

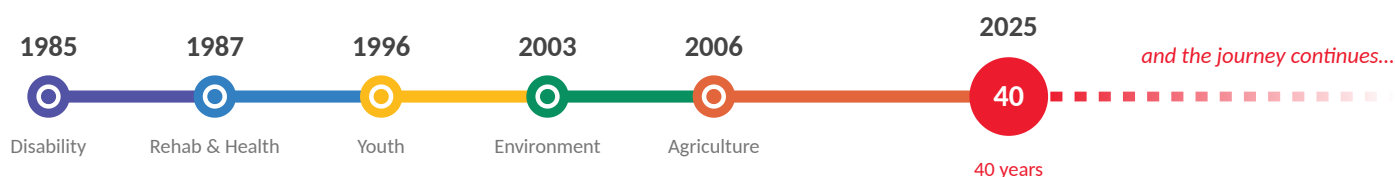


# Impact Report

1985 - 2025

**I**nclusion  
**I**nnovation  
**I**mpact

***Together for a Sustainable Future!***



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**1,000,000+**

lives touched across Lebanon since 1985

Our story, 1985

# Born from the rainbow

**Out of the ashes of the Lebanese Civil War, arcenciel was born.**

In 1985, five friends imagined a world where every person, no matter their ability, could shine. They built a bridge to the world they dreamed of, and named it arcenciel: the rainbow.

*Just like a rainbow, it carries every color, embraces every story, and shines its light on all.*

This is where arcenciel began: from the people, to the people.

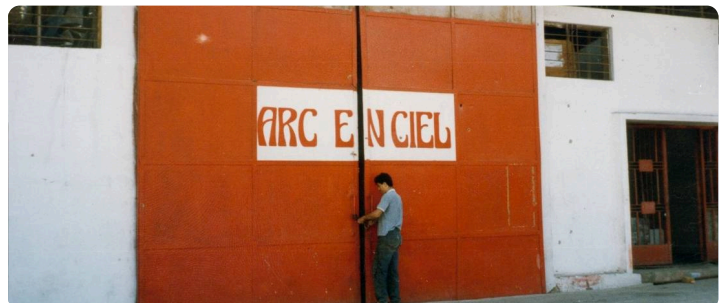
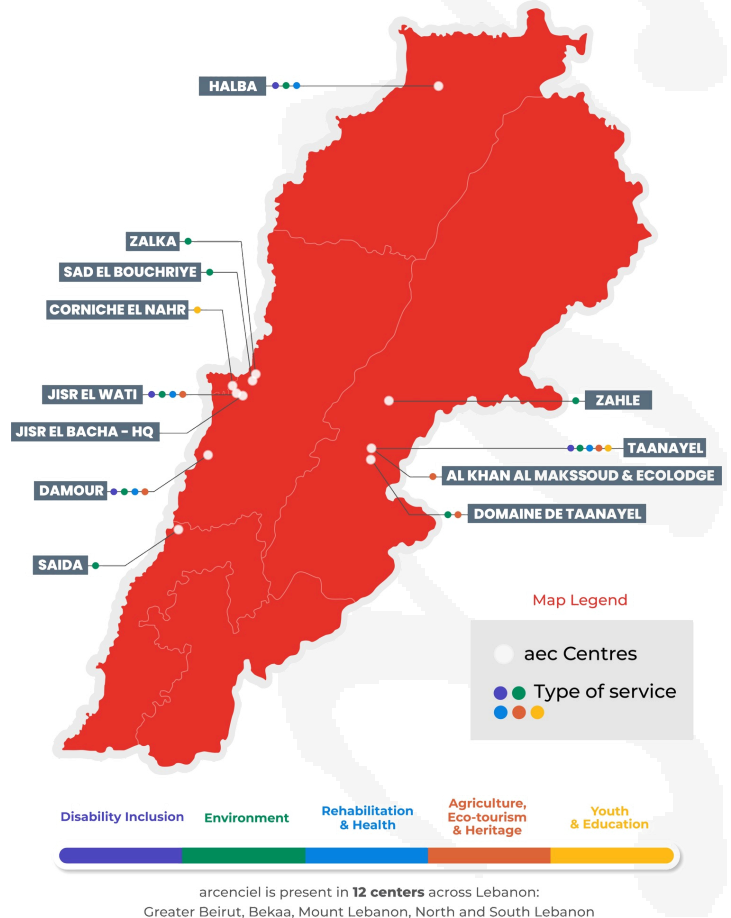
**21 Nov 1985**

official accreditation by the Ministry of Interior

**5 friends**

one shared idea, during the civil war

**arcenciel today**

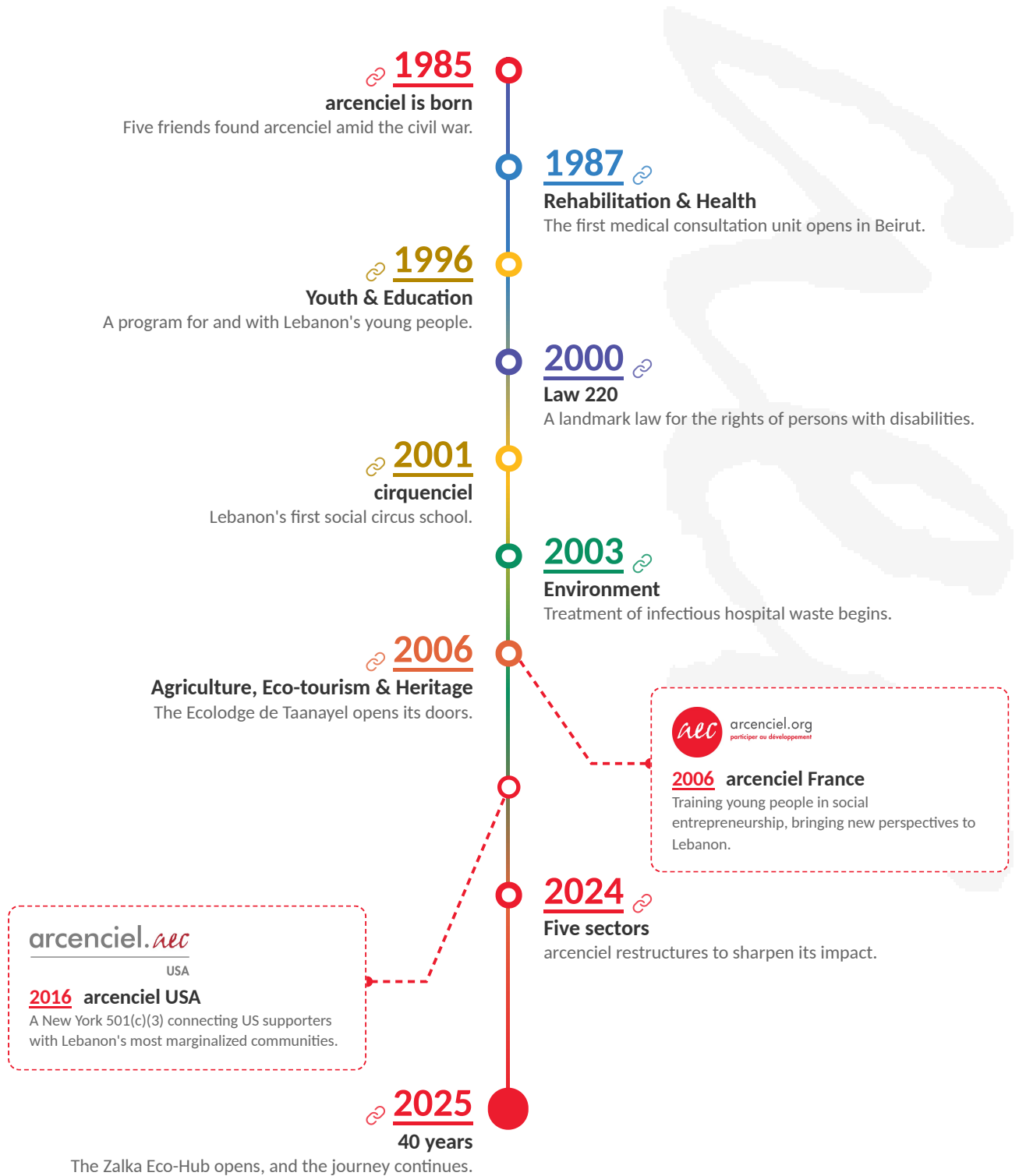


Where it began: arcenciel's first premises, Beirut

1985 – 2025

# 40 Years at a Glance

Nine moments that shaped arcenciel, and the branches that carried it beyond Lebanon.



and the journey continues...

 Every year is a link. Click a year to read its full story in the appendix.

# Disability Inclusion

Promotes the full participation of persons with disabilities through tailored services, assistive devices, and inclusive opportunities.

**In 1985, arcenciel launched its Disability Inclusion Program, the first of its kind in Lebanon.**

It began with a small workshop, building and repairing assistive devices. Since then, more than half a million items have been delivered to people across the country.

But arcenciel didn't stop there. It opened its doors to employ people with disabilities themselves,

*turning inclusion into everyday dignity and opportunity.*



## Lebanon's first

disability inclusion program (1985) and dedicated repair & assembly unit for assistive devices (1986)

1985

Then



The early repair and assembly workshop, Beirut, 1986

Now



Today: assembling assistive devices in the mobility workshop

# Impact in numbers

Since we began



500,000+

items delivered nationwide



339,479

assistive devices and technologies



71,600

accessibility solutions and home adaptations



3,240

jobs created for persons with disabilities

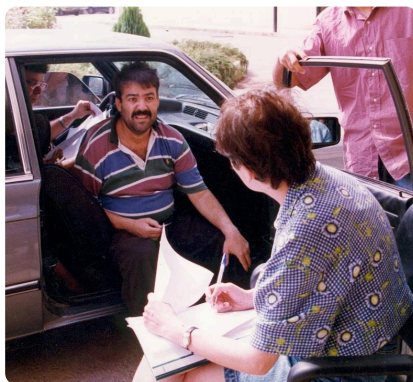


## 2000 • Law 220

Beyond its walls, arcenciel raised its voice for change. It played a leading role in shaping and passing Law 220 in 2000, securing the rights of people with disabilities in Lebanon, including coverage of assistive devices and a 3% employment quota.



The assistive devices manufacturing workshop, opened in 1994



Rights and Access: bringing the law to people, 2000



Today: a team member shaping a custom-molded seat

# Rehabilitation & Health

Provides integrated health services to support vulnerable individuals in their recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration.

**In 1987, arcenciel recognized a pressing need: people with disabilities required not only care, but full medical and social support.**

So it created the Rehabilitation & Health program, bringing community health, rehabilitation, and social services to those who needed them most.

Since then, the program has opened doors to essential healthcare, improved quality of life, and stood by vulnerable groups across Lebanon. With its focus on prevention, rehabilitation, and social care, it continues to empower individuals and families,

*helping them live with dignity, strength, and resilience.*



## Care close to home

Since 1991, Community-Based Rehabilitation has brought services into people's own communities.

1987

Then



The first medical consultations, Jisr El Wati center, 1987

Now



Today: a physiotherapy session at an arcenciel center

# Impact in numbers

Since we began



## 220,000+

people reached with medical and paramedical support

Our centers across Lebanon



**Jisr El Wati, Beirut**

since 1987

First medical consultation unit



**Halba, Akkar**

since 1996

Rehabilitation, medical care and assistive devices



**Taanayel, Bekaa**

since 1998

Social, medical and paramedical services



**Damour**

since 2003

Community services hub, rebuilt in 2021



The Halba Center in Akkar, 1996



The Taanayel Center, 1998



The Damour Center today, rebuilt in 2021

# Youth & Education

Empowers at-risk youth to develop their emotional, social, and psychological capacities through education and skills training.

**In 1996, after field visits and listening closely to communities, arcenciel launched its Youth & Education sector.**

Its mission was clear: to support vulnerable groups, marginalized communities, and people in recovery, building brighter futures through education, skills development, and youth empowerment.

This vision led to groundbreaking initiatives. arcenciel founded Lebanon's first social circus school,

*giving young people a stage to learn, grow, and belong.*

It also opened the country's first integration nursery and specialized classes for children with disabilities.



## Lebanon's first

social circus school, cirquenciel (2001), and integration nursery (2004)

# 1996

Then



cirquenciel's first performers, 2001

Now



Today: juggling on a unicycle at the cirquenciel training space

# Impact in numbers

Since we began



850+

children welcomed into inclusive learning through specialized education

Every year



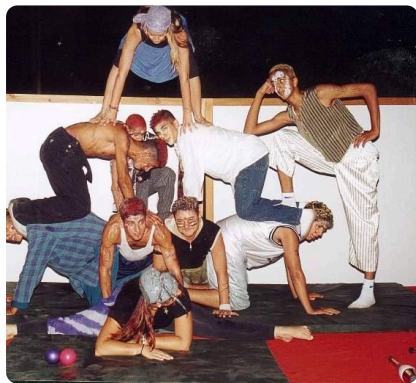
700+

students in cirquencial classes and open play sessions



7,800

youth visits to the Snoubar Skatepark



cirquencial, Lebanon's first social circus school



Where the Rainbow Club began: the pool in Halba, 1996



Young skaters at the Snoubar Skatepark today

# Environment

Advocates for sustainable waste management and circular practices through reuse, recycling, and community engagement.

## By 2003, Lebanon's growing waste and environmental crisis demanded urgent action.

arcenciel responded by creating the Environment Program, a commitment to protecting nature and building a sustainable future for the country.

Today, the program treats 87% of Lebanon's infectious hospital waste, making communities healthier and safer. It also leads nationwide initiatives in recycling, composting, and resource recovery,

### *turning waste into new opportunities.*

arcenciel also spreads awareness, trains communities in sustainable practices, and runs social enterprises like La Brocante, Al Manchara, and the Boutique Sociale, where recycling, upcycling, and social impact come together.

# 2003

Then



Treating infectious hospital waste since 2003

Now



Today: collecting infectious medical waste safely

# Impact in numbers



6 million

people across Lebanon protected from the spread of infectious medical waste

## Today



87%

of Lebanon's infectious hospital waste treated by arcenciel



100+

medical centers in partnership

## Every year



3,824,847 kg

infectious medical waste treated



588,034 kg

recyclable solid waste collected and sorted



70,000

clothing items donated



16 tons

used clothing kept out of landfill



1,350

furniture items salvaged from waste

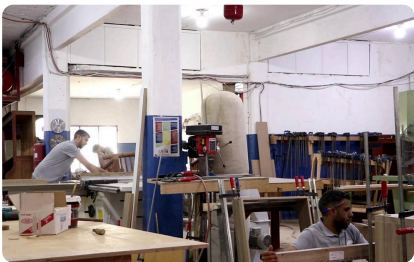


800

items refurbished by Al Manchara



Recycling across Lebanon, from 2010



Al Manchara, the refurbishment unit, 2022



The Zalka Eco-Hub, 2025

# Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage

Advocates for sustainable agricultural practices, responsible tourism, and cultural heritage preservation, supporting rural livelihoods.

**In 2006, arcenciel created the Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage Program to protect Lebanon's cultural roots, promote sustainable farming, and open new doors for eco-friendly tourism.**

The program now welcomes more than 100,000 visitors every year to the Domaine de Taanayel, Khan Al Maksoud, and the Ecolodge,

*places where communities reconnect with nature and heritage.*

The program also pioneered new approaches to farming, harnessing solar energy and producing Lebanon's first natural biopesticide.



## Lebanon's first

natural biopesticide, Le Biop, developed by arcenciel

2006

Then



The Ecolodge de Taanayel opens, 2006

Now



Today: families enjoying the Domaine de Taanayel

# Impact in numbers

Every year



100,000+

visitors to the Domaine de Taanayel



174 tons

of compost produced



12 tons

of produce sold for local farmers

Today



33%

of the energy used in Taanayel comes from our own solar panels



## Agricultural laboratories in Damour

In Damour, arcenciel established specialized agricultural laboratories, supporting local farmers and spreading sustainable practices across the country.



The Domaine de Taanayel from above



The dairy herd behind La Laiterie du Couvent de Taanayel

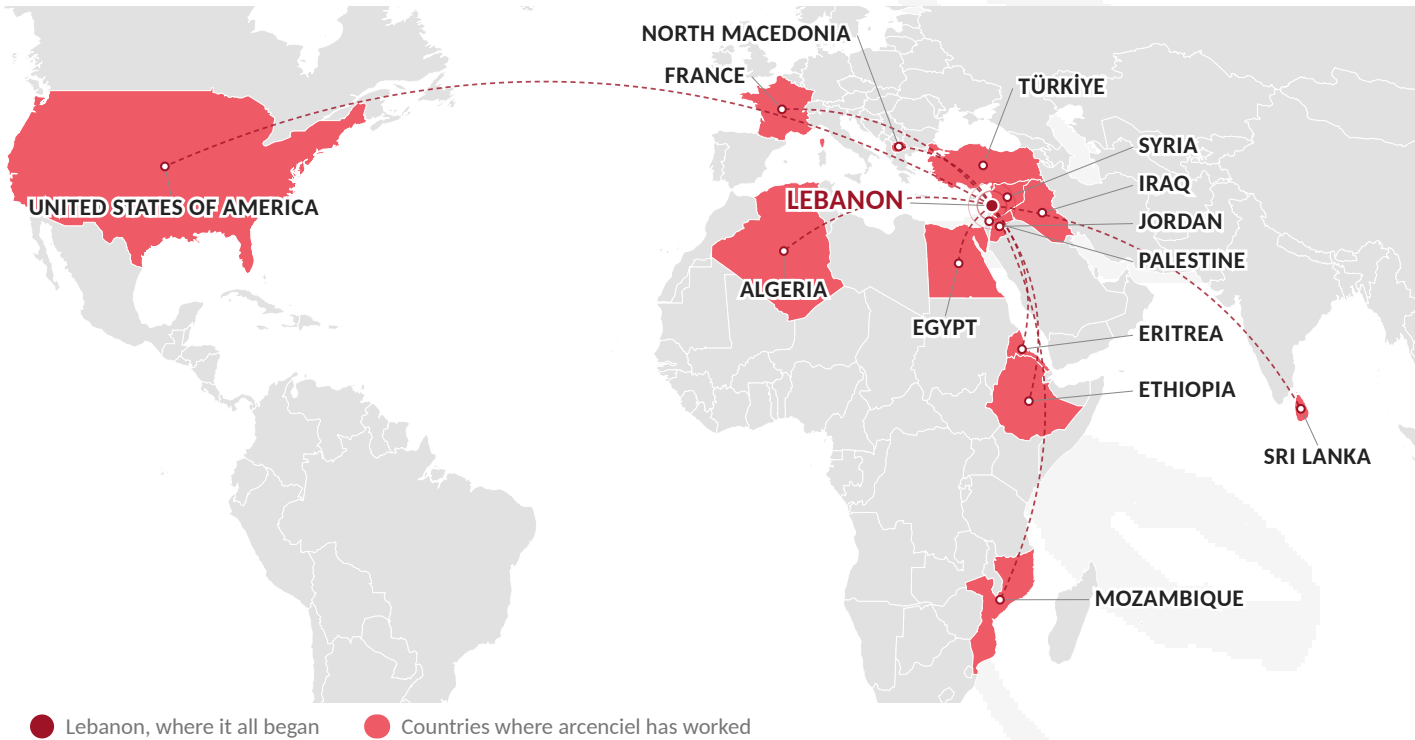


An arcenciel team member preparing the fields for planting

## Beyond Lebanon

# arcenciel around the world

From its centers in Lebanon, arcenciel has shared its know-how, trained partners, and built lasting bridges across the region and beyond.



## Our branches



### arcenciel France **Since 2006**

Empowers, trains, and recruits young people in social entrepreneurship, and supports arcenciel's sectors and centers in Lebanon. It also shares expertise on sustainable development, drawing on arcenciel's experience, through academic curricula and partnerships with universities in France.



### arcenciel USA **Since 2016**

A non-profit organization that provides a bridge for US-based individuals, institutions, and corporations to connect with and support Lebanon's most underprivileged and marginalized communities.

# Sharing our expertise



## Algeria and Palestine

We shared our knowledge and expertise on Rights and Access, promoting inclusion, equal access to services, and the defense of social and economic rights.



## Mozambique

Following a visit by Mozambique's Minister of Health to our Jisr El Wati center, we shared arcenciel's expertise on Rights and Access.



## Egypt

At the request of Handicap International, arcenciel delivered strategic planning training to Caritas CETI Egypt in its Alexandria and Cairo branches over two consecutive years.



## Syria

With funding from the Spanish AECID through AIDA, and with the Syrian Environment Association, arcenciel trained hospital staff in medical waste management and supported the Ministry of Health in drafting a national strategy on infectious waste.



## Ethiopia

Three field missions supported an orphanage run by the Sisters of Mother Teresa, providing children with cerebral palsy with customized seating, using pre-molded seats adapted on site.



## Syria, Jordan, and Egypt

At the request of the Spanish AECID through FPSC, arcenciel delivered capacity building and Community-Based Rehabilitation programs, launched services for people of determination, and supported the distribution and repair of assistive devices: in Syria with Yadrn bi Yad and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, in Jordan with the Al-Hussein Society, and in Egypt with CEOSS.



## Eritrea

We supported Eritrea by building and delivering wheelchairs to people of determination.



## Türkiye

As part of the South-South operation, and at the request of Handicap International, arcenciel trained a local Turkish NGO in the repair and maintenance of assistive devices and designed a production unit modeled on our Jisr El Wati workshop.



## North Macedonia and Sri Lanka

With Handicap International, we built seat support braces and shared our production know-how. Technicians from each country visited arcenciel's workshops to learn the whole process.

2010 - 2025

# Awards & Recognition

*In chronological order*

Forty years of work, recognized in Lebanon and around the world, from the United Nations to the governments of France and Spain.



Co-founder Pierre Issa receiving the Schwab Foundation's Social Entrepreneur of the Year award at the World Economic Forum, 2015



2010

## Humanitarian and Civic Excellence

**Takreem Foundation**

arcenciel was the very first recipient of the Takreem Award, at its first edition, honoring its commitment to marginalized people.

[Read more](#)



2012

## Nestlé Prize in Creating Shared Value

**Nestlé**

For Wataneh, the Lebanese sustainable agriculture network supporting farmers, with CHF 100,000 to invest in the project.

[Read more](#)



2013 • 2016 • 2018

## Conservation & Environmental Grants

**Ford Motor Company**

Three grants: Rolling Caps bottle-cap recycling (2013), the Lebanese Conservation Volunteers (2016), and compost research (2018).

[Read more](#)



2014

## Best Idealistic NGO (BINGO)

**UNDP - MAS**

Recognized as a Best Idealistic NGO in the environmental sector.

# Awards & Recognition *continued*



2014

## Energy Globe National Lebanese Prize Austrian Embassy in Beirut

For a solidarity-based waste recycling management network, in partnership with Advantage Austria.

## THE INTERCULTURAL INNOVATION AWARD

A partnership between  
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations & BMW Group

2014

## Intercultural Innovation Award, 5th place UN Alliance of Civilizations & BMW Group

For "A Circus School for Intercultural Dialogue" in Bali, Indonesia.

[Read more](#)



2014

## Knight of the Legion of Honor French Government

Co-founder Pierre Issa was named Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, France's highest decoration, at a ceremony at the Domaine de Taanayel.



2014

## "Wahdatouna Khalasouna" Prize Lebanese CSO Coalition

For arcenciel's contribution to civil peace in Lebanon. The name means "Our unity is our salvation."



2014

## Waterfront City Commit Trophy Waterfront City, Dbayeh

A trophy and \$30,000 for the "Recycle for Solidarity" initiative, part of the Rolling Caps project.



2015

## Best Practice Certificate Dubai Municipality & UN-Habitat

For the initiative "Solidarity Based on the Network for Sustainable Management of Water."



2015

## Commander of the Order of Civil Merit King of Spain

Co-founder Pierre Issa, honored by the King of Spain and decorated by Ambassador Milagros Hernando.



2015

## ISO 9001:2015 Certification TÜV Austria

Quality management certification for four sites: the Jisr El Wati Center, DEHO medical waste treatment, the Domaine de Taanayel, and the Head Office.

# Awards & Recognition *continued*



2015

**MENA CSR Excellence Award**

**CSR Summit, Dubai**

Winner in the Sustainable Environment category.



2015

**Prix de la Paix**

**Fondation Ghazal**

For arcenciel's apolitical and non-confessional promotion of peace in a challenging environment.

[Read more](#)



2015

**Social Entrepreneur of the Year**

**Schwab Foundation**

From the Schwab Foundation, created by the founders of the World Economic Forum. It was the first time the award went to a Lebanese citizen.



2017

**World Learning Recognition**

**World Learning**

For arcenciel's contribution to the Leaders for Democracy Fellowship Program.



2018

**Prix de la Fondation CMA CGM**

**Fondation CMA CGM**

For arcenciel's continuous support of marginalized people, especially disadvantaged children.

[Read more](#)



2018

**Social Entrepreneurship Award**

**Lebanon Impact Awards**

Received by co-founder Pierre Issa at the Changemaker Festival.



2022

**Champions of the Earth**

**UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**

For transformative action in preventing and reversing ecosystem degradation.

[Read more](#)



2024

**Made in Lebanon**

**Ministry of Industry**

Celebrating arcenciel's local production: ceramics, food processing, assistive devices, and upcycled clothing.

# Awards & Recognition *continued*

 **Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria**  
European and International  
Affairs

2025

## **Intercultural Achievement Award**

**Federal Ministry for European and International  
Affairs, Austria**

Recognition Award for the project “We don't destroy what we have built together,” for intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

[Read more](#)



2025

## **The Loubnani Prize**

**The Paragon Parades**

For export-ready Lebanese production and arcenciel's achievements over the past 40 years.

1985 – 2025 and beyond

# A Mission That Continues


**1,000,000+**

lives touched across Lebanon over the past 40 years

Through every program and every initiative, arcenciel's mission has remained the same: to drive sustainable development, and to bring marginalized individuals and communities back into the heart of society.

**A mission of dignity.**

**A mission of inclusion.**

**A mission that continues, for everyone, and with everyone.**

**500,000+**

items delivered

[Disability Inclusion](#)
**220,000+**

people reached

[Rehabilitation & Health](#)
**850+**

children in inclusive learning

[Youth & Education](#)
**6 million**

people protected

[Environment](#)
**100,000+**

visitors every year

[Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage](#)

[Visit arcenciel.org](https://arcenciel.org)

[Watch our 40-year film](#)


Appendix

# The Full Timeline

Every milestone from 1985 to 2025. Use the button at the top of each page to return to the brief timeline.

1985

## arcenciel's first step arcenciel

In 1985, amid the Lebanese civil war, five friends took action to support the growing number of people living with war-related disabilities. arcenciel received its official accreditation from the Ministry of Interior on 21 November 1985.



1986

## Mobility repair & assembly unit Disability Inclusion

arcenciel established Lebanon's first dedicated repair and assembly unit for assistive devices in Beirut, repairing, maintaining, and assembling wheelchairs and other devices. A turning point for persons with disabilities in Lebanon.



1987

## The first medical consultations Rehabilitation & Health

The first health rehabilitation and medical consultation unit opened at the Jisr El Wati center in Beirut.

## Ceramic workshop Disability Inclusion

One of Lebanon's first social enterprises: the ceramics workshop employed people with disabilities to create and sell handmade ceramics.



1991

## Community-Based Rehabilitation begins Rehabilitation & Health

arcenciel launched its Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program in Beirut, supporting persons with disabilities through inclusion, rehabilitation, and access to essential services within their communities.

1994

### Employment Office opens Disability Inclusion

Through skills training and job matching, the Employment Office helped people with disabilities find work and gain financial autonomy. It later became the Inclusive Employment Unit, supporting both job seekers and employers.

### Assistive device production and a national program Disability Inclusion

arcenciel opened its own manufacturing workshop for assistive devices, and launched the “Rights and Access” national program with the Ministry of Social Affairs, granting social security coverage and legal rights to people with disabilities.



1995

### Recognized as a public interest organization arcenciel

arcenciel was recognized as a public interest non-profit organization by presidential decree N7541.

1996

### Opening the Halba Center in Akkar Rehabilitation & Health

arcenciel expanded to Akkar, bringing Community-Based Rehabilitation, essential medical services, and assistive device support to vulnerable communities in the region.

### The Rainbow Club in Halba Youth & Education

When young people asked to use a gym and pool built for rehabilitation, arcenciel answered with a program “for and with the youth in Lebanon”, expanded to Beirut the following year.



1997

### Relocation of the Jisr El Wati Center Rehabilitation & Health

The relocated center introduced Community-Based Rehabilitation, essential medical services, and assistive device provision.



1998

### Opening of the Taanayel Center Rehabilitation & Health

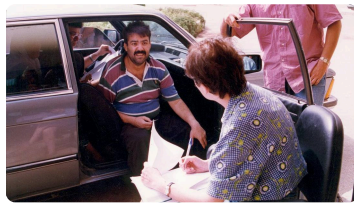
The center provided social support, essential medical and paramedical services, and assistive devices.



2000

### Law 220 creates new rights Disability Inclusion

The "Rights and Access" program saw Law 220/2000 passed. It covers assistive devices and rehabilitation services, and requires companies to employ persons with disabilities in at least 3% of their workforce.



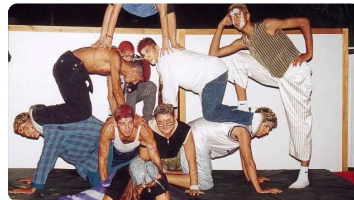
2001

### Creation of cirquenciel Youth & Education

After training with Cirque du Monde, arcenciel's youth clubs launched cirquenciel, Lebanon's first social circus school, promoting intercultural dialogue and supporting at-risk youth on their life journey.

### Opening of the Jisr El Bacha Center arcenciel

Home to arcenciel's headquarters, specialized departments, and trainings in computer literacy, English, and nursing. The following year, the Boutique Sociale opened, offering affordable second-hand items.



2003

### Launch of the Hospital Waste Program Environment

arcenciel began treating potentially infectious healthcare waste, directly protecting Lebanon's environment and people from waste-related health risks.

### Opening of the Damour Center Rehabilitation & Health

Bringing Community-Based Rehabilitation, medical services, and assistive devices, alongside the launch of La Brocante, the social enterprise that restores and resells second-hand furniture and household items.



2004

### Inclusive nursery and special education in Taanayel

Youth & Education

Lebanon's first integration nursery and special education classes for children with disabilities under 10, created because no such facility existed in the Bekaa region.

2006

### The Ecolodge de Taanayel opens

Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage

A traditional mud-house lodge in the Bedouin style, offering visitors a natural escape and a cultural experience, together with Al Khan Al Maksoud restaurant serving authentic Lebanese cuisine.

### Creation of arcenciel France

arcenciel

Launched to train young people in social entrepreneurship, bringing new perspectives to arcenciel's work in Lebanon.



2009

### Managing the Domaine de Taanayel

Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage

In partnership with the Jesuit Fathers, arcenciel began managing the 560-acre Domaine, which conserves local biodiversity and includes the dairy farm behind La Laiterie du Couvent de Taanayel.

2010

### A strategic waste management system

Environment

Building on the "Bouchons Roulants" project, arcenciel began collecting plastic, cans, and paper across Lebanon, sorting them in strategically located centers and selling them to recyclers.



2011

### Biopesticide research and development

Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage

arcenciel began research on Lebanon's first biopesticide, Le Biop, tailored to the Lebanese ecosystem and designed not to harm people or beneficial microorganisms.

2015

### Responding to the waste crisis

Environment

As the waste crisis hit in summer 2015, arcenciel published a manual for municipalities, and continues to train them to run their own waste management centers.



## 2016

### Creation of arcenciel USA arcenciel

A 501(c)(3) registered in New York, arcenciel USA connects US-based individuals, institutions, and companies with Lebanon's most marginalized communities.

## 2021

### Rebuilding the Damour Center Rehabilitation & Health

After the 2019 fire, arcenciel rebuilt the Damour Center as a hub for community services, and opened a new agricultural laboratory supporting local producers.

## 2022

### Opening of Al Manchara Environment

The refurbishment unit gives old furniture a new purpose, with skilled artisans turning abandoned pieces into durable, affordable designs.



## 2024

### Restructuring into five sectors arcenciel

arcenciel reorganized into five specialized sectors: Disability Inclusion, Rehabilitation & Health, Youth & Education, Environment, and Agriculture, Eco-tourism & Heritage.

## 2025

### Opening of the Zalka Eco-Hub Environment

A space dedicated to sustainability and community empowerment, bringing together La Brocante, Al Manchara, and the DERE sorting center. And the journey continues.





# arcenciel



📍 Rue John Kennedy, Jisr El Bacha, Sin El Fil • P.O. Box 16-5216, Beirut, Lebanon

☎ Tel: 961.1.495561 📠 Fax: 961.1.512107

✉ Email: [info@arcenciel.org](mailto:info@arcenciel.org)

🌐 [arcenciel.org](http://arcenciel.org)



***Together for a Sustainable Future!***