

## Dear Donors and Friends,

The year 2024 was meant to be a year of peace. Unfortunately, it was overshadowed by war. Gaza has been destroyed, and its population is enduring a war of aggression. The entire region has suffered, particularly Lebanon, which has also experienced a devastating conflict.

Despite these challenging circumstances, the foundation **Dirassa – Hoffnung durch Bildung** was able to attract new donors. Thanks to your generosity, we supported several schools to provide education for the most disadvantaged children.

In 2024, we were able to allocate a total of **€20,400** to support the following schools:

1. École des Sœurs Franciscaines in Menjez
2. Orphanage Notre Dame du Rosaire in Achkout
3. École Saint Vincent de Paul in Bourj Hammoud
4. École Saint Vincent in Baskinta
5. École Nationale Orthodoxe in Rahbé
6. Collège des Frères Saint Pierre in Baskinta
7. École Notre Dame des Dons in Dekwaneh

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In addition, we are delighted to share with you the results of two projects made possible through your generosity:

### 1. Agricultural Project – École des Sœurs Franciscaines in Menjez

We financed the construction of **two greenhouses** and the purchase of a **tractor**. This year's harvest was abundant:



- 500 lettuces
- 50 cabbages
- 800 kg of tomatoes
- 500 kg of cucumbers
- 1 ton of potatoes

The vegetables, high-quality and affordably priced, are sold primarily to parents of students, teachers, and local villagers. The profits are reinvested into the project to cover costs such as plants, seeds, and fertilizers.

However, the primary goal of this project remains the **training of children with mental disabilities**. Thanks to this initiative, the number of students with special needs has increased from **50 to 60**.

## 2. Teacher Training Projects

### A. École des Sœurs Franciscaines in Menjez:

The training sessions have strengthened the skills of the teaching staff and improved their practices. The topics covered included:

- Encouraging reading
- Supporting language acquisition
- Improved classroom management
- Student motivation

At the request of the teachers, additional topics were integrated:

- Resources for better assessment of learning outcomes
- Leveraging artificial intelligence in education

### B. École Saint Vincent in Baskinta:

With a new dynamic administration, the school adopted a participatory approach to develop a **unified institutional project**. The workshops enabled:

- Defining a common vision for all grades and disciplines
- Training on tools for planning, implementing, and evaluating actions

These two projects were funded through your donations, with a total cost of **€8,000**.

**Mr. Antoine Yaziji**, an educational expert, visits these schools five times a year to lead workshops and remains available year-round to address any questions.

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### A Christmas Message

Christmas is the celebration of peace. Yet, the world remains at war. With sadness, we think of the victims of these conflicts and all those living in war-torn regions.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas and hope that the coming year will finally bring peace to the world.

With all our gratitude,

*The Dirassa Team –  
Hoffnung durch Bildung*

<https://www.erzbistum-koeln.de/stiftung-dirassa>

