

Forty years of transforming exclusion into participation

Founded in 1985, in the midst of Lebanon's civil war, arcenciel was born from a simple conviction: no one should be excluded because of their disability, poverty, background or beliefs. Five friends chose to answer a divided country with solidarity, inclusion and service to all, without political or religious discrimination.

Forty years on, that conviction has grown into one of Lebanon's leading organisations, working across disability inclusion, rehabilitation and health, employment, youth and education, women's empowerment, the environment, agriculture, eco-tourism and heritage.

From assistance to independence, from beneficiary to contributor

Guided by its founding principle, *Persons in Difficulties serving Persons in Difficulties*, arcenciel sees people facing difficulties not as recipients of aid, but as people with skills, experience and the ability to improve the lives of others. Its aim has never been to create dependency, but to give each person the means to become independent and take part fully in social and economic life.

This approach has translated into concrete results: inclusive employment for thousands of people, accessible health and rehabilitation services, training and work for vulnerable women, social enterprises that combine economic activity with social purpose, and environmental programmes that bring together nature conservation, the circular economy and rural development.

Born in wartime, arcenciel has also built a lasting capacity to respond to crises. When war returned in 2026, it mobilised its centres, teams, workshops, kitchens and social enterprises to stand with displaced and affected families.

Beyond its services, arcenciel carries a vision for society: diversity as a source of strength, solidarity as an everyday practice and inclusion as a driver of sustainable development, rooted in welcoming and service, professionalism, integrity, humility, equity, harmony and leadership through service. Since 1985, it has shown that a fairer society gives everyone not only a place, but the opportunity to contribute.

From the People, to the People: a vision of Lebanon where every colour of the rainbow belongs.

