

The logo for 'Clown me in AWRAD' is centered in a dark blue circle. The word 'Clown' is in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a red circle containing a white dot (resembling a clown's nose) positioned over the letter 'o'. Below 'Clown', the words 'me in' are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the left of 'me in', the acronym 'AWRAD' is written vertically in a small, white, sans-serif font.

**Clown**  
me in  
AWRAD

*send us where  
love is needed*

**2025  
Annual  
Report**



## Overview

Clown Me In (CMI) is a Lebanese clowning and street theatre NGO founded by Sabine Choucair, using laughter, play, and the arts to bring relief and connection to disadvantaged and conflict-affected communities across the world.

2025 marked another year of compounded crisis for Lebanon. Following the devastating Israeli war on the country, communities across Lebanon continued to grapple with displacement, destruction, and deep psychological trauma. Thousands of families were unable to return to their homes, and the mental and emotional toll, particularly on children, women, and the elderly, remained acute. In a country already exhausted by years of economic collapse and political instability, the need for psychosocial support and spaces of collective healing had never been greater.

In response, CMI intensified its work on the ground. Through performances in shelters and war-affected villages, trauma-informed clown tours, arts-based workshops for women and girls, Forum Theatre with elderly communities, and community events across the country, we reached over 12,000 people, delivering 68 shows and 129 workshops, and resisting in our own way.



In 2025 Clown Me In partnered with:  
Clowns Without Borders Sweden, USA and UK, SIDA,  
DROSOS Foundation, UNDP, LOGS Association, Markaz Dari,  
and the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Our total budget for 2025 was **USD 240,000**

We held **129** workshops

We performed **68** shows

We reached over **12,000** people

## Projects

### **CAPE (Creative Arts for Peace and Equality)**

In 2025, Clown Me In (CMI) delivered 20 local workshops, comprised of a total of 120 sessions. These workshops were designed for adolescent girls and women, engaging around 250 participants from Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian communities. Through arts-based and social therapy approaches, the sessions created safe and supportive spaces for expression, dialogue, and empowerment.

The initiative specifically aimed to encourage girls and women to speak up, particularly those affected by war and conflict, belonging to minority groups, facing economic hardship, or exposed to violence and harassment. By fostering creativity and connection, the workshops contributed to strengthening participants' psychosocial wellbeing and supporting their journey toward inner balance and resilience.

*Funded by Clowns Without Borders - Sweden*







## Clowning Shows and Recreational Activities in Shelters

Amid the devastating Israeli war on Lebanon, we launched a critical clowning tour to provide emotional relief and support to displaced individuals living in shelters across the country. This initiative sought to offer a momentary reprieve from the psychological and emotional toll of the conflict through laughter, play, and shared experiences.

The project consisted of **10 clowning performances and recreational activities** carried out between the 4th and the 10th of January. Following the declaration of the ceasefire, activities were temporarily paused, as displaced families began returning to their villages. During this time, we took a step back to reflect and assess how the situation might evolve. However, it soon became evident that many families still required support—particularly those whose homes had been completely destroyed and were unable to return. In response to these ongoing needs, we resumed our activities.

Performances were held both in shelters hosting displaced families, and in villages and locations directly affected by the war. Each day included two performances in different locations, allowing the team to maximize its reach and engage with a wide range of audiences, **reaching 700 people**.

The performances were designed to be inclusive, welcoming individuals of all ages—children, youth, adults, and the elderly. A dedicated team of five experienced clowns led each performance, ensuring a high-quality experience that provided both emotional relief and moments of collective connection for those navigating the aftermath of war.

*Funded by DROSOS Foundation*





## Theatre of the Oppressed

In this project, conducted with 120 participants aged 60-80, we explored the role of the elderly in the community and the question of how children deal with their elderly parents. During the sessions, we first introduced the Forum Theatre tool to the participants before presenting the performance. After several working sessions, we developed two scripts and used a puppet to represent the elderly role. The actors involved in the performance were members of our team. The interaction was very successful, and the feedback was extremely positive.

*Funded by Al Ribat Association*



## ClownVentures Performances

We presented ClownVentures in Lebanon, marking its first performances in a theatre setting. Two shows were held on February 1st at Sunflower Theatre, followed by one performance on April 2nd at Al Madina Theatre.

ClownVentures is a participatory clown performance that combines physical comedy, music, and improvisation to create shared moments of joy and connection. Through play and direct audience engagement, the show invites people of all ages to laugh, interact, and briefly step outside the pressures of everyday life together.



*Click the button to watch the  
ClownVentures recap video*



## CAPE Boot Camp

It was the second camp held in Jordan, lasting one week and bringing together 30 participants from Palestine, Yemen, Lebanon, Sweden, and Jordan, all of whom work on the CAPE program in their respective countries. Hosted by Masrah Al Balad, the training served as both a refresher of shared expertise and an opportunity to learn new tools and work on case studies. It was also a beautiful moment to reconnect, communicate, and exchange experiences across contexts, strengthening the network and shared methodology of the program. The camp also included a performance by the Clown Me In team.

*Funded by Clowns Without Borders Sweden*







## Clown Lab & Relief Tour

This project was developed with CMI, Clowns Without Borders USA and two psychiatrists, Sofie Banu and Makram Haidar, from the Clinic for International Trauma Survivors in Texas. Together, we created a trauma-informed clown performance responding to post-war realities of PTSD, anxiety, and depression, reaching **3,437 people across 15 shows**. Through play, embodiment, and care, the work offered accessible, non-clinical spaces for emotional release, connection, and healing.

*Funded by Clowns Without Borders USA*







## The Glitch

Lebanon has been through so much, but for one magical week, our show transformed everyday emotional struggles into shared laughter. Between July 19 to 25, and 22 to 28 December, 22 shows popped up in community centers, on the streets and in courtyards, reaching 3,686 people, and taking them on a journey that quickly unravels into joyful chaos.

*Funded by Clowns Without Borders Sweden & SIDA*







## **UNDP Events**

In August and September 2025, Clown Me In partnered with several NGOs across different regions of the country to design and implement seven community-based events. Responding to the specific needs and contexts identified by each partner, the activities were tailored to engage diverse groups within the communities. Some participants were invited to take part in Forum Theatre, creating space for dialogue and collective reflection; others joined interactive giant games that encouraged play, cooperation, and connection; while wider audiences attended clown performances that brought moments of laughter and emotional relief. In several locations, these activities were combined to create dynamic, multi-layered events.

These interventions aimed to foster a sense of togetherness by bringing people from different backgrounds into shared spaces of interaction, creativity, and expression. Through participatory and inclusive approaches, the events helped strengthen social bonds, encourage mutual understanding, and offer communities a much-needed opportunity to reconnect in a positive and engaging environment.

*With the support of UNDP*

## Romania Tour

For the second consecutive year, Sabine Choucair, alongside artists Stéphanie Sotiry and Tiff Wear toured Romania, in collaboration with LOGS organisation. The tour included five performances, reaching approximately 1,000 audience members. They performed for Syrian, Ukrainian and Palestinian refugees, as well as the Roma community.

*Funded by LOGS Association*



## Workshops/Events

### Union Theological Seminary

Sabine Choucair was invited to Union Theological Seminary to lead a class exploring the intersection of religion and comedy. The class examined how humour can function as a tool for spiritual inquiry, resistance, and human connection. The students were invited to reflect on laughter not as irreverence, but as a powerful lens through which faith, power, and vulnerability can be explored.

### Drosos Foundation 20th Anniversary Celebration

At the 20th anniversary celebration of the Drosos Foundation in Zurich, Sabine Choucair participated both as herself and through her clown, Sabouny, assisted by Rami Abi Khalil's clown character, Drami. Through playful interventions and interactions with the invitees, they brought lightness and human connection to the gathering. In addition, Sabine moderated a panel discussion with changemakers, guiding a conversation on impact, creativity, and collective futures.



### **Gaza Project in Egypt**

Seven clowns spent five days in Cairo, Egypt, giving three days of psychosocial support sessions to 30 kids coming from Gaza. Teaming up with Markaz Dari, they performed a show and played games with the kids and their families during a special event to end the summer camp.

## **Lecture-Performance**

### **The Clowntastic Lecture-Performance**

In Albania, within the Anna Lindh Forum, Sabine Choucair presented The Clowntastic Lecture-Performance, accompanied by live improvised music. The performance featured Swedish musician Jonas Pour Mozaffar and Moroccan DJ Souma, whose sonic contributions created a dynamic and immersive atmosphere.



# Media Highlights

*Click logo to see media*



The Washington Post



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You can find us  
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