

# 2023 Summative Evaluation Report

Urban95 Tira



June 2024



Van Leer  
FOUNDATION





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# Research Work Plan – Evaluation actions in 2023



Research Period is February 2023- February 2024 (Research actions conducted in January 2023 were reported in 2022 Summative Evaluation Report)

	Community gardens-guided activity	Renovation of Bicycle Park	Sports Activity in Bicycle Park	Learning in the Garden Activity (Bicycle Park)	Online workshop series	Parent-to-Parent program	Mothers in Maternity Leave Program	Story Carpet Training	Kindergarten Teachers Trainings
<b>Field Observations</b>	1	1	1						
<b>Interviews</b>		N=6 residents	N=3 מפעילי ו-2 גננות N=6 Mothers				N=1		
<b>Focus Groups</b>	N=5 Mothers						N=6		
<b>Surveys</b>	N=22 Kindergarten Teachers			N=79 Residents	N=140	N=12 Baseline N=15 Endline	Baseline N=23 Endline N=11	N=14 Elderly Volunteers	N=19 Forest Kindergarten Training N=20 Jerusalem Tour
<b>Formative Evaluation, Strategic Consulting and Capacity Building</b>	Formative evaluation and strategic consulting: providing raw data from evaluation actions for immediate implementation recommendations Capacity building: guiding of Urban95 Tira municipal manager in surveys' data analysis and deriving insights and accompanying in independent development of questionnaires								



# Executive Summary – Key Insights



## Cost Effectiveness\* (The percentage is the calculation of investment cost per participant. The lower the score, the better the ratio)

- Content-based activities in the kindergarten/afternoon and online lectures for parents achieved a **very high ratio score of less than 1%**, thanks to **high participation extent**. Usually these were **respite activities with short-term impact on caregiver-child relationship**, while the **lectures contributed to parents' resilience in dealing with emergency situations**.
- Content-based activities for selected kindergartens yielded a **high ratio score of 1%-2%**. Kindergarten staff acquired knowledge and practical tools for independent work with young children (**long-term impact**).
- Workshops and training sessions for parents and kindergarten staff achieved a **medium ratio of 3%-6%**. The intimate group size allowed participants to acquire in-depth content that **will contribute to the children's long-term development**.

## Funding Sources and Partners\*

**The funding sources** for the content-based activities for residents and professional workforce, and the interventions in public spaces conducted during 2023 were **almost equally split between Urban95 and external resource pooling** (government ministries' calls for proposals, the Israel National Lottery, and the Community Centers Corporation), alongside donations from various business entities and academic and professional partners that supported the program through volunteer work.

**The external budgets were not fully utilized** due to difficulties faced by municipal officials in implementing the projects and integrating the activities into routine municipal operations, among other reasons due to the local municipal elections and the Gaza War.

## Municipal Involvement and Program Sustainability

**The program achieved multiple successful outcomes during 2023**, by building and establishing a resident community, training kindergarten staff, and implementing interventions in public spaces. The **assimilation of responsibility for the field of early childhood into municipal work mechanism has not yet been achieved**, due to the **challenges of city governance and the low performance capacity of municipal officials**, despite the close work of the Urban95 municipal manager with several municipal stakeholders. With the completion of Urban95 activity in Tira during 2024, it is likely that **services to residents** (parents and their young children) and to professional workforce, as well as **maintenance of public areas, will be stopped almost completely**. **Until end of activity in Tira, it is recommended to invest in establishing municipal capacity to sustain the program's outcomes, for example by training a city official to oversee early childhood needs.**

\* Details pertaining to the partners, funding sources, and cost-effectiveness scores, as well as description of municipal involvement in the projects, are provided in the [appendices](#).

# Executive Summary - Urban95 Tira Outcomes in 2023 Based on Evaluation Indicators

## Municipal Officials and Partners

- ❑ EC is on the municipal agenda
- ❑ Municipal officials are knowledgeable and understanding of EC needs
- ❑ Inter-municipal collaborations, onboarding of external stakeholders
- ❑ Public space pilots Implementation, providing EC contents and services with municipal investment
- ❑ Considering EC needs when planning while pooling external resources

- Urban95 municipal manager, strategic organizational consultant, and maintenance worker funded by the municipality supported the municipality's Urban95 work throughout 2023.
- Planning public space interventions and choice of locations accounted for EC and residents' needs, physical infrastructure conditions, and cultural considerations.
- Most projects' (public space, EC activities) implementation was facilitated through intra-municipal collaborations, alongside recruiting partners and pooling external resources.
- 9 out of 13 content-based initiatives, activities for residents and their children, and workforce trainings were funded exclusively by Urban95.

## Professional Field Workforce

- ❑ Participation in training for acquiring knowledge and practical tools
- ❑ Applying lessons learned at work with young children, including independent initiatives
- ❑ Peer learning, collaboration within a professional inter-city community

- About 100 kindergarten staff participated in trainings and/or guided activities, acquiring knowledge and practical tools for their work.
- About 90% reported gaining knowledge and tools they could implement independently, as well as practical experience, ideas for activities, and the ability to integrate new practices into their routine work with young children.
- About 80% are members of Urban95 WhatsApp group for education professionals from Tira, which serves as a space for peer learning.
- Fertile ground for establishment of an inter-municipal Arab professional community - many projects were realized through collaboration between several professional entities from the Arab community.

## Young Children and Their Caregivers

- ❑ Scope of public spaces and EC activities
- ❑ Use of spaces, services consumption & satisfaction
- ❑ Sense of security and safety in intervention areas
- ❑ Trust in the local authority
- ❑ Familiarity with Urban95 and repeated participation
- ❑ Acquiring knowledge and tools, parental well-being
- ❑ Joint caregiver-child play & time spent in public spaces
- ❑ Community and social belonging

- About 850 young children and 630 parents (mostly mothers) participated in EC activities and/or parenting guidance during 2023.
- About 50% are returning participants in Urban95 activities, are members of the local WhatsApp group and were familiar with the Bicycle Park through the program.
- High satisfaction with EC activities and Bicycle Park renovation, contributing to sense of trust in the authority and safety in the public space.
- Participants benefitted from acquiring knowledge and tools for promoting child development and coping with parenting challenges, getting new ideas for play, strengthening parental well-being, and getting to know other parents in the city.
- The content-based activities enhanced interaction, connection, and shared play between parents and children and between children, in addition to improving motor, emotional, and social skills.
- The public space activities enhanced the sense of belonging and responsibility for the space - among both children and their caregivers.





**Overview of the Main  
Projects Measured  
and Evaluated in  
2023**



# Community Gardens

## Sensory and motor activities for kindergarten children, under professional guidance.

Following the 4 sessions that took place in 2022, an additional 4 sessions were held between February and June 2023 focusing on beekeeping, nature crafts, seeds, and cooking from the garden.



### Location:

The climate forest yard, near the culinary school.



### Target audience:

5 kindergartens, including kindergarten staff and mothers:

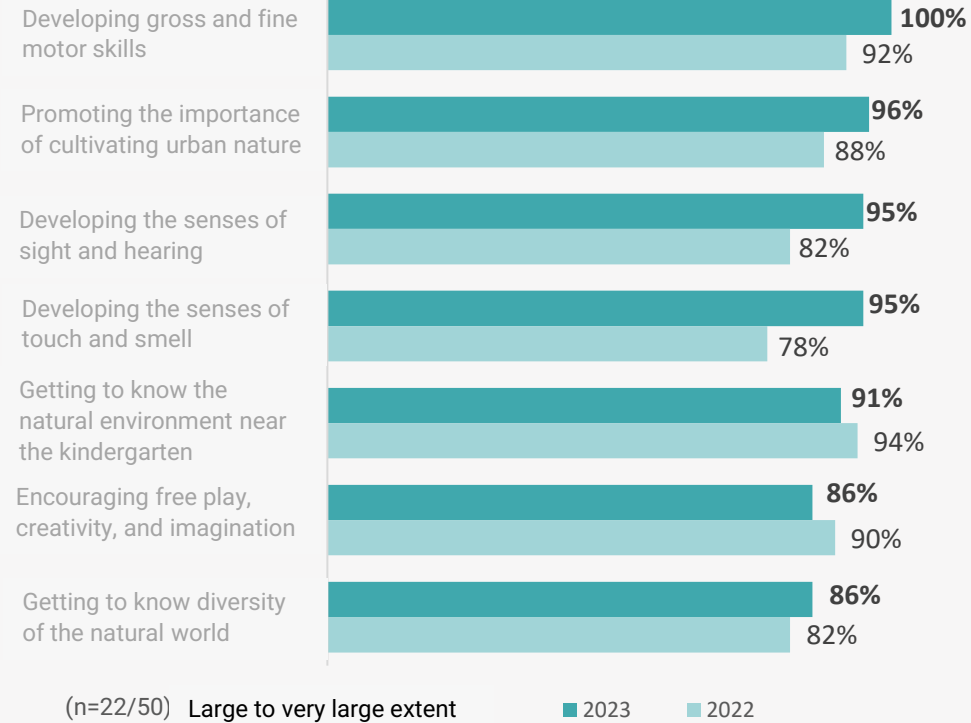
- 3 compulsory kindergartens: 100 children
- 1 special education kindergarten: 10 children
- 1 preschool: 35 children



### Activity goals:

- To encourage children to develop a personal connection with the natural environment near their kindergarten and understand how living systems function in nature and why this is important.
- To promote touch and smell senses development, as well as imagination, creativity, and self efficacy.

## Outcomes: Activity's Contribution to the Children's Development



**The kindergarten staff benefited by gaining new knowledge and tools, ideas for activities with the children, and implementing practices as part of the daily routine in the kindergarten.**



*"The activities were very special. We could see how successful they were from the stories the children shared when we came back to the kindergarten."*

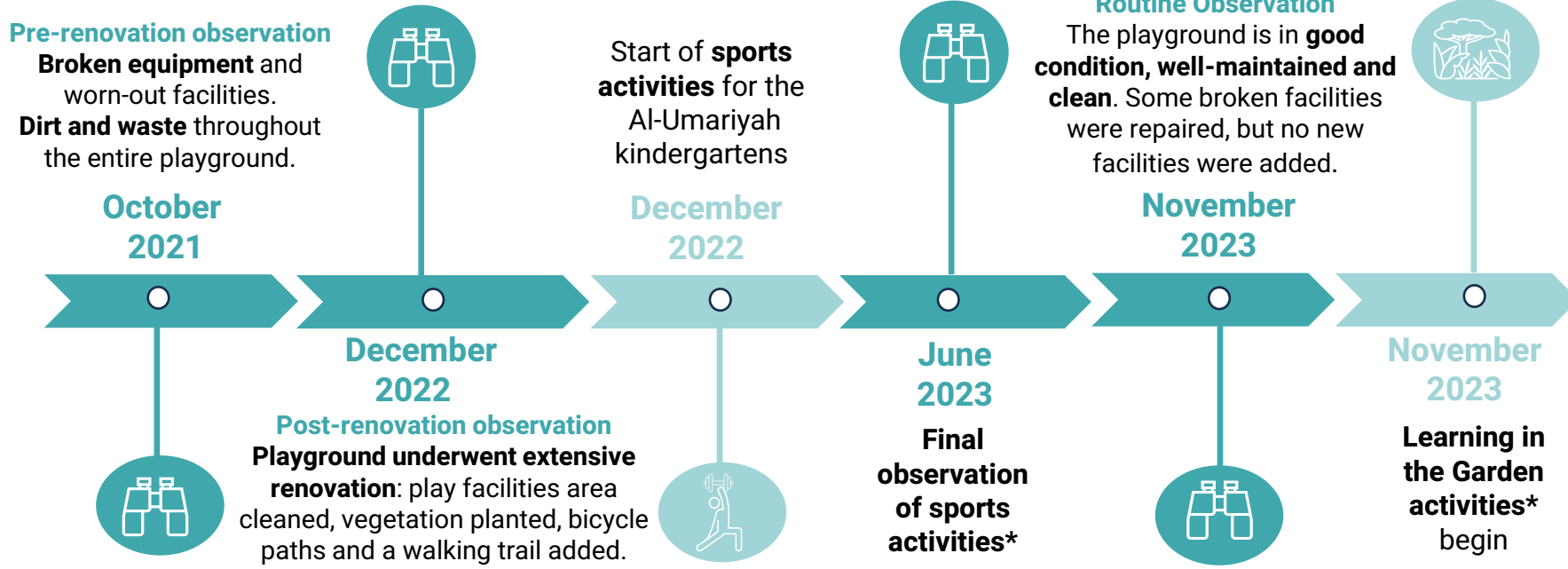
Kindergarten staff member





# Education Campus Playground and EC Activities

Education Campus Playground (3.4 dunams) is located between the swimming pool (inactive) and the Memorial Park. The renovation was carried out by the municipality, with funding from the Ministries of Health, Housing, and Agriculture, and irrigation systems donated by Netafim.



## Outcomes

The guided children's activities revealed the renovated playground to the city's residents. The routine observation indicate the play facilities, seating areas, and bike paths are used regularly and frequently by city residents - mothers and children and groups of teenagers. The playground is clean and well-maintained (compared to previous observations). There have been reports of personal initiatives by residents who clean the park with their children, although it is the municipality's responsibility to maintain the space. Community interaction among mothers and joint play among children were observed.



# The Parent-to-Parent Program

Home visits by caretakers and/or experienced mothers, child development professionals and a social worker from the municipality's welfare department, intended to help new mothers cope with the challenges of parenting.

**Location:**  
Monthly visits to participants' homes for about six months.

**Target audience:**  
16 new mothers of babies, from the welfare population.

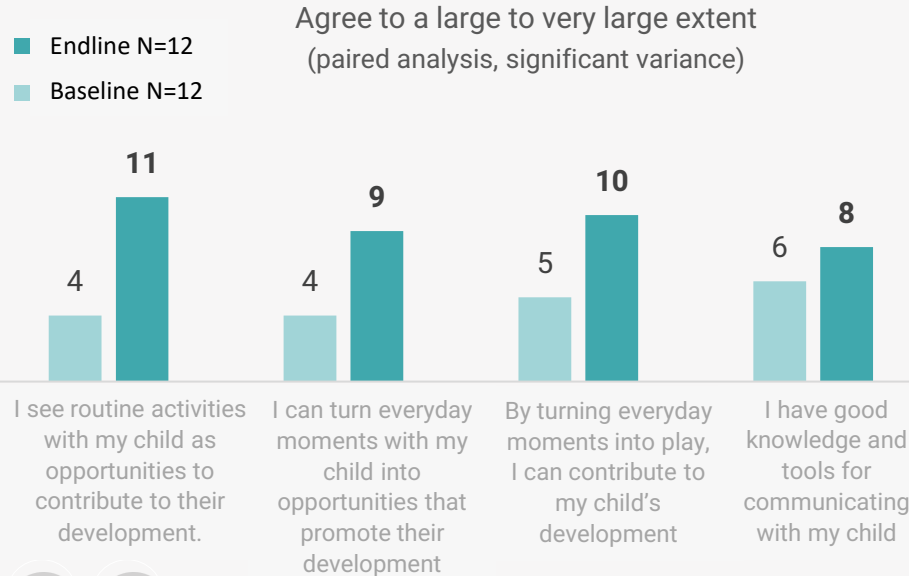
**Model:**

- Instructors were trained in the SEED Center's "Journey to Parenting" program established by Dr. Dana Shai of the Tel Aviv-Jaffa Academic College.
- Instructors were guided by the program coordinator (social worker) through monthly meetings, during which a personal support plan was developed for each participant.

**Program goals:**  
To provide ongoing support and guidance to new mothers and connect them to community and health services as needed. The approach is based on partnership and understanding the parental role, offering encouragement and support based on personal experience, good advice, emotional support, and empowerment.

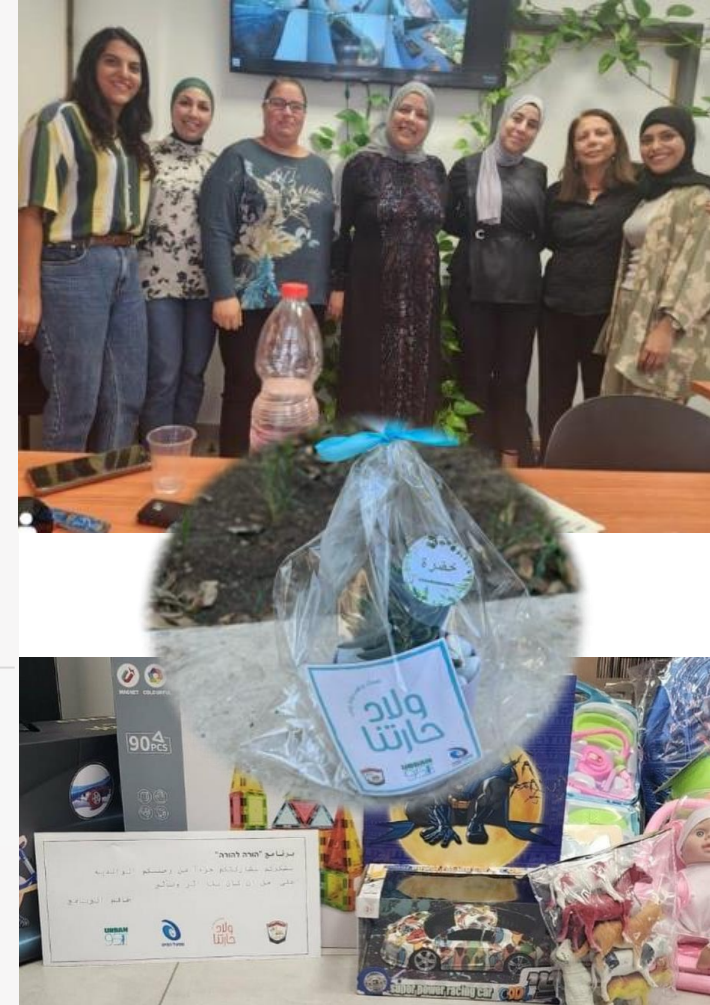
Intervention format of **six months of weekly meetings**, was particularly effective in meeting the welfare population's needs.

**The respondents markedly and significantly benefited** from the knowledge and tools pertaining to child development and coping with parenting challenges, **which also led to changes in their perceptions and habits -**



***"Any time a mother spends with her child is important. It doesn't matter what types of activities they do."***

Program participant





# The Mama'at Program

**The goal of the program is to provide mothers on maternity leave with knowledge and tools for coping with the challenges of infancy.**



## Location:

The Lana Women's Health Center



## Target audience:

25 mothers on maternity leave with infants up to 6 months old, from the general population in Tira.



## Model:

As part of the program, participants received guidance from early childhood experts over 7 sessions that were conducted between September and November 2023.



## Content:

- Introduction and the birth experience
- Baby massage
- Mindfulness and CBT tools for coping with changes and stress
- Nutrition for mothers and getting back in shape
- Baby's sleep and establishing healthy habits
- Changes in the family unit and intimacy

The participants' expectations were met, **provided solutions for the challenges** that had led them to join the program:

- Knowledge and tools for coping with challenges of infancy.
- Tools and practices for dealing with changes in the family and couple dynamics as well as **paying attention to their own personal needs.**
- **Getting to know other mothers.** The conversations they had allowed them to learn from similar experiences and support each other.



*"We heard stories and experiences from other mothers, and it gave us the feeling that we were not the only ones going through these things."*

Program participant

*"The most important benefit they received was that over the 6-7 weeks of the program, they met other mothers who were going through the same experience - new mothers, listening to each other, and facing the same challenges."*

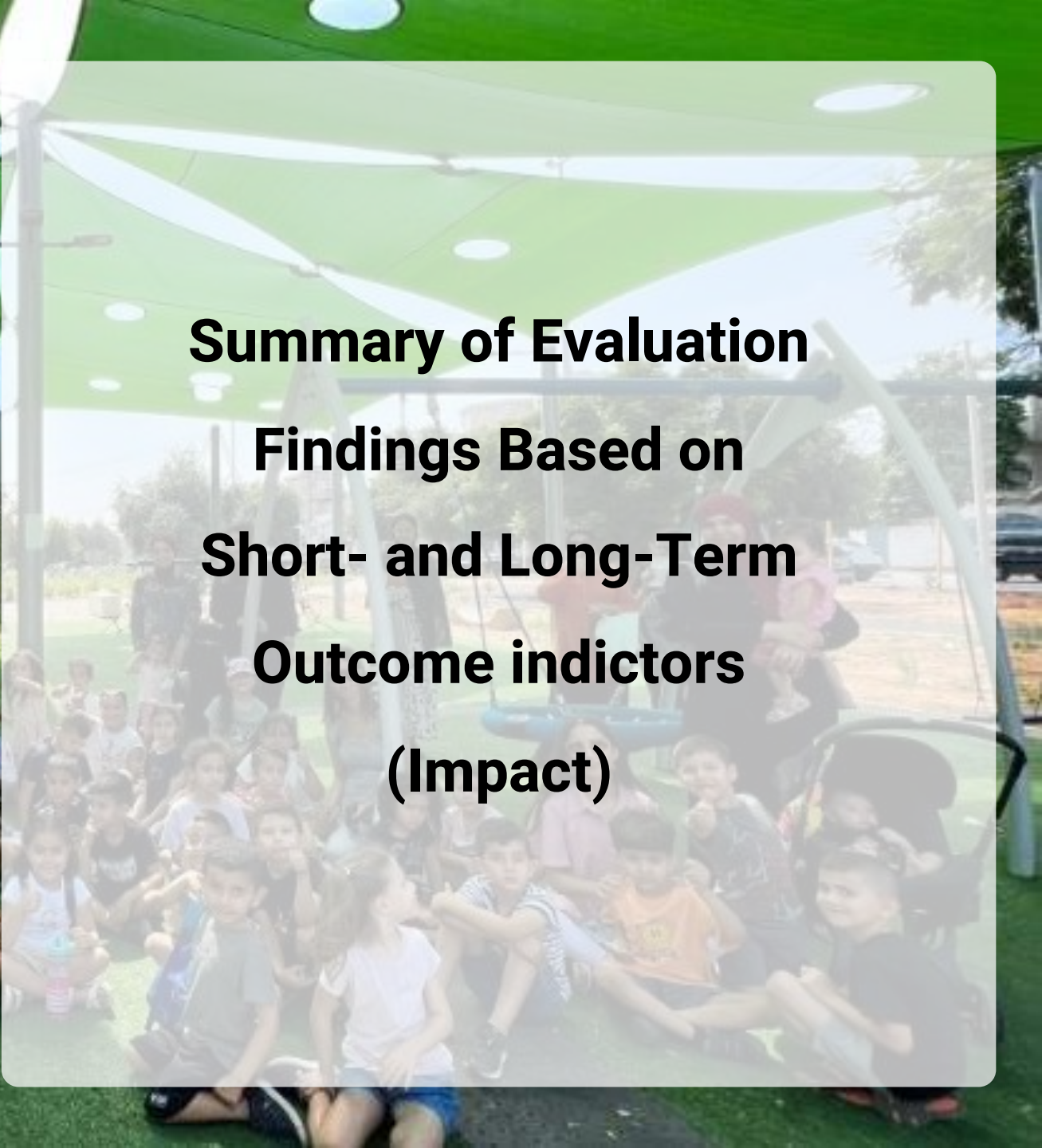
Program leader







**Summary of Evaluation  
Findings Based on  
Short- and Long-Term  
Outcome indicators  
(Impact)**





# Municipal Officials & Partnerships



EC is on the municipal agenda



Municipal officials are knowledgeable and understanding of EC needs



Inter-municipal collaborations, onboarding of external stakeholders



Public space pilots Implementation, providing EC contents and services with municipal investment



Considering EC needs when planning while pooling external resources

## Bicycle Park renovation and EC activities (sports, Learning in the Garden)

- Renovation of the playground considered its central location next to the education campus, newly renovated community center and swimming pool.
- **The playground’s design**, led by consultants from Urban95, **took EC's needs into account**.
- **The renovation was done by the municipality, with funds** from three government ministries, as well as a donation of irrigation systems from Netafim.
- The **intervention area has undergone a major change**; residents notice the difference and are pleased with the significant improvement.
- ‘Learning in the Garden’ activities were conducted in collaboration with the Smile Association.

## Community Gardens - Guided Activity

- The climate forest plot was chosen to promote children’s **sense of belonging and responsibility towards the natural environment** near the kindergartens: *“Children feel a sense of belonging to the land, especially to the area they visit regularly”* (Kindergarten teacher).

## Professional training for kindergarten teachers

- The kindergarten teachers' tour to East Jerusalem took place at a dedicated center for the Arab community that focuses on social-environmental education.
- The safety lecture for assistants was delivered by Beterem – Safe Kids Israel.
- The forest kindergarten lecture was delivered by educator Ran Cohen Aharonov.

## Parent-to-Parent program

- The program coordinator is a social worker from the municipality's **welfare department**, who led the program as part of her role.
- The participating mothers and their children are supported by the welfare department, and some were identified through the program.

## “Mama’at” (Mothers on Maternity Leave) Program

- The workshop facilitator **was apprehensive about collaborating with the municipality and was pleasantly surprised**: *“When I found out the municipality was going to pay, I was a bit scared about its conduct, but once I heard that Urban95 was involved, that changed.”*
- Addressing a need: *“This doesn’t exist in the Arab sector. Well done for identifying a specific need and reaching out to mothers.”*

## Actions and Outputs

- **The municipal program manager** regularly participates in routine staff meetings with the mayor, during which Urban95 interventions are discussed.
- **The Story Carpet** project is a collaboration with the Community Centers Corporation through its ‘Coming to Do Good’ initiative.
- The **Recalculating Our Route** course is a collaboration between Amal High School, a sustainability lecturer, the Rechter Center for Architecture, Urban95, and the Tira Municipality.
- **A maintenance worker was recruited with municipal funding** to operate and maintain the public spaces renovated under Urban95 and is responsible for cleaning the spaces as well as repairing malfunctions.
- Tira Municipality’s Urban95 work was accompanied by a **strategic organizational consultant** from the Arab community with extensive experience in working with local municipalities.



# Professional workforce



Participation in training for acquiring knowledge and practical tools



Applying lessons learned at work with young children, including independent initiatives



Peer learning, collaboration within a professional inter-city community

## Bicycle Park renovation and EC activities (sports, Learning in the Garden)

- The Learning in the Garden facilitator underwent gardening therapy training through the Urban95 program in 2022.
- The sports activities at the Education Campus Playground demonstrated the **importance of having an experienced Arabic-speaking instructor**.
- Participating in the sports activities **provided the kindergarten staff with the skills required to conduct similar activities independently**: *"It was a new experience for me, doing an activity outside the kindergarten. I was always afraid of doing it, taking responsibility, and going out alone with the children. Now, with Urban95, I feel that I have support"*(Kindergarten teacher).

## Community Gardens - Guided Activity

- Kindergarten teachers and assistants from 5 kindergartens participated in a series of 8 environmental activities in Tira.
- The kindergarten teams were satisfied with the activities, to a greater extent compared to 2022. This can probably be attributed to issues for improvement having been addressed.
- **All** kindergarten teams gained knowledge and tools, ideas for activities, and implementing new practices into the kindergarten routine: *"The activities were very interesting for both me and the children. I learned a lot from the instructors."*

## Kindergarten Teachers Tour to Jerusalem

- **32** kindergarten teachers from Tira and nearby Arab cities participated in the tour. Most reported gaining new knowledge, ideas for outdoor activities with children, and practices for involving parents in kindergarten activities.
- **85%** felt ready to conduct outdoor activities with the children independently.
- **80%** are members of Urban95 WhatsApp group for Tira kindergarten teachers.

## Online workshop series

- The lectures were delivered in collaboration with several facilitators (a professional inter-city community), which served as a basis for additional initiatives (in-person lectures for fathers, activities for mothers and children).

## Parent-to-Parent program

- The instructors underwent parental guidance training at the SEED Center's, **applying what they've learned when accompanying mothers** in the program.

## "Mama'at" (Mothers on Maternity Leave) Program

- Activity's location near Tira, at the Women's Health Center, managed by a well-known physiotherapist: *"When I saw that the program was at Lana, it was very encouraging. It's close to Tira, the center is pleasant, and she's very special."*

## Actions and Outputs

- **32** kindergarten teachers participated in the **Forest Garden lecture** (January 2023), where they received tools and ideas they could use in their work.
- **Story Carpet** training: **All** respondents highly benefitted in knowledge, tools, and practical storytelling experience, which they applied with children.
- **'Recalculating Our Route'** Course is an initiative by the head of the design track at the Amal High School, who established a collaboration between several professional entities.
- **20 kindergarten teachers and assistants** participated in a safety lecture (May 2023) as part of a municipal employee training session.

# Young Children and Their Caregivers



Scope of public spaces and EC activities



Use of spaces, services consumption & satisfaction



Sense of security and safety in intervention areas



Trust in the municipality

## Bicycle Park renovation and EC activities (sports, Learning in the Garden)

- **High satisfaction** with the renovation. Mothers: *“Even though there’s a closer playground next to us, my child prefers to go to the Bicycle Park.”*
- Observations at the park indicated an increase in scope and frequency of time spent in the playground, including extensive use of the bicycle track.
- **Limited sense of security & trust in municipality:** visitors expect the city to maintain the park and ask to set opening hours to prevent vandalism.
- **67 children** from 2 kindergartens participated in 8 sports activity sessions in the **Bicycle Park**: *“They look forward to Wednesdays, they really enjoy it.”*
- Use of public space: *“I focus on outdoor activities. They go out, breathe fresh air, play, and use their imagination”* (instructor).
- **Going out promotes a sense of safety:** *“They learned to look out for each other’s safety, and how to cross the road”* (kindergarten teacher).
- **180 children and 85 mothers** participated in 6 ‘Learning in the Garden’ sessions, which included a series of activities for mothers and children focusing on gardening, art, and the environment **in the Bicycle Park**.
- Most mothers reported that the activity met their expectations to a very large extent.
- **82%** reported that the planting activity’s main benefit was **promoting the importance of cultivating and maintaining the public space**.

## Community Gardens - Guided Activity

- **About 150 children** from 5 kindergartens, along with escort mothers, participated in 6 guided environmental activities in the **Climate Forest** plot, which was renovated under Urban95.
- Kindergarten staff: *“Children enjoyed going out and exploring the outdoors”*.
- Children ask to visit: *“My daughter now knows an easier way to get there”*.

## Online workshop series

- **About 450 parents** participated in a series of 10 online lectures (dozens of participants in each session), which provided a supportive space for guidance during the emergency period.
- Most were Tira residents, alongside participants other Arab cities.

## Parent-to-Parent program

- **16 mothers** from welfare population received personal support in their homes for about six months.
- **Highly Satisfied** with program’s duration, guidance quality and instructors’ availability.
- Despite initial difficulty in sharing their challenges, by the end **all mothers trusted** their instructors: *“She listens, I share things that bother me, the conversations really help me feel better.”*

## “Mama’at” (Mothers on Maternity Leave) Program

- **25 mothers** and their babies participated in 7 sessions with EC experts. None had previously attended parent meet-ups or parenting lectures.
- **Highly Satisfied** with the content, meeting location, instructors’ professionalism and availability - *“It made me realize that we have very good Arab experts.”*

## Actions and Outputs

- **The Story Carpet:** 15 grandmothers trained by Urban95 read stories to **about 350 children** from approximately 10 kindergartens in Tira.
- 20 high school students from the design track participated in the **‘Recalculating Our Route’** course, as part of which a public participation event was held and participated by **35 kindergarten children**.
- **45 children** from 2 kindergartens participated in a planting activity for Mother’s Day in **Salwa’s Garden**, which was renovated under Urban95.
- 6 parents attended a dedicated lecture on dealing with violence.



# Young Children and Their Caregivers



Familiarity with Urban95 and repeated participation



Acquiring knowledge and tools, parental well-being



Joint caregiver-child play & time spent in public spaces



Community and social belonging

## Bicycle Park renovation and EC activities (sports, Learning in the Garden)

- **Parents recognized the park through Urban95 activities** and are members of the program's WhatsApp group.
- Parents stated the renovation created a space for free play (without facilities). Higher rate of **interaction and joint play** between parents and children and among children was observed.
- The park encourages **community gatherings and enhances parents' well-being**. Mothers noted that spending time with their children and meeting friends in the playground is helpful when spending time outside the city is not possible.
- Visitors developed a **sense of belonging and responsibility toward the space**: they initiated independent clean-ups with their children and raised awareness of the issue among the neighborhood residents.
- Kindergarten staff and mothers reported the sports activities contributed to children's sense of belonging and responsibility for the space, their **motor and social skills, and outdoor fun**: *"They feel they're going on a trip every Wednesday. They love the sports activities and playing with friends outside"* (mother). *"They learn to wait and be patient, skills they wouldn't learn by staying in the classroom"*, *"They feel a sense of belonging to the place and take it upon themselves to keep it clean"* (kindergarten teacher).
- **About half of the participants** in the 'Learning in the Garden' activity **had participated in previous Urban95 activities** in Tira.
- For **all the mothers**, the activity was an opportunity to **strengthen community ties** with other parents and families from the city.
- **About 80%** benefited from **strengthening the bond** with their children, and over two-thirds gained new ideas for play (88% of them from the activity involving creating art from recycled materials).

## Community Gardens - Guided Activity

- The meaningful experiential activity allowed children to **develop their senses and motor skills**.
- Contribution for children: *"My daughter invites me to come and see the flower she planted," "I love how independent they are in the field; their self-confidence has increased."* (mothers)
- The accompanying mothers felt mutual responsibility and connection toward the kindergarten staff: *"I go there not only for my son, but also to help the kindergarten teacher and be with her."*

## Parent-to-Parent program\*

- **Contribution beyond expectations** by gaining knowledge and tools to promote ECD, dealing with parenting and extended family challenges, strengthening bonds with their children, ideas for joint play, and even changing perceptions and habits.
- Most noted having a safe space to vent, share difficulties, and receive support.
- Participants wanted to meet with other mothers and strengthen community ties.

## Actions and Outputs

- **Story Carpet Training**: **All** respondents benefited to a large to very large extent in terms of knowledge, tools, and ideas for joint play with children.
- The '**Recalculating Our Route**' course promoted a sense of belonging to the city among the students and connected them to the city's kindergarten children.
- **The Mother's Day planting activity in Salwa's Garden** allowed children from 2 kindergartens in the city to get to know each other, strengthened the bond between mothers and their children, and facilitated community interaction among the mothers.

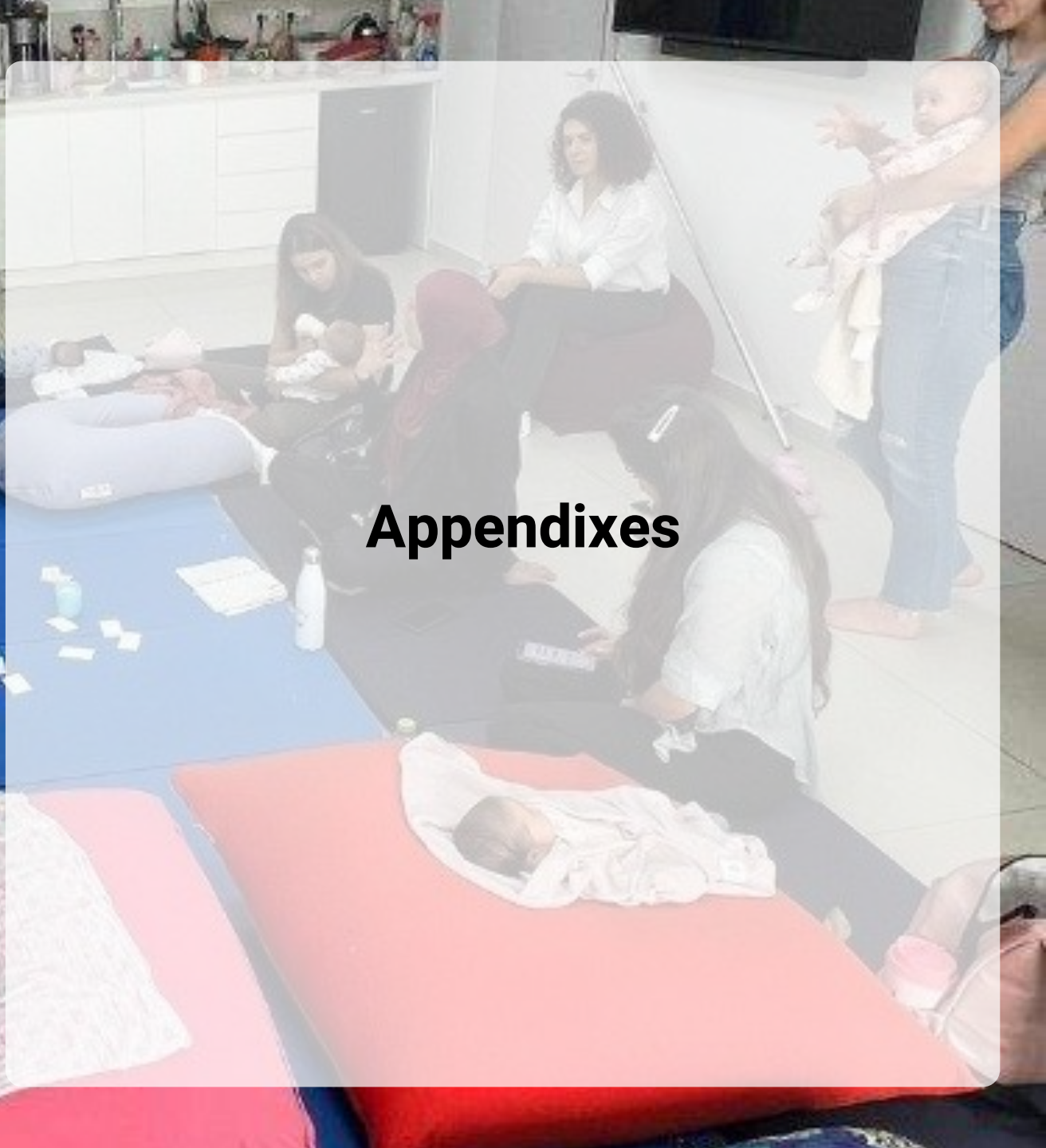
## Online workshop series

- About half had **participated in a previous lecture series**.
- **Most** were highly contributed by knowledge and tools for coping with stress, daily parenting challenges, and ECD issues.

## "Mama'at" (Mothers on Maternity Leave) Program\*

- **All** were contributed by knowledge and tools for ECD, better family support system, and available consult.
- **All met new mothers and reported a safe space** to vent and share parenting dilemmas: *"We encouraged each other."*
- Parental well-being: *"We put ourselves as mothers in the center, we talked about ourselves."*

\* Details about the project and evaluation findings can be found in the appendices section.



**Appendixes**



# Detailing of activities and outputs\* in 2023

## Services and Activities for Residents (Routine and in state of Emergency)

Activity	Period	Participants	Partners	Budget ((NIS)	Funding Sources	Cost Effectiveness
<b>Stories Carpet</b>	2022: Training for grandmothers Activity in kindergartens: January-June 2023	Following the storytelling training, 15 grandmothers read stories to 350 children in 10 kindergartens	"Baim BeTov" initiative of the Community Centers Corporation	6,000	Urban95 Community Centers Corporation	6.5%
				for training 25,000 for activities & PR video		0.3%
<b>Community Gardens Activities</b>	October 2022 to June 2023	150 children of 5 kindergartens, including staff & escort mothers in 8 sessions	Kindergarten Inspector	60,000	Urban95	0.65%
<b>Activity for Mother's Day in Salwa's Garden</b>	March 2023	2 kindergartens – 45 children & escort mothers	Kindergarten Inspector	3,800	Urban95	2.25%
<b>Sports Activities in Bicycle Park</b>	March to June 2023	2 kindergartens – 67 children including staff & escort mothers in 6 guided sessions	Kindergarten Inspector	4,680	Urban95	1.5%
<b>Parent to Parent Program</b>	April to October 2023	16 mothers of welfare population, weekly meetings for 6 months	Municipal Welfare Department The instructors were trained at the SEED Center's program "Journey to Parenting"	70,000	the Israel National Lottery	6.25%
<b>Lecture on dealing with violence for parents</b>	September 2023	6 parents		2,500	Urban95	16.5%
<b>"Mama'at" (Mothers on Maternity Leave) program</b>	September to November 2023	25 mothers and their babies in 7 sessions	Lana Women's Health Center	11,400	the Israel National Lottery	4%
<b>Online workshop series</b>	October to December 2023	450 parents in 10 sessions		4,000	Urban95	0.25%
<b>Learning in the Garden Activities</b>	November 2023 to January 2024	180 children and 85 mothers in 6 sessions	The facilitator was trained for gardening therapy as part of her position in Child Development Unit, by Urban95	5,000	the Israel National Lottery	0.55%

\*According to data provided by the Urban95 Tira municipal manager.

# Detailing of activities and outputs\* in 2023

## Improving EC solutions in public spaces and public buildings

Activity	Period	Participants	Partners	(Budget (NIS)	Funding sources
<b>'Recalculate Our Route' Course</b>	January to June 2023	20 high school students Public participation event with 35 kindergarten children	Amal High School Sustainability Instructor Rechter Architecture Center Tira Municipality	7,000 NIS for training The public space placemaking project next to the kindergarten <u>wasn't implemented due to lack of funding by the municipality</u>	Urban95
<b>Salwa's Garden - routine maintenance &amp; fixing safety hazards</b>	July to November 2023	Municipal Engineering Dep. Safety Consultant Studio 1:1	After several meetings with all partners, a hazard report was submitted, including a bill of quantities. The municipality was supposed to carry out the repairs through its suppliers, but this did not materialize. Also, <u>there is no regular maintenance of the garden.</u>		
<b>Planning community garden at the community center backyard and/or at the bicycle</b>	July to November 2023	Tira Community Center Municipal Engineering Dep. Re-forest	Project funded by Ministry of Agriculture, to be implemented by the municipal engineering dep. A public participation event was held by Re-Forest, but the <u>project was frozen at the planning phase</u> , as all community center employees resigned. Urban95 to realize the project at the Bicycle Park, without success. The municipality is responsible to report back to the call for proposal.	10,530 NIS from Urban95 for Garden Planning Call for proposals of Ministry of Agriculture	
<b>Hiring a maintenance worker to take care of Bicycle Park and Climate Forest Plot</b>	September to December 2023	Urban95 Tira Municipality	At Urban95 request, a dedicated maintenance worker was hired, to look after the Urban95 renovated public spaces in Tira. After receiving training and guidance by Urban95 Tira municipal manager, he perform his duty until end of 2023. Since then, the <u>public spaces have not been maintained.</u>	Call for proposals of Ministry of Agriculture	


## In the Municipality


Activity	Period	Participants	Partners	(Budget (NIS)	Funding sources	Cost Effectiveness
<b>Forest Garden Lecture</b>	January 2023	32 kindergarten teachers	Forest Garden Initiative	2,574	Urban95	3.1%
<b>Tour to Jerusalem</b>	January 2023	32 kindergarten teachers	Sinsila Center	8,500	Urban95	3.3%
<b>Safety Lecture</b>	May 2023	20 kindergarten assistants	'BeTerem' safety Org.	1,100	Urban95	5%
<b>Strategic Advocacy</b>	May 2023 - March 2024	Tira Municipality	Organizational consultant	25,000	Urban95	




# Sports Activities for Kindergartens in the Bicycle Park


**March - June 2023: Weekly sports activities were held in the playground to introduce the new and renovated public space to the city's residents and their children.**

 **Location:** Bicycle Park - the renovated playground at the Education Campus.

 **Target audience:** 67 children from 2 kindergartens, accompanied by kindergarten staff and volunteer parents.

 **Benefit to the children:**

- Getting to know urban nature environment, spending time and engaging in activities outside the kindergarten.
- Strengthened sense of belonging and responsibility for the space.
- Developing motor, sensory, and emotional skills through play.
- Strengthened self efficacy and collaboration skills through individual and group training.

 **Benefit to kindergarten teachers:**

- Free time and a break from the routine.
- An opportunity to see the children from a different perspective.
- Acquiring skills for conducting outdoor activities with the children on their own.

Choosing an **experienced Arabic-speaking instructor** was highly appropriate and beneficial. The activity under his guidance was a positive experience for the children, the kindergarten staff, and the mothers.

**The activity's main goals were achieved:**



*"The children benefited from it. They feel more connected to the village and the public space. They've started asking their parents to come to the garden."*

Kindergarten teacher

*"The children come home, repeat the movements they learned, and teach them to their siblings. Now, when they play and jump at home, they use the movements they learned during the activity."*

A mother

*"The kindergarten teachers told me they want to continue with the sports activity, even if it has to be done independently through them."*

The instructor



# Learning in the Garden

A series of **6 joint activities for mothers and their children** took place between November 2023 and January 2024, led by a therapist who underwent gardening therapy training as part of Urban95.

**Time and Location:** Saturday afternoons in the Bicycle Park

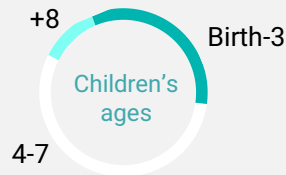
**Target Audience:** Tira residents, mothers and their children

**Main benefits to the children based on the activity:**

Session topic	Main benefit
Kokedama planting Creating a "grass head"	Creating things using elements from nature
Musical instruments from recycled materials	Encouraging free play, imagination and creativity
Artwork from nature	Developing gross and fine motor skills by using tools
Planting in the garden, Artwork from recycled materials	Cultivating and taking care of the public space Getting to know the playground

The number of participants in each session ranged from:

**15 to 35 parents and children**



Most of the children who participated were in the intended age range

The most significant benefit to parents were **positive interactions** between mothers and their children and getting new ideas for play.

For almost all participants, the sessions were an **opportunity to meet** families and parents from the city.



*"I was surprised to meet a childhood friend whom I had been trying to arrange a meeting with for a long time and it just didn't work out. I was happy to see her at the activity, we enjoyed planting together, and our children got to know each other. This is the first time I've felt proud of a project in Tira."*

*"We learned new concepts, my child interacted with other children and also spent time with me. It was a fun outing outdoors."*

*"I learned how to do activities with simple materials we have at home and in the garden, without spending money, and the children really enjoyed it."*

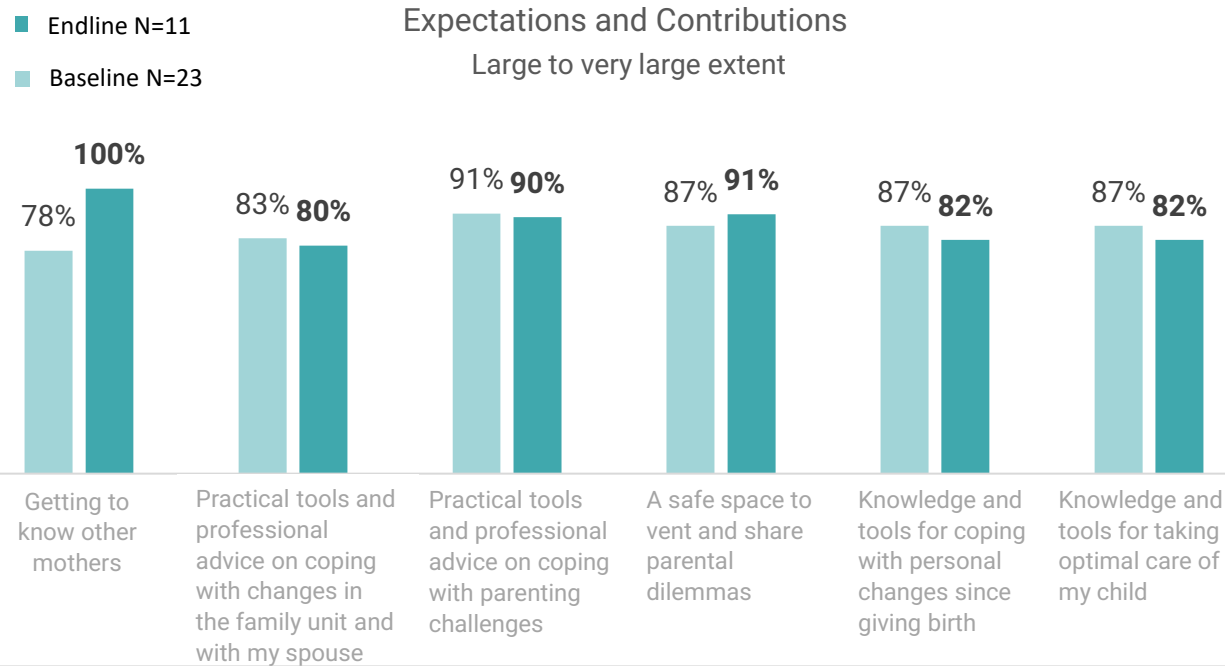
*"We got to take home the instruments we created from the recycled materials, and we're also taking home some beautiful memories."*



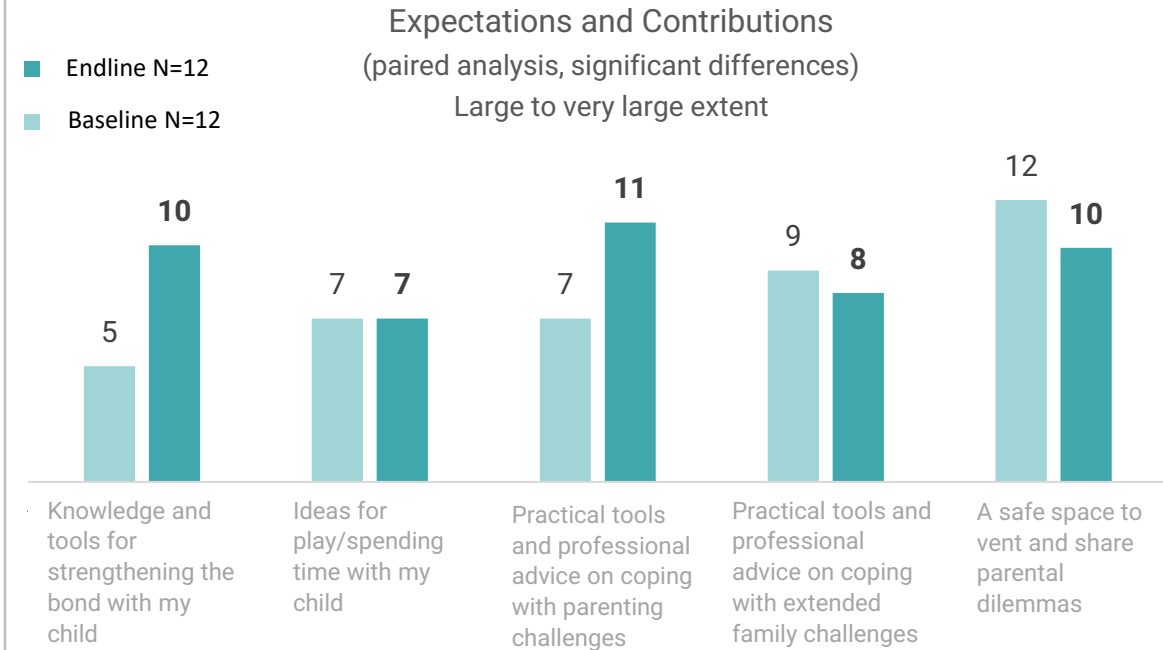


# “Mama’at” (Mothers on Maternity Leave) and “Parent-to-Parent” Programs

## The Mama’at Program - Evaluation Findings



## The Parent-to-Parent Program – Evaluation Findings



The Parent-to-Parent program was participated by mothers from the welfare population, while the Mama’at program was participated by mothers from the general society.

There are similarities and differences between the two target audiences:

- In both populations, mothers mainly consulted with their extended family. However, **Mama’at participants also consulted with the Tipat Halav nurse and the pediatrician.** Accordingly, while Parent-to-Parent participants did not use consultation services at all, **about half of the Mama’at participants used pre-and/or post-natal parental guidance services provided by the HMO.**
- Among both populations, the sought-after services were workshops on child development, public EC play spaces, and strengthening the community of mothers through regular meetings. However, **Mama’at participants also sought services for themselves, not just in their parental role.**
- The evaluation findings indicate that the Parent-to-Parent participants’ starting point was lower (in terms of knowledge and tools, parental perceptions, and more), and accordingly, they benefited significantly from the program. However, Mama’at participants, despite their more advanced starting point, also gained additional knowledge and tools.