



# ANNUAL REPORT | 2022

YWCA Palestine

"We Sow Hope"

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## MESSAGE FROM YWCA BOARD PRESIDENT: HAIFA BARAMKI



2023 marks the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Palestine, which forms a part of the global movement of the YWCA, with its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The idea of the YWCA was formulated by Christian women's groups in Jaffa in 1893 under the name of the Young Women's Christian Association. It was officially registered in the capital Jerusalem in 1918. Hence, it might be one of the oldest charitable associations in Palestine.

Subsequently, branches started being established in Jericho, Ramallah, and lastly in Bethlehem, eventually becoming the YWCA of Palestine, which, along with its member associations, aim to empower women, young men and women, by adopting programs and projects that serve this goal, as well as working to improve their economic and social situation, by enhancing their access to financial and technical resources, influencing decision-makers, creating and developing economic opportunities available to them, and increasing their awareness of their individual and national rights.

Based on this long journey full of achievements and accumulation of experience, the YWCA of Palestine continued, during 2022, to fulfill its mission and overcome all the challenges and difficult circumstances that the country went through by finding innovative and creative solutions, which made its programs respond to the needs of the unstable social and economic structures.

The Strategic Plan 2022-2026 entered into force, contributing to strengthening the foundations on which the YWCA was built, with its administrative, financial and programmatic elements on the one hand, and building on the accumulation of achievements and embarking on a qualitative leap in its performance by adopting strategic directions with smart solutions at the level of governance of the YWCA and the impact of its programs on the ground on the other hand.

Based on its democratic approach, the general assembly of the YWCA held its meeting in November 2022, and elected its administrative body for the next three years 2022-2025, which represents the member associations.

At the end of my presidency of the Council, which extended for two consecutive terms (2017-2022), I must thank all the members of the former Board of Directors and the executive staff for their tireless and outstanding work that contributed to achieving the strategies, policies and plans set by the board during this round, wishing success to the new Board of Directors in following up the YWCA's progress and strengthening its role and position locally, regionally and internationally, bearing in mind that I will continue my service through my membership in the oversight committee.

I cannot help but thank all the friends, partners and donors, both institutions and individuals, at the local and international levels, who believe in the mission of the YWCA and its great role, and without whom we would not have been able to achieve our goals.

I also thank the heads and members of the boards of directors of the associations, the administrative and executive bodies, and the volunteers, both men and women, who carry the message and continue to work to achieve the noble goals in developing the individuals and society, wishing them all luck and continued success during 2023 and after.

Our pride in what we offer to our Palestinian society is a motivation for our pride in partnership with all components and groups of this great people, wherever they are.





## MESSAGE FROM YWCA SECRETARY GENERAL: AMAL TARAZI



Throughout 2022, the Young Women's Christian Associations (YWCA) of Palestine, through its member associations, stayed the course towards development and achievement, which reflected positively on the quality of the implemented programs that aimed at bringing about the desired change and sowing hope in the lives of young men, young women and women who are direct beneficiaries, in addition to bringing about an indirect positive impact on our Palestinian society as a whole.

Despite the difficult political and economic conditions that our people live through with the continuation of the colonial occupation, and the crimes it commits on a daily basis such as killings, arrests, home demolitions and forced displacement, we have succeeded in developing multiple partnerships, with new financiers and local grassroots institutions, to accomplish our goals, implement our programs and achieve the best results and outputs at the local level.

At the international level, we have worked to highlight the rights of our people to freedom and independence through advocacy campaigns that we have launched or participated in, in order to communicate our voice and the suffering of our people to the world. We have also harnessed the various platforms available to raise the voice of young men, young women and women in Palestine, who are eager to build a better future for themselves and their society.

Internally, 2022 represented a paradigm shift in enhancing the institutional environment and developing the staff in cooperation with the Board of Directors, which contributed to mobilizing resources, developing workflow and achieving sustainability.

During the first half of the year, we launched our strategic plan 2022-2026, which focuses on the goals of economic empowerment for women and young women to help them access economic opportunities and decent work, social innovation to contribute to building Palestinian youth and developing local communities, and realizing a Palestinian society that exercises an approach based on respect for human rights, in addition to preserving the historical legacy of the YWCA and its member associations and their administrative and financial sustainability, with an expected budget of about \$15 million over five years.

In terms of programs, we were able to overcome various challenges, and we completed many projects on the ground and launched new ones, which touched the lives of thousands of women, young men and young women in various Palestinian governorates, both the northern (West Bank) and southern (Gaza Strip) ones, especially in marginalized areas and refugee camps.

We also organized the second national conference on UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, under the slogan "Palestinian youth deserve freedom and just peace." We came up with a set of recommendations that we will work on to promote and protect the rights of young men and women.

We have signed memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreements with international and local partners, including institutions, community centers, youth clubs and women's associations for joint cooperation within the programs in which we invest. We have worked to enhance the corporate identity and media presence through social media platforms and local media.

Based on the solid foundation which we established during 2022, we look forward to continuing work and accomplishment during the new year 2023 to achieve our strategic goals, and to realize a Palestinian society that enjoys equality, freedom, dignity and justice, and exercises all its rights. Proceeding from our pride in what we have accomplished, we must thank all those who supported us from the donors and partners, the YWCA staff, and the volunteers, both female and male, without whose efforts the achievement would not have been made.

We will also continue our interventions that are related to developing the effective membership of young women in our member associations in order for them to be represented and to participate in decision-making, and to enhance the sustainability of these associations in Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem, in addition to the East Jerusalem YWCA, through a number of programs and projects that contribute to the development of their resources and preserve their historical heritage and particularity.

# YWCA AT A GLANCE

## 130 Years: The Journey Continues

2023

The YWCA celebrates, during 2023, the 130th anniversary of its establishment in Palestine, as the association continues to build on its legacy that extends throughout history of serving the country and society at various levels.

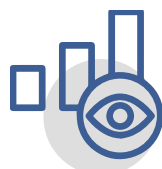
1893

The YWCA is a Palestinian, non-profit, membership-based organization that was established in Jaffa in 1893 and its establishment officially announced in Jerusalem in 1918. It includes four grassroots associations in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem under its umbrella.



We aspire to establish a free, democratic civil society that enables women and youth to exercise and protect their political, economic and social rights. Our work is focused in three areas: leadership and civic engagement, economic justice, and just peace. We adopt the human rights-based approach, as all our programs and work in the field of lobbying and advocacy are based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The YWCA of Palestine is affiliated with the World YWCA, which works for the empowerment of women, young women and girls in more than 100 countries around the world and has a special advisory status in the United Nations Social and Economic Council. YWCAs around the world share one 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.”



### Our 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.



### Our mission:

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

## PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The following values and principles guide the work of the YWCA in Palestine:



### Participation

Participation in decision-making



### Transparency and Accountability

Transparency in accessing information



### Ownership

Adopting an approach based on the target group's needs



### Sustainability

Establishing community partnerships that are capable of leading activities



### Nationalism

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

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## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

The YWCA's theory of change is based on the firm belief that our young Palestinian women - if they are given the opportunities and necessary support - can build a better future for all, filled with freedom and justice. Thus, we aim to empower women and young women 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 them and young men in the various areas and fields.

# IMPACT OF OUR INTERVENTIONS

- 1 The role of 4,000 young people was enhanced and their abilities, skills, knowledge, and orientations as male and female leaders in society were developed.
- 2 The human rights and legal awareness of 100,000 women and young women was raised through various means and media tools.
- 3 More than 10,000 people benefited from the various activities organized by the YWCA: conferences, workshops, and establishing safe spaces.
- 4 More than 40 young men and women were empowered to establish their income-generating economic projects in the northern and southern governorates.
- 5 The level of social and economic well-being of 1,500 people, including young women, men and children, was improved.
- 6 More than 5,000 people, including 2,700 women and young women, exerted efforts for a just peace in Palestine.
- 7 The capacities of 100 grass-roots institutions were built, and their societal and developmental role of building a better situation for Palestinian youth was strengthened, to serve as safe spaces to enable young people to freely express their opinions and beliefs without restrictions or threats.
- 8 About 300 boys and girls in refugee camps have access to safe health and educational environments. We also provided psychological and social support services to 300 children.
- 9 Mobilization and organization of 1,000 young men and women as volunteers at the YWCA.
- 10 More than 20 international partners have supported our activities and programs that are aimed at achieving a free and democratic civil society.



## A NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT

The administrative body of the YWCA supervises the strategic planning and work towards reaching our goals of achieving gender equality, establishing just peace and building a free and democratic Palestinian state, in addition to its role in empowering women and young women through the exchange of experiences between generations.

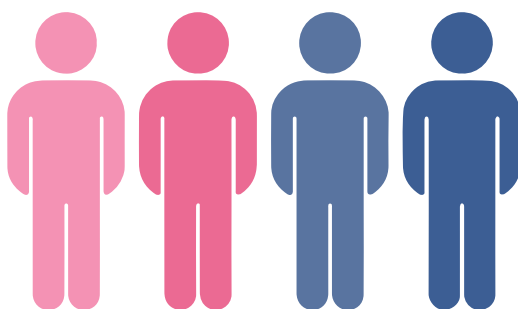
Within the framework of its good governance, the YWCA's General Assembly elected its administrative body for the next three years 2022-2025, which represents the three member associations in Jericho, Ramallah, and Bethlehem.

Eleven candidate members from the general bodies won, with the new board of directors comprising the president of the board of directors of the YWCA Luma Tarazi, deputy president Rabab Musleh, secretary Angela Kassis, treasurer Vera Pano, and members Rana Stephan, Fadwa (Abla) Nasir, Queen Masoud, Yara AbedRabbo, Juliana Majrouh, Rana Nasrallah, and Hanan Qarraa.



The oversight committee was elected for the next three years and comprises the members Haifa Baramki, Dr. Ibtisam Dahu, and Rula Izz. The former president of the board of directors wished the new board of directors luck and success in continuing the work to enhance the role of the YWCA of Palestine and its local, regional and international standing.

The new administrative body included three female members under the age of 30, as part of the YWCA's strategy to promote and empower young women leaders in Palestine, and support them to reach decision-making positions.



# IMPACT OF OUR PROGRAMS

We are working to make all our programs and interventions compatible in order to be developmental and more inclusive, balancing social, economic and environmental sustainability without promoting exclusion or marginalization, and complying with national and international best practices and their various frameworks of international conventions.

We have worked to include all the global development goals adopted by the United Nations “Sustainable Development Goals 2030” in the various interventions and activities to reduce poverty, achieve justice and equality, build the capacity of institutions, enable and strengthen them to achieve a just peace, quality education, decent work and economic growth.



## EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN AND YOUNG MEN:

Our interventions target young women and young men with a set of programs that contribute to empowering them politically, socially and economically, by enhancing their political participation, creating decent job opportunities for them, and encouraging and supporting them to start their own projects.

**This is in line with the following goals :**



## GENDER EQUALITY:

We work in our programs and interventions to reduce the gender gap in Palestinian society, by empowering women and young women, and enhancing their political participation and economic independence, given that women suffer from various forms of societal restrictions that limit their ability to participate politically and socially. Not only does this affect the prospects for women's participation in society, it has a structural impact as it also undermines the basic requirements for a democratic Palestinian state.



In our interventions, we focus on educating young women of their rights, enhancing social protection for them, highlighting their role and integrating them to influence public life by involving them in planning and implementing community initiatives in cooperation with community institutions and the local community in their targeted areas.

**This is in line with the following goals:**



## ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE:



We also take into account, in all initiatives and projects that are implemented within our programs, the preservation of the environment and combating climate change, including the establishment of many safe spaces, rehabilitation of parks and green spaces, and recycling of used materials, among others.



All interventions, programs and initiatives are planned in a way that does not cause harm to environmental resources, by encouraging the adoption of environmentally friendly daily practices, such as being conscientious before printing paper, promoting the use of public transportation for travel, and consuming vegetarian and local food.



This is in line with the following goals:





## PEACE AND SECURITY:

### We work within our various programs and interventions



to empower young people in aspects related to UN resolutions, especially UN Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.



The two resolutions recognize the leadership role of women and youth in achieving international peace and security and their contributions to conflict resolution and peace-building, through strategic training courses



implementation of advocacy campaigns and community initiatives related to the promotion of violence prevention approaches and the provision of safe spaces through the protection theme which is related to aspects of international resolutions.



We aim to strengthen the role of youth to become agents of change and have an influential role in the Palestinian society and their local communities by enabling them to implement various activities, campaigns and community initiatives, which have had a direct impact on enhancing the role and presence of youth and improving their ability to participate in decision-making.

**This is in line with the following goals:**

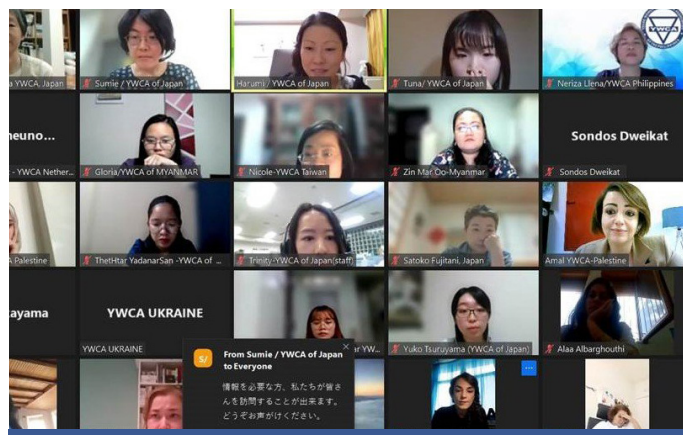
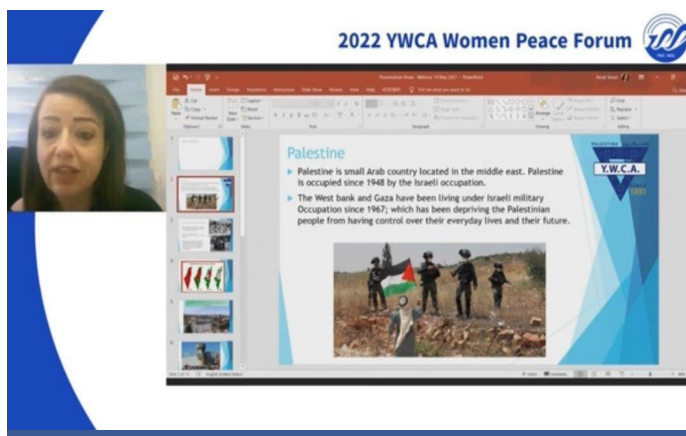


# ADVOCACY, INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION AND YOUTH EXCHANGE

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

## PUTTING PALESTINE ON THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

On the International Day of Peace, which falls on September 21st of each year, we participated in a virtual symposium organized by the YWCA of Japan, along with thirty members of YWCAs around the world. The symposium provided a unique opportunity to shed light on the challenges faced by countries living in a state of conflict or under occupation. Participants had the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of peace. ([Read more](#))






We participated in the proceedings of the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), which was on the theme "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes." We organized a parallel discussion session online on "Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship", which shed light on the challenges facing young female entrepreneurs in Palestine, the possible solutions to address them, and the efforts made by the YWCA towards the economic empowerment of women and young women. ([Read more](#))

In partnership with the YWCA of Japan, we organized a virtual symposium on the 74th anniversary of the Nakba and to highlight the YWCA's work in the refugee camps, especially the two kindergartens in the Jalazoun refugee camp in Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate and Aqabat Jaber refugee camp in Jericho and Jordan Valley governorate. ([Read more](#))

## ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN PALESTINE — AND MOBILIZING INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

Within the framework of international advocacy for the Palestinian people, as well as advocacy for youth and women's issues and rights locally, the YWCA issued several position papers, statements and messages on various topics, including a position paper on [national social policies for battered women in marginalized areas and Palestinian refugee camps](#), a statement condemning the killing of Palestinian journalist [Shireen Abu Aqleh](#), a joint statement on the occasion of the [International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People](#), a position paper on the International [Human Rights Day](#) 2022 and the conclusion of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. We also issued two messages on [Easter](#) and [Christmas](#).



These papers and statements were distributed to a list of various international and local partners, with the aim of mobilizing solidarity with the Palestinian people, as well as calling on them to move and work to implement UN resolutions related to the Palestinian cause and all laws related to human rights.

We participated in the second regional training workshop within the Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy, and Accountability YW4A project, which was held in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, in the period of July 15-17, 2022.



### The focus of the specialized training in the media campaign

It was focused on digital advocacy in the field of public and legal advocacy in cooperation with the project partners in Egypt and under the supervision of the Equality Now organization within the fourth track of the project, which works to support lobbying and advocacy campaigns within the framework of legal advocacy towards adopting, amending or abolishing laws and policies in order to enhance the rights of young women to leadership and participation and to end sexual and gender-based violence.

[\(Read more\)](#)

We also hosted an international youth camp in Jabal Al-Najma Center, north of Ramallah, in partnership with several European institutions, as part of the “Erasmus Plus” youth exchange project in the Mediterranean basin. Young women and men and representatives of institutions from Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Turkey and Poland, as well as Palestine, took part in the camp.



### The camp included field tours

to a number of youth projects in the Governorates of Tubas and the northern Jordan Valley, Tulkarm, Bethlehem, and Ramallah and Al-Bireh, and an introduction to the programs implemented by the YWCA in the field of youth and women empowerment, in addition to a visit to the Dheisheh and Aida refugee camps in Bethlehem, and a close look at the suffering of the Palestinian people as a result of the occupation, settlement and the apartheid wall.





We participated in the annual Peace Makers Global Week held by the YWCA and YMCA in the Norwegian capital, Oslo, along with many young women and men from partner countries: Greece, Portugal, Finland, Palestine and Norway. The YWCA was represented by the youth program intern, Hani Shanina, and the project coordinator in the Tubas Brothers Club (one of the YWCA's partners), Muhammad Daraghme. Colleagues Nicola Abu Amsa and Muhannad Al-Qaisi, representatives of the East Jerusalem YMCA, and the Joint Advocacy Initiative program of the two associations (East Jerusalem YMCA and YWCA of Palestine), also participated. ([Read more](#))

## MEMBERSHIP AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

During 2022, the YWCA continued its active participation in forums, alliances, partnerships, and local and international committees of which it is a member.

### Within the framework of its membership in the Palestinian NGO Forum to Combat Violence against Women:

- ▶ the YWCA participated in the development of position papers issued by the Forum on political developments **and issues of violence against women in Palestine.**
- ▶ We also organized the annual «16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence» campaign under the slogan «Protection is our right, safety is our priority,» in partnership with the Forum.

Within the framework of our membership in the Palestinian Women's Civil Coalition for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, we issued a statement condemning and denouncing the demolition of the homes of the Salhiyya family in Jerusalem.

The Secretary General of the YWCA in Palestine, Amal Tarazi, participated in the advisory board meeting that was held by the Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association – Norway, Y GLOBAL, in the period of November 13-17, 2022, in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa. The meeting was attended by the partners of the Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association in Norway, from Kenya, Bangladesh, Madagascar, Uganda, South Sudan, as well as Palestine.



The meeting focused on developing the future strategic plan for the years 2024-2028, and ideas for projects, ways of cooperation and building new partnerships with association partners, and a mechanism for attracting funding for new projects were discussed.





### Program establishment:

The YWCA in Palestine, in cooperation with the East Jerusalem YMCA, established the Joint Advocacy Initiative program in 2001, whose role is to develop campaigns and lobbying and advocacy mechanisms towards establishing a just peace in Palestine.

### Program organization:

The program organizes annual visits to Palestine, including a “Journey for Justice” that target persons from Christian Young Men and Women Associations around the world, particularly the youth, in addition to student and youth exchange programs with schools in Denmark and Norway. Through these visits, the YWCA in Palestine hosted various groups with the aim of introducing them to our work.

### Launching the solidarity campaign:



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



### Program activities:



During 2022, the program continued its activities, both in terms of international advocacy through the formulation of resolutions and proposals in international associations and councils, that create a space for strengthening solidarity with the Palestinian people, and calling out Israel as an apartheid state, as well as participating in seminars and meetings to mobilize support for the program and highlight the crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinian people.

The program also hosted international youth delegations from Denmark and Norway, which were briefed on the situation of the Palestinians living under occupation as part of the Journey for Justice project.

The program continued to assist and support Palestinian farmers in areas threatened with settlement or are adjacent to the Apartheid Wall, by providing them with olive seedlings to plant and assisting them in harvesting olive fruits.



**Hassan Al-Sheikh (66 years old)**, a farmer from the village of Beit Surik, northwest of Jerusalem. The Racist Separation Wall devoured four of the 10 dunums he owns, and uprooted 200 fruit trees from his land, such as olive, almond, fig and peach trees, but he continued to plant trees on his land. The Joint Advocacy Program helped him replant the olive trees he lost.



**Jana Sbeih (16 years old)**, a student at Al-Khader Secondary School, south of Bethlehem. She joined the Joint Advocacy Program for Youth Training in the summer of 2022, and was among the six students who traveled to Danish schools through the program.



## PALESTINIAN YOUTH DESERVE FREEDOM AND A "JUST PEACE"

In continuation of the success achieved in the first international youth conference within the framework of Security Council Resolution 2250, which we organized in 2018 under the title "Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Building a Future of Freedom and Justice", we held in 2022 the second edition of the conference under the title "Palestinian youth deserve freedom and just peace". The 2022 conference was held under the auspices of His Excellency the Prime Minister, Dr. Muhammad Shtayyeh, and in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund.

More than two hundred young men and women from various governorates in the West Bank, including the capital, Jerusalem, participated in the conference. In addition, youth groups from the southern governorates in the Gaza Strip participated and attended, via video, as the conference provided them with space to present their ideas and points of view about the UN Security Council Resolution No. 2250 and how it relates to the reality of their lives under occupation and facing social, economic and political challenges on a daily basis.

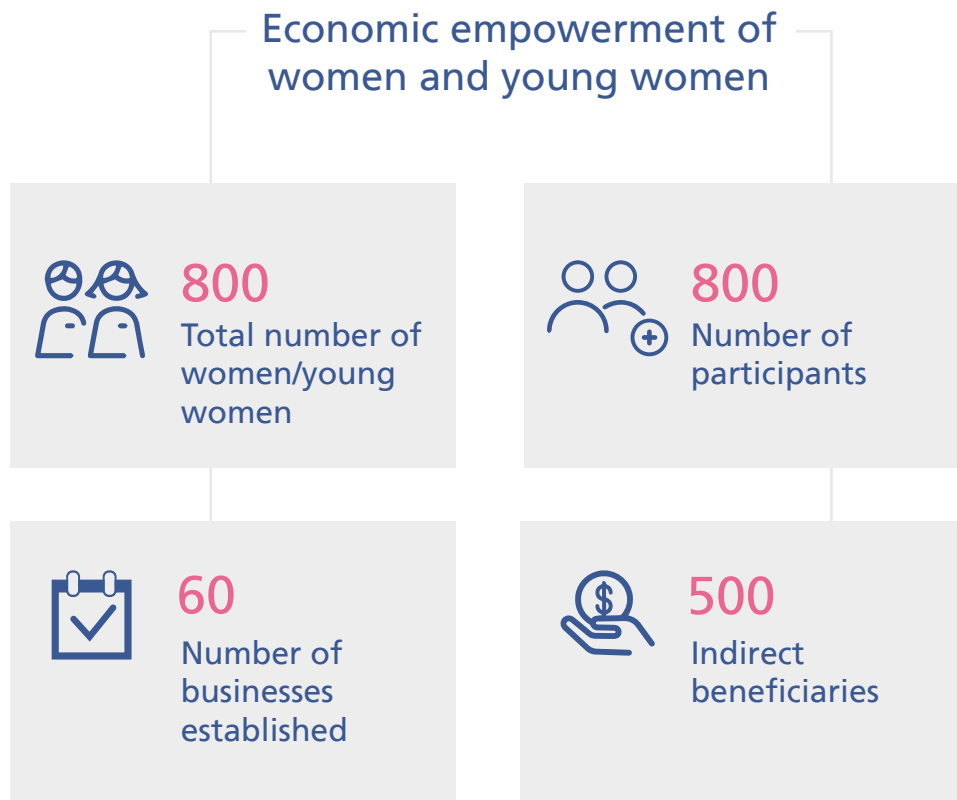
The conference aimed at coming up with a set of implementable recommendations that can promote and protect the rights of young people and calls for the government to adopt comprehensive youth policies in accordance with UN Resolution 2250 and other relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

The conference came out with a set of recommendations, most notably: the formation of a national coalition to implement UN Security Council Resolution 2250 with youth participation, along with relevant ministries, government institutions and civil society organizations, in order to strengthen and consolidate all efforts to reach comprehensive and fair laws for the rights and capabilities of the youth. The conference also recommended networking with international partners to exchange experiences in the field of entrepreneurial business, intensifying cooperation with foreign markets, giving opportunities for young people to present their initiatives through international business fairs, networking them with global business financiers and incubators, and taking legislative and policy measures aimed at ensuring the involvement of youth in the decision-making process by at least 30% in the various locations.



The conference also recommended encouraging the process of supporting young Palestinian leaders to become active and positive agents of change in their communities by involving youth in decision-making positions and mechanisms. View the conference report [here](#).

# ENHANCEMENT OF THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND YOUNG WOMEN



The YWCA believe that «the economic empowerment of women and young women helps them access economic opportunities and decent work,»

which is reflected in a set of programs and projects that empower women and young women to claim their economic, social and political rights. Moreover, these programs and projects aim to create job opportunities through vocational training programs and develop entrepreneurship skills for women and young women so that they can live a decent life.



During 2022, we were part of the implementation of the «**Cash for Work**» employment project, which aimed at providing short-term job opportunities for those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and the unemployed.

We signed a grant agreement to implement the project within the “Money for Work in the West Bank” component, as part of the emergency social protection project to confront the Covid-19 pandemic, implemented by the Palestinian Employment Fund, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, and funded by the World Bank.

The project sought to provide short-term job opportunities for a period of six months, for those affected by the pandemic and the unemployed, in the framework of combating the scourges of poverty and unemployment.

## 50 institutions

Within the framework of the project, we signed memorandums of understanding with 50 partner institutions to provide them with job opportunities. Introductory meetings were held about the project and its implementation mechanisms with the partners, before allowing for the receipt of applications from male and female job seekers through the Palestinian Employment Portal.

### a beneficiary of the project :



#### Mr. Ayoub Al-Amleh

Those with special needs are stereotyped, with people charting their life's path for them. However, this did not drive me to surrender to the stereotype about those with special needs. I chose to create a different and distinct path through joining the Cash for Work project, where I was able to obtain a job opportunity at the Beit Ula Municipality as an accountant.



#### Nuha Farash

: “It helped me widen my vision, made me know more about myself, and increased my circle of acquaintances and perceptions. I got into the details of the work, learned new things, loved achieving work, and learned the value of time and the meaning of taking responsibility”.

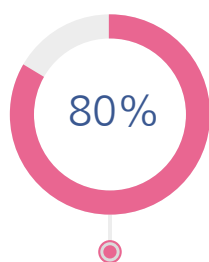
The project also included a training program for female and male beneficiaries in the governorates of: Hebron, Ramallah and Al-Bireh, Bethlehem, Jericho and the Jordan Valley, with a total of 300 training hours, with the aim of building their capabilities and developing their practical skills to meet the needs of the labor market in Palestine. The training program included various topics, most notably: resume/ CV writing, job interviews, job search and its mechanisms, communication in the work environment, teamwork, time management and leadership.





The project succeeded in achieving the following:

- 01** Providing 134 job opportunities for 134 beneficiaries affected by the pandemic, at grassroots partner institutions (80% of the beneficiaries are young women and men).



The beneficiary  
young women and  
men



Securing job  
opportunities



02 Activating and empowering grass-roots institutions by providing them with jobs.

03 Supporting economic resilience by creating job opportunities.

### Strengthening women's economic independence:

During 2022, the YWCA of Jericho continued to implement **the Jericho Food Project (JFP)**, which works on producing food and seasonal products. The JFP provides job opportunities for 15 female and two male workers.



Watch a report by Palestine TV about the project [here](#).

The JFP beneficiaries also participated in a training course in cooperation with the Palestinian Business Prosperity Center (PALPRO) at the agricultural and industrial zone of Jericho, and in a workshop on citizenship and women's rights in cooperation with MIFTAH organization. JFP also participated in an exhibition of national products under the title "It's Harvest Time" at the invitation of the Wall and Settlement Resistance Commission in the halls of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Al-Bireh.

### Vocational training: an important path to the economic empowerment of young women and men

Based on our belief in the importance of vocational training as one of the means of economic empowerment, we established two vocational training centers at the Ramallah and Jerusalem YWCAs. Vocational training is one of the oldest YWCA projects in Palestine, and aims to enable women and youth to obtain the resources and opportunities necessary to compete in the labor market.

During 2022, the **Ramallah Vocational Training Center** continued to offer the Office Management Diploma, which provides the administrative, technical and technology skills necessary for administrative work in institutions and companies in order to achieve the best service for the beneficiaries. The center also provided a group of short professional courses in several fields, including graphic design, photography, e-marketing, customs clearance, and other fields, targeting university graduates and staff in several institutions and those wishing to develop their skills to increase their chances in the labor market.

The **Jerusalem Vocational Training Center** also continued to offer the Office Management Diploma and the Multimedia Diploma. The center worked on networking with the Ministry of Education to reach schools in the Jerusalem governorate, with the aim of raising awareness about vocational training specializations. Training courses were organized for female employees, and open days were held to attract new students.



Within the **“Economic Empowerment of Women and Youth”** program, the East Jerusalem YWCA targeted, during 2022, a group of grass-roots institutions in order to provide vocational training for their members at their locations, in order to provide them with opportunities to improve their means of decent living. The East Jerusalem YWCA delivered its courses in the Shufat refugee camp, the old city of Jerusalem, and the Jabal Mukaber area of Jerusalem.

The East Jerusalem YWCA organized a number of short courses, in alternative tourism, managing cafes, developing web pages, and in the fields of accounting, Microsoft programs, photography and programming, in addition to awareness-raising meetings.

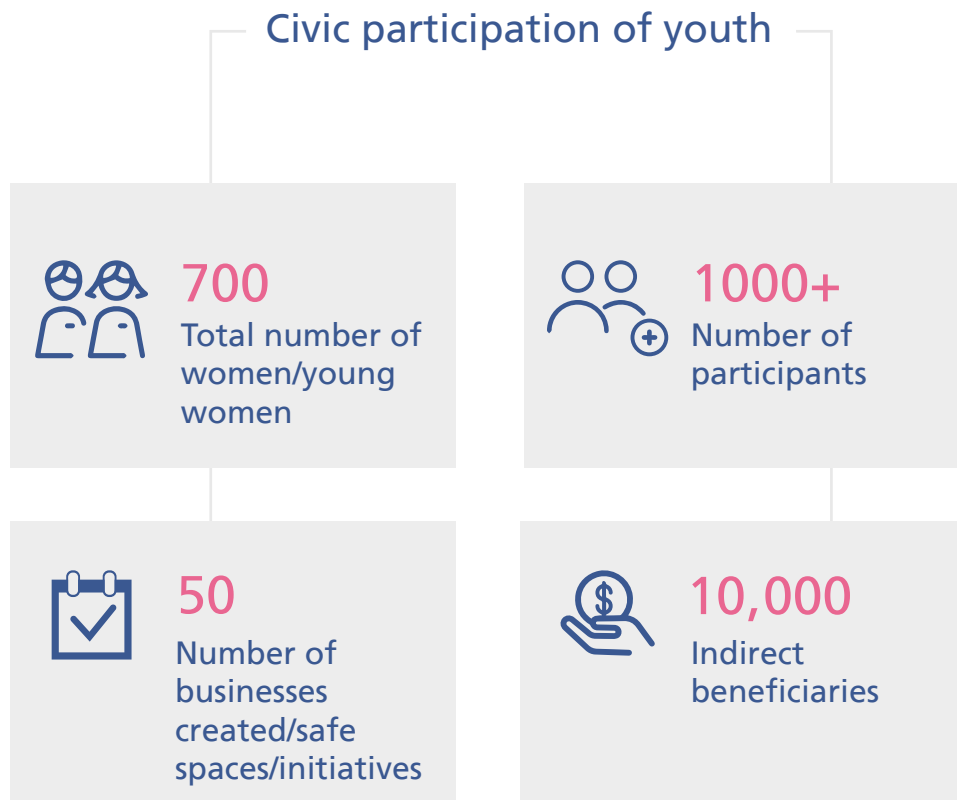
A training was held for 17 women who have projects or ideas for small projects in the field of marketing their projects electronically, and they were introduced to lending institutions and banks in order to identify lending possibilities.

A number of activities and courses were held within the women’s sports program, including a body sculpting course, a dance course, Zumba exercises, an activity on the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Month about early breast cancer screening, and a lecture on breast cancer early detection.

The East Jerusalem YWCA organized an exhibition of women’s handicraft products and an awareness-raising sports activity under the title “Early Detection Saves Your Life: Screen and Reassure Us.” For its part, the **YWCA of Jericho** held short courses in the field of cosmetic art and hair cutting, under the supervision of the Ministry of Labor.



# LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION: OUR YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE



Within its strategic vision, the YWCA works to empower youth in the State of Palestine and prepare them for active participation in public life and state building. The YWCAs' programs and projects are adapted to take into account the needs of youth and support them in light of difficult political, economic and social conditions, in addition to providing safe spaces for them to express their opinions and unleash their initiatives that aim at leaving a positive impact on their surrounding community.

During 2022, the YWCA continued to implement **the Young Citizen Project**, through its member associations and in partnership with a group of local institutions, with the support of the National Student Council in Norway. The project targets school students within the age group of 13-19 years in the West Bank regions, and young men and women within the age group of 20-25 years as support groups for the project, so that they have opportunities to develop their skills and competencies and to be effective leaders.



The project's activities include: lobbying and advocacy campaigns, atypical learning exercises, summer camps, educational and interactive workshops, and the formation of student councils.

The YWCA, through its member associations, continued to implement the **Youth Forums Project** in the Governorates of Tulkarem, Jenin, Bethlehem, and Jericho and the Jordan Valley, in cooperation with the Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association of Norway, and in partnership with local grassroots organizations and Palestinian universities. The project aims to create safe spaces for young women and men to express their ideas and activate their role in making change in their societies by improving their life and rights capabilities. It also seeks to enhance the representation of young women and men in decision-making processes through participation in local, national and international platforms. The project targets young women and men of the ages of 16-30 years.

The project's activities include: online training on issues of advocacy, gender justice, human rights, and Security Council Resolutions No. 1325 and No. 2250, developing and activating safe spaces for young women and men by organizing a number of meetings and dialogues, national youth campaigns, and face-to-face and virtual participation of young women and men in local, national, and international platforms.



During 2022, we implemented the Community-Led Crisis **Response Strategies project**, which includes elements of the Participatory, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (PVCA), which is a participatory methodology used by local communities and their actors to assess and estimate the available resources in the community and institutions, through which to identify potential vulnerabilities prior to the occurrence of crises and disasters, human or natural, with the aim of mitigating as much as possible the effects of expected disasters and crises. This is done through participatory planning to mobilize the capabilities, resources, and societal and institutional expertise to confront these crises and potential disasters, all in order to contribute to strengthening the resilience of society and its institutions in the face of vulnerability.

The project was implemented in partnership with the Kafr Nima Youth Club Association in Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, and the Shweika Sports and Cultural Charitable Club Association in Tulkarm governorate. The project included training courses on community-led

crisis response strategies and the implementation of two initiatives. The first initiative involved the provision of garden seats for the sports complex in Kafr Nima that contributed to solving a large part of the problem of not having a place designated for the visitors of the complex, families and visitors to sit, and added an aesthetic look to the place, as the number of visitors to the stadium doubled. The second initiative involved the provision of shelves for the newly established cafeteria, which lacked such shelves, as this cafeteria will generate an additional income for the club. In Shweika, a public garden was rehabilitated, its floor covered with artificial grass, and a group of children's play structures provided, to serve as a safe space for children and families in the area that lacked this outlet.



In 2022, we also launched the **Khatwa (Step) Program** aimed at supporting ideas for innovative youth entrepreneurial projects that provide valuable solutions to problems faced by society in various sectors, including technology, communications, agriculture, industry, environment, energy, and other sectors.

The door to apply for ideas was opened, followed by selecting a group of distinguished projects that stood out for their originality, their societal value and their ability to solve the problem with innovation, in addition to their sustainability. After the applicants took part in a training and mentoring program to develop and present their ideas, a number of projects were supported and implemented.



**Khatwa** is implemented as part of the Social **Innovation for Youth project**, within the framework of the Economic Empowerment and Community Leadership component funded by the Dutch “Kerk in Actie” Institute.

As part of the same project, Community Innovation for Youth, within the framework of the Youth-led Media and Communication component, we started work on establishing a **community youth radio** that sheds light in its programs and content on the issues and concerns of Palestinian youth and gives them the space to express their opinions and aspirations, as a culmination of the memorandum of understanding that we signed with the Secretariat-General of the General Assembly of Christian Youth in Palestine (Youth of Jesus’ Homeland).

A training course was held at the Watan Academy for Training and Media Capacity Development, to develop a group of young women and men who are graduates of media, languages and a number of other fields in the field of creating media content, using smart phones for the production of media materials, radio broadcasts, producing podcasts, writing reports, news and press stories, and still and motion photography.

A website for the radio station was established, and a name for it, Nabad Al-Hayah (Pulse of Life), was chosen, and media productions began in preparation for the official launch of the radio next year. The radio was also provided with a number of necessary equipment and devices.

The Community Innovation for Youth Project is at the core of the YWCA’s strategy that is aimed at empowering Palestinian youth economically and socially, and building their capabilities in various fields.



### Quote:

Spiritual guide of the Christian youth in Palestine, Father Bashar Fawadleh: “We are pleased with the joint cooperation with the Young Women’s Christian Associations (YWCAs) of Palestine to establish a community youth radio, which constitutes a forum for Palestinian youth and transmits messages full of hope and a better future that enhances the resilience of youth in their homeland.”

We also launched, during 2022, 33 community initiatives in the field of “youth, peace and security,” within the Youth Leads Project on **political and civil participation of youth** in Palestine, which is implemented by the United Nations Population Fund.



The initiatives targeted the youth group in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as part of the YWCA's strategy aimed at empowering young men and women to play an engaged, active and contributing role in society, by providing them with the various skills and incentives that train them for that, and involving them in community planning, implementation and evaluation at the local level, for purposes of examining society's needs, challenges, the correct and positive way to be taken into account in the process of selecting issues.

The door was opened for young women and men to present their various initiatives, and the YWCA received about 240 initiatives from the northern and southern governorates, with 33 initiatives selected according to specific criteria. The selected initiatives underwent a series of workshops and training courses before providing financial support for their implementation. Emphasis was placed on the compatibility of initiatives with the sustainable development goals, such as economic empowerment, a clean environment, support for people with special needs, and other goals.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND JUST PEACE:



The YWCA and its member associations are active in the areas of equality between men and women, 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.



### Young Women Awareness Project

During 2022, we continued to implement the Young Women for Awareness, Agency, Advocacy, and Accountability YW4A project, in partnership with the World YWCA, and in cooperation with the East Jerusalem YWCA, the Psychosocial Counseling Center for Women (PSCCW), Al-Hara Theatre, the Stars of Hope Association, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

### We launched the training guide "The Rise Up Manual"

We launched the Rise Up training manual after adapting the topics it includes to the Palestinian context in terms of content, language, methodology, and issues that the project will target over a period of five years. The aim is to enhance the participation of young women and raise their voices that effectively influence decision-making towards gender-equitable laws, policies, standards and practices regarding their physical safety and political participation.

Legal papers were also developed. **These were entitled “The Role of Women in Political Participation in Palestine”, “Sexual Harassment in the Work Environment Between the Legislative Vacuum and Societal Denial (End Exploitation... Zero-Tolerance for Harassment)”, and the “Family Protection from Violence Draft Law: Over Ten Years in Flux”, and “Setting the Age of Marriage for Both Sexes: between implementation and legislation (18 years old without exceptions).”** The papers were developed by lawyers Areej Shaheen and Rawan Abu Gazza, in cooperation with the Psychosocial Counseling Center for Women (PSCCW), with the supervision of the Equality Now organization.

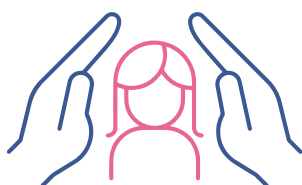
## The “Shaml” Project

In 2022, we also concluded the **Shaml Project**, which was funded by UN Women, in partnership with three community institutions: the Ibda’ (creativity) Center in Dheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem governorate, the Phoenix Center in Al-Aroub refugee camp in Hebron governorate, and the community center of the YWCA in Al-Jalazoun refugee camp in the Governorate of Ramallah and Al-Bireh.



### Our Goal :

The Shaml Project aimed to enhance the protection and reintegration of women and girls who are survivors of violence in Palestine, and to protect the rights of survivors of gender-based violence, by targeting the Dheisheh, Arroub and Jalazoun refugee camps.



### What the project includes:

The project included training female lawyers, media professionals, and graduates of psychology and social service, with the aim of enhancing their knowledge of protection mechanisms and the referral system as one of the ways to enhance the protection and reintegration of women, and develop their ability to provide psychological, social and legal support to women and girls who are survivors of violence, in addition to strengthening the practical and applied side of models for providing consultations and their documentation, when to provide counseling or referral, and the mechanism of joint intervention with regard to cases related to referral. On the media level, participants were trained to design and lead awareness and advocacy campaigns related to women’s and young women’s issues.

The young women who completed the training organized workshops and meetings with women and girls in the targeted refugee camps, as well as providing legal and psychological support to women and girls who are survivors of violence or who need any advice or support, in addition to providing safe spaces for girls and women in community centers and clubs.

## The project sought:

The project sought to establish mechanisms and strengthen the national referral system for survivors of violence, noting that the YWCA, within the framework of its response to violence cases, developed three years ago investigation and intervention mechanisms to detect cases of violence, and works in the field of protection in coordination and cooperation with various official and unofficial institutions, through consultation, referral and transfer. Accordingly, the institutionalization of work and the development of procedures for dealing with cases of violence were initiated in accordance with the national referral system and the systems for referral to protection centers, which were transformed into an internal manual used by the YWCA staff.

Within the framework of the project, we have implemented an awareness campaign about cybercrime, especially the extortion and harassment of girls and women through social media platforms, under the slogan Safe Women throughout Cyberspace, in addition to a campaign of lobbying and advocacy to endorse modifications to the national transfer system.



## “Maaloomat” Project:

During 2022, we concluded the Maaloomat Project that is aimed at enhancing the exercise of young Palestinian women’s right to participate fully in the information society, and educating them on the issue of digital security and mechanisms for protecting themselves throughout cyberspace.

The project was implemented in the Jalazoun refugee camp in Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, and Aqabat Jabr refugee camp in Jericho and the Jordan Valley governorate. It targeted a group of young women who were provided with the necessary skills and information on the subject of digital security, enabling them to transfer what they have gained to others in their surroundings.

## What the project included:

The project included the development of a paper entitled, “The Condition of Young Palestinian Women’s Practice of Digital Rights and the Protection of their Digital Security in the Palestinian Refugee Camps,” by researcher Razan Barghouti, who stressed the need to develop qualitative, diagnostic, analytical and original studies of all the problems and challenges facing women in their exercise of digital rights and their protection from digital violence directed against them, developing specialized training programs and awareness campaigns targeting women about digital rights, digital security, and digital gender-based violence directed against them, and raising community awareness about what women face in the digital world of gender-based violence, in cooperation with the Ministry of Women’s Affairs and the Cybercrime Department in the Palestinian Police, and providing psychological support to women survivors of gender-based digital violence.

The paper also recommended the need for reviewing and amending Decree-Law No. 10 of 2018 regarding cybercrime and its amendments in line with what is stipulated in international conventions and covenants related to human rights, and that the decree include legal provisions that criminalize violence against women in particular, in addition to networking between the various institutions relevant to the promotion of digital rights and the preservation of digital security in Palestine, and the creation of an institutional umbrella that brings them together.

## “Wujood” Project

During 2022, we concluded the Wujood Project, which we implemented through our member associations in partnership with village and local councils, popular refugee camp committees, and community institutions in four localities in the Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, in cooperation with the Young Women’s Christian Association of Sweden, with funding by the Swedish Mission Council.

### Our Goal:

Our goal is to enable young women and men in the age group of 17-35 years to claim their social and economic rights and to develop specialized young women and men trainers in the field of UN Security Council Resolutions No. 1325 and No. 2250.

We held multiple training courses on lobbying and advocacy skills, coordination and networking mechanisms, campaign management and protection under international law, and on women’s rights and their protection under occupation in accordance with relevant international resolutions, especially Security Council Resolution No. 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and the implementation of youth initiatives and campaigns that contribute to creating a human rights environment in the targeted areas.

### What the projects included:

The project included several community youth initiatives, in several marginalized areas.







### **Bayan Al-Khasib - Aroua Village:**

"I benefited from the Wujood Project in terms of learning my role and the need for me to be active and influential in my community."

### **Aseel Anbar - Jalazoun refugee camp:**

"Girls in my camp live with many challenges, including blackmail and electronic exploitation, because they do not know their rights and the role of official institutions in providing them with protection. We implemented many activities that opened the way for the exchange of opinions and information, I am happy that I was able to influence and create change in my camp and provide protection and prevent girls and boys too from falling into the trap of exploitation and blackmail."

### **Ghadeer Ahmed - Deir Abu Mishaal Village :**

"I consider myself influential and during this initiative I was able to raise my voice and the voice of women regarding the need to end violence in schools, both by teachers and parents, and among the students themselves. We opened the way for children to express themselves and have a dialogue with parents about the need to contain their children and create safe spaces with them to support them and protect them from bullying and violence against them."



## Young Women Leadership Academy

During 2022, we launched the Young Women Leadership Academy (She Leads), as part of the Program for Political and Civic Participation of Youth in Palestine (Youth Leads), which is implemented by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and funded by the European Union.

We celebrated the graduation of the first cohort of the academy with the participation of 18 young women who were selected according to specific criteria and received 200 training hours that included theoretical and practical skills related to planning, networking and other skills that prepare girls for community leadership, in addition to educational trips and seminars with international institutions, which resulted in the transmission of many ideas to the participants.

The academy constitutes a new model based on international experiences. This model was built and developed in Palestine as a youth leadership program with an atypical learning approach for young women between the ages of 23 and 29.



### Our Goal:

The academy aims to empower young women to become active participants and contributors to the Palestinian society, develop their knowledge of the basic concepts necessary to understand contemporary social issues, including those related to political participation and leadership, assess needs and analyze obstacles to the development and implementation of policies and programs related to leadership for young women, and strengthen knowledge, skills and connections with governmental and non-governmental opportunities for young women, through organized training courses and dialogues with institutions.





### Noor Saleh:

"I am very proud of my decision to join the Young Women Leadership Academy. I have had many irreplaceable opportunities. I attended rich meetings with great coaches, met a team of 18 young women who are full of energy, in addition to receiving job training that helped us build strong relations with strong institutions in the country. I am proud of the presence of academies and institutions in the country that place the bulk of their focus on women and their rights and support them economically, psychologically and academically. I thank everyone who participated in building and accomplishing this wonderful work, including coordinators, donors, trainers, and participants."



### Leila Sarkaji:

"It is a great honor and motivation for me to be part of the first cohort of She Leads Academy. Now I can work on the change that I want to see in the world, especially since the academy provided us with the opportunity for job training. I can now transfer information and experiences and apply the things I learned in the theoretical training and practical meetings. I am currently working to inspire others to achieve more, learn more, do more, and become more. As the American entrepreneur Sheryl Sandberg said: We cannot change what we do not know, and once we know, we can only change."

## SINDYAN: PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN FAMILIES

Based on the importance of providing psychological support to Palestinian families, we launched the **Sindyan Project**: Psychosocial Support and Empowerment for Families in East Jerusalem and Area C in the Governorates of Ramallah, Al-Bireh, Tubas and the Northern Jordan Valley, funded by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the occupied Palestinian territory, under the supervision of Terre des Hommes-Switzerland.

**The project is being implemented in the following communities:** Kafr Nima, Saffa, Deir Abu Mishaal, Ain Al-Bayda, Tammun, and Aqaba. It targets Palestinian families, including women, girls, men, boys, especially people with disabilities.

**It aims to** strengthen and provide emergency child protection responses, adult and youth mental health services, and responses to women and girls who are survivors of gender-based violence.



Sara | Years 12  
Palestinian

سارة | 12 عاماً  
فلسطينية الجنسية

أصبحت أُعبر عن نفسي ومشاعري بدون تردد أو  
خجل أستطيع الآن أن أتعامل مع ضغوط الحياة بشكل  
أفضل، أنا الآن أكثر تفاؤلاً وأماناً وأملًا .

I express myself and my feelings  
without hesitation or embarrassment now. I can  
handle the pressure of life better. I feel safer,  
more optimistic and hopeful.

تم تغيير الأسم لغاية حماية الهوية.

Name has been changed to protect identity.



The project includes awareness meetings on mental health, workshops on empowering adolescent and adult children with mechanisms to deal with stress and manage challenges, groups for adolescent children (12-18 years) on self-awareness and strengthening their role in their societies, awareness meetings on violence and its effects on the family, empowerment groups for women and girls and providing a safe space for them, and individual sessions for adults and children. The project activities and places were chosen to be friendly to people with disabilities.

## OUR COMMUNITY CENTERS: AN INCUBATOR TO CARE FOR CHILDREN AND ENHANCE THEIR COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT :

During 2022, the two kindergartens in the refugee camps of Aqabat Jaber in the Jericho and the Jordan Valley governorate and Jalazoun in Ramallah and Al-Bireh governorate, and the nursery and kindergarten in Jerusalem, continued to provide their services to the local community despite the challenges and difficult economic conditions.

Kindergartens use the methodology of activating learning and teaching that 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 he/she enters the nursery, which meets his/her physical, emotional, social and mental needs, and develops the creativity inherent within him/her and expands his/her areas of interest.

As part of our quest to ensure the provision of safe spaces for children for learning and creativity, and to strengthen the role of childhood and learning centers in the national associations, we launched, during 2022, an international campaign to mobilize support for the Jalazoun and Aqaba Jabr centers, in light of the scarcity of resources and the difficult economic situation of refugees in the camps, which prevents many from meeting the payment of tuition and fees they incur.



### **Aqabat Jabr Kindergarten:**

42 children benefited from the kindergarten's services during the school year 2021-2022, and 45 children were registered during the school year 2022-2023.

### **Al-Jalazoun Kindergarten:**

More than 80 children benefited from the kindergarten's services during the school year 2021-2022, and 80 children were registered during the school year 2022-2023

### **Al-Quds Nursery and Kindergarten:**

31 children benefited from the nursery and kindergarten services during the school year 2021-2022.

Al-Quds Nursery and Kindergarten also organized summer camps and extracurricular courses for children in ballet, gymnastics and martial arts, with the aim of creating space for children for creative expression in a healthy and sound body under professional and committed supervision, aiming to develop children's skills within extra-curricular activities and programs. The East Jerusalem YWCA differs from others in these activities, as they run in parallel with the school year.



## OUR FUTURE DIRECTIONS:

During 2022, we began implementing our strategic plan for the next five years 2022-2026, which is based on the continuous work of the YWCA and its member associations towards the economic empowerment of women, just peace and social development.

### We worked on :

Based on the plan, we worked to develop interventions and tools by including interventions related to entrepreneurship for women and young women, and we succeeded in that through several projects that we implemented during 2022. We look forward to continuing to develop these interventions in the coming years, in cooperation with our international and local partners.

## OUR STRATEGIC PLAN:

Our strategic plan is based on four main goals that represent the main historical work directions of the YWCA, with the gradual development of interventions and tools through the three YWCAs and their community centers, which are: **economic empowerment of women and young women that helps them access economic opportunities and decent work, social innovation that contributes to building Palestinian youth and the development of local communities, a society that practices an approach based on respect for human rights, and preserving the historical legacy of the YWCA and its administrative and financial sustainability.**

During 2022, we continued our lobbying and advocacy campaigns for women's rights, both locally and internationally, by strengthening our partnership with YWCAs in the countries of the Middle East, such as Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, in addition to our partnership with YWCAs in various countries of the world.

Pride in what we offer to our Palestinian society is the motive for our pride in partnership with all components and groups of our 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, as well as the staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to achieve the goals of the YWCA.

## INTERNALLY:

Internally, we continued to build the capabilities of the work team, strengthen the structure of the YWCA, and support the associations under its umbrella, based on the principles of transparency, good governance, professionalism, and sustainability standards, in addition to improving the digital environment within the organization in line with global developments and changes towards digital transformation and growth.

The YWCA's administration and staff held workshops in the field of strategic planning for programs and projects, as well as periodic meetings to discuss and follow up on work and exchange visions and ideas to achieve the desired success.

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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 the YWCA's staff and associations in the city of Bethlehem during the Christmas period. The annual meeting aimed at strengthening the bonds of cooperation and partnership, and serve as a token of love and appreciation for all the efforts made for the sake of the YWCA's advancement and continuous development.

## CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR MISSION, PRINCIPLES AND GOALS:

The YWCA continues its unremitting efforts to develop its interventions and work mechanisms, in accordance with its noble mission, 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 the society, influence decision-making and promote social transformation. We empower them with skills and knowledge to facilitate their entry into the labor market and obtain income-generating work. We work to raise their awareness of their rights, strengthen their advocacy capacity, and collectively promote gender-sensitive economic policies.



### We work on:

The YWCA also works to **increase youth opportunities for learning and civic participation:** Palestinian youth, especially young women, have 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 free of violence. We work to raise awareness of their rights and strengthen their advocacy capacity.



### Additionally:



In addition, the YWCA supports **initiatives towards a Palestine that enjoys peace and security**: Women and youth in Palestine have enough strength and perseverance to contribute to a society where the rights of all are respected. We promote their human rights to build a just and sustainable peace in Palestine, and we promote their participation in decision-making. We also influence policy change, based on international agreements, UN Security Council Resolution No. 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 is a unique opportunity for us to make the challenges and struggles of the Palestinian people, especially women and youth, more visible to the international community. It is also an extraordinary opportunity to exchange experiences and best practices.

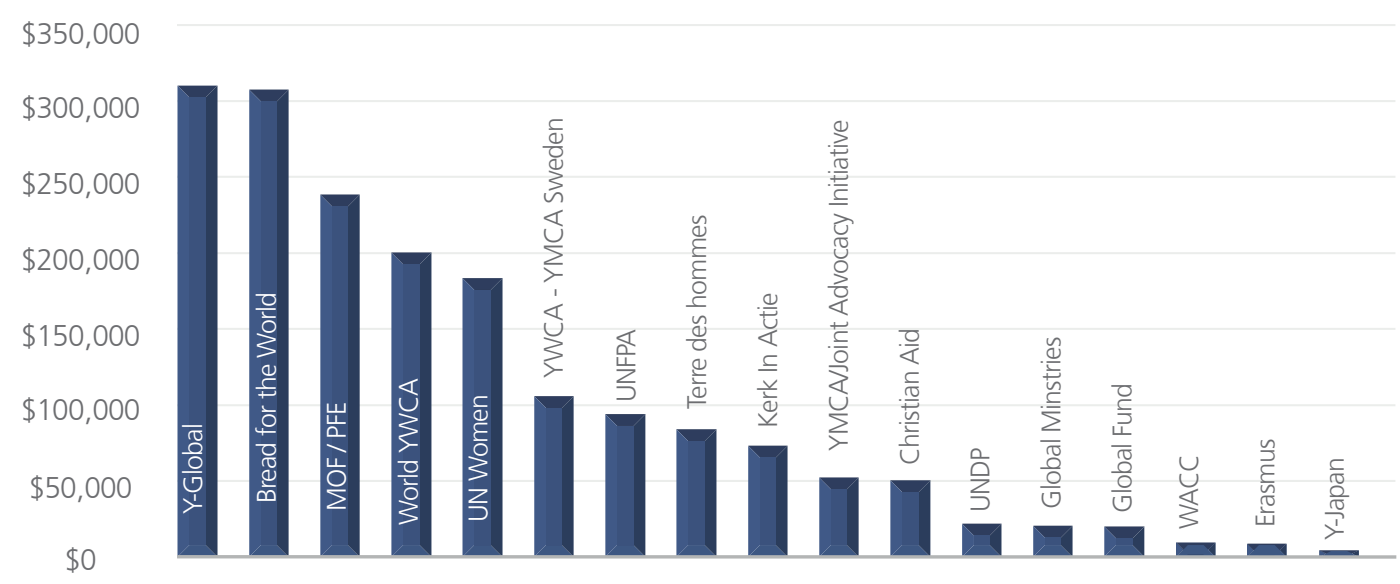
## DIVERSIFYING PARTNERS TO ENSURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

We continued to work diligently towards diversifying partners and supporters to ensure financial sustainability. We have succeeded in expanding the YWCA's donor base by communicating with a larger number of partners, in addition to implementing a number of crowdfunding campaigns with the aim of raising funds from the public in the world.

During 2022, the YWCA succeeded in building new strategic partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships with institutions, donors and international partners, which contributed to opening new financing channels and an increase of the mobilization of resources by developing innovative project proposals that are in line with the needs of the groups benefiting from our programs.

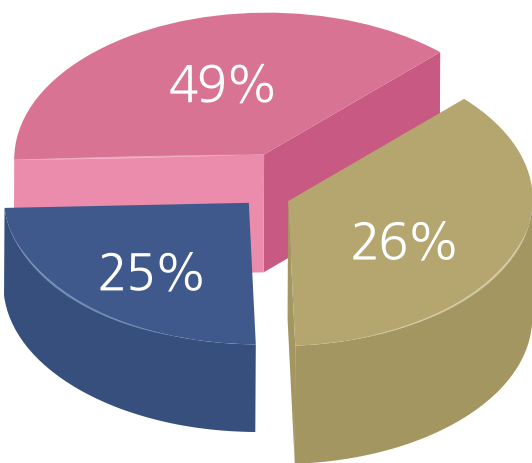


GRANTS ACCORDING TO PARTNERS AND FUNDERS



INVESTMENTS BASED ON BUSINESS AXES IN 2022

- Just Peace & Promoting Women’s Rights & Advocacy
- Youth Leadership Training and Civic EngagementEngagement
- Economic Justice & Access to Employment



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

We extend all appreciation and gratitude to all our partners for your trust, as you are the architects of this success that was achieved thanks to your support and partnerships with us. We are determined to continue our efforts, working together to pursue further achievements with a keen eye on service to our people and our beloved homeland.

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

We thank you all for your support and continuing efforts and for your belief in our ability to support the Palestinian people. Your support for us enables us to realize achievements.

## **YWCA Team and Volunteers**

For your dedication to your work despite all circumstances and for your high sense of responsibility in carrying out the work with and professionalism in order to serve our people. We extend all thanks, appreciation and praise for your outstanding efforts and hard work.



YWCAPalestine



[www.ywca.ps](http://www.ywca.ps)