

2019 Annual Report



Unlock their potential

2019

Annual Report

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Message from the Founder



As I reflect upon the highlights of 2019 and look towards the new decade, I'm inspired by the leadership and actions of today's youth. In the face of tremendous adversity, it is children who are showing us how things can be done differently. They are guiding us by their resilience and their rightful demand for better stewardship of our planet. They are honestly pointing out accountability that needs to be held. They are tired of having to pay for the mistakes of their elders.

I believe empathetic and charitable giving is not limited to financial support, but rather includes a wide variety of means: skills, tools, access to networks, time. It is about giving our best to those with the least – not just giving them enough.

At Thaki, we believe that each of us can do more to bring greater equity and opportunity to children across the world – and we are committed to leveling the playing field in the name of fairness and peaceful coexistence.

I'm inspired to continue our efforts in giving marginalized children every opportunity to heal, to unlock their potential and to thrive. And I'm inspired by your support in this effort. We have to do better, we cannot fail them.

Respectfully yours,

Rudayna Abdo

Founder and President

What we do

Thaki sources hardware from corporates and institutions that typically have a 3-year retirement policy on their devices. We sanitize the donated devices, load them with both open-source and proprietary e-learning content that is accessible through a bilingual, searchable bespoke Thaki App and, together with our logistics partners, deliver them to our beneficiaries while offering an offline learning solution for increased penetration in areas where access to reliable internet is limited.

Our aims

Displaced and vulnerable children are often excluded from high quality education systems, instead attending mostly over crowded, under-resourced schools where teachers typically have limited capacities to nurture and transfer the deep expertise needed towards gainful employment settings. An unfortunate byproduct of these conditions is that often the cycle of generational poverty is perpetuated.

Thaki aims to build digital skills and capacities of those using our platform and improve the user experience, in turn helping to mitigate some of the unique educational challenges.



How Thaki works



1. Collect

We collect gently used electronic devices from corporations and institutions

2. Load

We have developed a bespoke platform that integrates a variety of highly informative and interactive software and educational content

3. Distribute

We then distribute the devices to education centers that work with refugee and vulnerable children

4. Support

We provide tools and resources to support teachers and learners with their learning journeys and to gain digital literacy

We proudly support 7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Thaki's sustainable model provides a mutually beneficial solution to an increasingly relevant problem. By giving used laptops a second life, Thaki helps corporations minimize their e-waste footprint while empowering vulnerable children to take ownership of their learning and develop 21st century skills including digital literacy.



Goal 1:

A strong foundation in education is one of the best means to eliminate poverty.

Goal 4:

We help bring the best of educational material and tools to refugee and vulnerable children.

Goal 5:

Many of our partners cater specifically to the education, skills, training and digital literacy of women and girls.

Goal 8:

Our partners empower women and youth with skills and workplace training. Thaki provides the digital platform to further that mission.

Goal 10:

Quality education is arguably the greatest equalizer in shifting the inequity balance.

Goal 12:

We reuse retired laptops and work with recycling partners to responsibly dispose of them once they run their course.

Goal 17:

Collaboration is at the core of the Thaki business model.

Impact

Through 2019 Thaki continued to expand and enrich its operations and we estimate, to date, that over 9,000 children across Lebanon have benefited from Thaki laptops.

Thaki's electronic devices and educational content, much of which is proprietary, is donated to Thaki and holds a commercial value in excess of US \$1.7 million (cumulative by end of 2019), while the overall value of providing a continuum of education to the children within their families and their communities is incalculable. None of this would be possible without the collaborative efforts and goodwill of Thaki supporters across the globe.

In 2019 we gratefully received IT equipment donations from numerous organizations including New York University Abu Dhabi, Strategy& Lebanon, the Transpo Group, Close the Gap, Chalhoub Group, MVO Nederland, as well as a few individuals.

Their collective generosity amounted to 220 laptops, which were then formatted with the Thaki education platform and distributed to partner organizations across Lebanon.

To date:

- **9,000 children**
- **725 computers**
- **\$1.7 million in value**

Case Study

Thaki has worked with over 40 different recipient partners which include schools, orphanages, youth training and women empowerment centers. Despite operating in extremely challenging social, physical and economic circumstances, the teachers and school leaders at our partner organizations never cease to inspire us with their commitment, perseverance and creativity. We are honored to facilitate their critically important work with the children they serve.

Born in Damascus, Mohamad Serri earned a degree in IT and later studied how to work with children with learning difficulties. Today, he is combining both of those skills, and is doing so brilliantly, as a computer teacher at one of Thaki's partner organizations in Lebanon, Al Sawiri School. "When I was a kid, I dreamed of working with computers, and thanks to God I was able to achieve that dream."

A black and white photograph of a man with dark, wavy hair, looking down. He is wearing a dark t-shirt with a circular logo on the chest that says "thaki". The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an office or classroom setting.

Meet one of these inspiring teachers

Speaking to Mohammad you feel he is exactly the person meant for the role and his passion for championing technology with his students is palpable. "When I was a student, other students would come up to me and say, 'I did not understand this, can you please explain it to me?' I would basically explain everything to my friends, and they would say, 'you teach better than the professor!' That's how I fell in love with it. I felt that I had so many ideas to offer the students, that I'm doing something new, so I just went with it. Today, education is above all else to me, honestly. And there are a lot of difficulties, but I love it even more."

"Now I teach robotics to little kids, and to little Syrian kids, there's usually no one to teach them something like this. I tell them that whatever it is they want to learn they can turn on the computer and search for it. A lot of times, they are the ones who end up teaching me, and they show me what they're working on. There are students who have done wonders."

Given a device and the nurturing guidance of a teacher like Mohammad Serri, we know the wonders are truly just beginning.

“When I was first told that I would be teaching computer classes to first graders, I admit it, I thought, 'What kind of program would be suitable to support these students? There is no such thing.' After seeing Thaki's content I thought to myself, 'everyone should have access to these programs in countries around the world!' Especially when we consider refugees, or those living through war, those living in poverty, or those who are orphans”



Feedback

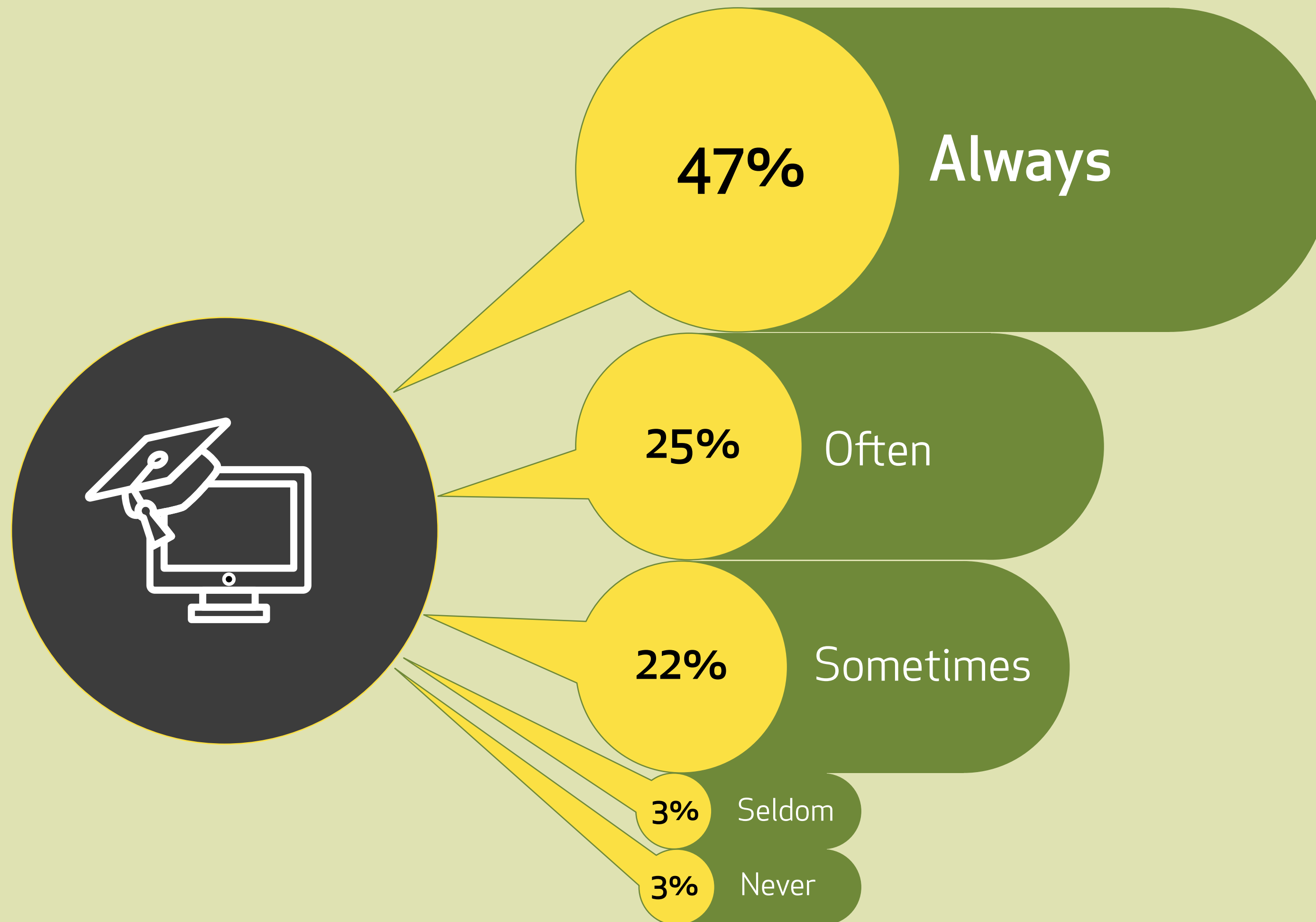
“Using computers makes students feel safe, encouraged, motivated and they can keep going according to their level.”

- Mr. Osama

“Just learning how to work on a computer and enhancing technical skills makes them feel empowered.”

- Ms. Salam

Computers have a positive impact on teaching

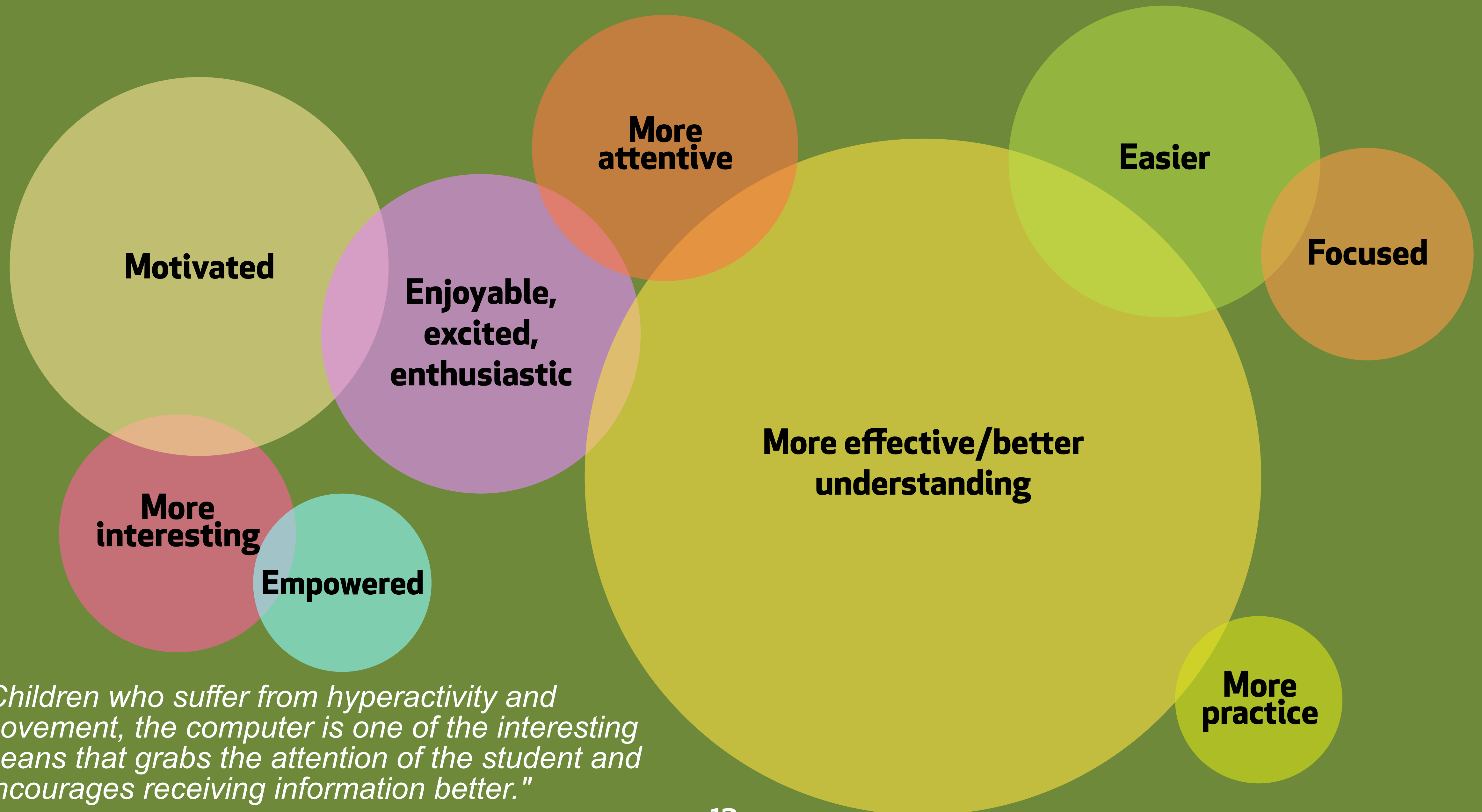


The feedback we receive from teachers via surveys, observations, testimonials and informational interviews regarding the impact of Thaki laptops on the young learners continues to be extremely encouraging and gratifying.

Data from our teacher surveys indicate that 85% of teachers reported that the computers have had a positive impact on the children's learning, and 86% said that computers have had a positive impact on student motivation.

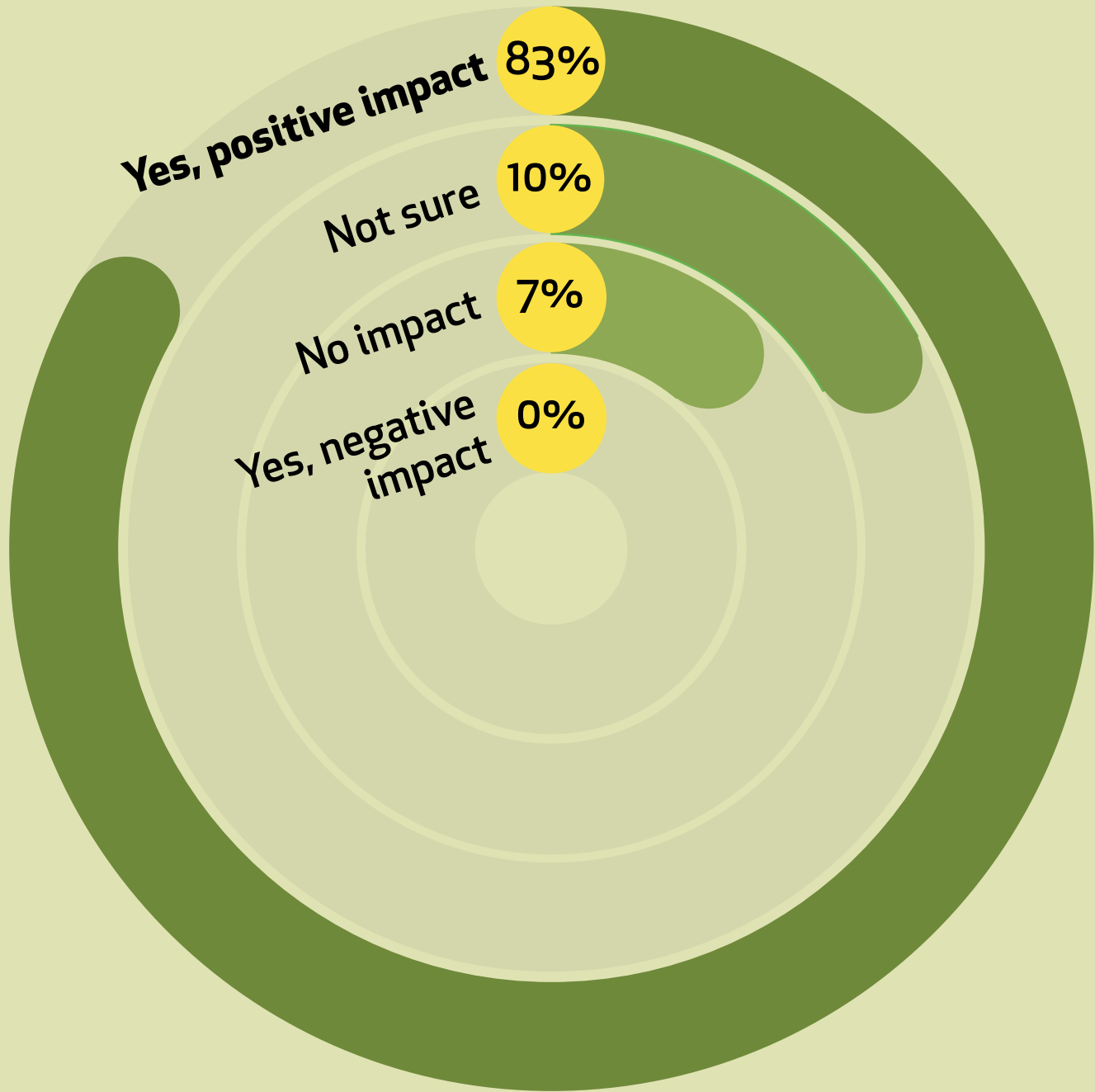
“The use of computers is necessary and important to expand the student's skills in the use of keyboard and learning on the characters and save them and how to operate it and what is composed, and at the level of games that makes the student more Intelligence, enthusiasm and speed.”
- Mr. Hilal

Impact of the use of computers on students who have learning difficulties or who struggle to grasp lesson content

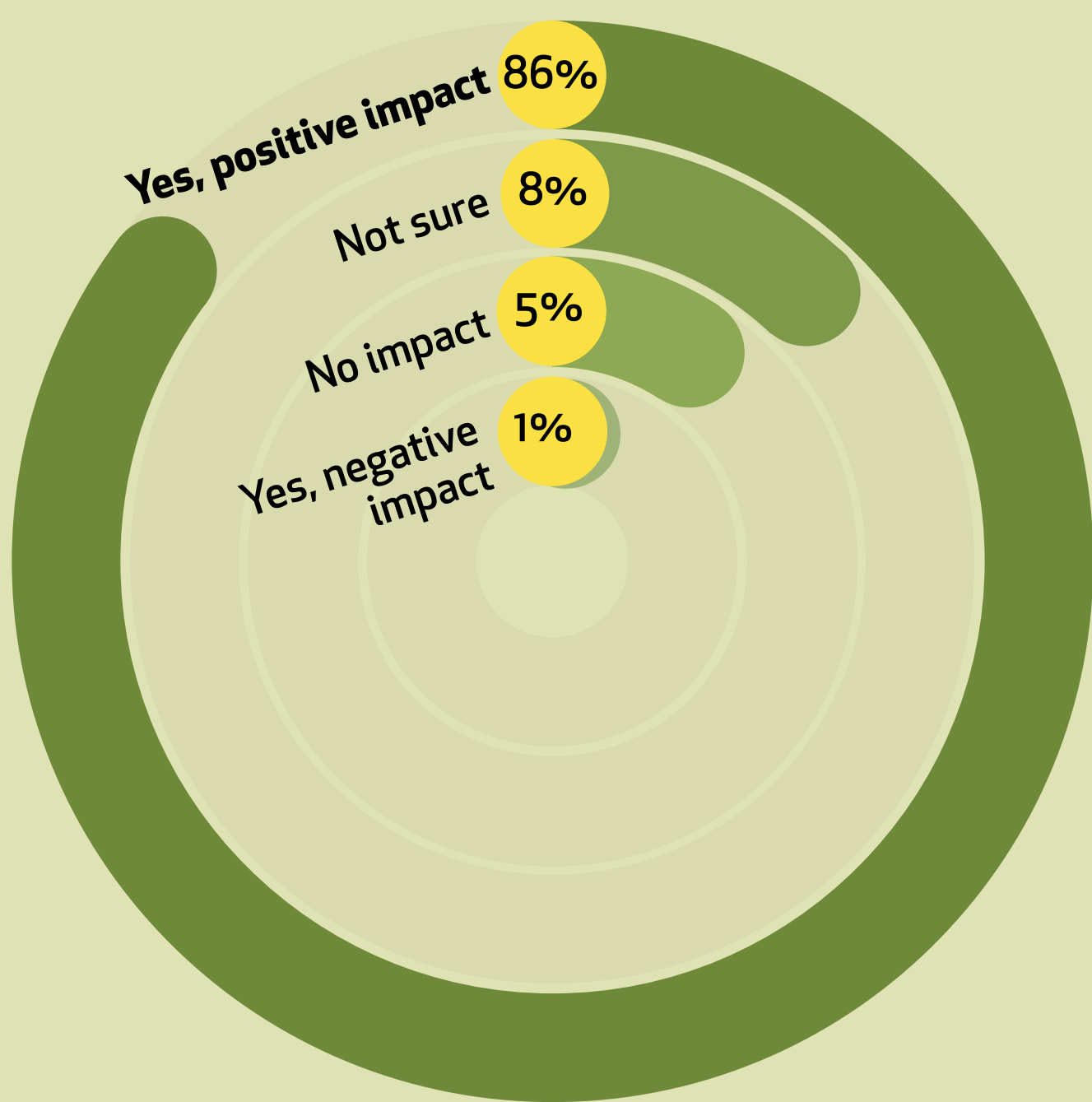


"Children who suffer from hyperactivity and movement, the computer is one of the interesting means that grabs the attention of the student and encourages receiving information better."

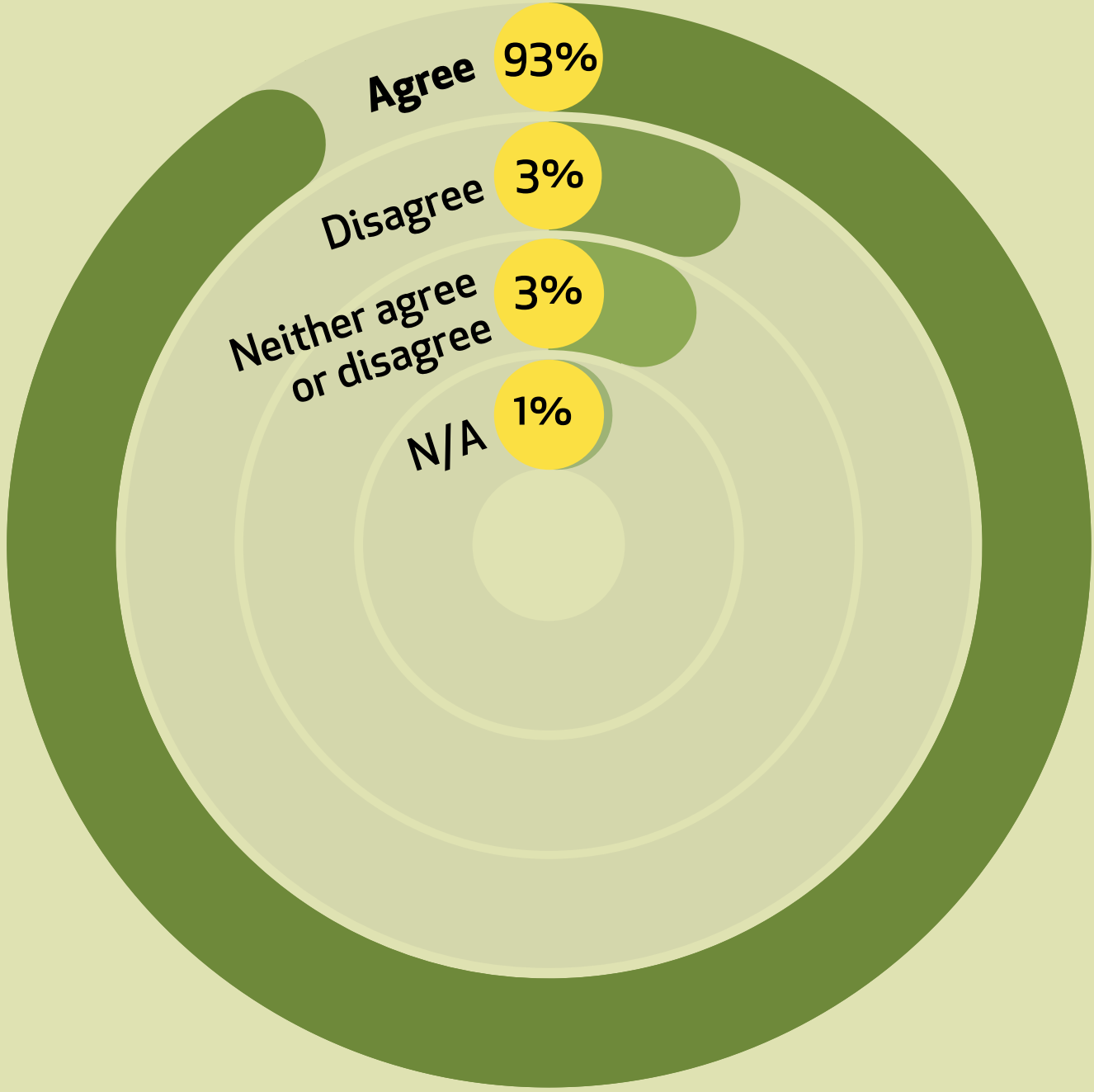
Impact of computer on student learning



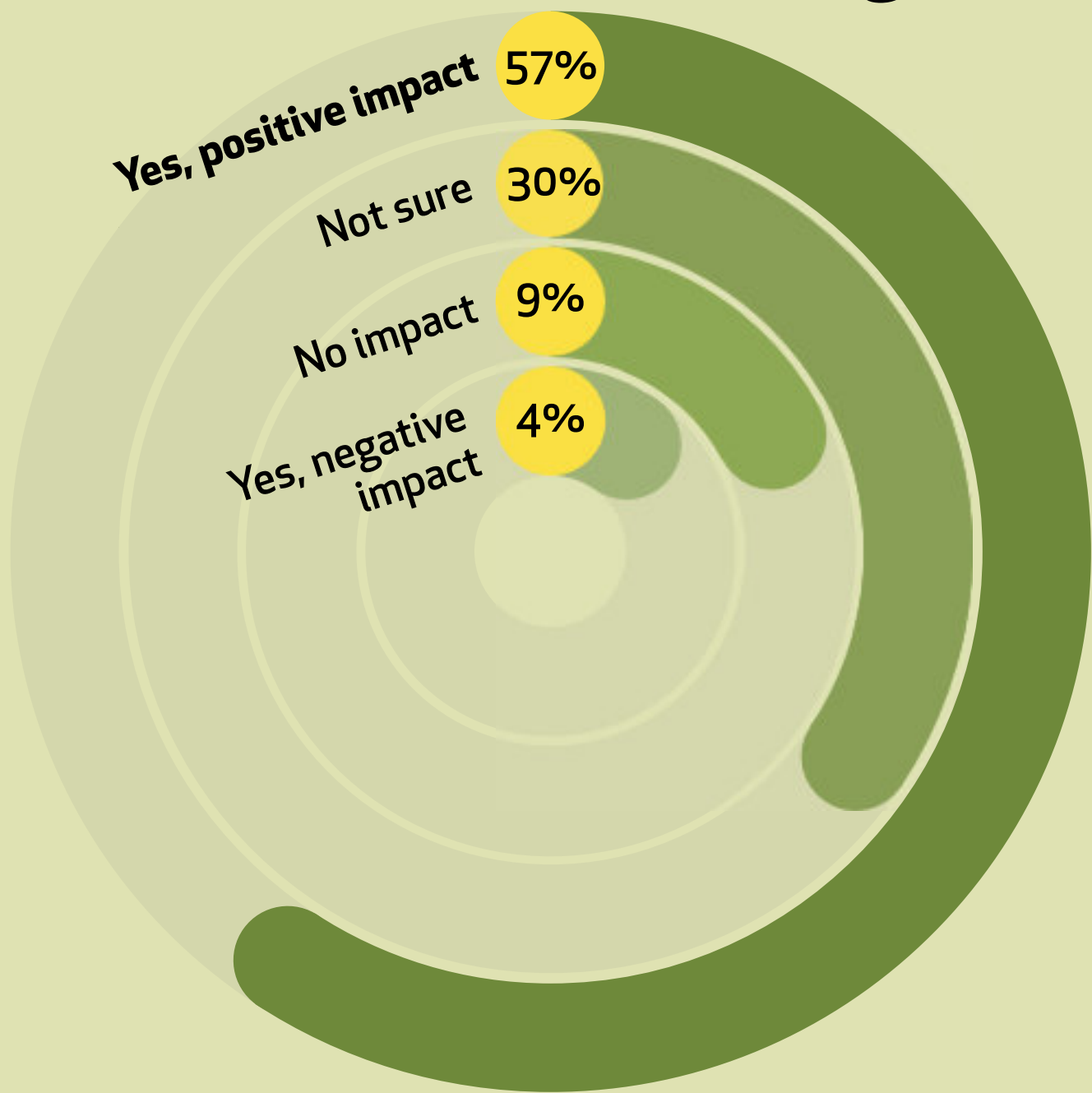
Impact of computers on student motivation



Students are excited to use computers



Impact on students with learning difficulties





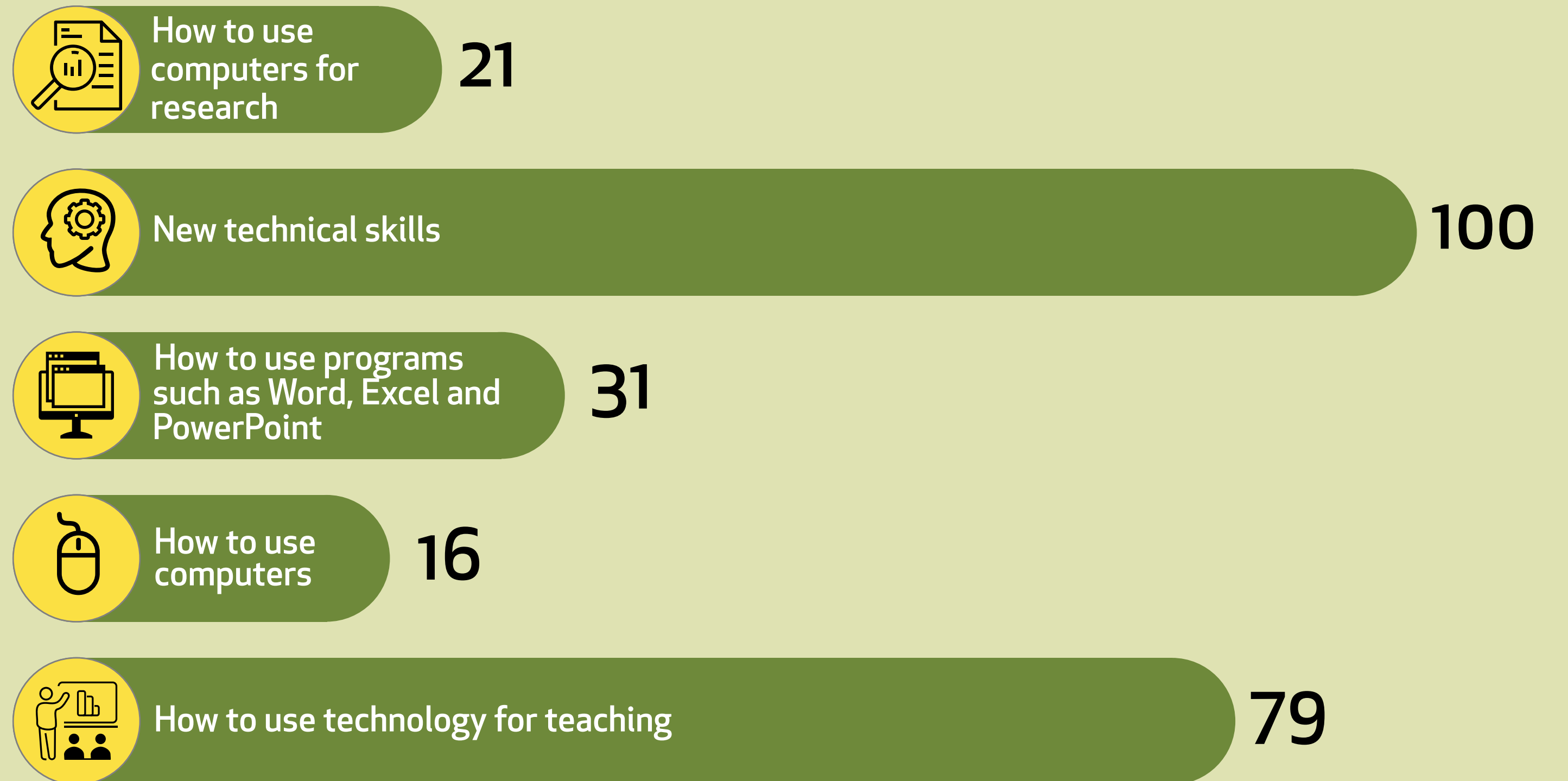
Initiatives

Many of our partners' teachers are not comfortable themselves in the digital ecosystem and have never had the opportunity to use digital tools to guide their students in an effective manner towards 21st century skills. There is a wealth of under-utilized educational content available to them that can greatly enhance the learning experience of the children. We would like to improve this teaching and learning journey. As such, Thaki has teamed up with Teach for Lebanon to create a robust, bi-lingual digital toolkit designed to support teachers and facilitators in their use of Thaki tools and ICT pedagogy in the classroom.

By providing this support to teachers, our goal is to promote digital access and literacy in entire school communities as instructors will often share resources and diffuse their expertise to others.

“There are educational programs in which the lesson is explained in the form of a story. This type of program is the closest thing to the student’s thought, especially the kindergarten class and the first basic class. It helps the student to integrate with the lesson and communicate ideas in a smooth and simplified way to the student.”

Desired training needs





Partnerships

Other 2019 improvements to Thaki's offering included new additions to our content library from new providers as well as existing partners. We expanded the 1001 Nights Oznoz award-winning cartoon series with the addition of "Mixed Nuts" and "Hope Works" programs. Available in Arabic and English, these programs focus on civic education, human rights and the rule of law through character-driven animated adventures.

Looking beyond academic learning content in vital areas such as literacy and numeracy, we started promising conversations to further develop elements of life skills and social-emotional learning on our platform. Engaging with topics such as wellbeing and mindfulness, financial literacy, and gender equality norms benefit children in all environments, and are especially crucial for children in conflict settings. Growing up under constant uncertainty of the future and their place in it, these children need targeted and intentional programs that address their unique needs to better equip them to cope with the world around them.

While learning in a digital environment, students become digital natives that are exposed and begin to develop the skills required to fairly compete in both formal education systems as well as in the job market.



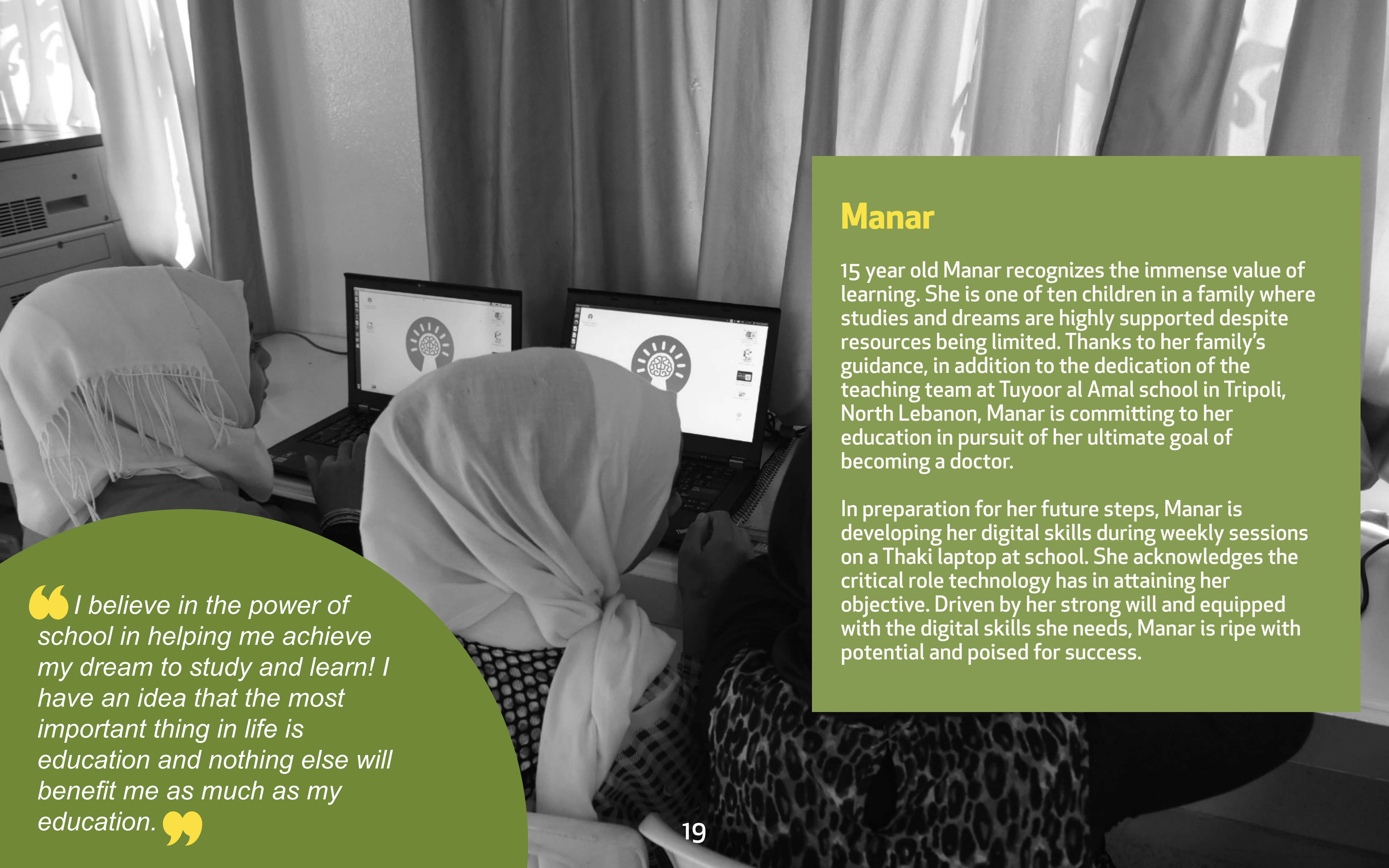
Meet 2 motivated students

Ola

11 year old Ola has been going to Al Sawiri School in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for the past two years. Al Sawiri School serves the community that Ola and many other Syrian children live in, close to the agricultural heart of the country where many displaced families find daily work cultivating potatoes, oranges, and various other crops found in this fertile region. Ola and her classmates rely on the educational services that NGO-funded organizations like Social Support Society provide.

Last year, when Ola was in the fifth grade, she began learning on a Thaki laptop. Today, her favorite programs are Scratch, Libre Impress (a presentation program similar to PowerPoint) and Libre Writer (a word processing program equivalent to MS Word).

Without Thaki laptops available to her, Ola would have limited means to develop the digital literacy skills crucial to accessing the higher education and employment settings to which she aspires. By having access to content-rich laptops, Ola and her classmates are supported to learn, grow and unlock their potential.



“I believe in the power of school in helping me achieve my dream to study and learn! I have an idea that the most important thing in life is education and nothing else will benefit me as much as my education.”

Manar

15 year old Manar recognizes the immense value of learning. She is one of ten children in a family where studies and dreams are highly supported despite resources being limited. Thanks to her family's guidance, in addition to the dedication of the teaching team at Tuyoor al Amal school in Tripoli, North Lebanon, Manar is committing to her education in pursuit of her ultimate goal of becoming a doctor.

In preparation for her future steps, Manar is developing her digital skills during weekly sessions on a Thaki laptop at school. She acknowledges the critical role technology has in attaining her objective. Driven by her strong will and equipped with the digital skills she needs, Manar is ripe with potential and poised for success.

Case Study

A degree holder in Computer Science, a participant in entrepreneurship competitions and a trainer in social leadership. None of these descriptors would traditionally be associated with the profile of a young woman from her village, but Loreen Obeid found her way into each of those realities.

Today, Loreen is a Teach for Lebanon (TfL) Fellow using Thaki laptops to teach computer classes at Malaak Organization in Akkar, Lebanon. Malaak supports and educates the Syrian refugee community in the area and, according to Loreen, "you feel like you are there to do work that is needed. The people there really do need Malaak."

Exemplifying the wealth of opportunities that result from having digital skills, Loreen is, unsurprisingly, a huge proponent of instilling digital literacy in her students. "This generation of young learners is born into a world with all this technology that they would like to integrate into their learning."

A black and white portrait of Loreen Obeid, a young woman wearing a dark hijab and a dark top. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Meet another inspiring teacher



Relating this to her own professional experience, Loreen states, “everywhere I worked, people were always happy to see someone who was automating the work and finding new tech solutions to make the work easier. They felt that I was an added value to them.”

It is clear that Loreen is not only adding value to the Malaak and TfL teams with her tech expertise and her commitment to supporting others, but also adding value to the lives of her many students who will go on well equipped with critical, digital skills for the future.

“The content from Thaki has definitely facilitated my job and I’m able to work towards my mission of offering my students quality education in an entertaining way that fosters their critical thinking skills. I always used to hear from students that they find math difficult and not fun, but many games on Thaki computers make learning math very engaging.”

The Thaki Team

The Thaki team grew significantly in 2019. We were delighted to welcome program manager Kaitlin Giuglianotti, operations manager Mariam Khalaf, developer Majd AlMuhder, communications specialist Rawan al-Kayat, and social media intern Samia Habli. These new teammates bring incredible energy, talent, hard work and dedication to advance our mission.

We were also thrilled to welcome two new board members, Safiyeh Salehi Mobarakeh and Dafne Van Baarle, whose insights and leadership will help us make breakthroughs in the Dutch market.

All of these wonderful individuals join our existing stellar team. Learn more about them [here](#).

In May 2019, ten members of the team and board came together in Abu Dhabi for a team retreat and iftar. The strategic, collaborative gathering infused new ideas and set renewed commitments to navigating Thaki onward and upward for another year of impact.

A smaller, on the ground team, joined minds in November to both reflect and look forward. The sessions allowed an opportunity to step away from the daily operations to take a holistic look at where we as an organization have been and where we are going.

Ground Team



Rudayna Abodo
Founder



Mariam Khalaf
Operations Manager



Kaitlin Gluglianotti
Program Manager



Yousif Asfour



Victor Guthrie



Samia Habli



Biju Kumar



Nadine Ghaith



Rula Asfour



Guzelle Shahid



Tea Vutmej



Denita Pious

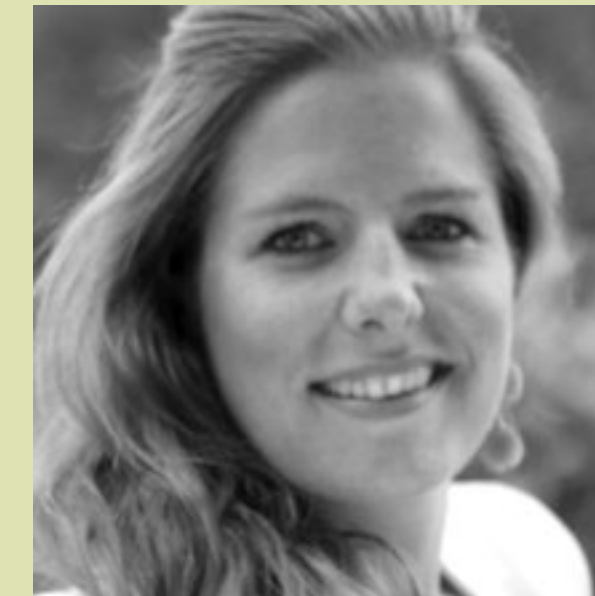
Advisory Team



Asmahan Zein
Logistics and social
enterprise specialty



Carine Souaiby
Legal specialty



Cecille van Oppen
Sustainability and
circular economy
specialty



Dafne van Baarle
Refugee and
education specialist



Geoffrey Alphonso
Education tech
specialty



Nawzad Othman
Business operations



**Safiyeh Salehi
Mobarakeh**
MENA-NL Liaison



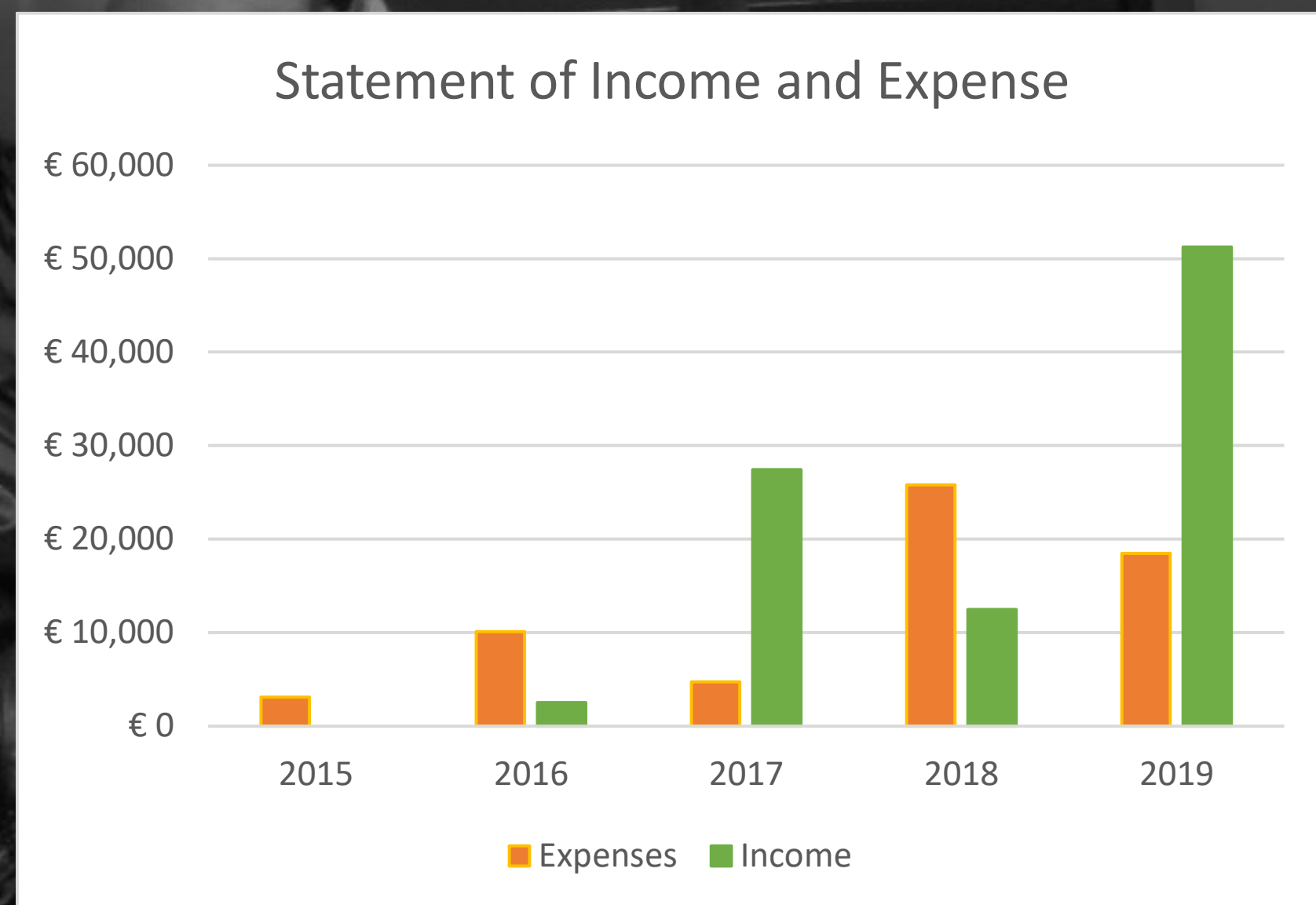
Yvonne Biggins
Education and youth
wellbeing specialty

Outreach activities

In addition to the behind-the-scenes hard work that keeps us busy, we spread the word about Thaki through some speaking events and other engagements that include:

- Rudayna was a guest on the Nada Jones Liberty for Her podcast.
- We conducted a workshop with high school students for the EF Global Leadership Summit at the Hague Humanity Hub.
- Rudayna was the guest speaker at a UnitedSuccess dinner event.
- We participated at the Aflatoun summit Marketplace.
- Thaki was featured in the Hague Humanity Hub.
- Rudayna wrote a policy paper – “The Role of Digital Literacy and the Non-formal Education Sector in Lebanon’s Refugee Populations” – for the Averroes Academy.
- Interviewed for Engineering for Change’s (E4C) Women in Tech Social Innovation in MENA study.

In addition to our efforts to deepen our impact with existing users, 2019 saw an increase in our efforts to amplify our digital exposure to reach a wider audience. For example, we accomplished a 350% increase in reach from 2018, and a 10-fold increase from 2017.



Thaki continues to leverage tremendous volunteer and in-kind contributions thanks to the generosity of many remarkable individuals and organizations. The monetary equivalent of this support is many orders of magnitude larger than the numbers here reflect.

We look forward to unveiling new programs and partnerships for a decade of increased impact. Thank you for supporting us on our journey. Together we can unlock the potential of these wonderful children.

Financials

Key highlights of Thaki's financial statement can be found below. The full financial statement is available on Thaki's website at thaki.org.

Statement of activities

	2019	2018	2017	2016
Assets				
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets	€ 423	€ 706	€ 989	€ 1,272
Current assets				
Accounts receivable	€ 2,722	€ 0	€ 212	€ 0
Cash	€ 31,373	€ 13,088	€ 26,601	€ 0
	€ 34,095	€ 13,088	€ 26,813	€ 0
Total assets	€ 34,518	€ 13,794	€ 27,802	€ 1,272
Liabilities				
Capital account	€ 33,418	-€ 993	€ 15,052	-€ 7,334
Short term liabilities				
Creditors	€ 0	€ 0	€ 261	€ 0
Due to board member	€ 0	€ 13,687	€ 11,589	€ 8,606
Other amounts payable	€ 1,100	€ 1,100	€ 900	€ 0
	€ 1,100	€ 14,787	€ 12,750	€ 8,606
Total liabilities	€ 34,518	€ 13,794	€ 27,802	€ 1,272



-  @thakiunlockspotential
-  @Thaki_Unlocks
-  Thaki. Unlock their potential
-  @thakiunlocks