



# Mobile Arts for Peace

Human and Humanity Club is a student's club from Remera Protestant School. Their project, entitled "Advocacy on mental health care and sustainability", aimed at advocating for children's voice through arts. The project's objectives were to identify the causes of children's problems and communicate them to government, private institutions, and school leaders, to allow children to share their life stories and challenges, and to exchange ideas and knowledge between children and youth-care institutions. These goals were realized through four types of arts: songs, theatre, poems, and drawing.

The Human & Humanity Club partnered with different entities, namely school leadership and teachers, private childcare institutions, government institutions, churches, and news broadcasting agencies.

This research is part of  
Mobile arts for Peace

## ADVOCACY FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUSTAINABILITY

After implementing the project, Human & Humanity Club members achieved two main outcomes, advocacy, a platform to connect children and the school, and a peer support system. A representative of the club reported as follows:

*"We have been able to convince the school leaders and teachers of the need to change the way they treat children by taking extra precautions during the decision-making process"*

*"We created a website assessed by children, teachers and school leaders for working together to clarify and understand children's behaviors."*

*"We established a way of connecting younger children to older ones (secondary students) by making them Godmothers/fathers to primary students."*

The project realized different impacts within the school and beyond. First, the project increased awareness about mental health problems among students, teachers, school leaders, and even other schools, where many teachers were not aware of the problems before the establishment of the Human & Humanity club. Other impacts this project had on the school include increased ability among students to express themselves through poetry, drawing, and writing, increased self-esteem, and self-confidence, and increased level of responsiveness and supportiveness among parents, teachers, and school leaders towards children.

The main challenge the club faced while implementing their project is the lack of funds to expand the scope of their project to other schools in the surrounding area as well as funds for some essentials for their activities such as materials.

We recommend to expand the project to other schools in the immediate area, to help students living in precarious situations, and empower students to develop their artistic talents. Moreover, the club plans to organize further training sessions for peace and sustainability and to increase participation in their activities among parents and local officials.

It is better to organize advocacy events on a regular basis, at least every semester. We also recommend having a permanent staff at school to support children with mental health issues. In addition, the club also recommends providing training to teachers and children about improving healing and sustainable peace. Finally, they request partners to support with materials needed in developing different arts.