



Lebanon

Khalas plastique!

In Lebanon, where only 10% of plastic waste is recycled, artist Caroline Chaptini engages schoolchildren from the city of Tripoli to collect waste and sculpt a monumental sea turtle. The sculpture highlights beach pollution and the urgent need to protect sea turtles.

COUNTRY

Lebanon

LOCALISATION

Al Mina, Tripoli

DATES OF THE PROJECT

September 2022 – December 2022

ARTISTS INVOLVED

Caroline Chaptini

PARTICIPANTS

2,000 children and teenagers

FUNDING

Fonds Metis
Budget 15,000 €

PARTNERS

Plastic Odyssey, Lebanon Waste Management, Kids first

SECTOR AND SDG'S



PLASTIC BEACHES

How can one not be struck by the scale of waste littering Lebanon's cities and countryside? Every year, only 20,000 tons of plastic are recycled, while 193,000 tons go untreated and are dumped in landfills. Public authorities are no longer able to manage waste disposal. The images are shocking: during dry periods, when the rains no longer "wash" the city, Tripoli is entirely littered with garbage. Beaches are not spared, and off the coast of Tripoli, around the Palm Islands, protected sea turtle colonies that ingest large amounts of plastic are under threat. Excessive plastic consumption and poor waste management are causing irreversible damage to the environment and biodiversity.

KHALAS PLASTIQUE!

With Metis, over several weeks, schoolchildren and members of environmental protection associations collect more than 200,000 bottles and 50,000 plastic caps from cities and beaches across Lebanon.

Lebanese artist Caroline Chaptini, assisted by the city's schoolchildren, uses the collected waste to create a monumental sea turtle. The sculpture is installed on a public beach in Al Mina, Tripoli. During the unveiling of the sculpture, a beach cleanup day is organized.

The objective? To raise public awareness in Tripoli about the importance of sorting waste, to reduce the amount of plastic in the sea that threatens the survival of sea turtles.

Awareness sessions are conducted in ten of the city's schools by Caroline Chaptini and facilitators from the French NGO Plastic Odyssey, reaching over 2,000 children.

After a month of exhibition, the turtle is dismantled, and the plastic is recovered by the NGO Lebanon Waste Lebanon, which donates its value to the NGO Kid First, helping children with cancer.

THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

"Meeting Caroline allowed us to express what was in our hearts: Khalas Plastique! We managed to engage more than 2,000 children, who are agents of change."

CATHERINE BONNAUD, DIRECTOR OF AFD LEBANON

2,000
CHILDREN MOBILIZED

10%
OF PLASTIC WASTE IS RECYCLED

200,000
BOTTLES AND 50,000 CAPS
COLLECTED