

WISE CREATES LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

Libraries Without Borders and EduTechnoz Offer Game-Based Arabic Lessons to Syrian Refugees in Jordan

Doha, Qatar, 1 July 2016: The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) recently facilitated collaboration between Libraries Without Borders and eduTechnoz to help Syrian children in Jordan benefit from Arabic lessons.

The two organizations, which are supported by the WISE Accelerator Program, are now able to provide technologically innovative materials for Syrian children in Jordan to learn Arabic and gain increased literacy skills. Libraries Without Borders developed the Ideas Box, a portable multi-media toolkit facilitating and strengthening access to non-formal education for vulnerable communities such as refugees; while eduTechnoz offered the game-based educational online resources for children to learn Arabic.

The collaboration facilitated by WISE, part of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development (QF), means the resources of both companies have now been deployed in Jordan: one in Azraq refugee camp and one in a community center in Hashmi Shamali, Amman. Since the end of March 2016, children aged 6-10 have been able to access eduTechnoz educational content, monitor their progress and collect badges through the Ideas Box.

Long-term crises, such as the conflict in Syria, have put the education of entire generations in danger, diminishing human capital crucial to rebuilding a war-torn country. Children who experience violence and uncertainty at a young age must be given the means to obtain a sense of normality and happiness in their lives. For these reasons, innovative, game-based education caters to both the educational and emotional needs of refugee children.

Libraries Without Borders and eduTechnoz decided to work together after their representatives met within the framework of the WISE Accelerator Program, which offers opportunities for innovative education projects to scale-up and extend their services. The WISE facilitated project is now generating a meaningful impact for the most vulnerable children in need of help.

Giving children, especially those living in refugee camps or war zones, an opportunity to learn Arabic has been a priority for eduTechnoz, but the organization has faced challenges in providing proper tablets and a reliable Internet connection. Partnering with Libraries Without Borders provided a unique chance to bring children tangible education opportunities and to better serve disadvantaged and vulnerable children in Jordanian refugee camps and eventually elsewhere in the region. This partnership combines the innovative Arab learning pedagogy of eduTechnoz with access to the latest technologies available on the education market provided by the Ideas Box.

“This partnership would not be possible if it was not for the Accelerator Program organized by WISE. Thanks to such an opportunity, eduTechnoz and Libraries Without borders found a way to combine their expertise and learn from each other through building a collaboration that will support Syrian refugee children’s educational experiences,” said Ms. Diana Al-Dajani, the Founder and CEO of eduTechnoz.

“Quality content is key if the Ideas Box is to reach its goal of improving access to education for vulnerable people. The partnership between Libraries Without Borders and eduTechnoz means more relevance and efficiency in supporting Syrian refugee children,” said Mr. Jérémy Lachal, Libraries Without Borders General Director.

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About the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE)

Qatar Foundation, under the leadership of its Chairperson, Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser launched the World Innovation Summit for Education in 2009. WISE is an international, multi-sectoral platform for creative thinking, debate, and purposeful action. Through the Summit and a range of ongoing programs, WISE has established itself as a global presence in new approaches to education, promoting innovation and partnership.

For further information about WISE, visit www.wise-qatar.org

About the WISE Accelerator

The WISE Accelerator relies on the expertise of qualified mentors and partners to provide projects with effective strategies and concrete support to ensure their development. Five projects are selected annually to benefit from an annual mentoring scheme addressing their specific needs. In addition, the WISE Accelerator serves as an intermediary to connect the selected projects with an international network that creates opportunities to share knowledge and find support from donors and investors.

About eduTechnoz

eduTechnoz strives to inspire children to fall in love with Arabic by offering over 400 fun, educational online resources (games, printable worksheets and eBooks) for children 3-8 years old to benefit from. All these edutainment resources are presented in a highly gamified portal, where kids can collect badges and points to compete on a global level. eduTechnoz’s platform has enabled teachers to add fun and entertaining elements in the classroom while enabling students to practice specific skills from home as homework (play a set of recommended games). eduTechnoz’s (<https://eduTechnoz.com>) rewards system has been improving children's confidence in their Arabic language acquisition (native and non-native). eduTechnoz has served over 50,000 users from all over the world and has received generous press and awards.

About Ideas Box

Displaced people and refugees have immediate needs for food, shelter, and medical aid. Once these needs are met, communities need to begin rebuilding themselves. Too often, the tools to build the future are lacking. This is the reason why Libraries Without Borders developed the Ideas Box in partnership with the designer Philippe Starck. The Ideas Box is a mobile and flexible tool used to reach populations lacking access to culture, especially the most vulnerable: the young, unstable, migrants, rural populations, etc. Whether in developed countries or in underserved areas, the Ideas Box plays a major role in spreading education and culture and in enabling libraries to reach new users. Since 2015, two Ideas Box have been implemented in Jordan. The first one was deployed in Azraq refugee camp in April 2015, in partnership with UNHCR and Care International. Since the beginning of 2016, the second one has been deployed in Hashmi Shimali, at a community center run by Care in the capital city of Amman.