INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Covid-19 had the world in its grip. People and organisations had to adapt their lives and ways of working to cope with the spread of the Coronavirus. Also Sounds of Change.

Working method
Our on-site training sessions in the Middle East proved to be impossible and workshops in the Netherlands were hampered by the 1.5-metre rules.

Using the agility of the organisation, Sounds of Change adjusted its output. The training sessions and music sessions with foreign partners took place online. Some workshops in the Netherlands could continue in an adapted setting.

Impact research
We postponed and revised our planned research into the impact of our activities because a large part of this research focused on the on-site training sessions in the Middle East and their impact on the local society.

Due to the Corona pandemic, both the on-site activities and their social measurement are not possible for the time being. We will now develop a plan with which we will measure - more indirectly - the impact of our (online) training activities on the working methods of the content programmes of our cooperation partners.

We have been working with international cooperation partners (schools, community centres and non-profit organisations) since 2017, who have been active in refugee camps and disadvantaged neighbourhoods for some time and are making an impact locally with their programmes for (vulnerable) groups. Sounds of Change contributes to the impact of its partners by training the employees and volunteers of these organisations and helping to further develop existing programmes.

Changing perspective
The foundation has considered a (Corona resilient) future perspective for 2021 and 2022, with the following core values:

- Sustainability
- Growth
- Reflection (research & customisation)

“DE WERELD HEEFT MUZIEK NODIG, MEER DAN Ooit”
STARTING POINT

Sounds of Change was founded in 2017 by Lucas Dols, with the motto and objective:

““MUSIC CHANGES THE WORLD
BECAUSE IT CHANGES PEOPLE”

Originally this idea focused on (traumatised) children but has broadened to (young) adults since its inception. Sounds of Change uses music to help people develop into Community Builders in their own community; people who use the power of music to bring about social change.

Lucas Dols and his colleagues go to the hotbed of the Middle East, to conflict areas, refugee camps and devastated cities. Or to other places in the world, near or far, where poverty and disunity reign. Everywhere the sense of community has been eroded. Where people have become alienated from themselves, each other and their surroundings. Places where social change has had a negative impact on the way people live together. That is exactly where Sounds of Change starts its work.

Sounds of Change is based in Amsterdam. Their work currently covers five countries in the Middle East and the Netherlands.

They discovered that creative music processes can have a transformative effect on (traumatised) people and societies.
People slowly but surely dare to express themselves and really start listening to each other. They dare to discover and contribute their own ideas. And precisely when people can express their own creative ideas, the sense of ownership becomes very strong.

As a result, people take responsibility for what they create together and present to the outside world.

During the magical moments of making music, improvising and composing together, music not only brings pleasure and relaxation but also creates a connection in its most elementary form.

Music stimulates the creative mind, which can help people see possibilities for creating a more positive future for themselves and the community: bringing about social change.

**Mission**

Sounds of Change uses the power of music to enable people to bring about social change.

The foundation tries to achieve its goal by giving training to groups of employees of partner organisations in the Netherlands and abroad, who have the ambition to use music as a means to benefit society.
Activities

Online training method
Due to the Corona measures, on-site training abroad has not been possible since March 2020. It is not yet clear when this on-site work can be resumed. At the express request of our international partners in the Middle East, we have continued the training courses online.

In doing so, we have discovered that an online working method will become a permanent part of our working method. In due course, this will be supplemented by periodic working visits, which will serve as customised support for the online methodology and training programmes.

In this way, we can reach a larger target group and the local trainers have a source of information with the instructional films that they can continue to consult and share, which contributes to their independence. In 2021, a professional online teaching method will be developed and provided with subtitles, which will make it possible to expand the region in which Sounds of Change is operational.

Magical Suitcase
To bring our online courses more to life, we came up with the idea of the Magical Suitcases. These are suitcases filled with a variety of musical instruments: boomwhackers, chimes, shakers, drumsticks, a frame drum, a darbuka, a melodica and a ukulele.

We send these cases to our international partner organisations so that the trainees can work with their own musical instruments during our training. The Sounds of Change team uses the same musical instruments during the online sessions and in the instruction videos. In addition, the trainees can use these instruments directly during their work with children and young people.

Expansion of working area
In 2020, Sounds of Change is active in its own country, Egypt and Palestine (West Bank), Jordan, Lebanon, Kurdistan and Turkey.

We will expand this working area with about five countries through the online method. Contacts have already been made with NGOs in Iran, Syria and in Greece, including on Lesbos.

We see an urgency in seeking contact with NGOs in European countries where there are reception camps for refugees from the Middle East. There too, people are suffering from the removal measures in connection with the coronavirus and the demand for connecting (online) activities is great.
Activities

Expansion of the team
Sounds of Change is investigating the possibility of training eight new trainers every year through its own Academy, half of whom are Dutch status holders.

This way, the team will become more diverse in terms of cultural background, which will have a positive effect on the connection with the international partners. In addition, for the status holders in question, it is an opportunity to integrate better into Dutch society, because they get the prospect of paid work.

For the financing of this professionalisation trajectory, a guarantee is offered from the foundation’s reserve, and in addition, funding is sought from funds that support professionalisation and social connection.

Research
- In the course of 2021, we will create a new plan to measure and monitor the effects of our activities with our international cooperation partners. This will be done through online interviews with international partner organisations and on the basis of a questionnaire. Based on the results of this research, we will be able to tailor our work for each partner, based on their needs, context and desired outcome.
- We will also investigate how we can best reach our target groups. Physical contact has been largely ruled out by the Corona measures, so we only maintain digital contact with our target groups: international partners, donors, funds, companies and other cooperation partners. We will measure the effects of our social media campaigns so that we can use the various channels more effectively.

Sustainable relations
Sounds of Change continues its efforts to establish sustainable (long-term) relationships. With its partners, donors, funds and sponsors and also with its own staff. The existing relationships are actively monitored and new relationships are actively sought so that the foundation of Sounds of Change continues to strengthen.
Organisation
An overview of the realised activities can be found in the annual report, which also contains information about the management, staff members and a financial report.

Sounds of Change has a (cultural) ANBI-status and sets up the organisation and the management according to the guidelines for charitable organisations.

The foundation strives to obtain the CBF seal of approval in the period 2021-2022.

Summary of ambitions 2021-2022

- Development of professional online teaching method
- Expanding the number of working areas
- More diversity through team growth
- Research and customisation
- Long-term relationships
- CBF quality mark

Nahr el Bared camp – Libanon