

The idea of our project was to create a library in a place where children do not have educational support. One month ago, the library was ready to welcome the children of Sinjar, a demolished city in the north of Iraq.

We study at an UWC school, and we are used to have all the support and help from teachers, friends and family. On the other hand, we know this is not a universal situation: that there are people all over the globe who do not have access to education. We think that our project is making a difference on the children's academic and personal life because they have the tools to build something new, to have independence regarding education (for example: choosing what to learn) and have the possibility to explore and improve their interests. They also have the support from a local organization that provides the help from teachers.

So far, we have achieved very positive feedback. They are very motivated to learn and to have a place where they can do so, together with their friends, family and teachers.

We feel proud of the children because they want to study and grow up more aware of the surroundings. Sometimes we find ourselves lazy or bored because of school work, but education is the strongest weapon and it is beautiful to see the happiness attached on their faces.

We believe that this project is making a difference on their lives, but also on ours. Azeez helped with everything he could at the place: he used the money to buy shelves, tables, books and decorations. At the same time, Elisa Mascarenhas was in Portugal supporting with everything she could as well: planning and organizing the project. Our team respects and protects human rights and helping people is what makes us alive. One thing that Elisa found very heart touching was that four girls sent her a video saying "obrigada" that means "thank you" in Portuguese.

We won 1000\$, but that value is equivalent to 849€ so we asked people to contribute some donations for this project and we ended up having 900€ to spend on the project. We spent 255€ on tables, chairs and shelves; 560€ on books and 85€ on decorations.

If I had to run the project again, I would promote the project at a bigger scale to have more crowdfunding so we could invest in even more books. On the other hand, this project has just started, we will still promote it and find more resources to buy more books.

This project is going very well and we hope we can help as many children as possible. We made a video and I will create an attachment with it.