



**WE ARE
HERE**



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TORRAHA

ART AND COMMUNITY

Torraha was founded in 2013 to contribute within multiple social efforts to integrate deprived segments of women, children and youth for achieving affirmative work concepts to make an attempt for changing circumstances that lead to social exclusion.

Using creative practices as an entrance to dialogue and expression in order to merge and empower socially marginalized groups.

Develop training program that covers domestic, regional and global partnerships and networking to enrich the program.



The background image shows a group of women in a workshop. One woman in the center is wearing a white headscarf and a striped sweater. Another woman to her right is wearing a red headscarf and a dark patterned sweater, smiling. The room has various tools like a ruler and a saw hanging on the wall, and a painting of a sailboat. The text 'WE ARE HERE' is overlaid in large, bold, teal letters on the left side of the image.

WE ARE HERE

The founders of the project, trainees and partners, all of us are attempting to make a positive and indelible mark, all of us say: “We are Here”. The idea of “We are Here” project and catalog raised from considering the place as a social space that includes individuals’ interactions with their environment, their ideas, their aspirations in addition to their prejudices and concerns.

“We are Here” is an observation of transformation in the experiences of a group of Syrian women and other nationalities in Egypt. Away from war and asylum experience, the idea is about the cultural and social specificities and addresses the impact of the relocation of a group of the population from their original society to the hosting one. Since we believe that this relocation represents an opportunity to develop the refugees experiences as much as it represents challenges and constraints.

We are here project comes out as an extension of “El Dafyra” project and from the concepts of “women to women support”, empowerment of Syrian ladies towards their training tools in the handcrafts filed like sewing, crochet, leather’s artifacts, Macrame and Soap made from natural materials, and developing their skills to become trainers as they obtain TOT and merge them in the Egyptian society, Torraha aims as a next step to support establishing Syrian pilot groups in the handcraft filed.



AZZA ABOU MANDOUR
Project Manager



From the concept of women to women's support, I believe that our responsibilities are not limited only to offering trainings, but to support making a sustainable product.

I am interested in providing a space for women, not only because they are categorized as a vulnerable group, yet from the concept of cultural and social specificities even inside our local society.

The Syrian woman -specifically- did not only get through the experience of asylum but she left her comfort zone, her home, and her folks. For me, as a female, I can feel how this could be a burden to keep family unity beside the conventional asylum burden.





OLA ABOU MANDOUR
Technical Consultant



Since we have started El Dafyra project until “We are here” project, the selection procedure of the participants have been the most challenging process, because most of Syrian women or girls are participating in such workshops just to get out to change the mood, or to get attendance allowance which may be a beneficial for living, the most challenged process was to select number of participants from a minor group of them to become trainers.

We have selected from them the most convenient, the most enthusiastic, the most eager to develop their capabilities to become, not just trainees but competent trainers who could offer their experiences in one of the handicrafts.

I had a hunch about our success, and that we made the right choices, we have directed the participants properly until they have showed the best of themselves, their experiences to get the extreme benefit of the TOT workshop and merging their updated knowledge with their experience in the field of handicrafts.





HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING AND DEVELOPING CENTER

www.facebook.com/Soryana.org

SHEFAA EL-REFAAY
Soryana Executive Manager

REFAA EL-REFAAY
Soryana General Manager



We have met Torraha’s team, by chance, two years ago, they have told us about their projects, and they were planning to work with refugees, and I need to say; I don’t like using “refugees “term because we are Syrian guests.We have started to work firstly, with them in leather and sewing workshops. In Soryana we didn’t offer these kinds of workshops before and it was a wonderful experience, especially because handicrafts workshops create intimacy between women that make them feel secure when they are working together and having a chat about their problems and this is quite good.



We had the pleasure as Soryana Co. to had cooperation with Torraha in the activities of “We are Here” project which aims to support and empower the Syrian women in the Egyptian society. The cause of asylum - seekers on the Egyptian territory is everyone cause, and after seven years from the Syrian crisis, there are whom who have the determination and power to make a contribution in this cause. Art is a humanitarian spirit reflects in drawing, music and even the handicrafts that the designer skillfully masters, so art enable producing unique products. Therefore the activities of “ we are here ” project was based on supporting Syrian refugees, this project is one of pillars that give them hope, by making products that can be made at their home and launch their own startups which is a pivotal part in supporting refugee families in Egyptian society. In order to backing these families to overcome the crises of wars and loss, Likewise, achieving fair integration with the host community in order to be active in their society and not just individuals who receive temporary aid.





OSSAMA HELMY
TOT Trainer



“The Machine came up with fabric!”, It’s an Egyptian proverb, it is said when there is a good work result. I’m so glad for participating in this project with the Syrian women. We felt the progress and development despite the theoretical parts during carrying out the training. I’m thrilled with Torraha’s continuous follow up for the trainers and the continual evaluation process.





STORIES OF PARTICIPANTS



"I was afraid prior to the implementation, then I became full of joy and optimism after we finished. Ola talked to me and gave me the spirit of power because she believed in me, so I got more confident to make a try. At our Syrian society we don't encourage or support each other as same as here, when you give someone positive energy; right away he starts to do it!"



QAMAR
SOAP TRAINER



"Almost eight years ago, we have arrived in Egypt. As an expatriate who has left her country due to the war's conditions, I have gone through various stages. The days passed until my life started to change when I have known Torraha and "El Dafyra" project, which was the beginning of my happiness. We have communicated through Soryana, until I attended the leather workshop, and I have learned quickly because I adore handicrafts and this was the first step of success. The other organizations have started to call me as a trainer after I was a trainee."



SAFYNAZ
LEATHER WORKSHOP TRAINER



“We came from Syria, from the core of war and tragedy, we were looking for safety, and we have reached Egypt, the country of security and safety after we have encountered many risks on our way from Sudan to Egypt. And in Alexandria, we know Soryana, then Torraha. We have participated in many interesting workshops until we have reached the starting point that was “TOT’ with Torraha, which was our supporter and has given us a big step forward. We have become more firmness to face challenges.’



LAILA
MACRAMÉ TRAINER



I’m from Syria, I have started sewing since being young, because all my family know how to sew. My first sewing machine was a gift from my father-in-law, on that machine, I made the outfits of my first baby, then I brought a modern one and began to work as a seamstress. When I have arrived to Egypt, I tried to mix the art of drawing and sewing, as I like both, and I have created a project named (Banan), I was converting children’ drawings into soft toys. In Torraha I worked with women from different nationalities, the main target was to teach them the basics of sewing then they could make their own toys, it was a wonderful and valuable experience. I have been staying in Alexandria-Egypt for 8 years; I don’t feel alienated because Egypt is similar to Syria and both have the same environment.



NOSSIBA
SEWING TRAINER



“Since I left Syria, I have got this feeling that my happiness is incomplete, I do not feel the joy of Eid, success or work. Even the joy of others makes me feel sorrow and this is not an ignoble feeling; God forbid, but because I just had left behind a part of my soul and my heart in Syria. Now after I spent in Egypt six years and if God willing and we became able to go back to our country or move to any other country, there will be no joy in my heart at all because another part of me will be left in this country which its streets became a part of my life and its people became my folks.’



SABAH
CROCHET TRAINER



“We have gone out of the war very shortly, but the reception we have received in Egypt has made us stand on our feet once again. In Syria, we don’t have such training or workshops. Here in Alexandria, we have participated in various workshops at Soryana and Torraha. TOT with Torraha has provided me with motivation and self confidence. I became a trainer. I’m so glad about the new experience. Here at Alexandria, I have achieved my dreams more than anywhere else.’



DALAL
MACRAMÉ TRAINER ASSISTANT





PRODUCTS CATALOGUE

CLOTHES -
MACRAMÉ -
CROCHET -
VARIOUS ITEMS -
SOAPS -
LEATHER -



CLOTHES



Long sleeves dress
designed on the Sinai
heritage style.

فستان ذو اكمام طويلة
مصمم على طراز التراث
السيناوى.

A cotton blouse grafted
with cloth snippets
reflect nature.

بلوزة مصنوعة من
خامة الفقطة , مطعم
بقصاص من القماش
تعكس الطبيعة.



Black chiffon blouse
decorated with
embroidered cloth taken
from the Syrian heritage.

بلوزة من خامة الشيفون
الأسود, مطعم بقطع
قماش مطرز مأخوذ من
التراث السورى.

A summer blouse grafted
with collage handmade
cloth from Akhmim
village at upper Egypt.

بلوزة صيفي محلاة
بكولاج من القماش
المصنوع يدوياً بقرية
أخميم " بصعيد مصر.





A cotton blouse grafted with African motifs stripes.

بلوزة من القطن مطعمة
بشرائط من الزخارف
الأفريقية.

Long sleeves dress designed on the Sinai heritage style.

فستان ذو اكمام طويلة
مصمم على طراز التراث
السيناوي.



A Poncho with a Sudanese cloth made from a recycled Isharb.

إعادة تدوير لإيشارب لعمل
بونشو مزود بقطعة من
القماش السوداني

Cash Mayoh made by recycling an Isharb, grafted with handmade embroidered.

كاش مايوه مصنوع عن
طريق إعادة تدوير إيشارب
ومطعم بالتطريزات
اليديوية .





Boncho made by recycling two Isharbs one of them is on an African style.

بونشو مصنوع من إعادة تدوير
إيشاربين أحدهم على الطراز
الافريقي.

Alexandrian fishermen trousers made from lycra, grafted with a belt from Syrian heritage.

بنطلون صياد اسكندراني من
القماش المطاط مزود بحزام من
التراث السوري.

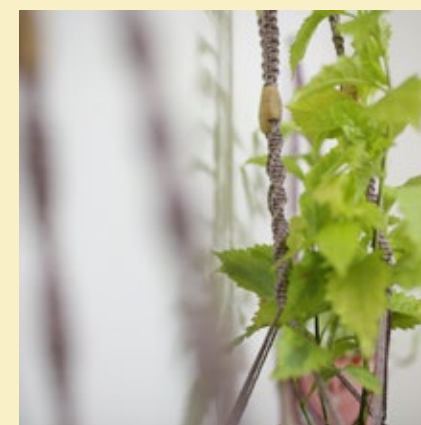




MACRAMÉ

A group of artistic products made from different threads and used as home decoration using the art of Macrame.

مجموعة من المنتجات الفنية
المصنعة من خيوط مختلفة
لإستخدامها كديكور للمنزل
بإستخدام فن المكرومية.





CROCHET

A wide variety of crochet products such as cushions ,table mattress, hoodies, winter slippers.

مجموعة متنوعة من منتجات الكروشية مثل الخدائد والمفارش وأغطية الرأس والأقدام.







VARIOUS ITEMS

A collection of handcrafted toys to be used in education and entertainment for children.

مجموعة من الألعاب المصنعة يدويا لإستخدامها فى التعليم والترفية للأطفال.





SOAPS

Collection of handmade soap and beauty products made by natural materials.

مجموعة من الصابون ومنتجات التجميل المصنعة يدويا بمواد طبيعية.





LEATHERS

All leather goods made from cows and goats's leather, using the burning technique of on the leather, drawing and coloring by using different dyes.







كافة المشغولات الجلدية من جلود
الابقار والماعز، مع إستخدام تقنية
الحرق على الجلد والرسم والتلوين
باستخدام الصبغات المختلفة.



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HERE**