

City-to-City Partnership: Zurich and Tyre

Enhancing local governance & planning through empowering the Regional Technical Office



Project objective and situation at hand

Since 2017, UN-Habitat has facilitated a city-to-city partnership between Zurich and Tyre with the aim of supporting the Municipality of Tyre with knowledge and expertise related to best practices for mobility and social cohesion between host and refugee communities.

The City of Zurich, Switzerland has implemented several city-wide mobility strategies targeted for pedestrians including intricate public transportation networks such as bus, train, tram and bicycle routes that have served as an inspiration to the City of Tyre, Lebanon.

In Lebanon’s current context where fuel shortages have made daily errands such as grocery shopping and commuting a hassle, the implementation of two bike stations in Massaken and Tyre through this partnership have served as a viable alternative to people – including host, refugee and migrant communities. The bike-sharing stations aim to nurture a move towards diversifying transportation options in the city, and hopefully across Lebanon in the years to come.

Donor

Municipality of Zurich

Budget

CHF 330,000

Beneficiaries

70,000 Lebanese
45,000 Palestinians
12,000 Syrians

Project components

- 1. Regional Technical Office capacity-building
- 2. Mutual knowledge exchange workshops
- 3. Executing tangible projects responding to the needs of the city

SOFT MOBILITY PROJECTS

Tour in Sour: Bike stations in Tyre and Massaken

On 20 April 2021, the Municipality of Tyre officially launched the two bike-sharing stations that work on a bike rental concept.

Users come to the bike station, sign-in their IDs and pay LBP 20,000 as a deposit. A ticket is then issued per bike showing all the details of the trip: date, time out, bike number and a barcode. Once the bike is returned the code on the ticket is scanned and automatically the time-in is recorded along with the amount that needs to be paid by the user, or how much should be paid back to the user, since the cost of the first two hours are free of charge, and every hour after that is LBP 10,000.

Rating of the project

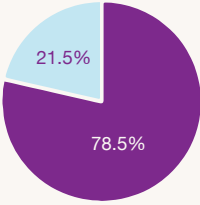
4.96 ★★★★★

Rapid survey

In order to gather feedback on the uptake of the Tour in Sour bike-sharing initiative, UN-Habitat and Tyre's Regional Technical Office undertook a rapid survey, during which 28 users who rented bikes between 7 to 11 August 2021 responded.

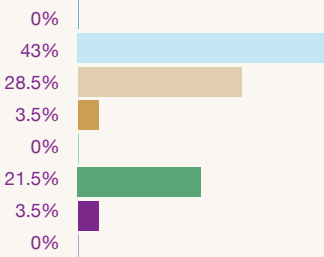
Gender

- Male
- Female



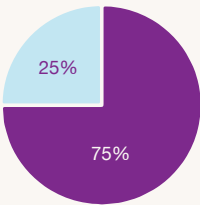
Age

- 0-10 years old
- 10-20 years old
- 20-30 years old
- 30-40 years old
- 40-50 years old
- 50-60 years old
- 60-70 years old
- 70+



Bike station location

- Tyre
- Massaken



Reason for renting the bike

- Tourism
- Exercise
- Shopping
- Alternative transportation method
- COVID-19 precaution
- Other



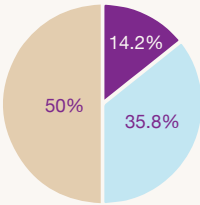
Day of rental

The majority of rentals took place mostly on Saturdays and Wednesdays



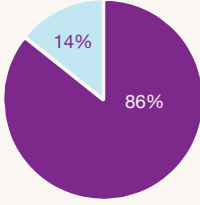
Time of rental

- 12-2 pm
- 2-4 pm
- 4-7 pm



Duration of rental

- 0-2 hours
- 2-4 hours
- 4+ hours

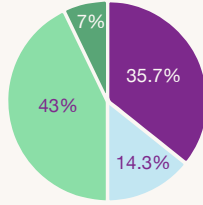


Safety gear

89% wore the provided safety gear
11% didn't wear the provided safety gear

People knew about the project through

- SMS
- Social media
- Word of mouth
- Other



They would like to have similar soft mobility initiatives in

Bourj al Chemali
Al Souk area
Abbasiye
Coastal area

“The main reason I use this bike is for shopping. I find this initiative useful for the entire city and think there should be several stations in Tyre itself including in the Souk area. There should also be other public spaces such as football fields for the youth to meet – we have a shortage of these spaces in Tyre.”
– Man, 58 years old, Resident of Tyre



“I use the bike in Tyre area because it’s a small city, so I find it easier to use the bike than the car. This is an interesting project because it promotes the use of bikes in our daily life. I really wish that there would be more stations across the country to encourage people to adapt to bike-sharing culture. I hope that this is the start of the establishment of more public spaces that are friendly to all: youth, children and families.”
– Aya Saleh, 30 years old, Resident of Tyre

Park and Ride:
Centralized parking space with a bus shuttle system
In addition to the bike-sharing stations, the partnership between the cities of Tyre and Zurich are expected to continue into a second phase. This phase envisions the establishment of a central parking facility with a bus shuttle system – “Park and Ride” – with specific routes and schedules through the city for daily commuting and tourism.

The main goal of the “Park and Ride” system is to reduce traffic in the city, limit the high number of single car usage trips and replace it with a unified public transportation system, and improve the accessibility of the city for non-motorized travelers for a reduced fee.

Rapid analysis

According to the rapid survey’s findings it is evident that users welcome the replication of this soft mobility initiative in different areas within Tyre City including: Abbasiye, Souk and coastal areas.

Further findings noted that bikes were rented more in the afternoon from 4 to 7pm and that more men rented bikes.

Reasons for this may include the social and religious norms in the area. Additionally, ¾ of bikes were rented from Tyre and ¼ from Massaken – these areas are home to mostly Lebanese and refugee communities, respectively. The majority of bike users were aged between 10 to 20 years old and most used the bikes for exercise.

