



Women's Empowerment Group

Many of the children we work with experience social stigmatisation, compounded by their families' poor living conditions, mothers' illiteracy and lack of economic resources. The social work team identified a need for offering mothers an opportunity to discuss their daily concerns in a safe environment and support one another to find solutions.

Based in our social drop-in centre, mothers of some of the families have formed a women's group to support and empower each other to make positive changes in their lives. The overall aim of the group is to provide tools to enable mothers to improve the stability of their home environments in order to support their children to reach their full potential.

Since 2011, this group has evolved under the holistic approach of our services offered at Centre Amane. Using a participative approach, the group holds a weekly session to respond to needs in parenting and healthcare practices, exercising legal rights, providing access to literacy programmes, securing stable work opportunities, and building support networks - all of these focusing on boosting self-confidence.

The current group is steered by a management committee consisting of four elected members of the group on a three-month rotation. A social worker facilitates the entire group, with some sessions facilitated by the women themselves or external volunteers or experts they have invited to run an information sharing and discussion forum. Engaging the wider community has allowed the women to realise their potential as active members of the community, creating partnerships with local associations, specialists and government sectors to support the work at Centre Amane.

