

Tunisia

The Little Prince's Journey

In northwestern Tunisia, a collective of artists uses *The Little Prince* to ignite the imagination of children living in an underprivileged neighborhood of Jendouba. The artists support the children in their artistic projects and create works inspired by encounters with the residents. The exhibition reveals another image of the neighborhood.

COUNTRY

Tunisia

LOCALISATION

Jendouba

DATES OF THE PROJECT

August 2022 – January 2023

ARTISTS INVOLVED

Wadi Mhiri, with Ahmed Boussarsar, Majed Zalila, Rim Abbès, Mohamed Benmoussa, and Youssef Meski

PARTICIPANTS

60 children and teenagers, and their families from the Al Battah neighborhood

FUNDING

Fonds Metis
Budget 15,000 €

PARTNERS

Al Battah Cultural and Sports Center

SECTOR AND SDG'S



3
MONTHS OF EDUCATIONAL
WORKSHOPS

200
NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS
VISITED THE EXHIBITION

25%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
IN THE JENDOUBA GOVERNORATE

NOTHING BUT POVERTY! DREAMING? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Jendouba, a small city in northwestern Tunisia, suffers from population exodus, with residents seeking better economic opportunities in major cities. As a result, public services and infrastructure are deteriorating. Despite public policies aimed at improving living conditions in underprivileged neighborhoods, many young people remain eager to leave the city. Social ties are weakening, and few can imagine a future in Jendouba.

HARNESSING IMAGINATION, INSPIRING CREATIVITY

Visual artist Wadi Mhiri brought together a multidisciplinary collective of artists (painter, musician, designer...) to create a unique space for artistic creation and dialogue for the residents of the Al Battah neighborhood.

Over three months, the collective conducted a series of educational and creative workshops with children and teenagers from the neighborhood, focusing on themes such as dreams, friendship, and tolerance, drawing inspiration from Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*.

The objective? To harness imagination and inspire creativity: instrument-making, composition, writing, drawing—each child pursued a personal project.

The resident artists immersed themselves in the neighborhood's daily life and forged strong bonds with its residents, creating works inspired by these encounters.

An exhibition at the neighborhood's cultural center brought together the works of the children and the artists. More than 200 people attended the immersive presentations of the artworks. Pride, wonder, joy, self-confidence—these were the words reported by participants. The *Little Prince* may stop over elsewhere in Tunisia in the coming months!

THEY SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE

*"We too have experienced *The Little Prince's* journey. All of us! It was a very powerful energy! There are no limits. You just have to dream. And add color to your dreams."*

RIM ABBES, ARTIST AND DESIGNER

"You grow from this type of experience. I was so moved by the children's joy when they created their works, and by the pride they saw in their parents' eyes!"

RAJA ABDELKHALEK, AFD TUNISIA INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT MANAGER