



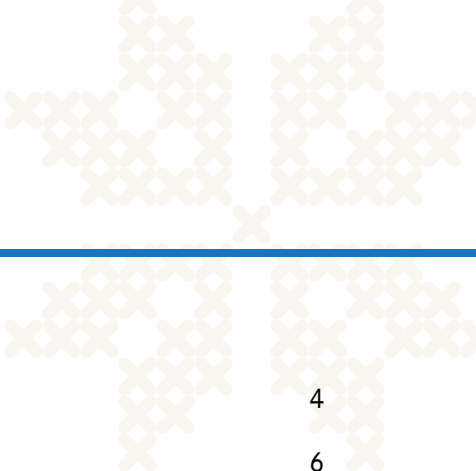
# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

YWCA Palestine  
“Innovating for Change”



# Table of Contents

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<a href="#"><u>Message from YWCA Board President, Haifa Baramki</u></a>	4
<a href="#"><u>Message from YWCA Secretary General, Amal Tarazi</u></a>	6
<a href="#"><u>YWCA at a Glance</u></a>	8
<a href="#"><u>Vision and Mission</u></a>	9
<a href="#"><u>Theory of Change</u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u>Impact of Interventions</u></a>	10
<a href="#"><u>Advocacy, International Representation, and Youth Exchange</u></a>	11
<a href="#"><u>Strengthening Economic Empowerment of Women and Young Women</u></a>	16
<a href="#"><u>Leadership and Civic Participation...Our Youth are Our Future</u></a>	22
<a href="#"><u>Youth Partners</u></a>	26
<a href="#"><u>Women’s Rights and Just Peace</u></a>	27
<a href="#"><u>Our Community Centers</u></a>	30
<a href="#"><u>Our Future Direction</u></a>	31
<a href="#"><u>Diversifying Partners to Ensure Financial Sustainability</u></a>	34
<a href="#"><u>Highlights from 2021</u></a>	36

## MESSAGE FROM YWCA BOARD PRESIDENT, HAIFA BARAMKI



The YWCA's record in Palestine, surpassing 100-years of work reflects an extensive journey full of achievements, reinforced by strong partnerships and an accumulation of expertise that enabled it to overcome the obstacles and difficult circumstances that the country has faced. Despite the challenges, the YWCA has been able to find innovative and creative solutions to strengthen its expertise, particularly operating in crisis; thus, making its programs more responsive to the needs of the precarious social and economic structure.

The YWCA's history is inextricably linked to the history of Palestine as it has been influenced by the tumultuous events witnessed in the entire region; yet, like a solid rock, the YWCA has been able to endure in the face of political storms and persevered to meet the needs of the Palestinian people as it always has and continues to do to this very day, all in the service of women and society.

Since its official launching in Jerusalem in 1918, the YWCA carried out tireless efforts to implement projects and programs that touched and still touch the lives of thousands of Palestinian every year, particularly women and youth by adopting a human rights-based approach. All our programs and work in the area of lobbying and advocacy are based on the Universal Declaration for Human Rights.

During 2021 and despite on-going extraordinary circumstances created by the "Corona" pandemic, the YWCA and its association members continued to carry out their mission of empowering women and youth, particularly young women thereby helping them to claim, exercise, and protect their economic and social rights by systematically identifying needs and priorities and working on finding sound mechanisms to maximize the benefits from the available funding sources.





Based on our continuous pursuit of growth and development, the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan was developed with the aim of continuing to strengthen the foundations on which the YWCA was established. These foundations address administrative, financial, and programmatic elements on one hand, while on the other, building on the accrued achievements and initiating a qualitative leap in performance by adopting strategic directions at the YWCA governance level, reinforced with smart solutions to effectively impact the programs on the ground.

During 2022, the YWCA will carry on its journey towards building a civil society that is free and democratic and empowers women and youth to exercise and protect their political, economic, and social rights by investing our efforts in the areas of leadership, civic participation, economic justice and just peace. We will also continue to support our people to strengthen their resilience and empowering them to overcome the various difficulties.

Our pride in what we offer Palestinian society serves as our motive in partnering with all components and groups of this great people, wherever they are. I can only thank all the friends, partners, and donors whether they are institutions or individuals, at the local or international level, who believe in the YWCA's mission and its great role, for without them, we would not have been able to achieve these goals. I would also like to extend special thanks to members of the YWCA Board of Directors, association chairs and board members, the administrative and executive bodies, and volunteers for their tireless and distinguished work which contributed to achieving the YWCA's 2021 strategies, policies, and plans, wishing all parties continued success during 2022.



## MESSAGE FROM YWCA SECRETARY GENERAL, AMAL TARAZI



2021 was marked with significant progress for the YWCA in Palestine in terms of strategic planning, programming, and projects implemented in addition to building various partnerships.

The difficult political and economic conditions were exacerbated in the first half of the year due to the pandemic on the one hand and the Israeli aggression against our people in Jerusalem, the subsequent popular protests in the West Bank, and the aggression against the Gaza Strip, on the other. Despite the repercussions of this situation, we were able to adapt our programs and projects, thereby, having a direct positive impact on thousands of beneficiaries including women, young women, and men in addition to an indirect positive impact on the entire Palestinian society.

The advocacy campaigns that we led or participated in, played a clear role in calling attention to the rights of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence at the international level through our participation and raising our voices in many international forums.

During 2021, we continued to strengthen the institutional environment and building staff capacity in cooperation with the Board of Directors, in addition to enhancing our capabilities in the field of information technology and communication which will reflect positively on programming, mobilization of resources, workflow development, and achieving sustainability.

At the strategic level, we developed the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan that focuses on the objectives of economic empowerment of women and young women by helping them to access economic opportunities and decent work as well as social innovation to enable them to contribute to the empowerment of Palestinian youth and local communities, thus, attaining a Palestinian society that practices an approach based on respect





for human rights. We also helped preserve the YWCA's historic legacy and its administrative and financial sustainability, with an expected budget of about USD 15 million over five years. We look forward to launching our strategic plan in the first half of 2022.

On the programmatic level, we were able to complete numerous projects on the ground and launched new projects despite the obstacles imposed by the “Corona” pandemic and the difficult economic and political reality Palestine is experiencing. Our programs touched the lives of thousands of women and youth (female and male) in various Palestinian governorates, particularly marginalized communities and refugee camps.

In terms of participation and outreach, we strengthened the YWCA's visibility and institutional identity on social media platforms and through various media outlets, shedding light on the impact of project interventions that we implement and supervise. We also signed a number of memoranda of understanding and cooperative agreements for joint cooperation with local and international partners, including institutions, associations, youth clubs and women's associations as part of the programs we invest in.

As we look to the new year with many promising hopes, we are armed with strong determination to continue working on achieving our strategic goals as we are proud of our 2021 accomplishments, despite all the challenges and obstacles we faced. We can only thank all the parties that supported us from donors and partners to YWCA staff and volunteers (female and male), who without their efforts, we would not have been able realize these achievements. We aspire to continue working tirelessly and diligently to embody a Palestinian society that enjoys equality, freedom, dignity, and justice, and exercises all its rights.





## THE YWCA AT A GLANCE



The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is a non-profit Palestinian association initiated in 1893 by informal groups of Christian women and was formally established in Jerusalem in 1918. That includes an umbrella of four grassroots associations in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jericho, and Bethlehem. The YWCA aspires to establish a free, democratic civil society that empowers women and youth to exercise and protect their political, economic, and social rights. Its work focuses on three areas including leadership and civic engagement, economic justice, and just peace. The YWCA adopts an approach that is based on human rights, thus, all our programs and lobbying and advocacy work is based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The YWCA of Palestine is affiliated with the World YWCA that works to empower women, young women, and girls in more than a hundred countries across the globe and enjoys special consultative status in the United Nations Social and Economic Council (ECOSOC). YWCAs around the globe share one common goal:

"By 2035, 100 million young women and girls will transform power structures to create justice, gender equality and a world without violence and war; leading a sustainable YWCA movement, inclusive of all women."



## VISION

Women and youth, particularly young women, are leading society towards change and development to help attain a Palestinian civil society where equality, freedom and social justice prevail.

## MISSION

The YMCA is a national women's association that seeks to enhance and promote the role of women and youth, particularly young women in the decision-making processes, leadership, and entrepreneurship positions in society by strengthening their leadership and initiative capacity, enhancing opportunities for their participation and gender equality in civil life, and creating a society that embodies equality, freedom, tolerance, justice, peace and human dignity.

## PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The Following principles and values guide the YWCA's work in Palestine:

### PARTICIPATION

Participation in decision making

### TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Transparency in accessing information

### OWNERSHIP

Adopting an approach that is based on target group needs

### SUSTAINABILITY

Establishing community partnerships that are capable of leading activities

### NATIONALISM

Adopting the national concepts of belonging, loyalty, and commitment to national unity

## THEORY OF CHANGE

The YWCA's theory of change is based on the firm belief that our young Palestinian women - if given the opportunity and necessary support - can build a better future for all that embodies freedom and justice. Thus, we aim to empower young women and girls by enhancing their participation in cultural, educational, and economic activities and increasing awareness of their individual and national rights so they can defend these rights in a manner that promotes the principles of equality and active participation between young women and men in various facets of life.

## IMPACT OF OUR INTERVENTIONS



## ADVOCACY, INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION, AND YOUTH EXCHANGE

Advocacy at the international level presents a unique opportunity for the YWCA to highlight to the international community the challenges facing Palestinian people, particularly women and youth in order to mobilize solidarity with Palestine, its cause and people, in addition to exchanging experiences and adopting best practices.

### Placing Palestine on the International Agenda

During 2021, the YWCA participated in the **65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations** held remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic March 15-26, 2021. YWCA staff took part in this session as part of the World YWCA delegation that included women and young women from a number of member associations around the world.



The session included several simultaneous online workshops addressing issues related to the reality of women around the world, including a workshop held by the YWCA titled “Economic Empowerment and Responsiveness to COVID 19” which was attended by nearly 60 participants of both genders from various countries around the globe. The workshop highlighted our work and efforts to promote women’s rights and to create a better reality for Palestinian women and young women particularly in light of the Corona pandemic, in addition to presenting our work methodology to achieve gender equality and thus attaining sustainable development through economic empowerment. To read more. [Read the session’s closing statement.](#)

The YWCA participated in a virtual discussion organized by the Central Pacific Federation of Churches in cooperation with International Services, under the title **“Miracles of Faith and Friendship: How the Partnership between the Young Women’s Christian Association and the United Church of Christ’s Central Pacific Federation Can Bring Hope and Healing to Palestinian Refugee Camps.”** The discussion addressed the current situation in Palestine and the difficult conditions experienced by Palestinian



families, in addition to commemorating the 73rd anniversary of the *Nakba* by focusing on refugee camps and finding ways to support and meet their needs including providing medical supplies, equipment, sterilization supplies, and food parcels. The discussion was attended by approximately 45 individuals from Palestine and the United States. [Read our statement regarding the situation in Palestine.](#) [Read the International Services statement regarding forced displacement in Sheikh Jarrah.](#)

The YWCA also organized a lecture on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, entitled “Steps for Solidarity with Palestine” held in partnership with the Young Women’s Christian Association in Japan, the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development, and Global Ministries. [To read more.](#)

## **Women’s and Youth Advocacy in Palestine and Mobilizing International Solidarity with the Palestinian people**

In the context of international advocacy for the Palestinian people, in addition to advocating for youth and women’s issues on the local level, the YWCA issued several position papers, statements, and messages.

The YWCA issued [a joint position paper on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#); [a statement on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2021](#); [a statement regarding the war on Gaza and the Israeli escalation in Jerusalem](#) . We also issued two messages on [Easter](#) and [Christmas](#).

These papers and statements were disseminated to a list that includes various international and local partners and aimed to mobilize solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as calling on parties to take action and work on implementing United Nations resolutions related to the Palestinian cause and all laws related to human rights.

The YWCA took part in the partners' meeting held in Jordan October 18-20, 2021. The meeting included international partner representatives (females and male), the Young Women / Young Men's Christian Association in Norway, partner representatives in Palestine (females and male), the YMCA in Jerusalem and Gaza and the Joint Advocacy Initiative.

[To Real more.](#)

The YWCA took part in the first regional training workshop held in the Egyptian capital, Cairo November 12-15, 2021 which aimed to strengthen and build the capacity of partner institutions in the "YW4A" Project in the area of public and legal advocacy. The workshop was held in cooperation with project partners in Egypt, under the supervision of Equality Now. [To read more.](#)

The YWCA also discussed various aspects of cooperation and networking with the Young Women's Christian Association (Walla Wallah) in the United States and with the Young Women's Christian Association in Japan, as well as the Young Women's Christian Association in Australia.

In the area of **youth exchange**, the YWCA's youth trainees participated in training programs held in the Italian city of Turin through the "Erasmus Plus" Program.

Lara Khamash and Nsreen Habeet YWCA Youth members joined the World YWCA Young Women Leadership Cohort Programme which lasted for three months, the program provided an opportunity for up to ten youth members from YWCA movement to experience international community building, work and reach of the WORLD YWCA.

Three youth members also participated in digital training with the YWCA/YMCA Sweden within the framework of UN draft Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security. The training aimed to introduce the theory of peace building and UN Resolution 225 and conducted training on video production, as well as providing an opportunity for culture exchange between youth representing various countries and contexts in order to increase interest in international peace and security.

Rantia Sabah is a young woman that participated in the event organized by the Swedish YWCA/YMCA and the Swedish Forum for Human Rights to discuss youth reality, peace and security. Sabah represented the YWCA/ Palestine during this event.





## Membership and Active Participation

During 2021, the YWCA continued to actively participate in forums, coalitions, partnerships, and local and international committees of which the YWCA is a member. Within the framework of its membership in the NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women (Al Muntada), the YWCA participated in preparing position papers issued by the Forum on political developments and violence against women in Palestine. We also organized the annual “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence” Campaign under the slogan “Safety Wherever They Are” in partnership with the Forum and the Salfit Municipality with funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

We also participated in preparing a shadow report for the report submitted by the State of Palestine to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In addition, we served as a member in the Higher National Committee on the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

## Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI)

The YWCA in Palestine in cooperation with the East Jerusalem YMCA, established a joint advocacy program in 2001 whose role is to develop campaigns and mechanisms to lobby and advocate for establishing a just peace in Palestine. The program organizes annual visits to Palestine, including a “Journey for Justice” that targets persons from Christian youth associations around the world, particularly youth in addition to conducting student and youth exchange programs with schools in Denmark and Norway. Through these visits, the YWCA hosted different groups with the aim of introducing them to our work.

In 2002, the joint advocacy program launched a solidarity and support campaign targeting Palestinian farmers. The “Keep Hope Alive” Campaign is inspired by the olive tree, a symbol of peace, prosperity, and wisdom. [To read more.](#)





During 2021, the program continued its activities and commemorated Palestinian Land Day by organizing an activity to plant olive trees donated by international supporters. Forty girls and young men took part in this activity by planting 200 olive trees in Yusef Ali Hamdan's land, a farmer from the village of Al Jabaa, west of Bethlehem. Yusef's land is surrounded by the ever-expanding Israeli settlements in addition to a settler bypass road that is adjacent to his land. The program also organized two olive-harvesting activities in the village of Battir and the city of Beit Jala, which took place with the participation of 65 female and male students.







### **Impressions of Campaign Donor, Alison Milly from Britain**

It was my first visit to the Holy Land as a tourist in 2011, after an absence that extended several years. I heard from an institution that there is a need for foreign volunteers to help harvest olives in Palestine. In 2014, I was planning to return to Palestine when I learned about the olive tree campaign, so I decided to participate in the olive harvesting program. It was a unique and unforgettable experience providing education, entertainment, and meeting friends life-long friends. [To read more.](#)

### **The Story of a Campaign Beneficiary- Nawal Othman – a Farmer from the Village of Wadi Rahal - Bethlehem Governorate**

Ms. Nawal Othman, 50, is a farmer and housewife and has a family consisting of nine members. Nawal owns agricultural land covering six dunums in the village of Wadi Rahal as well as nine dunums in the village of Al-Khader, south of the Bethlehem Governorate. [To read more.](#)

## Strengthening Economic Empowerment of Women and Young Women

	Number of participants	Total Women / Young Women	Indirect beneficiaries	Number of projects established
Economic Empowerment of Women and Young Women	 725	 725	 3625	 21



The YWCA believes that **“the economic empowerment of women and young women can help them access economic opportunities and decent work”** and this is reflected in a series of programs and projects that empower women and young women to claim their economic, social, and political rights. On the other hand, the YWCA aims to create job opportunities through vocational training programs and developing the entrepreneurship skills of women and young women so they can live a dignified life.

In this area, our interventions varied during the year 2021 to include interventions related to entrepreneurship services and the establishment of small projects, in addition to specialized training on remote work, e-commerce and other issues. The YWCA continued to implement the Manarat Project that is funded by the Women’s Fund for Peace and Humanitarian Action, in partnership with several local institutions in eight areas in the Hebron Governorate.

In 2021, we succeeded in strengthening the capacity of eight local community women’s organizations in eight villages and communities in the north and northwest areas of the Hebron Governorate so they can provide more gender-responsive community services, in addition to a creating a space for community participation in decision-making and engaging in the participatory planning processes with relevant authorities in their respective areas, particularly young women and men. This effort contributed to enhancing the economic resilience of 160 unemployed young women and strengthening the participation of marginalized young women in the social change process as they are a key component of the community.

We implemented eight training courses for unemployed young women (160 young women) in the areas of life skills, business management skills, entrepreneurship and innovation, marketing through social media sites, e-commerce, and remote work. We also provided grants in the form of income-generating projects to eight groups of young female entrepreneurs as well as training 16 young women entrepreneurs that possess a technical background in the field of business administration so they can become mentors or trainers in the field and can contribute to enhancing the economic empowerment component of the project by supporting groups that launched income-generating projects through the project.



Participatory planning training was held for 160 young women, in addition to creating eight volunteer groups to carry out voluntary tasks, lobbying and advocacy activities. These groups consist of staff of local institutions, community members, and the project's youth beneficiaries and they work in partnership with decision-makers to develop the role of young women in their local

communities on all levels, as well as supporting the volunteer groups to carry out local community initiatives to strengthen cooperative and voluntary work by providing a budget for this purpose.



We contributed to building the capacity of female members of the general assembly and administrative bodies of eight women's community organizations in the areas of life skills, institutional management, budgeting, participatory planning, fundraising and marketing, and management of economic projects.

In 2021, the YWCA in Palestine also launched the **“Empowering Victims and Survivors to access Protection Services and Participate in Response Plans to Gender-based Violence in Palestine”** Project in partnership with UN Women and with support from the Central Emergency Response Fund in the West Bank governorates including Jerusalem.



We targeted women that are survivors of gender-based violence in all its forms including women from low-income families, women with disabilities that are exposed to or are survivors of gender-based violence in all its forms, and local institutions where women will be employed.

We succeeded in employing 150 women and young women that are survivors of violence for a three-month period in exchange for a fixed cash allowance. We also provided one-time cash assistance to 216 women and young women that suffered or are still suffering from gender-based violence in all its forms; provided training to targeted employers from community institutions and private institutions on methodologies for dealing with women that are abused, work ethics and the sensitivities of dealing with this target group of women; focused on women and young women with disabilities by adopting standards that guarantee their participation in the project, and enhancing women's capabilities through employment

and training of women prior to employment and during the employment period in addition to providing individual and group legal counseling sessions and legal aid support services to women survivors of gender-based violence including women with disabilities in the West Bank, as well as facilitating their access to official documents, legal aid centers, referrals, case management and legal advice, in partnership with the Psycho-Social Counseling Center for Women.



The **“Economic Empowerment of Women in the Bethlehem and Northern Hebron”** Project concluded in 2021 after three continues years. The project aimed to empower women in the Bethlehem area, particularly the Bethlehem villages and the eastern and western rural areas, allowing them and their families to access resources to enhance their income; thus, improving the quality of their lives.

We succeeded in developing the skills of 60 women and young women in the area of online freelancing and digital marketing, and from this group 10 participants were selected to receive mentorship training; the necessary business and marketing training was provided for seven cooperatives or productive women's groups using various economic skills training modules; we supported five cooperatives or women's groups with the necessary production equipment and held awareness sessions for women and young women directly targeted by the project addressing their economic rights, in addition to training them on issues of lobbying and advocacy, and guiding them to work with decision-makers to influence positive change in policies related to women's economic, social, and political rights.

### **Safa Shaheen of Beit Ula...A Youth Leader Contributing to the Creation of Change**

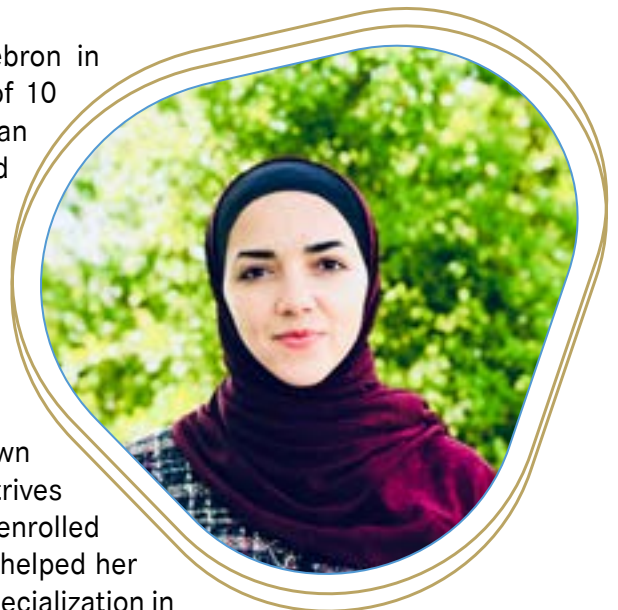
Safa Shaheen is a young Palestinian woman that lives in the town of Beit Ula, in the Hebron Governorate. She is also a mother to one child. Safa studied media and television arts; however, after graduation she was unable to find work and fell into the trap of unemployment, as is the case with the majority of Palestinian youth. But Safa did not give up. She sought to create her own opportunity by getting involved in voluntary work. She joined the Bet Ula Women's Club, where she worked on organizing awareness and educational activities for women in her community enabling them to understand their rights, break social barriers, and reach leadership positions. Safa began as a YWCA volunteer and now she has become the secretary general of the administrative body and is responsible for youth activities and food production. To read the full story, [click here](#).



### **Ashjan Fatafta of Tarqumiya...A University Graduate that Faced the Ghost of Unemployment with a Handicraft Project**

Ashjan Fatafta, 23, of the town of Tarqumiya, west of Hebron in the southern West Bank is the eldest daughter of a family of 10 including her mother and father and eight siblings. From an early age, Ashjan enjoyed a high sense of responsibility and was self-sufficient which helped her gain leadership and management skills. She completed her high school education in her hometown of Tarqumiya, before joining the Faculty of Arts at Hebron University in 2016 where she specialized in the field of tourism and antiquities, obtaining her bachelor's degree in 2020 with very good standing.

Fatafta states: "After graduating, I sought to create my own opportunity. I see myself as an ambitious person that always strives for success and excellence." To achieve this endeavor, Ashjan enrolled in various training courses that nurtured her personality and helped her gain knowledge and experience in various fields beyond her specialization in



tourism and antiquities including courses in wood restoration, carpentry, museum management, e-commerce, marketing, and travel and tourism agency management. To read the full story [click here](#).

In a related context, the YWCA in Jerusalem implemented the **“Improving Livelihood of Women in Jerusalem”** Project as part of the Economic Empowerment Program for Women and Youth. The project targeted a group of community-based organizations, providing them with vocational training for their members in their respective locations, allowing them an opportunity to obtain decent livelihood. The YWCA provided four trainings in three geographical locations in Jerusalem focusing on various professional skills through a 120-hour training targeting 57 women in the three areas. The YWCA also completed the **“My Digital Future” Project**, which was successful in providing training for 70 young women and men that dropped out of school. The training focused on three specializations: photography, graphic design, and e-marketing, in addition to implementing a set of professional training projects in partnership with umbrella organizations from the local community.

### Strengthening the Economic Independence of Women



During 2021, the YWCA in Jericho continued to implement the **Jericho Food Project**, which works on food production and seasonal products. The project provides 16 employment opportunities (14 women and two men) and contributes to their economic empowerment by helping them to support their families. The YWCA in Jericho also continued working on the **“Our Future” Project** with support from the AVSI Foundation, funded by the Italian Cooperation with 12 charitable and cooperative societies as well as individuals or individual groups in the Jericho Governorate and the Jordan Valley, where the percentage of women participating in this project reached 80%. The project targeted the City of Jericho, Aqabat Jaber camp, Ain Al-Sultan camp, and the villages of Al-Auja, Al-Nuweima and Al-Dyoub.

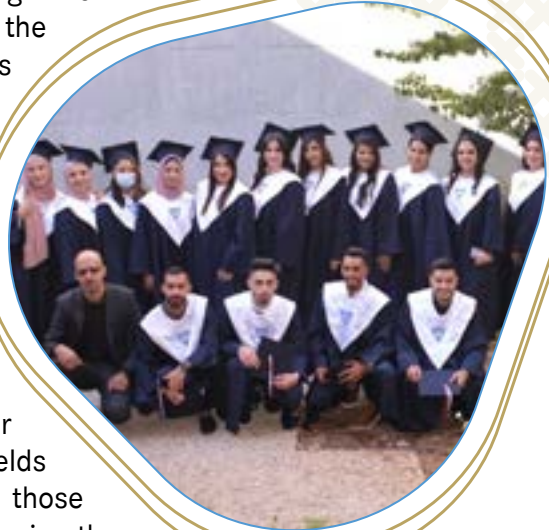


## Vocational Training:

### An Important Path to the Economic Empowerment of Young Women and Men

Based on our firm belief in the importance of vocational training which can serve as one of the key means to economic empowerment, the YWCA in Palestine established two vocational training centers in Ramallah and Jerusalem. Vocational training is considered one of the YWCA's oldest projects and aims to empower women and youth to obtain the necessary resources and opportunities to compete in the job market.

During 2021, the **Ramallah Vocational Training Center** continued to offer the Office Management Diploma which provides administrative and technical skills that are necessary in seeking administrative work in institutions and companies in order to offer the best services for beneficiaries. The Center also offered a series of short professional courses in several fields targeting university graduates, staff in several institutions and those wishing to develop their skills to enhance their prospects of entering the job market.







The **Jerusalem Vocational Training Center** also continued to offer the Office Management Diploma and the Multimedia Diploma and worked on networking with the Ministry of Education to reach schools in the Jerusalem Governorate, with the aim of raising awareness regarding vocational training disciplines. Training courses were conducted for female employees as well as holding open days to help attract new students.

The two centers in Ramallah and Jerusalem also held a series of short training courses and workshops, including: a LinkedIn workshop on how to use the application to create a professional page to network and obtain job opportunities, a Bisan ERP course for accountants, a still photography and photo editing course, Microsoft Office and Google package, online shopping, and other courses.



In a related context, the **YWCA in Jericho** held a series of short vocational training courses including a cosmetology and hairdressing course in July 2021, under the supervision of the Labor Directorate with the participation of 15 trainees, where the ministerial exam was administered and certification awarded. A second course was also held in October for 18 female trainees addressing the art of cosmetics and hairdressing.

## Leadership and Civic Participation...Our Youth are Our Future

	Number of participants	Total women/ youth	Indirect beneficiaries	Number of projects established/safe spaces/initiatives
Youth Civic Participation	 545	 340	 3390	 8

As part of its strategic vision, the YWCA works to empower youth in the State of Palestine by preparing them for active participation in public life and state-building. The YWCA’s programs and projects were adapted to meet the needs of youth and supporting them in light of difficult political, economic, and social conditions, as well as providing them with safe spaces to express their views and unleash their initiatives that aim to leave a positive imprint on their surrounding community.



During 2021, the YWCA continued to implement the **“Young Citizen” Project**, in partnership with a group of local institutions and with support from the National Student Council in Norway.

The project targets West Bank school students in the 13-19 age group and a project supporting group consisting of young women and men in the 20-25 age group to give them opportunities to develop their skills and competencies and allowing them to serve as effective leaders.

The project activities include lobbying and advocacy campaigns, non-conventional learning exercises, summer camps, educational and interactive workshops, and forming student councils.

The YWCA signed Memorandum of understanding with 13 local institutions and associations from the north, central and southern West Bank, renewing partnerships to implement “Young Citizen” Project activities during 2022, specifically: the Al-Awda Center - Tulkarem Camp, Entrepreneurs for Yabad - Jenin, Alukhwah Sports Club Association – Tubas, New Generation Organization - Qaryut - south of Nablus, Qamat for Documenting the Palestinian Struggle - Nablus, Kafr Al-Labad Sports and Social Cultural Club - Tulkarem, Students Forum Institute - Bethlehem, Aida Camp Youth Club - Bethlehem, As-Samou’ Municipality - south of Hebron, Ahli Club Dura - south Hebron, Al Qamar Charitable Society - Jericho and the Jordan Valley, Wassel Center - Aqabat Jaber Camp - Jericho, and Nafs for Empowerment - Ramallah.

The YWCA also continued to implement the **“Youth Forums” Project** in the Tulkarem, Jenin, Bethlehem, Jericho and the Jordan Valley governorates, in cooperation with the YWCA / YMCA in Norway and in partnership with local grassroots institutions and Palestinian universities. The project aims to create safe spaces for young women and men to express their views and to activate their role in order to initiate change in their communities by improving their life and legal capabilities. The project also seeks to enhance the representation of young women and men in the decision-making process through their participation in local, national, and international platforms. The project targets young women and men in the 16-30 age group.



The project’s activities include online training on advocacy, gender justice, human rights and Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250; developing and activating a safe space for young women and men by organizing a number of meetings and discussions, national youth campaigns, as well as in-person and virtual participation of young women and men in local, national and international platforms.

In 2021, the YWCA closed the **“Makani” Project**, which was implemented in cooperation with the Dutch “Kerk an Actie” Institute. The project targeted young women and men in the 18-30 age group. This project had a multi-pronged approach as an opportunity to learn, practice, and motivate youth by providing safe spaces and learning opportunities for young women and men to help develop an active role in Palestinian society through their participation in the community development process and enhancing the environment for safe and supportive spaces. We succeeded in empowering 488 young men and women in the West Bank and Gaza Strip level to become positive individuals capable of dealing with crises and alleviating its severity and violence; enhanced skills in expression of acceptance and respect for others; supported four youth entrepreneurship projects in the West Bank to meet the needs of young people and contribute to the development of the



community development process; provided practical and real opportunities for youth to exercise their skills and implement their initiatives within their communities as a means of contributing to positive change and strengthening active citizenship.

During 2021, the YWCA continued to implement an **employment training program** that prepares youth by developing their practical skills and helps improve their economic situation particularly in light of the rise in unemployment among young women and men and the deteriorating economic conditions due to repercussions of the “Corona” pandemic. The program created an opportunity for a number of young women and men to their skills, in addition to empowering them economically and enhancing their prospects of competing in the job market.

## Youth Voices

### Mira Faraj, 16 – Parliament Speaker in the Dheisheh Group

The “Young Citizen” Project helped me a lot in expressing my views and it helped increase my self-confidence. I met new people and refined my knowledge of the Palestinian issue.

### Raneen Khaled Ayyad, 21 year old volunteer

I took many training courses that had a positive impact on my personality and my life, in addition many of the specialized courses helped me in various areas. I also came to learn about several new areas that I previously was unaware of and the lobbying and advocacy training initiatives positively influenced my perspective.

### Shorouq Ali Saleh Thubta, 18 year old volunteer

I benefited from my participation in the Young Citizen Project including capacity development, enhancing awareness of various perspectives, learning how to strengthen a personality, and working to increase the will to participate and cooperate in several activities.



### **Nour Al Hamshari, 21**

I gained many skills in terms of forming and working with groups, as well as organizing various event activities with groups. I also gained a lot of new information through training courses and workshops that I led with adolescents.

### **Makram Hazem Zaitoun, 20 , Youth Forum Member**

The program instilled a love for volunteerism and participation among the youth. We developed skills and capabilities on numerous topics that made us more knowledgeable. We also benefited from new mechanisms to help us reach decision-makers and present the concerns and challenges of youth.

### **Salah Al Samhouri / Director of the Wassel Center for Youth Development**

Over the course of three years of work as a YWCA partner, this partnership had a positive impact on the center's work specifically in expanding our activities in the governorate by creating new relationships with schools and institutions and learning more about youth needs through direct and diverse meetings with the student sector.

This partnership also opened the door for us to learn about student skills through direct interaction with them at awareness meetings. The center's volunteers were able to benefit by enhancing their awareness and strengthening their personalities through training sessions, thus enhancing the center's role in community work.

The YWCA is one of the active institutions at the national level and it carries a patriotic mission which strengthens its relationship with local and community institutions. The YWCA is also noted for its credibility and transparency in dealing with partners through the programs it works on, most notably the Young Citizen Project which had for a four-year duration in addition to other projects to empower women and youth. It is also our honor to continue this partnership and cooperation with you in the coming years, and we wish your institutions continued progress and prosperity in serving our people, in all sectors.



## Youth Partners

Nafs Association for Empowerment - Ramallah: The partnership between the association and the YWCA is based on giving, love, volunteerism, and teamwork in providing psychological, social, and youth services. Our partnership contributed to supporting and activating community work for the Association's youth and volunteers as part of the "Young Citizen" Project. The project also helped trigger an effective role for youth groups by opening new horizons for them in youth work and increasing their awareness of the importance of volunteerism and its role in creating a new generation that acquires various capabilities and skills to help them implement positive activities in their communities.

Al-Awda Center for Childhood and Youth Rehabilitation - Tulkarem: Our partnership with the YWCA contributed to strengthening the Center's role and its programs by involving various segments of society in the programs which helped increase activities and initiatives that can change society and highlight various problems. The partnership also contributed to increasing the number of volunteers involved in the center through activities organized in the "Young Citizen" or "Youth Forums" projects.

Aida Social Youth Center - Bethlehem: The partnership with the YWCA contributed to establishing a new youth group and to integrate and strengthen their role and presence within the institution and in its activities by promoting common concepts of national identity, citizenship and democracy among the youth group as well as enhancing their role in various activities and workshops that directly impact their role in society, national awareness and the development of a future vision for a homeland that promotes equality for all and respects diversity and differences.





## Women's Rights and Just Peace

The YWCA is active in the areas of equality between men and women and promoting women's access to decision-making positions, in addition to interventions related to local and national advocacy for the rights of women and young women.

During 2021, the YWCA began implementing the “Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy, and Accountability (YW4A)” Project, in partnership with the International YWCA and in cooperation with the Women's Psychosocial Counseling Center, Women's Development and Media / Tam, Al-Harah Theater, Stars of Hope Association, and the Lutheran Evangelical Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The project will continue through 2025 and aims to defend human rights and expanding its implementation to young women with dignity, physical integrity, and equal participation in decision-making through the implementation of gender justice policies and related laws.



The activities in the first year focused on building partnerships with local institutions, in addition to studying the needs of institutions in the field of advocacy and institutional organization. The project organized training in the fields of public and legal advocacy to build the capacity of institution employees in this area. Work was also carried out to form youth groups in the targeted areas including Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron, Salfit, and Gaza, and in each of Birzeit University, Al-Azhar University in Gaza, An-Najah University in Nablus, and Al-Ahliyya Palestine University in Bethlehem, Al-Quds Open University, and Hebron University. The project reached 240 young women in 12 communities and universities where the project assessed the needs of young women through a special study in order to provide training that meets their needs within the context of transformational leadership in safe spaces on issues addressing physical safety and political participation.

As part of the “Child Custody is My Right” Campaign, the YWCA and its partners held a training of trainers on the issue of custody in the north and southern West Bank with the aim of empowering participants to implement awareness workshops through the campaign. Twenty-three young women and men participated in the training. These participants are interested in amending and changing the laws enforced in Palestine to ensure gender equality. The training addressed several human rights issues, including gender-based violence, laws supporting women's rights and human rights conventions, specifically the Personal Status Law, with

the aim of working to amend custody articles to ensure that women and men enjoy equal custody rights and taking into account the best interests of the child. Workshops were held to address amending custody issues in the Personal Status Law, educating the local community and introducing them to the campaign.

In 2021 the YWCA also launched the **Shaml Project** that includes funding from UN Women, in partnership with three community institutions: Ibda'a Cultural Center in the Dheisheh camp in the Bethlehem Governorate, Al-Feniq Center in Al-Aroub camp in Hebron Governorate, and the YWCA Community Center in Al-Jalazoun camp in the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate. The Shaml Project, which will continue until the end of 2022 aims to enhance the protection and reintegration of women and girls that are survivors of violence in Palestine, and to protect the rights of survivors of gender-based violence by targeting the Dheisheh, Al-Aroub and Al-Jalazoun camps.



The first phase of the project included training female lawyers, media professionals, and psychology and sociology graduates to enhance their knowledge of protection mechanisms and the referral system as one of the means of enhancing the protection and reintegration of women, and developing their ability to provide psychological, social and legal support to women and girls that are survivors of violence. The project also strengthened the practical and theoretical model for providing and documenting consultations, deciding when a consultation should be sent to referral, and mechanisms for joint intervention regarding cases that are sent to referral. In terms of media, the participants were trained to design and lead awareness and advocacy campaigns related to women's and young women's issues.

The YWCA continued to implement the **Wujood Project** in partnership with village and local councils, popular committees, community institutions in four communities in Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, and in cooperation with the YWCA in Sweden with funding from the Swedish Mission Council.

Our goal is to empower young women and men in the 17-35 age group to claim their social and economic rights, and to prepare specialized trainers for young women and men in the field of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2250.

We held various training courses addressing lobbying and advocacy skills, coordination and networking mechanisms, campaign management and protection under international law and protection of women's rights under the occupation in accordance with relevant international resolutions particularly Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and we implemented youth initiatives and campaigns that contributed to creating a human rights environment in the targeted areas.

In 2021, we launched a community initiative to rehabilitate and restore the Roman pond and garden in the village of Deir Abu Mishaal, west of Ramallah. On the side-lines of this event, the YWCA and the club signed a strategic cooperation agreement as a step towards enhancing the continuity of benefits from the initiative and maintaining its sustainability, development, operations, and continuous efforts.

The “Wujood” Project is considered one of the main pillars that the YWCA works on in the context of youth, security and peace and in 2022, it will conduct a number of similar community initiatives in several marginalized areas.

Within the programs **“Promoting Women’s Rights”** and **“Creating Young Leaders Capable of Participating in Decision-Making”** the YWCA-Jerusalem implemented the **Gender-based Violence Project**, funded by “Ellenza Bor Lasolidard” with the aim of enhancing the role of young women and men as advocacy agents in promoting their rights and eliminating gender-based violence.





## Our Community Centers: Care for Children and Enhance their Cognitive Development

The YWCA seeks to establish safe spaces for children to learn and express creativity through childhood and learning centers in national associations.

The two kindergartens in the Aqabat Jaber camp in Jericho and the Jordan Valley and Jalazoun in the Ramallah and Al-Bireh Governorate, and the YWCA Jerusalem Nursery and Kindergarten, continued, during 2021, to provide their services to the local community despite the challenges and difficult economic conditions.

Kindergartens utilize a methodology that stimulates learning and teaching and helps develop dialogue and communication skills as well as social, psychological and mental skills by focusing on developing the distinct personality of each child from the moment she/he enters the nursery framework thereby meeting their physical, emotional, social and mental needs and developing the hidden creativity within each child and expanding their areas of interest.



- **Aqabat Jaber Kindergarten:** 40 children benefited from the services of the kindergarten during the 2020-2021 school year and 45 children were registered in the kindergarten for the 2021-2022 school year; a teacher specializing in speech therapy was assigned to work with children exhibiting speech difficulties.
- **Al-Jalazoun Kindergarten:** More than 60 children benefited from the services of the kindergarten during the 2020-2021 school year and 80 children were registered in the 2021-2022 school year.
- **YWCA Jerusalem Nursery and Kindergarten:** 46 children benefited from nursery and kindergarten services during the 2020-2021 school year, and 31 children were registered in the 2021-2022 school year.

The YWCA Jerusalem Nursery and Kindergarten also organized summer camps and extracurricular courses for children in ballet, gymnastics, and martial arts with the aim of creating a space for children to express their creativity in a healthy body with professional and committed supervision that aims to develop children's skills through extra-curricular activities and programs.

## Our Future Direction

The YWCA is working to launch its strategic plan for the years 2022-2026, focusing on continuing the path the YWCA paved since its establishment which centers on the economic empowerment of women, just peace and social development

The plan specifically seeks to develop interventions and tools by incorporation interventions related to entrepreneurship for girls and women, in addition to interventions related to remote online work. The plan expands in the areas of public relations and external communication with international and local partners, in addition to developing a plan on lobbying and advocacy interventions for women's rights to include local and regional dimensions. The plan also calls for expanding the scope of its operational objectives to include several cross-cutting interventions.



The YWCA Palestine is paving the way to a new light due to life's developments and the conditions and changes imposed across the globe due to the "Corona" pandemic and its repercussions. The YWCA's path and mechanisms of action were amended taking into account existing developments and emergency conditions witnessed by society as part of an approach that pursues continuous development and support to ensure responsiveness to living conditions by adapting current programs to meet existing needs. The plan is distinguished by taking into account the new circumstances and serving the YWCA's goal of maintaining the continuity of work. It is worth noting that due to these developments that include external factors and internal administrative developments, the strategic plan will cover the years 2022-2026, and the year 2021 is not included as it is considered a transitional year that witnessed the development of work mechanisms and preparations for development of a comprehensive plan.

Our strategic plan is based on four main objectives that represent the YWCA's key areas for action, with the gradual development of interventions and tool, including: **economic empowerment of women and young women helping them to access economic opportunities and decent work; social innovation that contributes to strengthening Palestinian youth and developing local communities; a society that practices an approach based on respect for human rights and preserving the YWCA's historic legacy and its administrative and financial sustainability.**

Pride in what we have to offer to our Palestinian society is the motive for our pride in partnering with all the components and groups of this great people, wherever they are. In this regard, we express our sincere thanks to all our partners, institutions and individuals, at the local and international levels, and the staff and volunteers who worked tirelessly to achieve the YWCA's goals.

## Continuous Development in Accordance with our Mission, Principles and Goals

The YWCA continues its tireless effort to develop interventions and work mechanisms in accordance with its noble message, principles, and goals. The YWCA works **to promote women's economic empowerment and civic participation:** Palestinian women have the ability to achieve their economic independence, participate in building society, influence decision-making, and promote social transformation. We empower women with skills and knowledge to facilitate their entry into the job market and access to income-generating work. We work to increase awareness of their rights and enhance their advocacy skills. We also work collectively to promote gender-sensitive economic policies.



The YWCA also works to **increase youth opportunities for learning and civic engagement:** Palestinian youth, especially young women, hold the strength and energy to change their society for the better. We provide them with safe spaces to grow, learn and participate in an environment that is free of violence. We work to increase awareness of their rights and enhance their advocacy capacity. In addition, the YWCA supports **initiatives towards a Palestine that enjoys peace and security:** Women and youth in Palestine hold the necessary strength and perseverance to contribute to a society in which the rights of all are respected. We promote their human rights to build a just and sustainable peace in Palestine, and we enhance their participation in decision-making. We also influence policy change, based on international agreements, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security.

The YWCA also carries out efforts in the field of **mobilization, advocacy, and international representation:** Together we are stronger. Advocacy at the international level presents a unique opportunity for us to make the challenges and struggles that the Palestinian people face, especially women and youth, more visible to the international community. It is also an extraordinary opportunity to share experiences and best practices.



## Adaptation, Responsiveness and Capacity Building



To achieve the above and to contribute to improving the lives of youth and women in Palestine that face difficult conditions imposed by the occupation in addition to the ongoing repercussions of the Corona pandemic, the YWCA revised its work methodologies and adapted these methodologies to the new reality. Remote training via the Internet, digital forums and virtual dialogues were powerful tools for communicating with beneficiaries and enhancing their capabilities, particularly in the first half of 2021.

In the second half of the year, we returned to the field again accompanying women and youth in the activities and programs they implement and to closely listen to their concerns and needs and responding to these needs in order to reach thousands of youth and women.

On the internal level, we continued to build the team's capabilities, strengthening the structure of the YWCA and supporting the associations under its umbrella based on the principles of transparency, good governance, professionalism and sustainability standards, in addition to improving the digital atmosphere within the institution to meet global developments and changes towards digital transformation and growth. In this context, a Human Resources Manual was developed and officially approved by the concerned parties, in addition to adopting a human resources automation system in accordance with the highest international standards in this field.

The YWCA's management and staff held workshops in the field of strategic planning for programs and projects, in addition to periodic meetings to discuss and follow-up work progress and exchanging ideas and the vision to achieve the desired success.

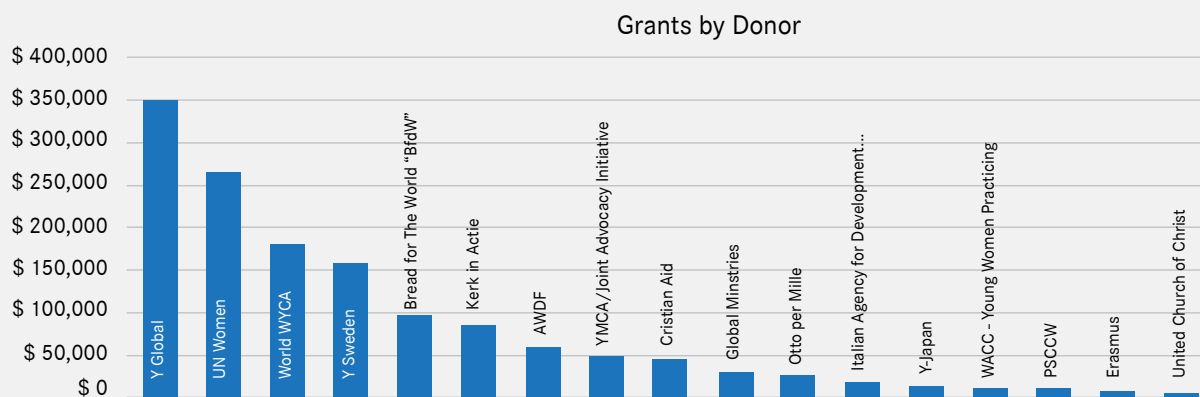
We concluded the year with the annual meeting that brought together the YWCA's board of directors, the boards of directors of the member associations and YWCA and association staff in the city of Jericho during Christmas. The meeting aimed to strengthen the bonds of cooperation and partnership and serve as a token of love and appreciation for all the efforts they exerted in the advancement of the YWCA and its continuous development.

## Diversifying Partners to Ensure Financial Sustainability

We also worked in a meticulous and continuous manner to diversify our partners and supporters to ensure financial sustainability. We succeeded in expanding the YWCA's donor base by communicating with a vast number of partners, in addition to implementing a number of crowdfunding campaigns with the goal of raising funds from the public worldwide.

During 2021, the YWCA continued to build strategic partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships with institutions, donors, and international partners, thereby contributing to creating new funding channels and increasing resources through the preparation of innovative project proposals in accordance with the needs of our program beneficiaries.

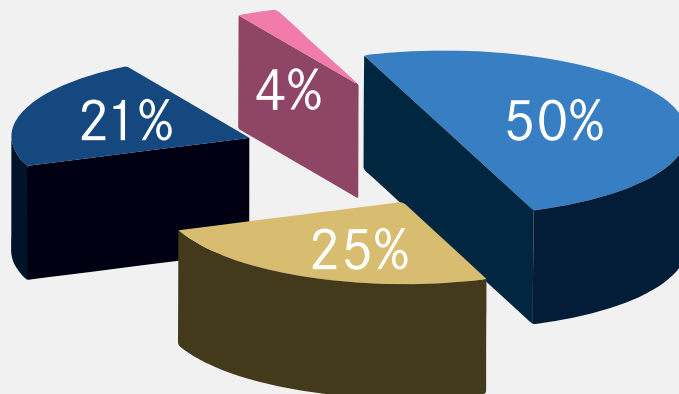
### Funding Sources



### 2021 Investments by Thematic Area

#### 2021 Expenses

- Just Peace & Promoting Women's Rights
- Youth Leadership Training and Civic Engagement
- Economic Justice
- Organizational Development



## Highlights from 2021

### Signing Memoranda of Understanding with the “Young Citizen” Project Partners

The YWCA in Palestine signed memoranda of understanding with 13 local institutions and associations from the north, central and southern West Bank to renew partnerships in implementing the activities of the “Young Citizen” project during 2022. This project aims to empower Palestinian youth to become active and influential citizens in their communities.

[To read more.](#)



### Launching the “Methodology of Alternatives to Violence for Self-Development” Guide



The YWCA in Palestine launched a supplementary guide for Palestinian youth within the “[Makani](#)” Project titled “Methodology of Alternatives to Violence for Self-Development” which coincides with the global “Week Without Violence” Campaign.

The guide is the product of a series of workshops on the methodology of alternatives to violence, which was held in two phases: a basic and advanced phase which took place with the participation of many young women and men from various regions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The workshops aimed to provide safe spaces for young people to learn peaceful alternatives to dealing with crises. [To read more.](#)

## Closing of 16-Day Campaign to Combat Violence Against Women

The YWCA in Palestine concluded the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based violence” Campaign, which was organized under the slogan “Safety wherever they Are” in partnership with the Salfit Municipality and the NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women, with funding from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation.

The closing activities witnessed the “We Run for Equality” marathon, which kicked-off from in front of the “Jerusalem Circle” towards the Salfit Municipality headquarters, with the participation of young women and men from several governorates.

Orange balloons were released at the finish line, followed by the campaign’s closing ceremony held at the City Hall.

The ceremony included a musical performance by the Nablus Band for Arab Music – the Edward Said Music Institute in Nablus, and a presentation of films that made it as finalists in the “Best Expressive Video” competition that addressed the issues and messages of the campaign, in addition to a theatrical sketch by the “Fartat” group. [To read more.](#)



## Annual “Youth Forum” Project Meeting

The YWCA in Palestine conducted the annual “Youth Forums” Project meeting at the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh with the participation of youth groups and partners. During the meeting, Project Coordinator, Aman Hammad, reviewed the project’s 2021 achievements and presented expected project activities for the upcoming year. [To read more.](#)



## Photo Exhibit held through the “Young Citizen” Project

The YWCA in Palestine organized a photo exhibit through the “Young Citizen” Project that took place in the halls of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh. Project staff, volunteers, and representatives of partner institutions took part in this event in addition to hundreds of students from targeted schools in various regions of the West Bank. [To read more.](#)



## Inauguration of Initiative to Rehabilitate and Renovate the Deir Abu Mishaal Pond and Roman Garden



The YWCA in Palestine celebrated the inauguration of a community initiative to rehabilitate and renovate the Roman pond and garden in the village of Deir Abu Mishaal, west of Ramallah through the [“Wujood” Project.](#)

The YWCA’s General Secretary Amal Tarazi took part in the opening as well as the YWCA’s Executive Director in Ramallah Ropina Rafidi, project staff, representatives of the Deir Abu Mishaal Village Council, the village Sports Club, various village institutions, and several young women and men implementing this initiative. [To read more.](#)



### **Signing Temporary Employment Agreements with Women in the Toubas Governorate**

The YWCA in Palestine signed temporary employment and cash assistance agreements with a group of women from villages and towns in the Toubas Governorate and the northern Jordan Valley as part of the “Empowering Victims and Survivors to Access Protection Services and Participate in Response Plans to Gender-Based Violence in Palestine” Project.

[To read more.](#)

### **Conclusion of Second Job Training Program**

The YWCA in Palestine concluded the second training session of the job training program in its offices in Ramallah, where the trainees were honored and certificates were distributed.

The YWCA launched the program during the Corona pandemic, with the aim of helping young women to develop their capacities, enhance their skills, and prepare them to compete in the job market. [To read more](#)



### **Participation in the “Gender Justice from a National and Religious Perspective” Conference**

The YWCA in Palestine participated in the “Gender Justice from a National and Religious Perspective” Conference organized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The conference took place in partnership with the YWCA and several local and international institutions specialized in gender justice and comes as part of a 16 Days of Activism Campaign against gender-based violence. [To read more](#)



## Grants Offered to Young Women Entrepreneurs from the Hebron Governorate

The YWCA in Palestine provided grants to finance income-generating projects for young entrepreneurs in the Hebron Governorate, during a meeting held at the Beit Ummar Municipality headquarters in the north part of the governorate. This project aims to enhance the economic resilience of young women and empowering women's community institutions "Manarat". [To read more](#)



## "Young Citizens" and "Youth Forums" Hold Annual Preparatory Partner Meeting

The YWCA partners in Palestine in the "Young Citizen" and "Youth Forums" Projects held their annual meeting at the Jabal Al-Najma Center in Ramallah to follow-up on work of the current year and to prepare for the upcoming 2022 plan. [To read more.](#)

## Launching Implementation of the "Empowering Women Survivors of Gender-Based Violence" Project

The YWCA in Palestine began implementation of the "Empowering Women Survivors of Gender-based Violence" Project, in partnership with UN Women and with support from the Central Emergency Response Fund.

The project aims to empower victims and survivors to access protective services and to participate in plans that are responsive to gender-based violence in Palestine, which is considered a response to the need to provide opportunities to help women, particularly women that are survivors of gender-based violence to empower them economically and socially and reduce the violence they are subjected to. [To read more](#)





## Closing of the Central Student Parliament Summer Camp in Ramallah

The YWCA in Palestine concluded the Central Student Parliament Summer Camp for members of the Student Parliament, as part of the annual activities of the “Young Citizen” Project.

The camp took place over the course of three days in Ramallah in cooperation with 12 local partners from youth centers, grassroots institutions, municipalities, and youth groups. Fifty-five female students from various regions in the West Bank took part in the camp, representing their student communities. The camp included various meetings and activities on the topics addressing national identity, community initiatives, the role of the student parliament, and the development of various skills such as experimentation, self-exploration, communication, presentation, and teamwork skills, in addition to other skills. [To read more.](#)

## Signing a Partnership Agreement with the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development

The YWCA in Palestine signed a partnership agreement with the Juzoor Foundation for Health and Social Development, which aims to implement summer camps for children in the Gaza Strip, to help alleviate their suffering and provide support and psychological relief for them following the recent aggression and ongoing siege on the Gaza Strip. The agreement was signed by Secretary General of the YWCA Amal Tarazi and the Director General of the Foundation, Dr. Umayyah Khamash, in the presence of representatives of both parties. The camps will include several components in the cultural, sports, health, and recreational fields, which will empower children and help release the stress and tension they endured during the emergency conditions and difficult humanitarian situation, in order to build a better future for our children in the Gaza Strip. [To read more.](#)





## Graduating Two New Vocational Training Program Classes and Launching the New Academic Year

The Ramallah YWCA celebrated the graduation of the nineteenth and twentieth class of students from the Vocational Training Institute, specializing in the diploma of office management.

The YWCA also launched the new 2021/2022 academic year of the diploma, at its vocational training center in Ramallah with grants reaching up to 50% of the fees. The Office Management diploma program adopts an on-the-job training methodology, and the duration of the program extends 10 months, after which students receive certification by the Palestinian Ministry of Labor. It is worth noting that the employment rate for students holding this diploma exceeds 80%. [To read more](#)



## Introductory Workshops for the “Shaml” Project

The YWCA in Palestine held three introductory workshops for the “Shaml” Project in targeted areas: Al-Jalazoun, Dheisheh, and Al-Aroub refugee camps. The Shaml Project aims to enhance the protection and reintegration of women victims and survivors of violence in marginalized areas and creating safe spaces for them. The project is implemented with the support from UN Women. [To read more.](#)

### **“Sheikh Jarrah” Initiative**

The YWCA in Palestine implemented the “Sheikh Jarrah” Initiative, in cooperation with the YWCA in Gaza and its partners and youth groups in the “Makani” Project, in response to the repercussions of the recent aggression on Gaza during May 2021. This initiative aimed to mitigate the negative repercussions of the aggression on all aspects of life in Gaza including economic, social and psychological aspects. [To read more.](#)



### **The Student Parliament Launches the “Young Citizen” Project**

The YWCA in Palestine, in cooperation with partner institutions launched the “Student Parliament for the Young Citizen” which consists of 35 members, ranging in age from 13-17 years, with the aim of working together to develop a national campaign through which activities are implemented at the national level, in addition to organizing trainings and local campaigns led by female members of parliament with their youth groups.



### **Launching the “Child Custody is My Right” Campaign**

The YWCA Palestine, in partnership with the Palestinian NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women launched the “Child Custody is My Right” Campaign on International Women’s Day by honoring 50 resilient female farmers on their land located in border areas that are threatened with confiscation in the Tulkarem and Salfit governorates represented by each of Deir Ballut, Artah, Shweika and Rafat, as part of the “Guardians of the Earth” initiative. The activity was implemented by a several female and male youth volunteers from Al-Awda Center for Childhood and Youth Rehabilitation, Tulkarem, where the women were introduced to the campaign that aims to demand amendment of custody issues in the Personal Status Law to ensure that women and men enjoy equal custody rights and that the best interests of the child are taken into account.



## **We are proud of our partners**

We extend gratitude and appreciation to all our partners for their continued trust. You are the architects of the success we achieved through your support and partnership.

We are determined to continue our efforts, working together to pursue further achievements with a keen eye on service to our beloved country.

## **Donors: with your support, their lives blossom**

We thank you all for your support and continued efforts and for your belief in our ability to support the Palestinian people. Your support allows us to actualize achievements.

## **YWCA team and volunteers**

For your dedication to your work despite all the circumstances and for your high sense of responsibility in conducting the work with precision and professionalism in order to serve our people. Thanks, appreciation and praise for your outstanding efforts and hard work.













## YWCA Palestine

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