Maintenance					
Green coverage					
Main people living around the space					
Noise					
Cafes					
Street lighting					
Benches					
Toilets					
Guards					
Kiosks					
Shadowed area					
others					

Game



Jot down your observations Write down
very short notes about the hazard you are observing

Describe the
physical setting

- Describe
activities happening in the setting

- Describe
behaviors you are noticing

- Describe any
relationships (for example: between children (gender, different backgrounds, different
age...); between children and environment; between children and neighbors
(interaction from balconies, streets...), children and visitors, children, and
shops, ...

- Ownership? (Furniture,
equipment...)

Use all your senses what you can see
what you can smell what you can feel

Smell:

Look:

Listen:

Others?

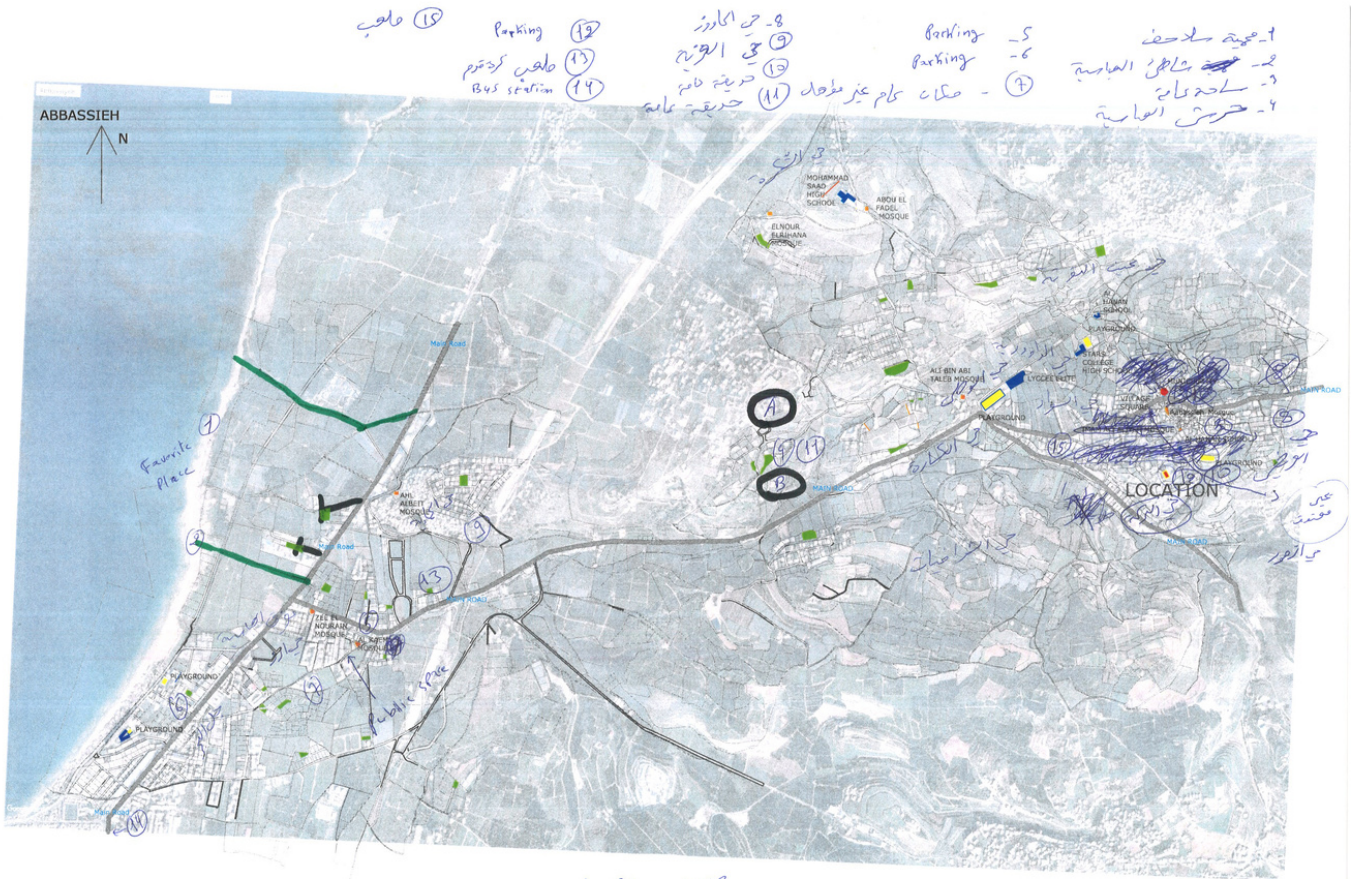
Create a sequence of at least 6 photographs, which represent situations in the spaces in different times.

Quotes

Based on your experience, sketch the dynamic of the space. (Remember one of the days and translate the dynamic of the space into a sketch) (the facilitator will explain and elaborate more during the FGD)

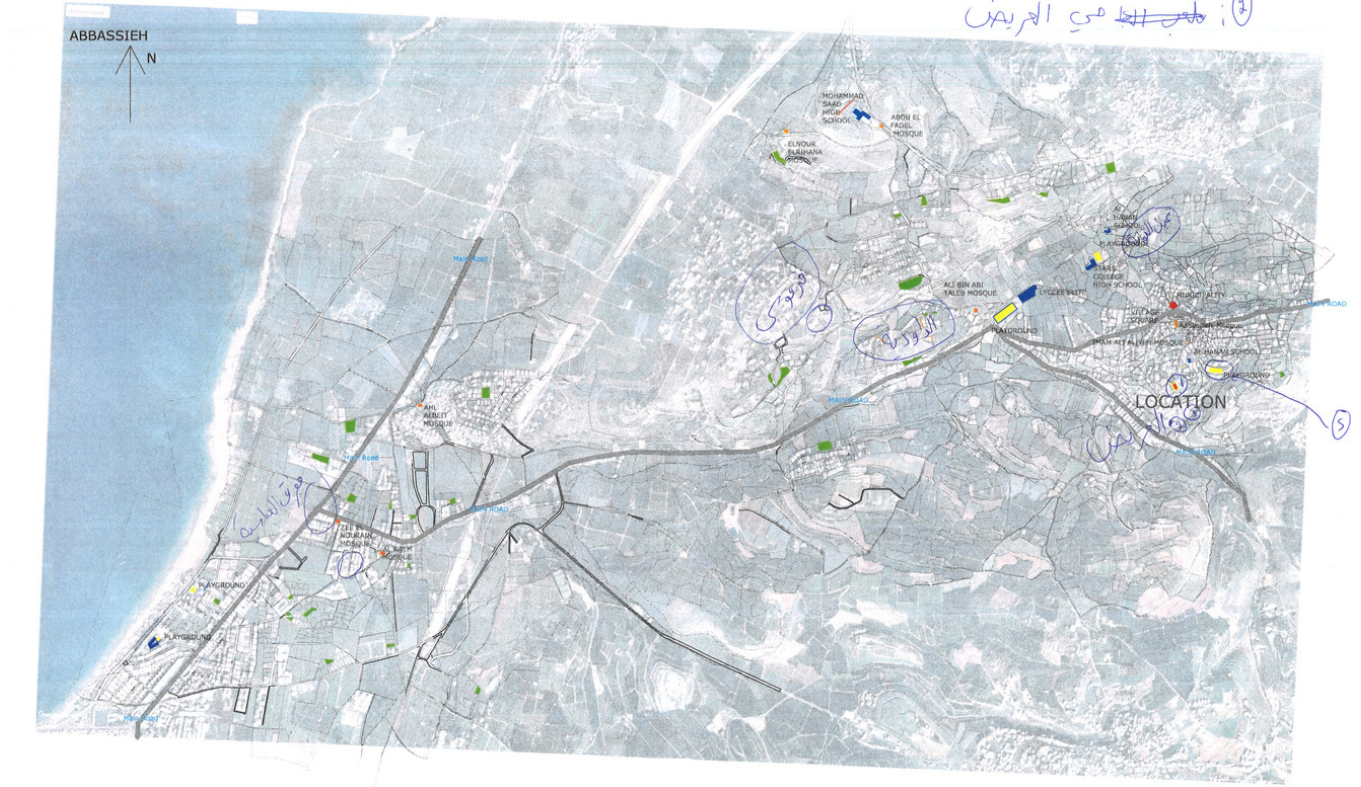
- 1- Based on your knowledge about public spaces, Explain the whole experience in the activated space. (Elaborate each of the following points) accessibility, use and users, amenities and furniture, comfort and safety, environmental component.)
- 2- Who are the users of this space?
- 3- Can you describe the relations between the users of the space? (Age, nationality, gender...)
- 4- Did you notice if anyone was bothered by the space and the activities? Neighbors?
- 5- How do you spend your time in the space (Please elaborate in detail)
- 6- Who is managing the space?
- 7- What do you think can be done to improve this space? Can you elaborate?
- 8- in your opinion, how can we ensure the sustainability of this space?
- 9- Do you think there is a need to create similar spaces in your town/village? Why?
- If yes, what is your vision?

Annex VI: Youth Mapping-FGD1



3: ملعب العباسية

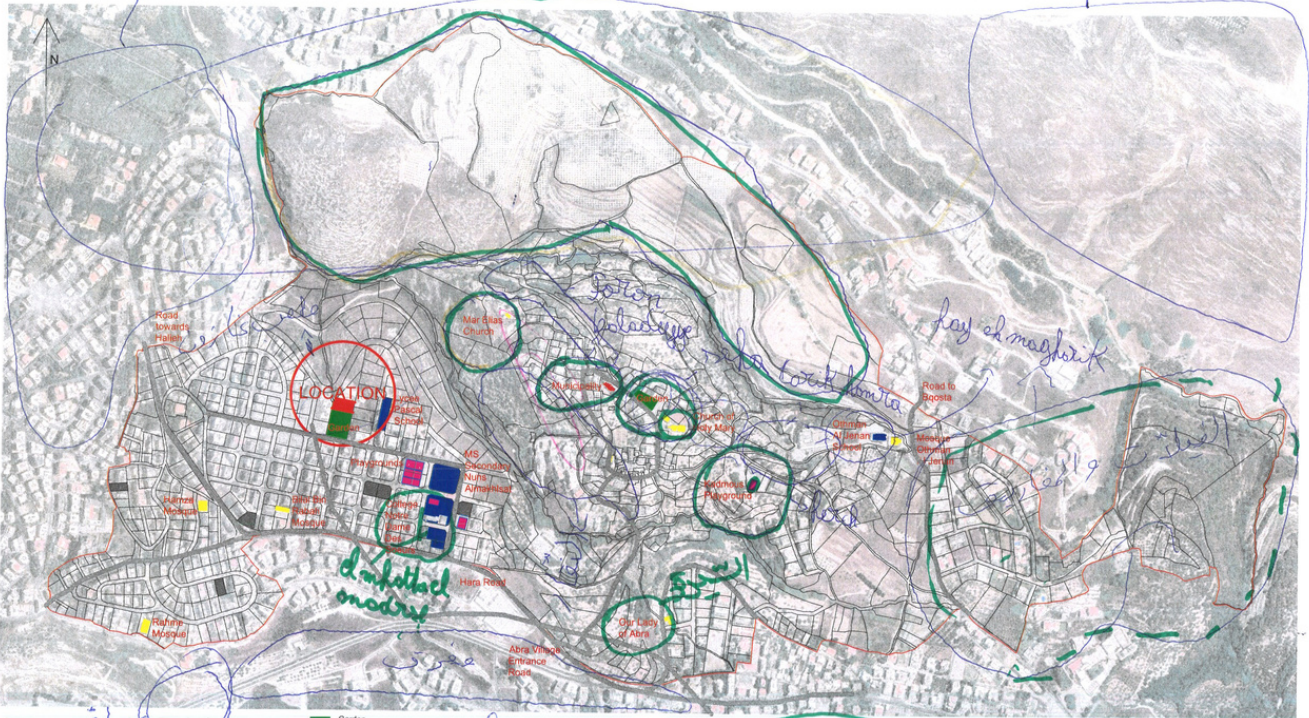
1: ملعب تانج
2: ملعب في الحريمش



البرا عتية

Roudy Diba

BKosta



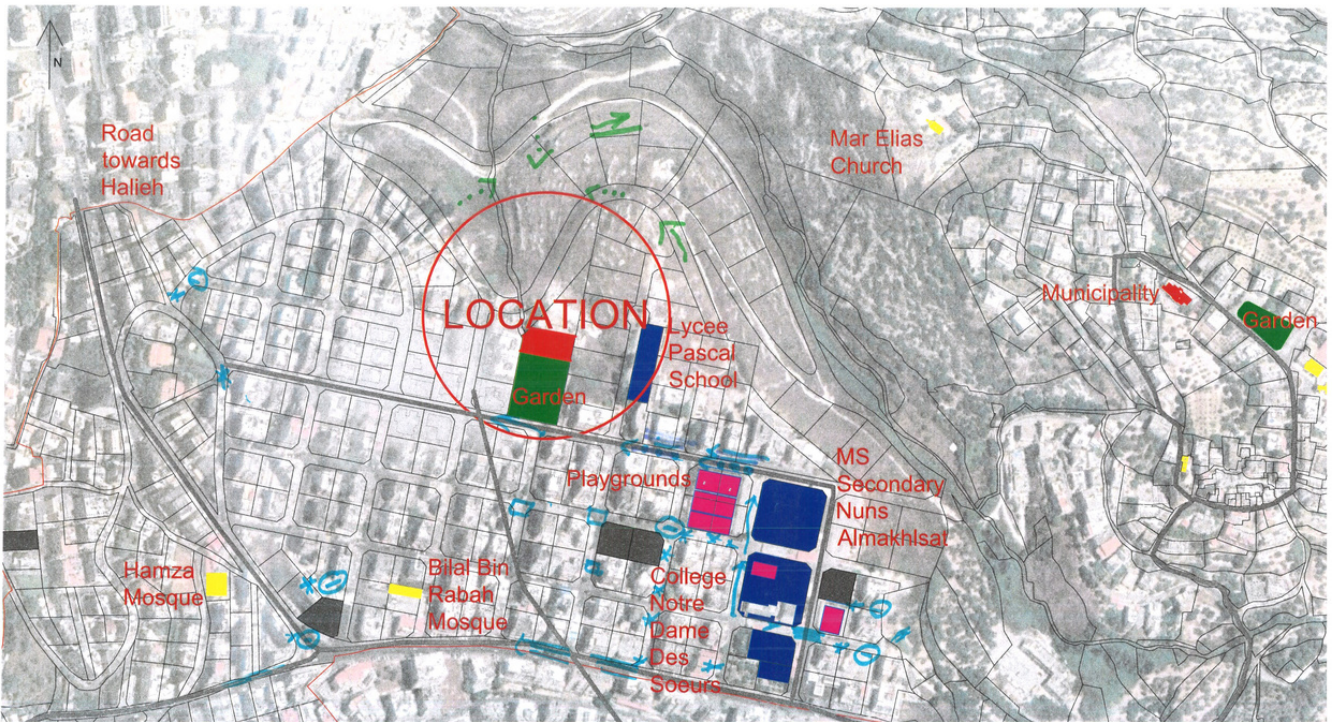
Abra

Landmarks

رودي ديب

- Location / Municipality
- Religious
- Educational
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space
- Garden

تجمعات
قليل التجمعات



Abra

Location

- Location / Municipality
- Religious
- Educational
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space
- Garden

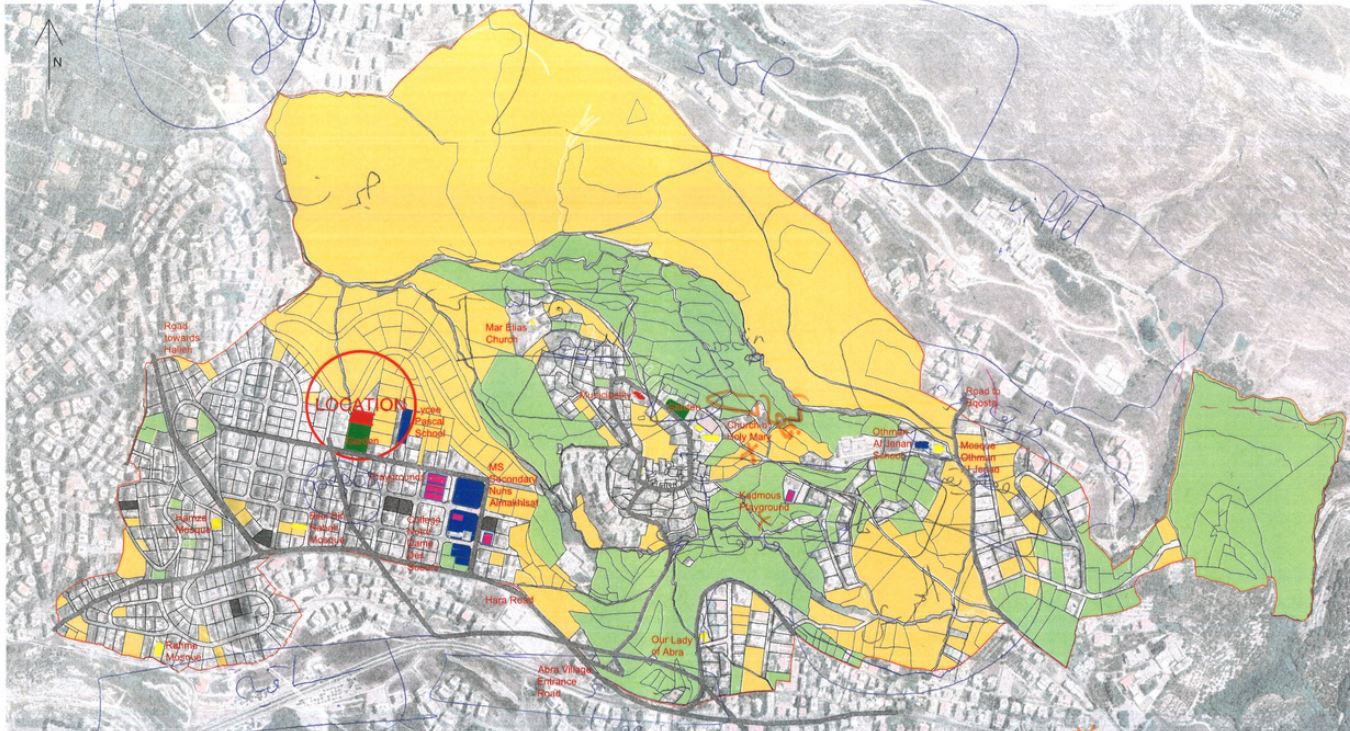
Bel Zwerib
ji Kiri Kijamouzet
wara l madene
chab

Costa Flias

costa time

Game

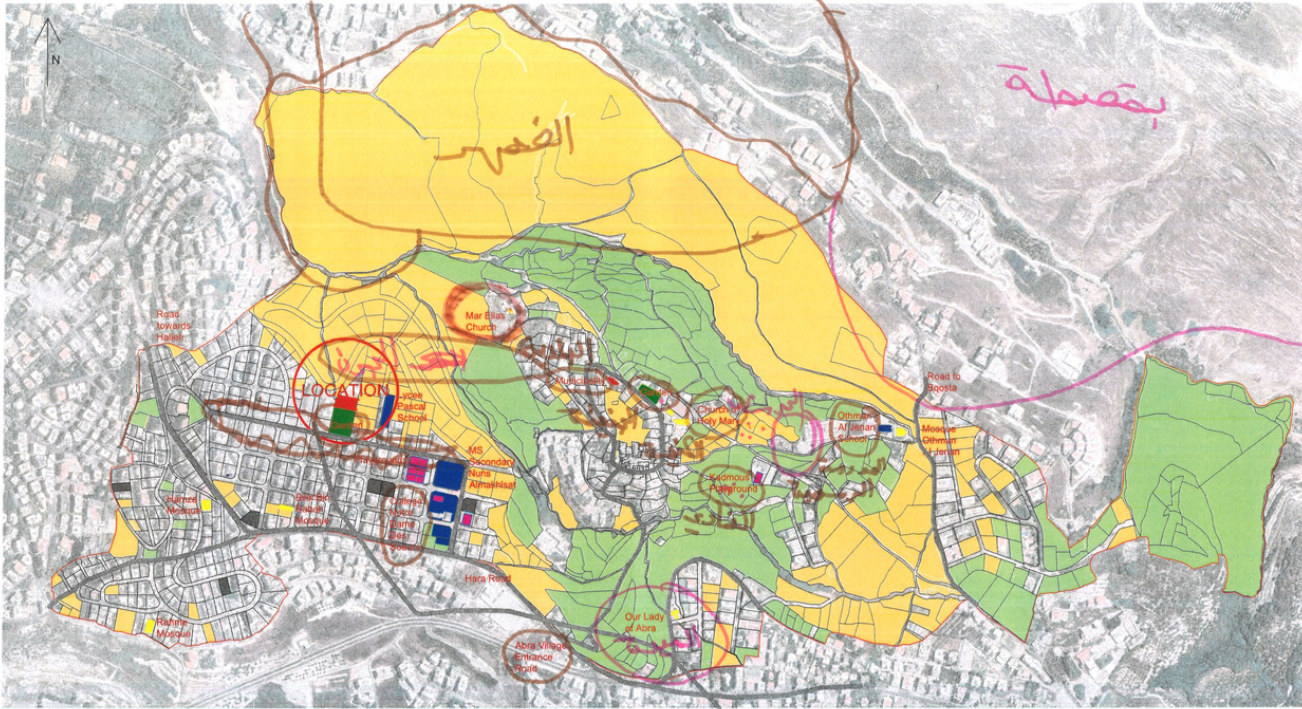
NAHNOO



- Abra**
- Location / Municipality
 - Religious
 - Open Spaces
 - Educational
 - Playgrounds
 - Parking Space
 - Garden
 - Empty lots
 - Green Areas

تمهات
 + نهاية الكنيسة
 + نهاية قوس
 + حارة حارة

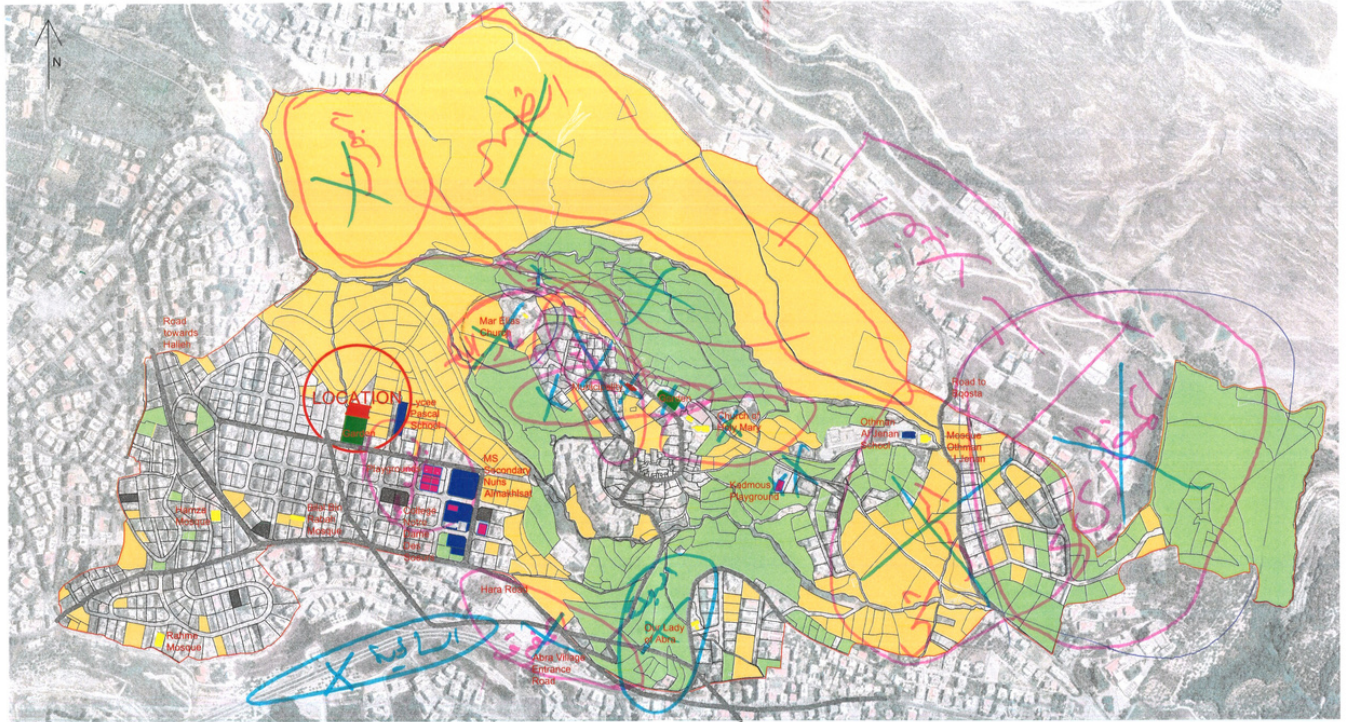
Game NAHNOO



- Abra**
- Location / Municipality
 - Religious
 - Open Spaces
 - Educational
 - Playgrounds
 - Parking Space
 - Garden
 - Empty lots
 - Green Areas

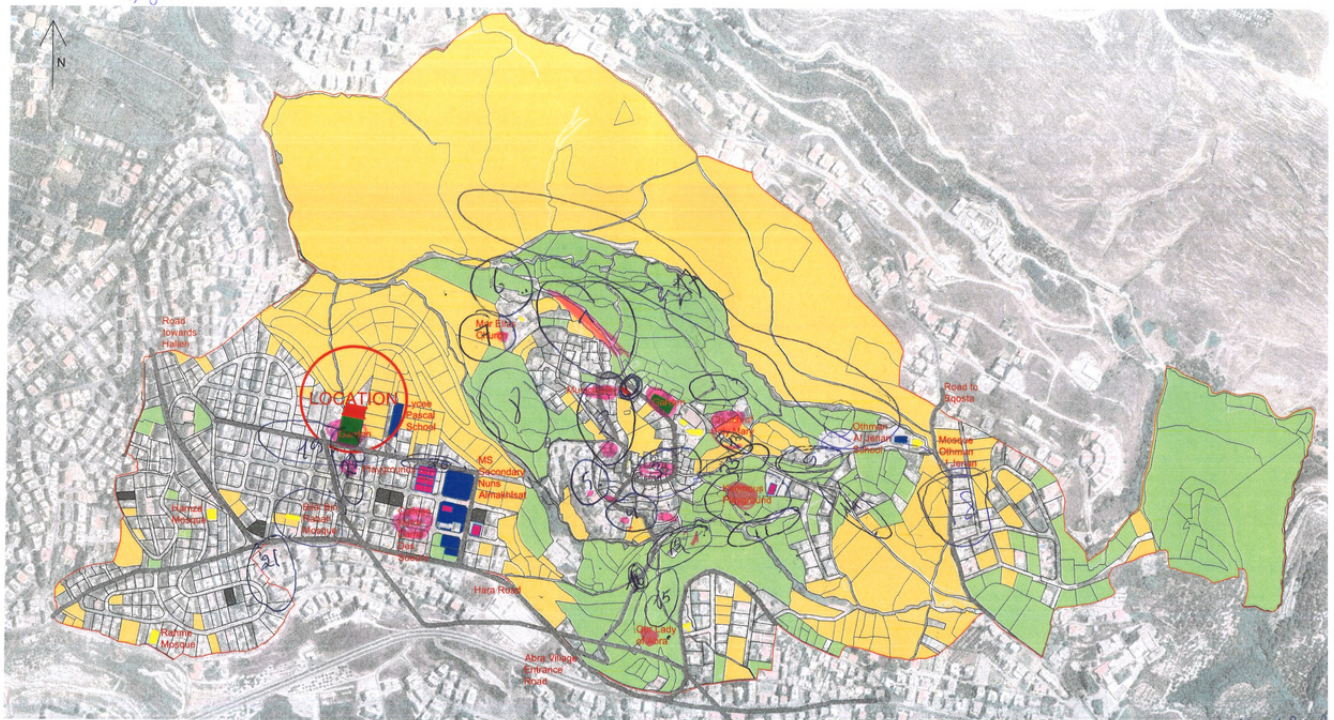
Game NAHNOO

ABRID



- 1) Natolia
- 2) Swah
- 3) Tiya
- 4) Chbe
- 5) Jad Al Mahakaf
- 6) Abra
- 7) Pita
- 8) G'ile

23: Mini Market Elbi



- 1- Kharabe
- 2- Talba awige
- 3- Mar kalle (horbi)
- 4- malar
- 5- My angala
- 6- Hay ba hije
- 7- Marelias
- 8- Jonon
- 9- Hay Mchaset l rasmye
- 10- Mede
- 11- Jans Hara
- 12- ~~Hay m'chaset~~ Tognin
- 13- Hay p'konse
- 14: Fresh
- 15: Soyale
- 16: Seize
- 17: Daker
- 18: villa
- 19: Hay Al Haljab
- 20: Tans l Rabbet
- 21: Nazlet l KFC
- 22: PePo's



Sarafand Landmarks Map



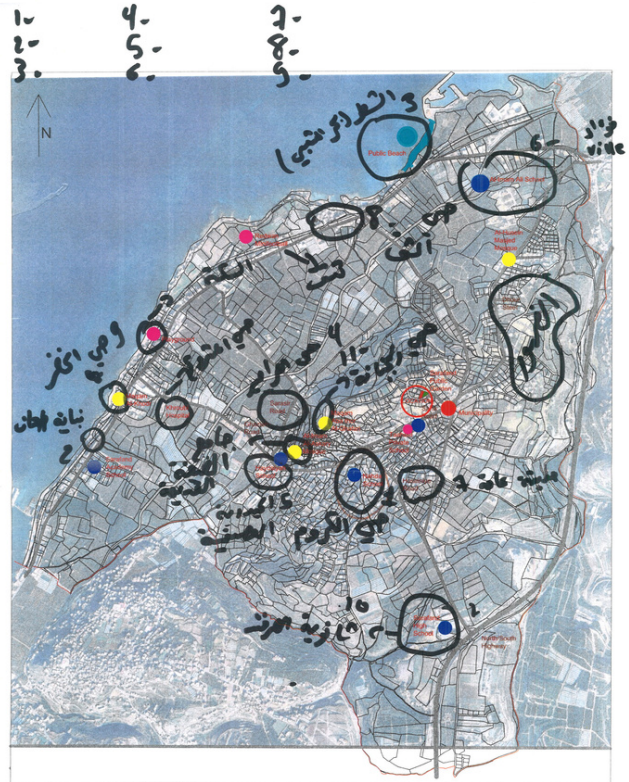
1- Fatima
2- Doha
3- Hussien
4- Zahraa.

Sarafand Landmarks Map



1- حي الكرم
2- المنزه
3- بساتين
4- حي الكرم
5- المنزه
6- بساتين
7- حي الكرم
8- المنزه
9- بساتين
10- حي الكرم
11- المنزه

Sarafand Landmarks Map



1- حي الكرم
2- المنزه
3- بساتين
4- حي الكرم
5- المنزه
6- بساتين
7- حي الكرم
8- المنزه
9- بساتين
10- حي الكرم
11- المنزه
12- بساتين

Sarafand Landmarks Map

فہرست مقامات

نہجہ سہولت



- Location / Municipality
- Religious
- Educational
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space
- Garden

Sarafand Landmarks Map



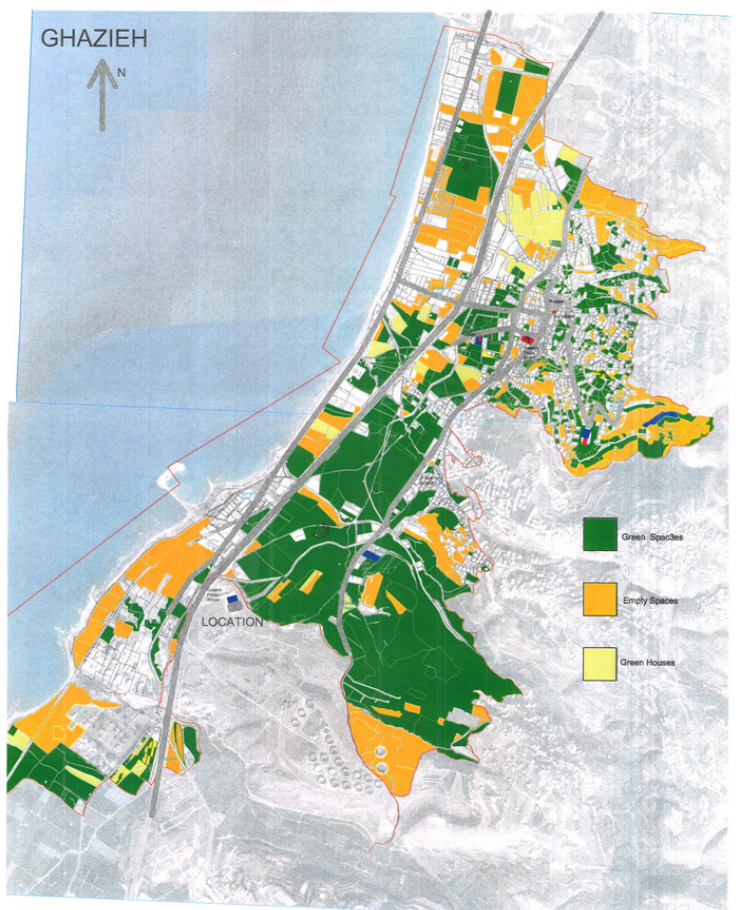
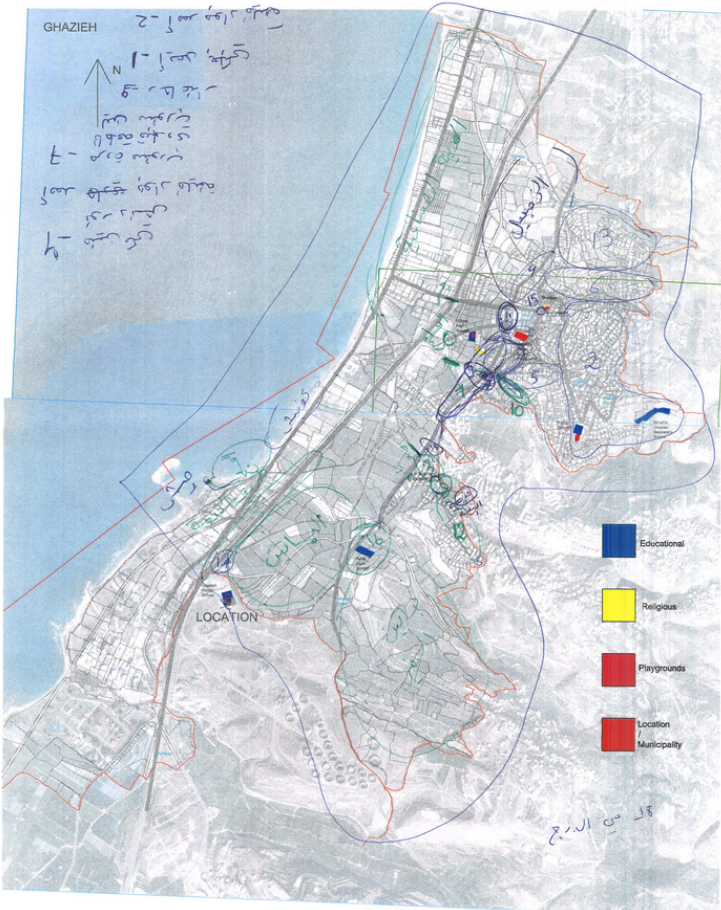
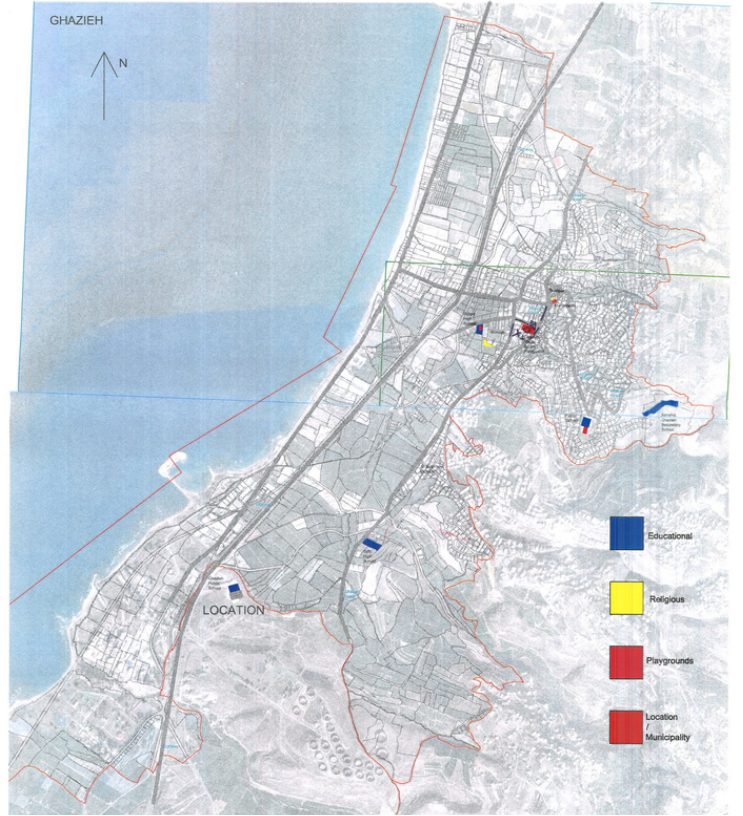
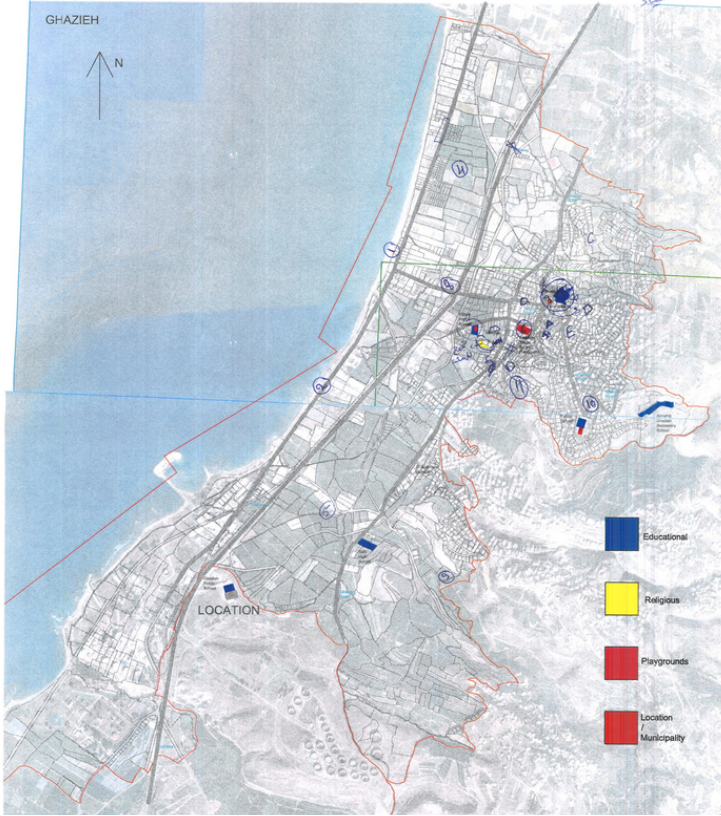
- Location / Municipality
- Religious
- Educational
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space
- Garden

Sarafand Landmarks Map

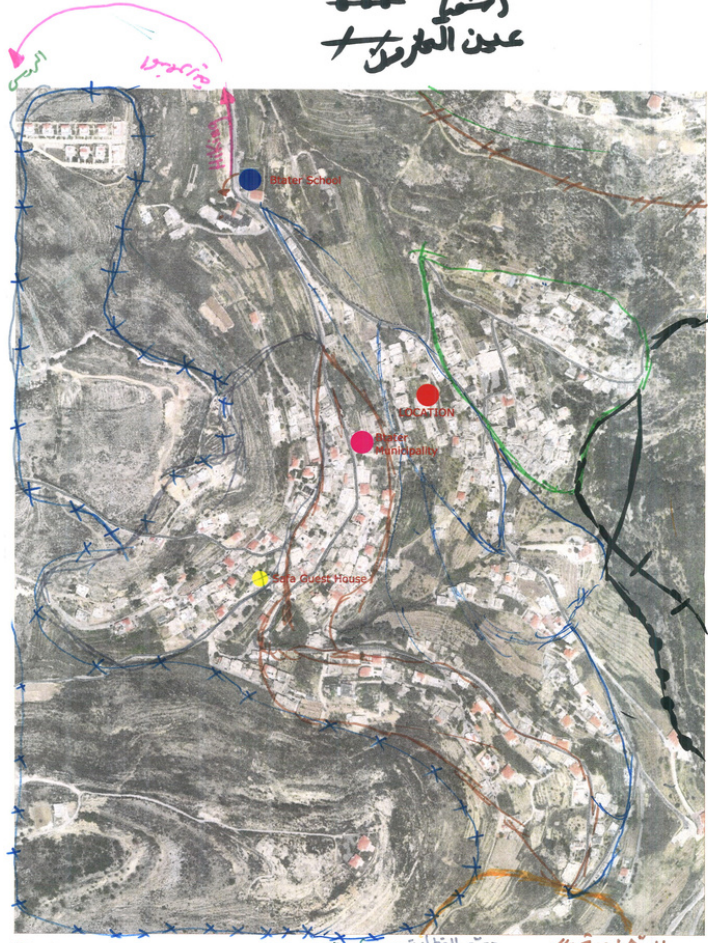
مجمعات سہولت



٥ االتن
 ٤ موصوف الصب
 ٣ مخبر العائله
 ٢ المرام
 \$ العين
 X الرزاه
 ١- مقبرة البدر
 ٢- مقبرة العين
 ٣- مقبرة الزميل
 ٤- مقبرة البسرون
 ٥- مقبرة البدر



درستى
عين العارفين



Btater
Base-map

- Landmarks
- Educational
- Municipality
- Location

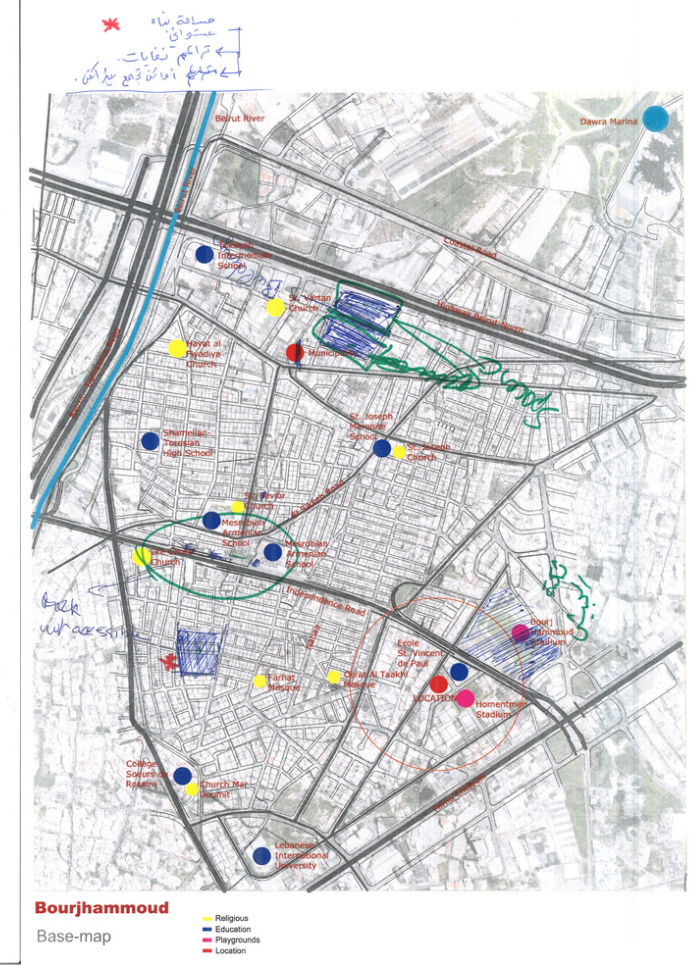
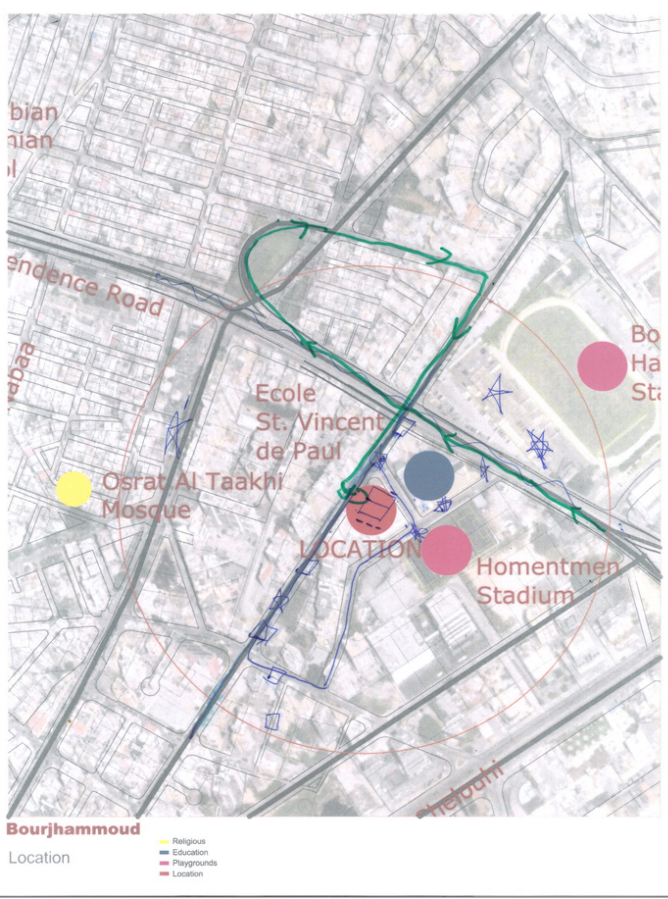
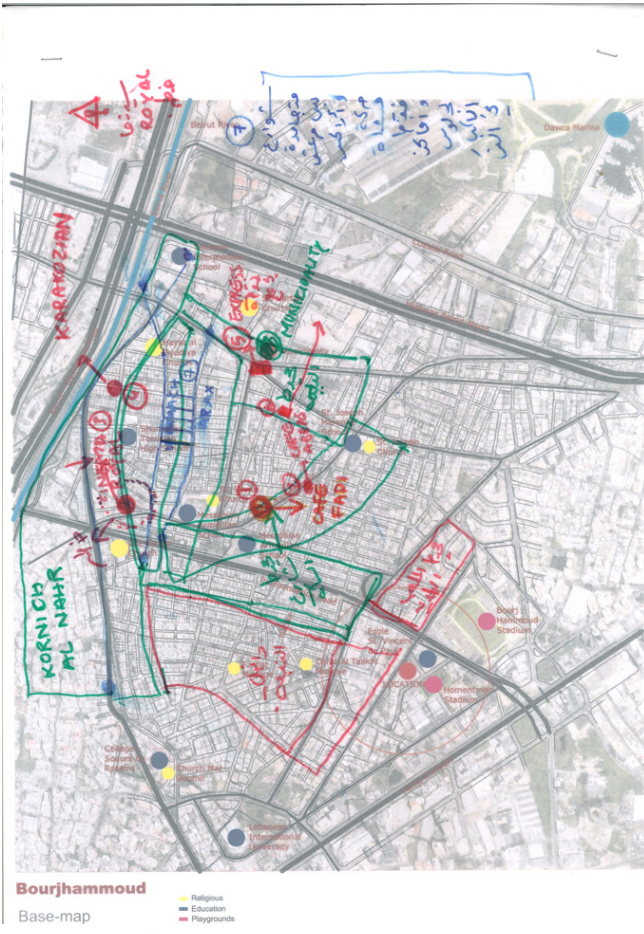
عين القنارة
امارة القنارة
القنارة
الضفة
التروس

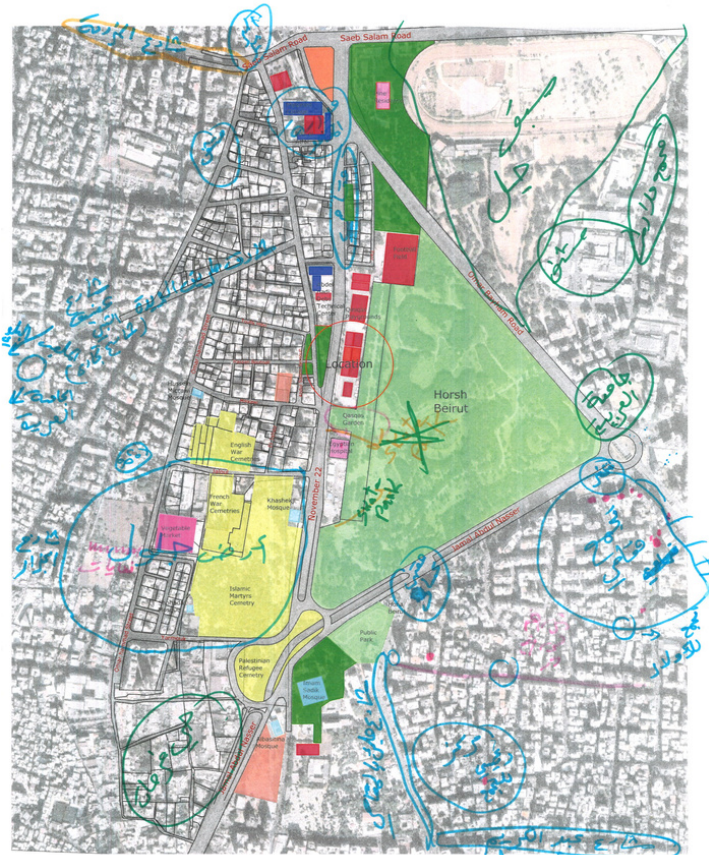
الشابوية
كرم جبار
كعب العلم



Btater
Location

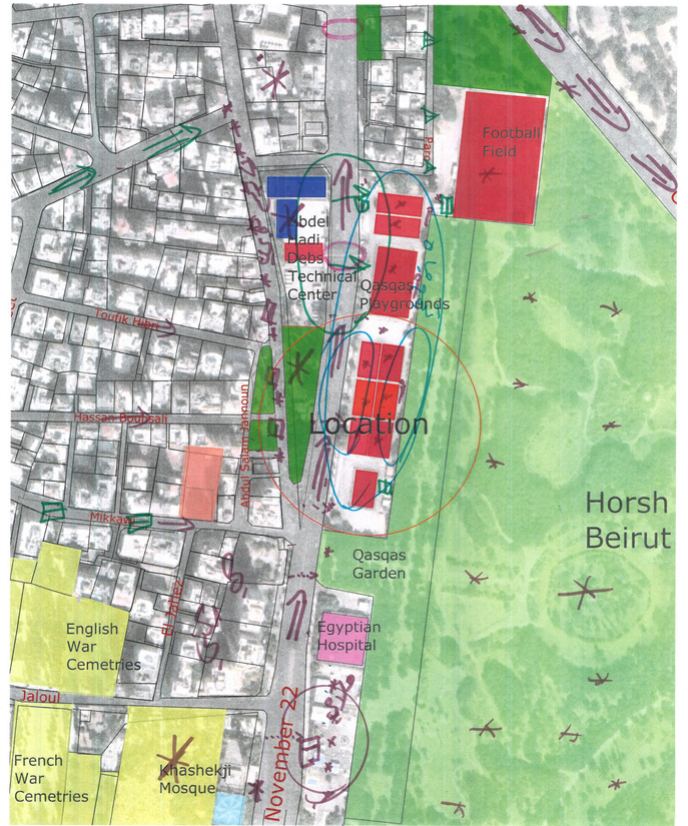
- Landmarks
- Educational
- Municipality
- Location





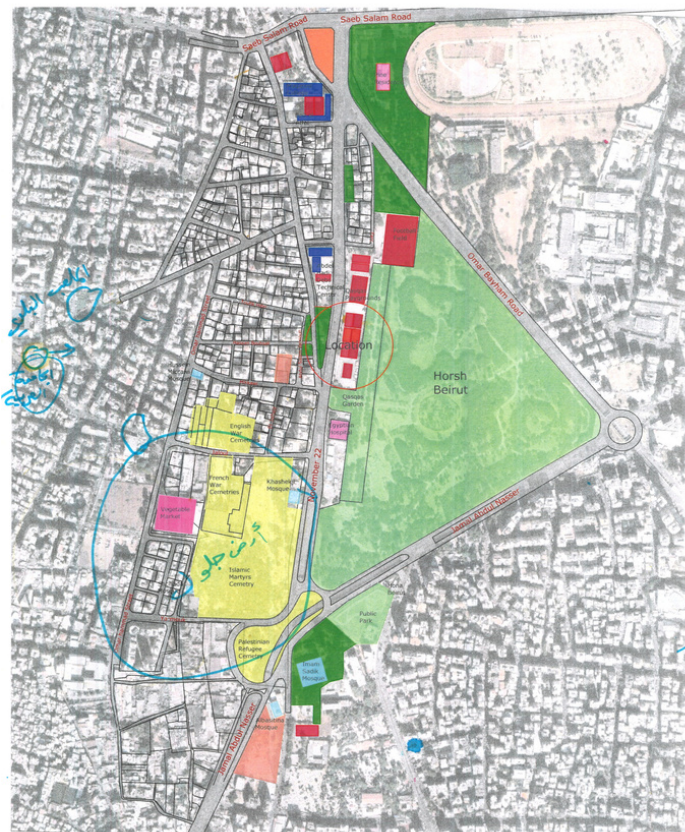
Qasqas
Base-map

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Education
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery



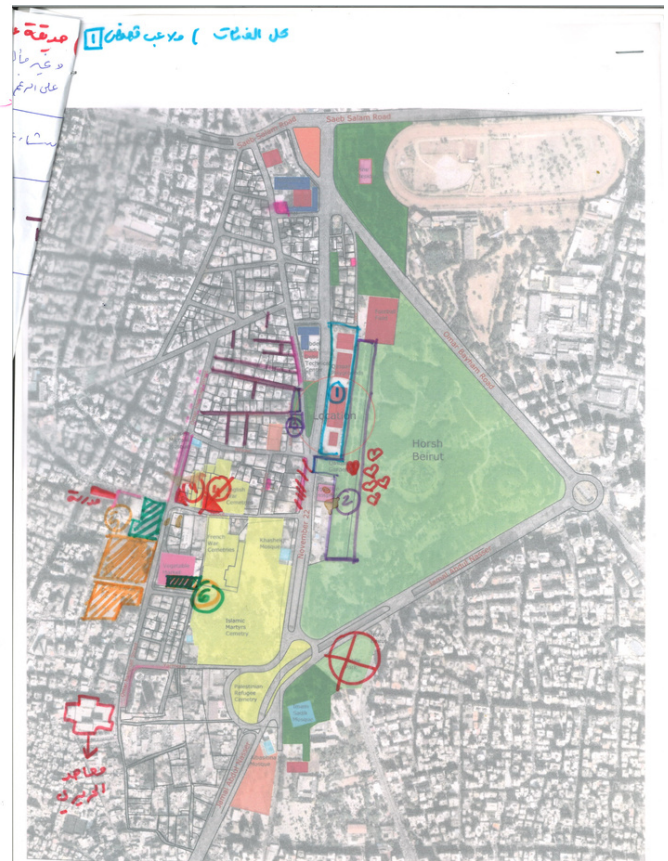
Qasqas
Location

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery



Qasqas
Base-map

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Education
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery



Qasqas
Base-map

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Education
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery

1 ملاعب ومقابر
كل الذوات القرية (آمن نهراً فقط)

2 صياقة عامة
(للبولس ولعب الاطفال / عائلات)

3 (آمن نهراً كالمقابر) (النساء والاطفال)
← مقفلة بشكل مؤقت

4 زاوية مكتبة الحلبي
(ايشيا + كبار السن)
آمن نهراً (F/M)

5 الدائرة
(اولاد (7 - 15) / 16)
(+ ايشيا عزق اد)
← بحرة قديم بشكل مستطيل -
آمن وجهاً لآمن لكن في غير جهة

6 مواقف سيارات
آمن (7) غير آمن لآمنة

مقبرة
وغيرها
على اليمين

كل الذوات (ملاعب تقفون)

Qasqas
Base-map

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Education
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery

Qasqas
Base-map

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Education
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery

Qasqas
Location

- Miscellaneous Landmarks
- Religious
- Playgrounds
- Location
- Green Areas
- Empty Lots
- Garden
- Cemetery

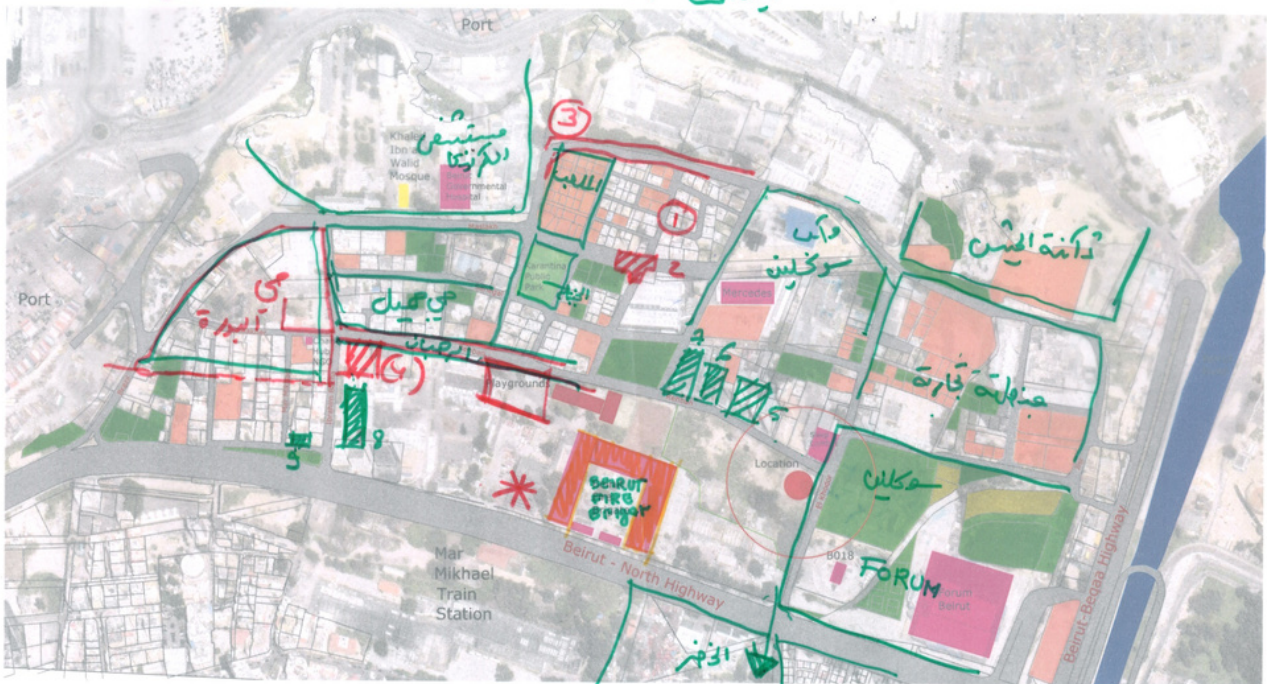


Karantina Base-Map

- Miscellaneous
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space
- Garden
- Empty Lots
- green Areas

Radwan
 Inas
 Janar

مكان اللعب (FIP) في
 المنطقة
 في
 المنطقة
 في
 شارع الكلاب في
 شارع
 في
 في



Karantina Base-Map

- Miscellaneous
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space
- Garden
- Empty Lots
- green Areas

nor Hajen



Karantina Base- Map

- Miscellaneous
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space

- Garden
- Empty Lots
- green Areas

Handwritten notes in Arabic and blue ink, including symbols like a star and a square, and arrows pointing to specific areas on the map.

BEIRUT POLICE OFFICE
BEIRUT SCHOOL



Karantina Base- Map

- Miscellaneous
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space

- Garden
- Empty Lots
- green Areas



Karantina
Base-Map

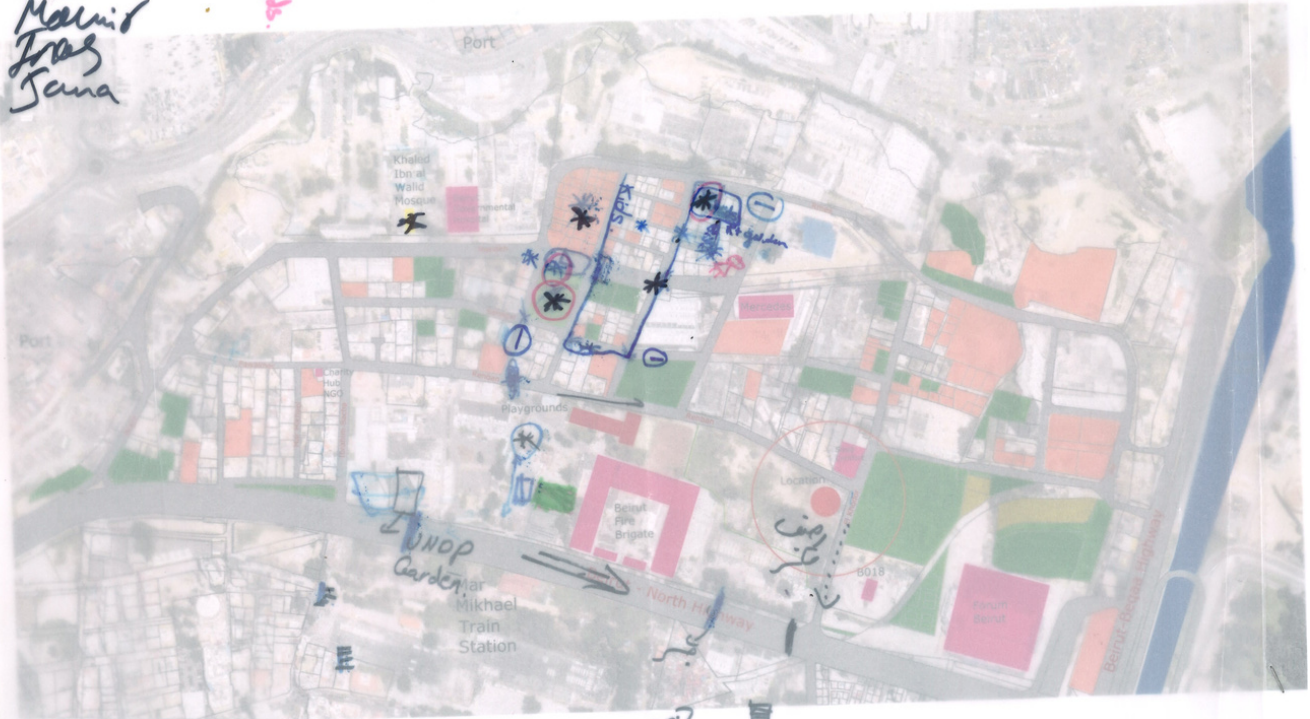
- Miscellaneous
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space

- Garden
- Empty Lots
- green Areas

Handwritten notes and symbols in Arabic, including a star symbol and arrows pointing towards the right side of the map.

MOUNT
Rakman
Mallid
Trag
Sama

* K.M.S.



Karantina
Base-Map

- Miscellaneous
- Religious
- Education
- Playgrounds
- Parking Space

- Garden
- Empty Lots
- green Areas

Handwritten notes and symbols in Arabic, including a star symbol and arrows pointing towards the right side of the map.

List of interviewees and the participants in the FGDs

	Name	Town/village	Position	KII/FGD
1	Ali Ezzeddine	Abbassieh	Mayor	KII
2	Mostafa Hammoud	Abbassieh	Riyade Abbassieh Member	KII
3	Khoulood Fawaz	Abbassieh	School Director	KII
4	Elie Mchantaf	Abra	Mayor	KII
5	Ibtisam Khoury	Abra	Chabibe member	KII
6	Labib Mchatnaf	Abra	Old Kadmous Club member	KII
7	Ali Takki	Ghazieh	Municipality Member	KII
8	Ghada Farhat	Ghazieh	Ghazieh School Director	KII
9	Ali Khalifeh	Sarafand	Mayor	KII
10	Hussein Nemer	Sarafand	Risala Scout Member	KII
11	Sameh Hallawani and Mayssa Zaaiteer	Bourj Hammoud	RestArt Manager and Project Coordinator	KII
12	Georges Kricorian	Bourj Hammoud	Municipality member	KII
13	Fadi Ghraizeh	Btater	Mayor	KII
14	Raja Ghraizeh	Btater	Btater Youth Club member	KII
15	Adnan Amche	Karantina	President of the Karantina Local Committee	KII
16	Malak Samir Nassour	Abbassieh	DB-Photojournalism	FGD1- FGD2
17	Yehya Maakouk	Abbassieh	DB-Librarian	FGD1- FGD2
18	Bouchra Youssef Zein	Abbassieh	DB	FGD1- FGD2
19	Wissam Hussein Korik	Abbassieh	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
20	Ali Ibrahim Al Housseini	Abbassieh	Youth	FGD1
21	Moussa Meslmani	Abbassieh	DB	FGD1- FGD2

22	Mostafa Sayegh	Abbassieh	Student	FGD1
23	Aya Burghol	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
24	Hawraa Borghol	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
25	Mostafa Sayegh	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
26	Ali Siklawi	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
27	Jad Dheinil	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
28	Mayada	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
29	Nour Al Jomaa	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
30	Raneem Al Jomaa	Abbassieh	Student	FGD2
31	Sarah Abbas	Abra	DB	FGD1
32	Tela Abdo	Abra	DB	FGD1- FGD2
33	Chloe Costantine	Abra	Student	FGD1
34	Tiya Mchantaf	Abra	Student	FGD1
35	Jad Mchantaf	Abra	Student	FGD1
36	Cecile Nawfal	Abra	DB	FGD1- FGD2
37	Costa Costantine	Abra	Student	FGD1
38	Joseph Safi	Abra	Student	FGD1
39	Elias Costantine	Abra	DB	FGD1- FGD2
40	Sally Deeb	Abra	Student	FGD2
41	Rita-Maria Dib	Abra	Student	FGD1
42	Nathalie Mchantaf	Abra	Student	FGD1
43	Georges Boutros	Abra	Student	FGD1
44	Alexice	Abra	Youth	FGD1
45	Elissa Dandan	Abra	Youth	FGD2
46	Elias Sleiman	Abra	Youth	FGD2

47	Line Naous	Abra	Youth	FGD2
48	Line Mchawrab	Ghazieh	Student	FGD1
49	Fatima Kabalawi	Ghazieh	Student	FGD1
50	Marwa Mchawrab	Ghazieh	Student	FGD1
51	Nour Dannach	Ghazieh	DB	FGD1- FGD2
52	Hanine Makki	Ghazieh	Student	FGD1
53	Ahmad Khalifeh	Ghazieh	Student	FGD1- FGD2
54	Ayman Baalbaki	Ghazieh	Teacher	FGD1
55	Racha Ghadar	Ghazieh	Mechanical Engineer	FGD1
56	Ali Jaber	Ghazieh	Youth	FGD2
57	Sewar Nassar	Ghazieh	Youth	FGD2
58	Sana Nassar	Ghazieh	DB	FGD2
59	Reem Achour	Ghazieh	Youth	FGD2
60	Ahmad Kibawi	Ghazieh	Youth	FGD2
61	Abbas Fahd	Nabatieh	Youth	FGD2
62	Zahraa Nabdi	Abbassiehh	Coach	FGD2
63	Zahraa Khalifeh	Sarafand	Student	FGD1- FGD2
64	Ahmad Khalifeh	Ghazieh	Student	FGD2
65	Maya Gharib	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
66	Zeinab Ali Khalife	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
67	Leen Harby	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
68	Jana Gharib	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
69	Zahraa Nabolsi	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
70	Nour Obeid	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
71	Duha Khalifeh	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1

72	Fatima Khalifeh	Sarafand	Youth	FGD1
73	Hussein Khalifeh	Sarafand	DB	FGD1
74	Georges Nassif	Bourj Hammoud	DB	FGD1- FGD2
75	Firas Zbib	Bourj Hammoud	DB	FGD1- FGD2
76	Maysa Zaaiteer	Bourj Hammoud- Tarik Jdideh	DB	FGD1
77	Eliana Safi	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
78	Catherine Yaaroub	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
79	Patrick Hanna	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
80	Ramy Makiye	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
81	Charbel Nassif	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
82	Dany Ghiyeh	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
83	Stephany Keshishion	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
84	Carlos Yaacoub	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
85	Gabriella	Bourj Hammoud	Youth	FGD2
86	Jad Ghraizi	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
87	Hammam Ghrazi	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
88	Nour Ghraizl	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
89	Naghham Ghraizi	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
90	Ghina Madi	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
91	Afif Bou Mjahid	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
92	Sari Ghraizi	Btater	DB	FGD1- FGD2

93	Dima Ghraizi	Btater	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
94	Mounir Ghraizi	Btater	DB	FGD1- FGD2
95	Yara Ghraizi	Btater	DB	FGD1
96	Atif Bou Mjahid	Btater	Youth	FGD1
97	Ghina Bou Mjahid	Btater	Youth	FGD1
98	Lilyan Ghraizi	Btater	DB	FGD1
99	Lewaa Ghraizi	Btater	Youth	FGD1
100	Alaa Ghraizi	Btater	Youth	FGD1
101	Alaa Ghraizi	Btater	DB	FGD1
102	Joelle Khwaiss	Btater	Youth	FGD1
103	Dina Ghraizi	Btater	Youth	FGD1
104	Mahmoud Jaber	Tarik Jdideh	Youth	FGD1
105	Ahmad Moussa	Tarik Jdideh	Youth	FGD1
106	Jana Badran	Tarik Jdideh	DB	FGD1- FGD2
107	Zeinab Ali	Tarik Jdideh	DB	FGD1- FGD2
108	Nour Abbas	Tarik Jdideh	Youth	FGD1- FGD2
109	Badr Ahmed	Tarik Jdideh	Youth	FGD1
110	Haisan Makhzoum	Tarik Jdideh	Youth	FGD2
111	Marie Iskandar	Tarik Jdideh	Youth	FGD2
112	Mahmoud Obeid	Karantina	Youth	FGD1
113	Sara Dabach	Karantina	DB	FGD1- FGD2
114	Elias Abbas	Karantina	Youth	FGD1
115	Nourhan Mostafa	Karantina	DB	FGD1- FGD2

116	Mounir Dabach	Karantina	DB	FGD1
117	Radwan	Karantina	DB	FGD1
118	Jana Al Said	Karantina	Youth	FGD1
119	Aboubaker	Karantina	Youth	FGD2
120	Khaled Chehade	Karantina	Youth	FGD2



2023