



SAT-7

INTERIM MINISTRY REPORT

January – June 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Dear SAT-7 friends,

It is a great pleasure to bring you this report on SAT-7's work in the first half of 2023. We thank God for His continued faithfulness and His provision for our ministry in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

The last months have seen some stimulating initiatives across SAT-7's four channels. Innovative technology at the SAT-7 PARS studio is opening the door to different kinds of virtual production. New programs especially tailored for viewers in North Africa have been produced and broadcast by SAT-7 ARABIC. Documentaries from SAT-7 TÜRK are highlighting Türkiye's long Christian heritage. And SAT-7 KIDS' social media pages are helping young people navigate the challenges of growing up in the MENA. In all these ways SAT-7 is fulfilling its call to make the Gospel available to people across the region.

We can also report on new developments in SAT-7's various partner projects. From the filming of a new drama for *Lebanon, Our Story*, through the broadcasting of our SAT-7 ARABIC program promoting Gender Equality and Freedom of Religion or Belief, to workshops and media activities that empower youth in Egypt and Lebanon to influence their societies, SAT-7 is demonstrating the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace.

You can read about all these activities and projects in the following pages, along with updates from the channels on a wider range of their satellite programs and digital media series.

The events of the past six months alone have underlined the need for SAT-7's continuing ministry of spiritual comfort and support for our viewers. The massive earthquakes that struck Türkiye and Syria on 6 February caused death and devastation on an unimaginable scale. In the days and weeks that followed SAT-7 sent teams to the region, highlighted the relief work of local churches, and offered Christian reflections on suffering. We have also continued to support our Persian-speaking viewers as they share the sufferings of their tortured countries, and our Arab audience caught in the midst of economic turmoil and political instability.

None of this work would be possible without you, our dedicated supporters and partners. We are so grateful to you for standing with us as we share God's love with the people of the MENA and encourage the Church in its life, work, and witness. Please be encouraged as you read this report of what your generosity has achieved.

With warm Christian greetings,



Rita El-Mounayer
Chief Executive
Officer



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck near the border of Türkiye and Syria on 6 February caused over 55,000 deaths.¹ Millions more people were injured, thrust into poverty, or displaced. This devastating tragedy has exacerbated the refugee crisis in the region and put extra strain on already-faltering economies.

Click [here](#) to watch a video from the earthquake zone.

Türkiye

Even before the earthquakes, there were myriad problems beleaguering the Turkish population. The grim economic picture in Türkiye, including a major cost-of-living crisis with soaring food and house prices,² is coupled with serious social issues. Sexual violence against women, ongoing abuse of children's rights, marginalisation of refugees, and discrimination against religious minorities persist.

Persian-speaking World

In Iran, nationwide anti-government protests peaked in late autumn 2022, but the cry for women's freedom continues to resound. February 2023 brought more flare-ups,³ and by July police had restarted public patrols to identify women not wearing the hijab "correctly", provoking the fury of protesters.⁴ It is estimated that at least 19,200 people have been detained and 537 protesters killed in connection with the uprising.⁵

In Afghanistan, the country's economic woes have plunged it into one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world. Food insecurity, malnutrition, and long-term health problems are ravaging the population,⁶ and under the Taliban, there is oppression of minority groups, including Christians and women.

Arab World

February's earthquakes may have displaced up to five million Syrians, in addition to the more than 13 million forcibly displaced due to the civil war over the past twelve years.⁷ Ceasefires have brought small glimmers of hope to war-torn countries Libya and Yemen, but in Sudan a civil war broke out in mid-April. Thousands of people have reportedly been killed;⁸ over 4.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes;⁹ and there are no signs of the fighting's slowing down as autumn approaches.

Click [here](#) to watch the testimony of a Christian family from Khartoum.

Economically, Lebanon and Egypt are facing serious, ongoing issues, including cost-of-living crises. The inflation rate in Lebanon in May 2023 was 260%,¹⁰ the second highest in the world, while the Egyptian pound lost more than half its value in the first few months of 2023.

A lack of religious freedom continues to afflict countries such as Libya, Sudan, and Algeria, where Christians must keep their faith secret or face serious, and sometimes deadly, consequences.

Meanwhile in the Holy Land, tension has been escalating in the West Bank. There was a 20% increase in political violence there in the month of June, with multiple deadly clashes and well over a hundred people seriously injured.¹¹

1 "What we know about the earthquake in Turkey and Syria", *The New York Times*, 24 February 2023.

2 "Turkey's deepening economic crisis prompts Erdogan to look West", BBC, 15 July 2023.

3 "Iran protests flare in several cities amid continuing unrest", *The Guardian*, 17 February 2023.

4 "Iran's 'morality police' resume patrols 10 months after nationwide protests", *The Guardian*, 17 July 2023.

5 "At least 537 killed in Iran protest crackdown, rights group says", VOA, 4 April 2023.

6 "Afghanistan: events of 2022", Human Rights Watch, World Report 2023.

7 "What shall we do? Millions displaced in Turkey and Syria after earthquake", *The Guardian*, 12 February 2023.

8 "New killings reported in Darfur on second day of ceasefire", CNN, 19 June 2023.

9 "Sudan: Four months of conflict 'destroying people's lives and violating their basic human rights'", UN News, 15 August 2023.

10 "Lebanon inflation rate", *Trading Economics*, June 2023 data.

11 "Regional Overview: Middle East, June 2023", ACLED, 6 July 2023.

CHANNEL INITIATIVES

The first six months of 2023 have seen exciting progress on a number of key initiatives by our channels. These include Virtual Productions and Augmented Reality technology, new programs produced in North Africa, a social media series for Arab youth, and absorbing documentaries for Türkiye.

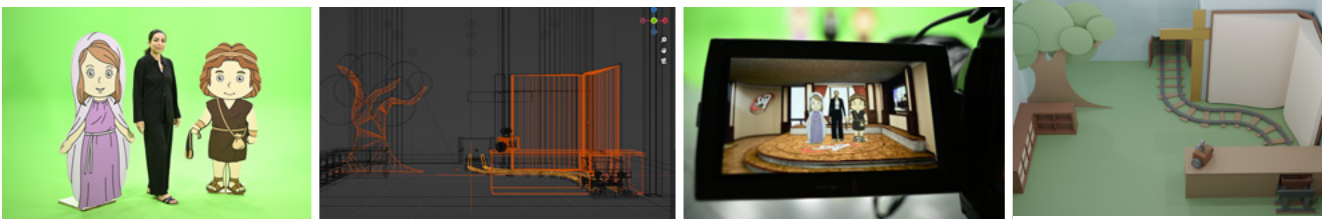
Beyond the green screen

New technology recently installed in the SAT-7 PARS studio in Limassol is opening up new possibilities for the production team. They are making fast progress in familiarising themselves with the Virtual Productions and Augmented Reality system provided by StYpe.

The production equipment is already being used on the live social media program *Sanctuary of the Heart*. Later in the year, the team will include short segments in Virtual Reality in the new season of the live children's program *Hashtag*. In preparation, they have created a virtual kitchen set, in which presenters Parastoo and Ava can move around and interact with objects as if on a real set.

The team have further plans to deploy Virtual Production on the popular social media series *Church4Kids*, and they are exploring its capacity for use in other activities. Sakari Heinonen, SAT-7 PARS Broadcast Technician, sees great potential in the newly installed system. "This opens up the door to a world of imagination and creativity."

Virtual productions will enable SAT-7 PARS to present its programs in a visually creative and dynamic way and to capture the attention of increasing numbers of people. The virtual environment will also enable presenters in different locations to appear on the same set at the same time and engage with one another, opening doors for new Christian talent from around the world.



The new Virtual Production technology in action

"The team are doing a fantastic job in applying what they have learned, and it is incredible to see their hard work come to life on the screen," says Panayiotis Keenan, Executive Director of SAT-7 PARS. "I believe the virtual productions will complement our existing productions and raise them to a new level. We are excited to explore the full potential of this technology."

In the long term this technology will be shared gradually across all SAT-7's channels and will create new opportunities for collaboration between them.

Click [here](#) to watch a video on SAT-7 PARS' virtual productions.

Growth in North Africa

SAT-7 ARABIC is working with local producers and production houses in North Africa to create programs especially tailored to viewers in the region. A longstanding partnership with a team in Algeria has been supplemented by new relationships in Tunisia and, most recently, in Morocco.

A new program in the Moroccan dialect called *Parables of Jesus* is using drama to engage viewers through the parables Jesus told. The actors, crew, and filming locations are all Moroccan. One episode explains the parable of the unjust judge and how it is important to pray all the time because God hears our prayers.

[Click here to watch a clip from *Parables of Jesus*.](#)

Also in production in Morocco is a series of testimonies from local Christians, *People of My Land*, celebrating their lives as disciples of Christ and the light that He brings. Produced in partnership with Media Mission the Messengers from Finland, the stories emphasise how Moroccan believers live out their faith in daily life. One of the participants is a Moroccan pastor who has previously presented a teaching program on SAT-7 ARABIC.

Meanwhile, in Tunisia, SAT-7 is working with Perpetua Productions to produce another season of the popular talk show *Standard Talk*. The episodes are exploring the relationship between religion and violence, posing such questions as “Is Christianity peaceful?” “If so, why has it been associated with wars and violence?” and “What is its unique perspective on ‘religious violence’?”

Finally, Perpetua have also produced a new season of *Breath of Life*, which encourages viewers in their faith through prayer, worship, and passages from the Bible. Using beautiful music by a local church, the program seeks to bring a breath of life to isolated and sometimes persecuted Christians in North Africa.



The Parable of the Unjust Judge

Christian influencer

The SAT-7 Youth social media pages are addressing questions and problems faced by young people in the Arab World. Question posts invite viewers to talk about their struggles with issues ranging from addiction to self-acceptance, body image to dating.

The website is also hosting a new series, *A Little Talk*. The presenter, Mario Sfeir, is a Christian social media influencer with more than 100,000 followers, and he invites guests to talk about topics such as yoga and tattoos from a Christian perspective while they drive around Beirut together in his car. The videos regularly receive thousands of views, and some have been watched 11,000 times.

The aim of the social media pages is to correct widespread but inaccurate beliefs about Christianity, to protect young viewers from the negative effects of these beliefs, and to connect them with the viewer support teams for private discussion and prayer.



St Theodore Church in Yeşilöz, Cappadocia, is hewn into rock

Forthcoming documentaries

SAT-7 TÜRK are seeking to inform their viewers about Türkiye's strong Christian heritage through a series of engaging documentaries. The first two focus on the region of Cappadocia, where Christianity was established in the first century, and on some of the country's most historic church buildings.

A new feature film to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the historic two-way migration between Türkiye and Greece is now in

production. Narrating the experiences of two families, one Turkish and one Greek, this personal and powerful film will show that Türkiye has always had Christian residents and will demonstrate that these people, who are commonly seen as guests, in fact have much in common with other Turkish people.

PROJECTS

UPDATE

Lebanon, Our Story (LOS)

Lebanon, Our Story (LOS) is in its third year of implementation. The objective of the project is that young members (15-25) of various religious or belief groups within Lebanon possess a shared narrative of hope that drives social cohesion and provides an impetus for meaningful civic engagement.



Young participants at the *Lebanon, Our Story* book launch

Following the successful completion of the on-the-ground Story-Telling Clubs across Lebanon, key stories were published in a book, which was [launched](#) in February 2023 in an event hosted by SAT-7 Lebanon and attended by civic and religious leaders and government ministers. Additionally, a selection of stories were integrated into a series of documentaries that included in-person retelling of stories and dramatisations. The documentaries were disseminated in the first half of 2023 via satellite and digital media and were viewed on Facebook by more than 140,000 users.

Production of the project's drama *L'ayiniki (For Your Eyes)* started in June. It was delayed following the death of the original writer, Marwan Najjar, but the script has been reviewed and completed by another author.

LOS is implemented by SAT-7's Lebanon studio in partnership with the Lebanese Bible Society and Humanship. It is supported through the Centre for Church-based Development (CKU) and SAT-7's partner the Danish Bible Society (DBS).

For more information, visit <https://sat7.org/los>.

Youth for an Enabling Society (YES)

In 2023, SAT-7 launched a new five-year project that will both equip and encourage young people in Egypt to invest themselves in their local communities and wider society, in order to promote social conditions that will enhance and not diminish their freedoms.

The project, *Youth for an Enabling Society (YES)*, will focus on developing social cohesion among youth aged 18-24, and between them and the rest of society. It aims to help the young people engage with one another and explore themes of diversity, personal responsibility, and creative self-expression, and to encourage justice and reconciliation between diverse communities in Egypt.

In the first half of 2023, the team identified and started working with local partners. As part of the project's Youth Empowerment Influencer Campaign it covered various youth initiatives across Egypt, together with partners, including Alexandria University. It also held multiple youth workshops and produced campaign videos on human rights, focusing on privacy, equality, and the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment. The project team also met with Svend Olling, the Danish Ambassador in Egypt, who agreed to share Danish experiences and projects in the field of environmental responsibility, to encourage innovation among Egyptian youth.

YES is implemented by SAT-7's Cairo studio and is supported by Norad via Digni and SAT-7's partner the Norwegian Mission Society (NMS).

Click [here](#) to watch a video on the YES project.



Visiting an environmental project

Puzzle

After a successful Phase 1 in 2019-2020, the *Puzzle* project launched its second phase in 2023. This aims to strategically complement LOS with the objective that children aged 10-15 years from various religious or belief groups within Lebanon respect freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) and work towards social cohesion.



Young participants on the set of *Puzzle* (season 1)

This is pursued through two “tracks” of activities that aim to maximise the project’s impact. These combine a conventional approach with utilising media to enhance the project’s reach. Track 1 covers activities like media and journalism workshops and participant initiatives/reports in their communities, and track 2 includes a television program and online community group. In the first half of 2023, SAT-7, together with its project partner Right to Play, Lebanon, held workshops with the participating children to identify the social issues that affect them and their communities. With the knowledge gained from these, the television program will be produced in the autumn.

Puzzle is implemented by SAT-7’s Lebanon studio and is supported by CKU through DBS.

Gender Equality and FoRB

The Gender Equality and FoRB project is a five-year venture, which is run by SAT-7 from its Egypt studio and supported by our partners Norad via Digni and the NMS. Its objective is that women and men, boys and girls, living within their faith-informed context in the MENA, experience the freedom to have, change, and manifest an alternative belief equally, regardless of their gender.

One of the project’s key elements is a television program, *Today Not Tomorrow*, which tells the stories of those who face challenges when seeking their freedom of religion or belief and presents alternative visions of hope, to raise awareness and inspire and encourage changes in attitudes and behaviour. Between January and April 2023 15 episodes were aired. They scan various gender and human rights topics with an emphasis on FoRB and the right to think out, form, and express one’s own opinions and religious beliefs. In July, *Today Not Tomorrow* launched their summer social media campaign, #asktodaynottomorrow, #freetodaynottomorrow to encourage critical thinking and FoRB. The program’s Facebook group has attracted a remarkable 4,400 members, and interactions are increasing.

The project also launched a series of videos exploring healthy and authentic masculinity. Each of the six short pieces features a personal story from a man about a time when he struggled to conform to social expectations of manhood, which is followed by a thoughtful and theologically-grounded reflection from a psychiatrist.

Click [here](#) to watch an episode.



Creating artwork as part of the Gender Equality and FoRB project

In June, Maggie Morgan, the project lead, participated in the “Marrakesh Forum” conference, where female leaders from the worlds of business, NGOs, and civil society from all over North Africa set out to explore together how freedom of belief and religion and equality between the sexes can contribute to peaceful societies and to strengthening the position of women in society.

CHANNEL UPDATE

PERSIAN WORLD

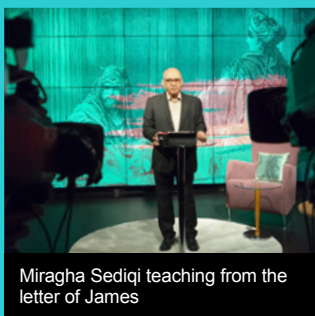
Afghanistan

Events in Afghanistan have required ongoing prayer and action from the SAT-7 PARS team. August 15 marks two years since the Taliban's successful power-grab in the country, but with stories of struggle continuing to surface, we are witnessing God at work as people find and put their trust in Him.

SAT-7 PARS has expanded programming for Afghans in Dari, the variety of the Persian language that 78 percent of the Afghan population speak as their native tongue. One example of this is praise program *Sweet Truth* (produced in partnership with Operation Mobilisation and the Afghan Hope Church), first broadcast in the winter of 2022-2023. "*Sweet Truth* delivers Afghan house-church worship to Afghans," says producer Mike Cheon, who is upbeat about what God is doing among His people. Broadcast on SAT-7 PARS and available for Afghans to stream on SAT-7 PLUS (SAT-7's live-streaming and Video-on-Demand service), the half-hour program packs in worship songs, encouraging messages, a psalm, biblical teaching, a children's corner, and prayer requests that invite two-way communication with viewers.

On social media, another Dari resource, *Church4Afghanistan*, has been equipping Afghan Christians since its launch in November 2022. The series is on Facebook, where most Afghan viewers are active, but is also available on Instagram. The page features exclusive weekly live programs, supported by music videos and Bible verses, and is presented by Afghan assistant pastor Noorullah Noor.

Viewers like Moziaar are enjoying the content but are wary of the dangers of following Jesus. "Greetings to you, dear friends, thank you for what you are doing," his recent message to us began. "I am Moziaar from Afghanistan, and I love Jesus Christ. I want to become a believer, but unfortunately it is dangerous to do so here in Afghanistan."



Another new program, *Living Faith* (produced in partnership with Media Mission the Messengers), is a 13-part theology series presented by Afghan Christian leader Miragha Sediqi. Filming was completed in spring this year, and the program will soon be ready to air. Practical but sensitive, the series is centred on teaching from the letter of James.

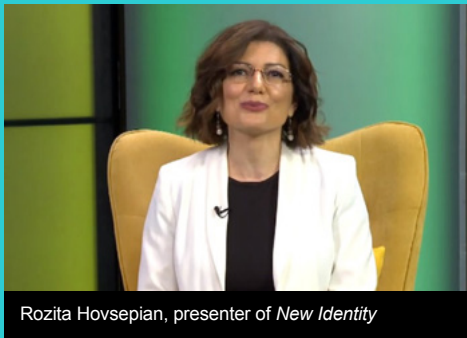
"Afghans are tired of hearing theology and want to know how to live for God," Miragha explains. "James is very hands on and down to earth regarding the faith."

The SAT-7 PARS Viewer Support team also sent out a survey among viewers in Afghanistan and Iran to gain further insight into conditions on the ground.

We recently heard from Jamil, a father from Afghanistan. "We came across your programs on satellite television, and I decided that I wanted to become a believer. I connected with brother Farshid [from SAT-7's viewer support team] via Zoom; we prayed together, and I prayed the prayer of salvation. Now so many things have changed in my life."

Iran

SAT-7 PARS has responded to the turbulent situation in Iran with an abundance of content, including several live programs, to address viewers' needs.



Rozita Hovsepian, presenter of *New Identity*

New Identity, a live program for women and families, continues to communicate a message of love from the heart of God to the hearts of Persian-speaking women. Presented by Mansoureh Eliasi and Rozita Hovsepian, the program empowers viewers to bring about positive change in their personal lives, families, and societies. The third season of *New Identity*, broadcast from September 2022 to July 2023, featured a wealth of poignant content relevant to the women-led uprisings in Iran, none more so than a double episode titled "Women and Social Justice".

SAT-7 PARS' popular women's program *Insiders* has also addressed the ongoing calls for women's rights in Iran, considering the subject holistically from various angles and with the help of experts. Its latest series has included episodes on women's struggle for civil rights, official opposition to girls' education, women's protest art, and violence against women. The program is now part of a wider Freedom of Religion or Belief project to broadcast hope to Persian women via satellite and digital media, in partnership with Mission Afrika and funded by the Centre for Church-based Development.



Insiders presenters Hengameh Borji and Sally Momtazi

[Click here](#) to watch an *Insiders* presenter speak about the program.

Signal, a live program that aims to connect isolated Iranian believers to each other by sharing their testimonies and news, dealt with similar issues in its fifth season, which ended in July. Episodes titled "Youth and Society's Problems", "Social Responsibility", and "Freedom or Liberation" have helped viewers to engage with Iranian society's problems in a Christlike manner.

Growing on Zoom

Another viewer-centric SAT-7 PARS initiative has continued to grow throughout 2023. The Zoom teaching sessions, open to viewers who find themselves in need of biblical community and encouragement, have been getting amazing feedback.

"Ever since I have started attending the teaching sessions, I am better able to pray," said Farimah, a woman from Iran. "I have more enthusiasm for the Lord, and my relationship with my husband has improved. I am grateful. May God bless you for the excellent teaching."

Dalir, a man from Afghanistan, commented, "This session about prayer was truly full of blessings. Thank you for the notes file that you sent about the topic. It was a real blessing to me. You are glorifying the name of the Lord."

The sessions begin with sung worship before moving on to a discussion topic. These have included praying and fasting, spiritual maturity, and faith in action. Sessions are designed to impact daily life and always centre around a Bible passage.

Mehrzaad, an Iranian man who has attended the Zoom teaching sessions, said, "I am so happy that after a long time I am once again growing and being renewed in my faith."

CHANNEL UPDATE

SAT-7 TÜRK

Responding to disaster

SAT-7 TÜRK's work in the first part of 2023 was dominated by its response to February's earthquakes in Türkiye. In the face of such intense suffering on such a devastating scale, SAT-7 TÜRK made it their priority to fully engage with the situation as it unfolded, giving their viewers up-to-date information from the quake zone and offering a Christian perspective on suffering and service.



SAT-7 TÜRK reports on the distribution of aid after the earthquake

One major focus of SAT-7 TÜRK's work at the time was to highlight groups of selfless individuals serving their communities. "Christian churches were everywhere, and they were working silently," said Melih Ekener, SAT-7 TÜRK Executive Director. "Even the Christians who had barely survived, even the ones who had lost their family. They had forgotten their own pain and were just focused on helping their neighbours. This was an amazing witness."

For example, a team from İzmir Işık Church in the west of Türkiye drove 14 hours east to cook meals, distribute clothes, and spend time with those impacted by the earthquakes in Antakya (biblical Antioch), a place severely damaged by the earthquake.

By highlighting instances of Christians fulfilling Christ's command to love one another, the channel sought to strengthen the Turkish Church and inspire viewers to prayer and action. "It was the Church that brought food to these places," said Melih. "We tried to document this aid as much as we could. People who saw Christianity in action for the first time felt encouraged to follow these churches in their good work."



Worship at the Revival Youth festival

Giving a voice to young Christians

Christians are a tiny minority in Türkiye, comprising about 0.2% of the population.¹ Through strategic programming, SAT-7 TÜRK gives a voice to, and increases the visibility of, the Christian community. One way of doing this is by highlighting Christian events, and so in the summer of 2023 SAT-7 TÜRK sponsored and filmed an exciting festival in Smyrna (western Türkiye) called Revival Youth. The event, which will be broadcast to homes and mobile devices all over Türkiye, brought together over 150 young people from different parts of the country to praise God, learn about the Bible, and build lasting friendships with other believers.

One musician who performed at the festival emphasised the value of young Jesus-followers' connecting. "It is a very important process for young people with faith to encourage each other," he said. "We can be alone sometimes, but we can get encouragement from other brothers in the faith when we come to these events."

¹ "Turkey", Open Doors World Watch List, 2023

There are many misconceptions about Christianity among Turkish people, and it can be difficult for Christians there to live out their faith confidently. The musician said, “There are questions, and there will always be questions. There will always be tests of our faith, but God is with us.”

Another of the festival attendees did not know any Christians in his neighbourhood until he went to Revival Youth. “I knew we had churches in [our area] but I did not know any particular person belonging to the church,” he said. “Now I know we have brothers and sisters, there are churches there, and we understand what [they] are doing. I made friends whom I have become close to, and for sure I will keep in touch.”

[Click here](#) to see an interview with a participant.



Mr Straw and Nora, presenters of *Great News*

Great news for children

SAT-7 TÜRK continues to work for the flourishing of children as well as young adults. *Great News*, which was first broadcast in March this year, is a bright and entertaining news-style program aimed at 7-11-year-olds. Presented by well-known SAT-7 TÜRK presenter Nora Yazırlioğlu and her loveable assistant Mr Straw, a dog puppet with a liking for clever jokes, this

daily program does much more than just entertain. The presenters weave biblical principles – such as the inherent value of every person and the importance of prayer – throughout varied discussions, news items, and segments.

“We are all beautiful in God’s eyes,” said Nora on one episode, “because God made us with all His love in His image.” Mr Straw replied, “Yes, my friends, we are all precious in the eyes of God, and each one of you is unique and special to Him.”

Over 100 episodes have now been aired and are freely available to watch on Facebook, to ensure that Turkish children have plenty of high-quality Christian content with which to engage.

CHANNEL UPDATE

SAT-7 KIDS AND SAT-7 ACADEMY

SAT-7's Arabic-language children's channel, SAT-7 KIDS, has launched two important new series and also broadcast special programs during the Easter period. Meanwhile our educational and social impact stream, SAT-7 ACADEMY, has marked the successful conclusion of its long-running *My School* project.

SAT-7 KIDS

Behind the Door

SAT-7 KIDS' new live game show *Behind the Door* began broadcasting in December 2022, and its first series continued until July 2023. The purpose of the program is to help young children learn about Jesus using innovative games, puzzles, and other entertaining segments. Each episode introduces a story from the Bible and highlights a core Christian value by means of a guessing game. Topics covered have included grace, obedience, courage, and holiness.



Behind the Door uses games and puzzles to help young viewers learn about Jesus

This program provides a space for the young audience to express their thoughts and share their experiences or testimonies in light of God's Word. One viewer said that her school friends were fighting and that she had tried to get them to talk to each other again because she had remembered the episode about peacemaking. She added that her friends had thanked her afterwards, because if she had not acted on what she learned their relationship would have been ruined.



Praying together on *Why is That?*

Why is That?

SAT-7 KIDS' new drama series on childhood trauma, *Why is That?*, broadcast its first season in early 2023. Each episode introduces children and their families to Christ-centred healing practices that address the various pressures to which children in the MENA are exposed. The three children of a Christian family living in Cairo discover on their rooftop an old man called Gedo (Grandfather), who helps them talk about the difficulties in their family life and identify their

feelings. He then introduces the children to healing activities and to Bible stories and verses that apply to their circumstances. The program is designed to draw viewers to Jesus the healer and hope-giver, as they see their own stories acted out in the lives of the characters. The program has been produced in partnership with the Bible Society of America, Life Focus, and Out Productions.

Zoom In

An Easter series of short episodes traces the events of Holy Week from Palm Sunday, through Good Friday, to Easter Day, focusing primarily on God's love displayed in Jesus' amazing sacrifice. Virtual Reality headsets transport the two presenters to the world of the Scriptures, where they witness biblical events, and to other scenes. The discussion, songs, and drama are designed to help young viewers understand the meaning of Jesus' cross and resurrection and to live each day in light of them.



The presenters of *Zoom In* with their Virtual Reality headsets

Click [here](#) to watch a clip from *Zoom In*.

SAT-7 ACADEMY

My School

SAT-7 ACADEMY's pioneering program to provide five years of high-quality primary education has now completed its fifth and final season. Since its launch in 2015 in response to the war in Syria, 400 episodes have been made, covering the region's core subjects of Mathematics, Arabic, English, Science, and French.



The program was originally provided for the millions of children in the MENA who were out of school because of conflict, and it received a warm response from their families. But it also attracted enormous interest from children attending poor-quality state schools, and from adults who had received an inadequate education.

Since 2017 *My School* has been used in more formal classroom settings at learning centres for young Syrian refugees in Lebanon established by organisations BILADI and Heart for Lebanon. Assessments throughout all seasons showed that children made substantial progress as a result of watching the program. Over 250 episodes of the final season have also been made available on Tabshoura, a leading e-learning platform designed by an NGO, Lebanese Alternative Learning.

SAT-7 gratefully acknowledges the invaluable support of its partners in the production and dissemination of *My School* content over the past eight years, including consultants specialising in education in emergencies. The five seasons of teaching will continue to be aired on SAT-7 and online platforms to give life-enhancing opportunities for learning to many more families.

Click [here](#) to watch a video about *My School*.

Let's Make a Change!

A new program, *Let's Make a Change!*, has been produced in early 2023 for broadcast later this year. The presenters visit various civil society organisations in Lebanon, such as the Adyan Foundation, Caritas, and Right to Play, to introduce their work to young viewers and inspire them to become positive changemakers. The program also raises awareness of the importance of recycling and waste management in order to protect the environment for future generations.

Dr Bee

SAT-7 ACADEMY's health awareness program has completed another series of episodes for social media. Originally launched during the first COVID-19 lockdown, the show is continuing to promote understanding of health, nutrition, and hygiene, and to equip parents to address the major health concerns facing children in the MENA. It supports the whole family, addressing issues faced by parents and adolescents as well as children. It aims to ensure that viewers have the knowledge they need to take care of themselves and their loved ones.

CHANNEL UPDATE

ARABIC

SAT-7 ARABIC has continued to broadcast a wide range of educational, inspiring, and wholesome content to millions of homes across the Arab World in the first half of 2023, from prison visits to Bible teaching, and from musical excellence to vulnerable conversations.

Liberation behind bars

You Are Not Alone, presented by Sirene Semerdjian, was created for the benefit of those who feel lonely and forgotten. But never before had they spoken with prisoners on the show. “Prisoners truly are alone and feel rejected by society,” said Sirene. “That’s why we wanted to talk with them about their struggles and experience.”



Sirene Semerdjian presenting *You Are Not Alone* from a women's prison

Prison visits and interviews were arranged for three special episodes, all aired in April 2023. These included a visit to the notorious Roumieh men's prison, but one of the most impactful moments of the mini-series came during Sirene's visit to Barbar El Kazen women's prison in Beirut. In a wide-ranging interview with a woman named Botika, *You Are Not Alone* uncovered an amazing story of redemption.

Botika experienced terrible mistreatment at the hands of her employer, like many foreign domestic workers in Lebanon and elsewhere in the MENA. One fateful day, while fearing for her own life, she murdered her employer. After many years in prison, Botika continued to deny her crime, until she encountered Christ and confessed.

“Knowing Christ taught me how to be patient, how to be strong, how to be a peaceful person who loves the world and is helpful to the world,” said Botika. “Many things have changed in me.”

By making God's love visible through authentic programs, SAT-7 ARABIC encourages young people to pursue a godly path for their life, turning away from patterns of hate and revenge. *Share Ur Heart*, a SAT-7 ARABIC talk show for young people, has received some great feedback during its second season. Nour, a young male viewer of the show, shared his response in May after watching an episode based on the Sermon on the Mount: “God wanted me to understand that killing someone won't solve anything. Jesus wanted to change me to make me more patient and understanding. I have learned and understood what forgiveness means; it's such a relief. Much love to you [at the channel].”



Share Ur Heart presenters

Spotlight on survivors

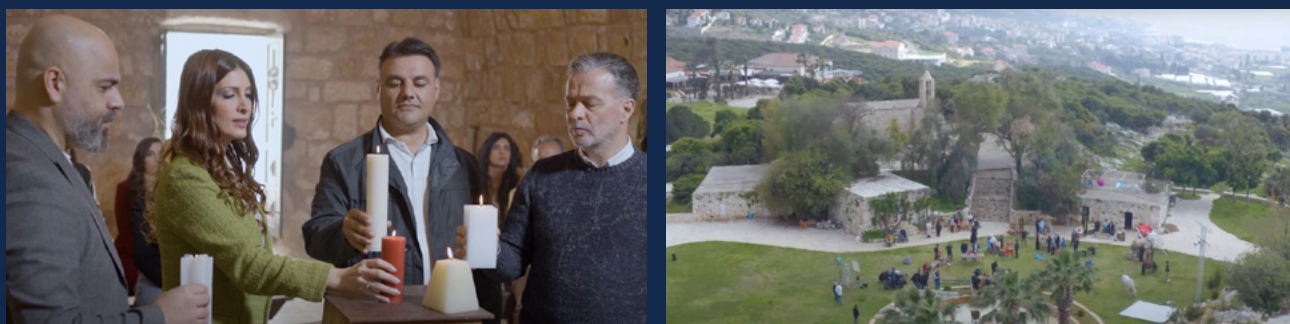
Share Ur Heart highlighted the work of the churches in Syria in assisting survivors of February's earthquakes. The presenters spoke to a young survivor who shared her terrifying experience of fleeing outside when her home was shaken, but then she added, “We are at an evangelical church, which has been receiving people of all religions. It is providing shelter and warmth. We thank the Lord for all those supporting us.”

We Believe

In May, SAT-7 celebrated 27 years of sharing the Good News of Jesus in the MENA. To mark the occasion, a special feature-length program entitled *We Believe* was broadcast on SAT-7 ARABIC and related social media outlets.

Comprising multiple segments, video reports, and interviews with prominent figures from the region as well as SAT-7 staff, the broadcast was a special celebration of God's faithfulness and SAT-7's ongoing work in the region.

The focal point of the production was an inspiring musical dramatisation of the Nicene Creed. The eight-minute video, now available to watch on YouTube, makes a clear statement of unity to a divided region. [Click here to watch.](#)



Scenes from the musical dramatisation of the Nicene Creed

Its visuals represent God's timeless Word spreading through the various communities and traditions of the Arab world. The clip's high-quality production and symbolic imagery create a beautiful picture of what SAT-7 seeks to do in the region: share the message of God's love and unite viewers around the Good News of His Son Jesus.

Musically, the piece is a creative and modern rendition of the creed with internationally-inspired melodies. This was all intentional, says Fadi Abi Hashem, the song's composer. "If we want to share the Gospel to the world, we need to speak in a language it understands," he said. "[The music is] a tour that starts from the East, goes around the world, and ends in the East, where faith began."

We Believe also included an insightful interview with Martin Accad, Lebanese theologian, author, and SAT-7 International Council member. He explained why he became involved with SAT-7: "SAT-7 does not concentrate on issues that create distance between people. It does not attack anyone. The first aim of SAT-7 is to highlight the positive issues, and the richness that Jesus brings to man. That's what makes SAT-7 unique."

Learning from the Bible

After a successful first season of *Heritage*, a SAT-7 ARABIC program that directly educates Arab viewers about the Christian faith with reference to Christ's Middle Eastern heritage, the team are preparing for a second series. The program, presented by a team of church leaders and theologians, teaches important theological ideas and biblical facts, while also dealing with common misconceptions about Jesus and His teaching. In each episode the presenters share the Gospel and provide practical applications as well as taking questions from Christian and non-Christian viewers about the Bible and related topics.

IMPACT

SPOTLIGHT

SAT-7 continues to receive moving testimonies from people whose lives have been touched and transformed by our programs or through interactions with our dedicated viewer support teams. Here are a few examples from January to June 2023.



NADEEM'S STORY

Nadeem, who lives in Jordan and is from a different background, got in touch with SAT-7's social media brand SAT-7 DAILY BREAD in response to a messaging campaign. "I want to repent and have a relationship with God," he said.

Nadeem was already conscious of Christ working in his life. "I have a strange experience: every time I seek Jesus Christ, I get a response, yet I don't know who He is," he said. "I want to know all there is to know about Him."

After talking with the viewer support team about who Jesus is and the redemption He provides, Nadeem responded, "I understand now that God took on another form through incarnation, but He remained God in essence. I would now like to know how I can be delivered from my sins. How can I receive this redemption?"

With the team's help, Nadeem received Jesus as Lord over his life. "I prayed to God and asked Him to give me a new heart that is able to forget the ugliness I felt in my former background, a heart that is able to believe in Christ as Lord, Saviour, and Helper. I gladly receive Him," he said.

Nadeem saw God's hand in his encounter with SAT-7. "I was praying to God in my heart today, then your message popped up before my eyes, and that's how I connected with you!" He was very grateful for the advice he had received: "My mind can see the light because of what you shared. You were the answer to my prayers. I know God heard and answered me."

Nadeem faced some challenges in his new faith. Some time later he told the team, "It was a tough journey, but I never stopped reading the Bible. It is hard to disclose that I have become a believer." He is a doctor and discussed with the team how he can pray for his patients to Jesus the healer.



SAT-7's viewer support
teams held
53,914
conversations with
viewers



SAT-7 gained
182,017
new Facebook fans



31,312
watch time hours
on SAT-7 PLUS*

*25,969 livestream,
5,343 video-on-demand

JOSHUA'S STORY

Joshua is a 31-year-old Christian from South Sudan. He speaks many languages and travels around wherever there is work for him. But he felt that his busy and sometimes difficult life had shifted his focus away from God and eternal life. He had stopped going to church, and though he had made many commitments to God, he was unable to follow through on them.

Joshua contacted the SAT-7 ARABIC viewer support team seeking a life change. He heard again the Good News of Jesus and His salvation, and received Him afresh as Redeemer and Lord. "I feel strong," he said. "Jesus did indeed die for our sins and rose from the dead. No matter how we stray away, He never leaves us."

Joshua was sure that his connecting with SAT-7 was not a coincidence. God had wanted Joshua back in His family. "I can see a drastic change in my life," he testified. "I have always wanted to come back to Jesus. I thank God for leading me to you."

Joshua now wants to learn how to share the Gospel with others. Through continuing contact with the team he also learned more about prayer and how to spend daily times with God. He explained how deeply God's Word had touched his heart. "Through my readings, I have come to realise that God is the only One Who will never leave nor forsake me," he said. "He is my fortress. He answers whenever I call Him. I feel deep joy that God has set me free. I lay all my burdens on Him."

PARASTOO'S STORY

Parastoo is a girl in Iran who regularly watches the SAT-7 PARS young people's programs *Golpand*, *Hashtag*, and *Church4Kids*. She has sent numerous messages to the channel's viewer support team, and they have seen her faith and understanding grow as she interacts with all the programs. She frequently brings her personal fears and concerns to God and also prays for Iran and what is happening there.

"Holy God, Almighty Father, thank you for being present in our lives. Thank you, my Lord, for the opportunity you have again given us. O Father of light, shine into every corner of our being. Thank you for the life you have granted us, in the holy name of Jesus Christ." Father, I pray that You give me the power to go the way You intend for me; strengthen my hands to work for You. Enable my mouth to glorify Your name. Glorious Lord and Father, thank You for Your loving kindness towards us, having put another year behind us. Heavenly Father, I pray that You heal my grandmother who is in hospital; pour out Your healing power on her because You are the God who heals. O heavenly Father, I ask You to free the people of Iran and rescue them from the current situation. Lord, protect the children of Iran, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

Parastoo also pays tribute to the host of *Church4Kids*: "Auntie Maryam, I thank God that you are my friend and my sister, and I am happy to have you."



www.sat7.org

Watch: www.sat7plus.org

SAT-7 International

P.O. Box 26760

Nicosia, Cyprus

CY-1647

Tel: +357 22 761 050

Email: info@sat7.org



FACEBOOK **SAT7Network**



X **@SAT7Network**



YOUTUBE **SAT7Network**



LINKEDIN **SAT-7**



To request a large-print version of this report,
please contact SAT-7's International Office via email.