



MA'AN Development Center



DIARY | 2014

25 Years of Sustainable Development & Community Empowerment



MA'AN

25

Development Center

Anniversary

DIARY

2014

Personal Data

Name

Address

Office Tel. No.

Home Tel. No.

Mobile No.

Blood Group

2014 Year Planning Calender

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
JANUARY					1	2	3
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2014 Year Planning Calender

	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.
JULY				1	2	3	4
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	27	28	29	30	31		

Palestine in Figures



Area

Land Area of historic Palestine: 26,323 km²

Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt): 6,020 km²

West Bank: 5,655 km² (130 km long, 40-65 km wide)

Gaza Strip: 365 km² (45 km long and 5-12 km wide)

Water Area: 438 km²

Green Line: approx. 320 km

Completed construction on Separation Wall: 439.7 km (62% of planned barrier's length)

West Bank land area cut off by the Separation Wall (including East Jerusalem): 670.92 km² (11.9% of West Bank)

Population and Demography

oPt: 4,356,931 (2012)

West Bank: 2,684,066 (includes East Jerusalem)

Gaza Strip: 1,672,865

Population by Gender (Male/Female):

oPt: 2,212,892/2,144,039

West Bank: 1,363,315/1,320,751

Gaza Strip: 849,577/823,288

Fertility Rate: 4.1 births per woman (West Bank: 3.8, Gaza Strip: 4.9) (2010)

Crude Birth Rate: 32.7 (2012)

Crude Death Rate: 3.9 (2012)

Average Household Size:

oPt: 5.6 (2012)

West Bank: 5.3

Gaza Strip: 6.1

Population Density: (capita/km²) (2012)

oPt: 724

West Bank: 475

Gaza Strip: 4,583

Land Use and Agriculture (2011)

Area of oPt: 6,020 km²

Area of oPt by Type of Use:

Cultivated Land: 931.5 km² (15.5% total area of oPt)

Forested Land: 101.4 km² (1.7% total area of oPt)

Education

Literacy Rate for Persons 15 Years and Over: 95.3% (2011)

No. of Schools: 2,707 (2011-12)

No. of Students: 1,129,538

(562,162 boys and 567,376 girls) (2011-12)

No. of Teachers: 52,333 (2011-12)

No. of Classes: 37,101 (2011-12)

Students per Class: 30.4 (2011-12)

Government schools: 30.1

UNRWA schools: 35.9

Private schools: 23.0

No. of University Students: 201,389 (2010-11)

No. of University Graduates: 28,753 (2009-10)

Health

No. of Hospitals: 76 (2010)

Number of Hospital Beds: 5,108 (2010)

Physicians per 1000 people: *West Bank:* 1.3; *Gaza Strip:* 3.2 (2009)

Nurses per 1000 people: *West Bank:* 1.6; *Gaza Strip:* 5.5 (2009)

Dentists per 1000 people: oPt: 0.6 (2009)

Labor (June 2013)

Unemployment Rate:

oPt: 20.6% (*Male:* 17.6%; *Female:* 33.6%)

West Bank: 16.8% (*Male:* 14.9%; *Female:* 25.1%)

Gaza Strip: 27.9% (*Male:* 22.7%; *Female:* 50.4%)

Labor Force Participation Rate:

oPt: 43.0% (*Male:* 68.7%; *Female:* 16.6%)

West Bank: 44.4% (*Male:* 70.9%; *Female:* 17.3%)

Gaza Strip: 40.4% (*Male:* 64.8%; *Female:* 15.4%)

Nominal Daily Median Wage for Employees:

oPt: 90.9 NIS (US\$25.50)

West Bank: 100.9 NIS (US\$28.32)

Gaza: 63.9 NIS (US\$17.93)

Percentage of Employed Children (Paid or Unpaid):

oPt: 3.5%

West Bank: 5.0%

Gaza Strip: 1.1%

Palestinians working in Israel:

With a permit: 48,000

Without permit: 34,000

Daily wage: 172.1 NIS (US\$ 48.1)¹

Economics (2012)

GDP: US\$ 6,797.3 million

GDP per capita:

oPt: US\$ 1,679.3

West Bank: US\$2,093.3

Gaza Strip: US\$1,074.5

Total Exports: US\$ 720 million (2011)

Total Imports: US\$ 4,221 million (2011)

Environment

Available Quantities of Water: 328.0 million m³ (2011)

Annual Quantity of Water Purchased from Israeli Water

Company (Mekorot) for Domestic Use: 56.9 million m³ (2011)

Percentage of Households Connected to the Public Water

Network: 91.8% (2011)

Percentage of Households Connected to Waste Water

Network: (2012)

oPt: 57.4%

West Bank: 40.2%

Gaza Strip: 83.1%

**Percentage of Households That Use Cesspits for Waste Water:
(2011)**

oPt: 44.3%

West Bank: 58.6%

Gaza Strip: 16.9%

1- http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_LFSQ22013E.pdf



Palestine in Focus

Photo by Hanan Abu Rahma



General:

- The ratio between the sexes has remained stable during the past five years: 49.2% (females) to 50.8% (males) The percentage of female-headed households in the Palestinian Territory rose from 8.8% in 2007 to 9.3% in 2011. The percentage is higher in the West Bank than in the Gaza Strip: 10.0 percent and 7.9 percent respectively in 2011.
- In the Gaza Strip, 57.6 percent of females were married compared to 56.0 percent in the West Bank. The proportion of never-married females in the Gaza Strip is lower than in the West Bank: 35.3 percent and 36.2 percent respectively.

Education:

- The literacy rate among women aged 15 years and over has grown three-fold during 2001-2011 (from 85 percent to 92.6 percent), but the male literacy rate remains higher than that for females (97.9 percent).
- Drop-out rates among females at secondary level are higher than for males, 2.1 percent and 1.9 percent respectively.
- The percentage of males and females enrolled at elementary level is nearly equal. However, the percentage of females enrolled in secondary education is higher than that of males: around 54 percent and 46 percent respectively.
- Students (males and females) at secondary level still prefer to enroll in humanities and scientific disciplines compared to other professional disciplines and female students enroll in humanities more than males.
- More than half (55.0 percent) of teaching staff in government schools are female.

Health:

- Childhood marriage takes place among females: about 36 percent of married women were married before the age of 18 and 5 percent were married before the age of 15.
- Of registered physicians, 14.3 percent were female and 85.7 percent male.
- The percentage of female registered physicians was higher in the West Bank than in the Gaza Strip: 17.8 percent and 10.9 percent respectively.
- More than half of married women used family planning methods: the percentage was lower in the Gaza Strip than the West Bank.
- Although access to methods of family planning is a reproductive health right, the needs of 16 percent of women of reproductive age in the Palestinian Territory were unmet.

Domestic Violence:

- Around 4 out of every 100 women were exposed to some form of violence from their husbands and women in Gaza were exposed to such violence more than women in the West Bank.
- Two-thirds of women who were exposed to violence preferred to say nothing and going to a refuge was a second choice.
- Never-married females were exposed to domestic violence more than males and, in general, violence against never-married persons aged 18-64 years was higher in the Gaza Strip than in the West Bank.
- Among the elderly, 7.9 percent of females and 6.4 percent of males aged 65 years and over had been exposed to violence by an individual in the household.

Labor Force:

- Despite the narrowing of the gap between males and females in labour force participation, male participation remained more than four times higher than that of females in 2011.

- The highest labour force participation level was among females with 13 years of education or more. In contrast, the highest labour force participation among males was among those with one to six years of schooling.
- Services (59.7 percent) and agricultural (22.2 percent) are the main operating sector for employed women.
- Women still work mainly in traditional occupations. More than half of women worked as technicians and specialists and one fifth of women worked in agriculture.
- 72.7 percent of employed women were in paid employment compared to 64.1 percent of men. The percentage of female employers was lower than that for males: 3.9 percent and 7.4 percent respectively.
- The unemployment rate among women with 13 years or more of education was 38.8 percent of female labour force participants compared with 14.8 percent of male labour force participants.
- Women represents one third (32.3 percent) of the employed persons in the agriculture sector in 2011.

Poverty:

- The poverty rate among females in the Gaza Strip was more than twice that of females in the West Bank.
- The proportion of poor households headed by females was higher in the Gaza Strip compared to the West Bank: 39.4 percent and 17.5 percent respectively.

Public Life:

- At universities, 73.2 percent of student council members were male and 26.8 percent female.
- In the Palestinian Territory, 17.9 percent of engineers were female and 82.1 percent male.
- In the press, 17.1 percent of journalists were female and 82.9 percent male.

Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, "Women and Men in Palestine Trends & Statistics, 2012," Code Number 1936 (December 2012).

Distances from Jerusalem

Place	Distance	Direction
Akka	181 km	NW
Bethlehem	10 km	S
Gaza City	104 km	SW
Haifa	157 km	NW
Khalil (Hebron)	36 km	S
Jenin	106 km	N
Jericho	35 km	E
Nablus	63 km	N
Nazareth	135 km	N
Rafah	142 km	SW
Ramallah	16 km	N
Safad	234 km	N
Tiberias	198 km	N
Tulkarem	85 km	NW

Conversions

Length

1 centimeter (cm)	= 10 millimeters (mm)	= .03937 inches (in)
1 decimeter (dm)	= 10 cm	= 3.937 in
1 meter (m)	= 10 dm = 100 cm	= 1.0936 yards (yd)
1 kilometer (km)	= 1000m	= .6214 miles (M)
1 inch (in)		= 2.54 cm
1 foot (ft)	= 12 in	= 30.48 cm
1 yd	= 3 ft = 36 in	= 0.9144 m
1 mile	= 1760 yd	= 1.6093 km

Area

1 sq cm	= 100 sq mm	= 0.155 sq in
1 sq meter	= 10,000 sq cm	= 1.196 sq yd
1 hectare (ha)	= 1000 sq m	= 0.2471 acres
1 sq km	= 100 hectares (ha)	= .03861 sq M
1 sq in		= 6.4516 sq cm
1 sq yd	= 9 square ft	= 0.8361 sq m
1 sq M	= 640 acres	= 2.59 sq km
1 acre	= 4.0468 dunams	

Capacity and volume

1 cu cm (cc)		= 0.0610 cu in
1 cu m	= 1000 cu dm	= 1.3080 cu yd
1 liter (l)	= 1 cu dm = 1000cc	= .2200 gallons (gal)
1 hectoliter (hl)	= 100 l	= 21.997 gal
1 cu in		= 16.387 cc
1 cu ft	=6.23 gal	= 49.86 pints (pt)
1 cu yd	=27 cu ft	= 0.7646 cu m
1 pt		= 20 ounces (oz)
1 gal	= 8 pt	= .16 cu ft

Weight

1 gram (g)	= 1000 milligrams (mg)	= 0.0353 (oz)
1 kilogram (kg)	= 1000 g	= 2.2046 pounds (lb)
1 ton (t)	= 1000 kg	= 2,204.6226 lb
1 oz	= 437.5 grains	= 28.35 g
1 lb	= 16 oz	= 0.4536 kg

Temperature

Temperature conversion	Degree C	Degree F
	0	32
	5	41
Degree F = (1.8*degree C) + 32	20	68
Degree C = (degree F - 32) / 1.8	50	122
	100	212

What is MA'AN?

MA'AN Development Center is an independent Palestinian development and training institution established in January 1989, registered by law as a non-profit organization. The main office is located in Ramallah and the four branch offices are located in Gaza, Khan Younis, Tulkarem and Jenin. MA'AN's work is informed by the necessity of creating independent, self-reliant initiatives that lead to the development of human resources for sustainable development, which incorporate values of self-sufficiency and self-empowerment.

MA'AN's Mission

To partner and work hand in hand with Palestinian NGOs, Community Based organizations, committees and grassroots groups in the poorest and most marginalized areas to improve the quality of their lives and empower them to take a lead in developing their communities and achieving self reliance, steadfastness and sustainable development based on freedom, participation equity & equality, respect for human rights, democracy, and social justice through achieving the following five goals: Improving the food security situation of the poorest and most marginalized sectors of the Palestinian society at the family & community level

Mission Statement:

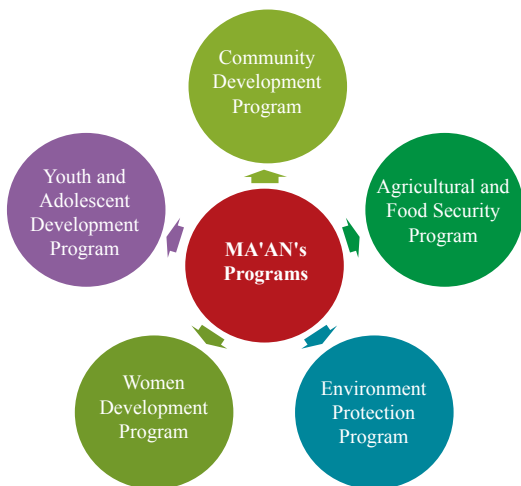
To improve the quality of life for Palestinians and empower them to take a lead in developing their communities and achieving self reliance and sustainable development.

1. Improving the food security situation of the poorest and most marginalized sectors of the Palestinian society at the family & community level
2. To develop and enhance the capacities of the Palestinian NGOs, CBOs and grassroots organizations to be able to fulfill their missions and goals so as to contribute to building a Palestinian civil and democratic society based on political pluralism and respect of human rights
3. To enhance community development and decrease poverty in rural and the most disadvantaged areas
4. To protect and develop the Palestinian environment

5. To raise awareness and advocate for and with the Palestinian community on their national rights at the local, national, and international level

These goals are realized though the following programs:

1. Agricultural and Food Security Program
2. Community Development Program
3. Women Development Program
4. Youth and Adolescent Development Program
5. Environment Protection Program



Capacity Building, Advocacy and Lobbying are cross cutting issues that are tools used throughout MA'AN's programs

Ma'an seeks to reach certain key target groups through their programs and activities. The target groups can be characterized as:

Target Group/Beneficiaries	Programs for this Group
Rural Women	Women Development Program
Youth and Adolescents	Youth and adolescent Development Program
Farmers	Agricultural and Food Security Program
CBOs and their members	Community Development Program
Jordan Valley Citizens	Environment Protection Program Community Development Program



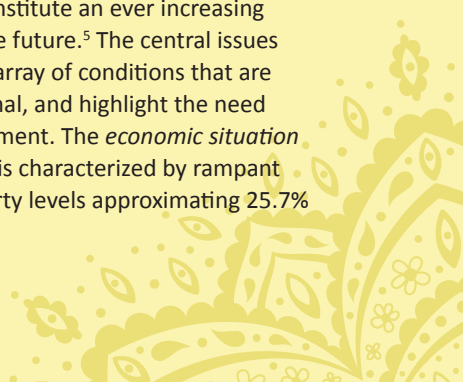
Introduction:

Youth are on the vanguard of radical change in societies throughout the world, pushing the boundaries of social norms, challenging widespread economic exploitation, and, as seen in the emergence of the Arab Awakening, driving revolutions that have brought down dictatorships. Among youth, women and girls, are specifically growing as leaders of that revolutionary movement, overcoming political oppression and certain traditional limitations that suppress their rights in public and private life.

According to the United Nations, *adolescents* are defined as individuals between the ages of 10 and 19, while *youth* are “those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 year.”¹ The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2037 stated that youth play an important part “in every field of human development...they are destined to guide the fortunes of mankind.” Indeed, youth are the leaders, laborers, thinkers, doers, of tomorrow.

While international organizations define *children* to specifically fall between the ages 1 to 9, youth are included within international children’s rights laws, which define any person under the age of 18 to be a child.² This includes the overarching rights framework provided by the 1989 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and its 54 articles, as well as international legislation such as the International Labor Organization’s 1973 Convention concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment.³ Inspired by the struggle of youth throughout the region in the past couple of years, especially in Palestine, the 2014 MA’AN agenda highlights the status of youth in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt).

As per the 2012 statistical review, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) estimates youth comprise 29.8%, or almost one-third of the total population of the oPt.⁴ Recent demographic trends also indicate that youth will constitute an ever increasing proportion of Palestinian society in the future.⁵ The central issues faced by Palestinian youth involve an array of conditions that are both multifaceted and multidimensional, and highlight the need for organically grown youth empowerment. The *economic situation* of Palestinian youth is twofold: first it is characterized by rampant unemployment, and by the high poverty levels approximating 25.7%



Introduction

of the total population, with one quarter of Palestinian *youth* living in relative or deep poverty.⁶ In addition, the *social conditions* of life under occupation involve youth discrimination in the Israeli labor market, geographic distribution, high gender inequality, undermined education, and increasing mental/emotional illness.⁷ Lastly, the widespread lack of *political participation* conducts to 73% of youth stating that they do not belong to any political factions.⁸

Already a marginalized demographic in Palestine, subject to constraining societal norms and paralyzing isolation, youth further suffer under the broad confines and violence of Israeli occupation, which alongside the rest of Palestinian society, fundamentally undermines their basic human rights and thwarts any efforts to develop or attain them.

In the occupied Jordan Valley, for example, youth invariably bear the brunt of socio-economic underdevelopment in the oPt. The lack of appropriate employment opportunities, for instance, has pushed many Palestinians to seek employment in Israeli agricultural settlements where they are normally subjected to exploitation in the form of low wages, a lack of access to social security or insurance, as well as morally degrading and potentially dangerous work. It is estimated that 10,000-20,000 Palestinians work in agricultural settlements in the Jordan Valley, 5.5 percent of whom are under the age of 18. Forced into the labor market at an early age, youth rarely experience healthy psychosocial development. Consequently, they lack the opportunities and the tools necessary for self-expression. This is especially true for girls who hold even more limited options for socially acceptable or safe forums to engage in such activities. Consequently, many young women and girls internalize various forms of disempowerment, and are more inclined to view their needs as non-priority issues.

Despite the challenges, Palestinian youth have remained a galvanizing political, social, and cultural force in the oPt, keeping alive their stories of the ongoing Nakba and the spirit of resistance. In the first Intifada, youth not only went to the streets – armed with stones and demands for freedom – they integrally took part in the intellectual, political, and social discourse that shaped the narrative of the Palestinian liberation struggle for decades to come.

While the Oslo Accords disabled the popular movement, along with the youth that so bravely led it, the importance of youth voices in Palestinian development is pulling itself from the rubble of a failed peace process, and is beginning once more to redefine the Palestinian struggle.

In the 2014 agenda on Palestinian youth, MA'AN has attempted to cover challenges and opportunities facing youth in the occupied territories. These topics are by no means exhaustive, as Palestinian youth experiences are unique throughout the region, from Palestinians living in Israel, to those in exile throughout the Middle East, and elsewhere. MA'AN hopes that the agenda paints an intimate portrait however, of life for young Palestinians in the 1967 borders and prompts further discussion and more importantly, action in demand for their rights alongside the rest of Palestinian society.

The topics discussed in the agenda range from young Palestinian leaders in the Diaspora, to youth volunteerism, the struggle of youth in administrative detention and prison, and the experience of youth living in annexed Jerusalem.

(Endnotes)

- 1 United Nations Dept of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) on Youth: <http://social.un.org/index/Youth/FAQs.aspx>
- 2 Human Rights Education Association *Children & Youth* Accessed in July 2013. http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=146.
- 3 Human Rights Education Association *Children & Youth* Accessed in July 2013. http://www.hrea.org/index.php?doc_id=146.
- 4 Solidarite Socialiste Programme *Country Programme* 2011-2013 p. 14.
- 5 Sharek Youth Forum *The Status of Youth in Palestine 2010* <http://www.sharek.ps/new/userfiles/file/publications/Research%20and%20Studies/SharekYouthForum-Promise-or-Peril-The-Status-of-Youth-in-Palestine.pdf>.
- 6 Sharek Youth Forum, *Status of Youth in Palestine* 2013 p. 11 <http://www.sharek.ps/new/report%202013e.pdf>.
- 7 Solidarite Socialiste Programme *Country Programme* 2011-2013 p. 14-18.
- 8 Sharek Youth Forum, *Status of Youth in Palestine* 2013 p. 11 <http://www.sharek.ps/new/report%202013e.pdf>.



January





Health,

Health Care and Access



Health, Health Care and Access

The on-going Israeli occupation continues to create systematic barriers towards health , health care and issues of access to medical facilities. The current framework of check-points and permits creates barriers for communities to access medical assistance. Further the building of the Israeli Wall or Security Barrier has added to a devastating health status for Palestinian communities. These conditions impact Palestinian communities collectively however leaves Palestinian youth far more vulnerable in specific cases where there is a need to address both physical and mental health concerns.

Background:

It should be noted that the East Jerusalem area hosts six key hospitals that continue to be the main provider for specialized health care both the occupied Palestinian territories. The identified hospitals have existing capacity to deal with a range of specialized treatment that remains largely unavailable and inaccessible to the West Bank and Gaza communities. This includes dialysis, oncology, open-heart surgery, neurology, neonatal care, eye surgery and rehabilitation for children with critical disabilities. As of 1993,

Israel introduced a policy that continues to discriminate towards Palestinians that do not hold residency in the East Jerusalem area, whereby restricting permits to access Jerusalem even in the context of health care. ¹ In a Special Focus report produced via OCHA, it was highlighted that, “ the patient’s physician [must] submit a request to the Referral Abroad Department (RAD) of the Palestinian Ministry of Health which determines the eligibility of the patient and the hospital required.” ² This is then followed by a process which entails setting up appointments with the respective medical facility, and following that a request must be submitted to the Israeli Civil Administration to issue a permit for a period to meet appointments or surgical procedures.

The lengthy and stressful process indeed has its own impact on communities, however it has an added effect on the youth, in particular males between the ages of 15 to 30. It has been documented that male applicants within the ages of 15 to 30 are systematically denied permits on the grounds of security. And it is indeed this portion of the population that is largely and systematically targeted via violent

incursions and on-going military occupation.

Access to East Jerusalem:

As indicated earlier West Bank ID card holders inclusive of emergency cases continue to require permits in order to access health care services across the six Palestinian non-profit specialized hospitals in the East Jerusalem area. Here some key areas of concern include the policy and process of the framework, and often the time period allocated for treatment and surgical procedures which fall short of the required time necessary for appropriate health care. In particular, “ for certain categories such as dialysis patients who must travel two or three to East Jerusalem hospitals, Israel has begun to issue longer-term permits. However, it can be difficult for parents or family members of sick children to receive permits to accompany the patients.”³

In addition to complex policies and procedures of permits, Palestinians face structural barriers which include physical barriers which means waiting in crowded lines at the check-point, arbitrary denial despite having a permit, and mobility issues whereby ambulance transfer cases often face difficulty in crossing check-points. It was noted that,

“ between January and May 2012, the main Emergency Medical Services provider, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), conducted a total of 591 ambulances transfers to East Jerusalem, of which only 41 were able to access directly, with the remaining 550 transferring patients using ‘back-to-back’ procedures at a checkpoint (moving the patient from a Palestinian-plated ambulance to an Israeli-plated ambulance).”⁴ Also, it was documented that in rare emergency cases the Israeli Civil Administration authorized the direct entry of Palestinian ambulances at checkpoints, which according to the PRCS amounts to an approximate 54 cases or 5 per cent of ambulances that were granted direct access in 2011.⁵ As of 2012, the rate of permits granted to persons in both Gaza and the West Bank was an overall 79.7 percent.⁶

Health concerns:

The on-going military occupation creates an environment where the youth in particular continue to struggle with heightened level of anxiety, anger, depression and hopelessness.⁷ These conditions are attributed to a variety of reasons including lack of opportunities towards livelihoods, barriers to education, and un-employment. The current

framework has consistently failed to create opportunities for youth and even within emerging private sectors existing opportunities have limited growth. Thus, a deterioration of mental health is visible amongst younger Palestinians which is coupled with the rise in drug abuse and crime.⁸ There is a clear gap in how such issues are being addressed at the community level and given lack of awareness, campaigns and appropriate support for rehabilitation programs there are clear risks towards escalated levels of youth disempowerment connected to poor levels of mental and physical health. A series of studies reveal that chronic diseases are increasing amongst Palestinian youth, some key identified issues include the rise in heart diseases, diabetes, high blood pressure and cancer.⁹ According to Dr. Omayya Khamash, Head of the Department of Health of UNRWA, the most serious of health concerns are around Palestinian youth due to physical inactivity, high levels of consumption of nicotine, and obesity where the affected population rates are as high 30 percent of youth.¹⁰

To conclude, the current state of health, health care and access for Palestinian youth reveals a number of concerning trends which include both psychological

and physical illnesses exacerbated by the on-going military-settler occupation. The current climate around youth has led towards their systematic disempowerment, which is coupled with poor lifestyle habits, escalated levels of smoking, drug abuse, depression and anxiety towards their future. Poor diet and nutrition coupled with poor environmental care and management are leading to an increase in chronic diseases.

(Endnotes)

1- United Nations: Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (oPt). 2010. Special Focus: The Impact of the Barrier on Health. For more info: http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_special_focus_july_2010_english.pdf

2- Ibid.

3- http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_movement_and_access_report_september_2012_english.pdf

4- Ibid.

5- PRCS data as cited by WHO, *Barriers to Palestinians' Right to Access Health Services in the oPt*.

6- Ibid, p. 12.

7- Sharek Youth Forum *The Status of Youth in Palestine 2013* 2013 p.36. <http://www.sharek.ps/new/report%202013e.pdf>.

8- Ibid.

9- Sharek Youth Forum *The Status of Youth in Palestine 2013* 2013. <http://www.sharek.ps/new/report%202013e.pdf> p. 34.

10- Ibid.

“The lengthy and stressful process indeed has its own impact on communities, however it has an added effect on the youth, in particular males between the ages of 15 to 30. It has been documented that male applicants within the ages of 15 to 30 are systematically denied permits on the grounds of security. And it is indeed this portion of the population that is largely and systematically targeted via violent incursions and on-going military occupation.”

1 Wednesday

الأربعاء

New Year's Day

2 Thursday

الخميس

3 Friday

الجمعة

JANUARY

كانون الثاني

W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January

كانون الثاني

4

Saturday

السبت

5

Sunday

الأحد

6

Monday

الاثنين

Epiphany

NOTES

ملاحظات

JANUARYكانون الثاني

W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

7

Tuesday

الثلاثاء

Christmas Day (Orthodox)

8

Wednesday

الأربعاء

9

Thursday

الخميس

10

Friday

الجمعة

January
كانون الثاني

11 Saturday السبت

12 Sunday الأحد

13 Monday الإثنين

Mawlid Al Nabi (Birth of Prophet
Mohamed), expected date

NOTES ملاحظات

JANUARYكانون الثاني

W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

14 Tuesday الثلاثاء

15 Wednesday الأربعاء

16 Thursday الخميس

17 Friday الجمعة

January

كانون الثاني

18

Saturday

السبت

19

Sunday

الأحد

20

Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

JANUARY														كانون الثاني																
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

21 Tuesday الثلاثاء

22 Wednesday الأربعاء

23 Thursday الخميس

24 Friday الجمعة

January
كانون الثاني

25 Saturday السبت

26 Sunday الأحد

27 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

JANUARY

كانون الثاني

W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

28 Tuesday الثلاثاء

29 Wednesday الأربعاء

30 Thursday الخميس

31 Friday الجمعة

JANUARY														كانون الثاني																
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



February





Jerusalem Youth

Jerusalem Youth

Historically, Jerusalem (al-Quds in Arabic) was a major social and economic center of Palestine, in addition to its large market, it also provided services such as hospitals, schools, and universities.

The ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948 and what became the beginning of the Nakba transformed this ancient city into the epicenter of the state of Israel's occupation. In 1967, Israel annexed East Jerusalem and since that time it has rapidly accelerated policies of forced displacement and Judaization – the method through which the State of Israel has led concentrated campaigns to rid historical Palestinian land of its Arab history, and replace it with a new Jewish-Israeli identity.¹ Around 293,000 Palestinians, of which 18 percent are between the ages of 15 and 24,² currently reside in East Jerusalem, in addition to 200,000 Israeli settlers who reside in illegal settlements.

East Jerusalem Palestinians are defined as permanent residents of Israel rather than its citizens. To keep their residency status, they must prove that their “center of life” lies in the Jerusalem municipal boundaries as defined by the Israeli authorities. Residency is not passed on by the parents to their children by right

and children can only receive permanent residence under certain conditions. Therefore, children in the same family can have different statuses or parents can face difficulties in registering their children: around 10,000 children are unregistered residents of Jerusalem.³

Israeli policies of separate and unequal development among Jewish and Palestinian residents of Jerusalem have made life intolerable in Palestinian neighborhoods. Young people, an already disenfranchised part of Palestinian society, are violently denied their basic rights. Settler attacks and arbitrary arrests have become a rite of passage of sorts for a youth's entrance into the reality of Palestinian life in an increasingly suffocated urban struggle to maintain Palestinian existence in the grip of protracted annexation.

Youth-specific issues are highlighted in the status of education and access to educational facilities. There are various bodies providing educational services in Jerusalem including private entities, UNRWA, municipality schools, and Waqf or schools sponsored by a church or mosque, as well as informal education providers. Quality of education among these various

bodies differs widely due to government neglect and physical fragmentation of neighborhoods, which seriously limits students' ability to safely reach their schools.

Jerusalem schools face a chronic shortage of classrooms: 1,100 classrooms are required to accommodate Palestinian children and many existing facilities are substandard or unsuitable.⁴ Moreover, many pupils are not enrolled in any educational institution and many fail to complete the secondary educational cycle. According to Jawad Siyam, Director of the Wadi Hilweh Information Center in Silwan, before Oslo, Jerusalem had a much stronger educational level and higher student attendance; after the agreements, education levels have drastically decreased. A drop in matriculation can be strongly attributed to settler attacks and arbitrary arrests of students on their way to school. The State of Israel's policies of physical enclosure and settlement expansion have also created unsuitable transportation infrastructure for students and communities to reach schools in other parts of the city. Siyam notes that the expansion of the City of David settlement in Silwan has cut off students from the main road that used to lead to their schools,

“Settler attacks and arbitrary arrests have become a rite of passage of sorts for a youth's entrance into the reality of Palestinian life in an increasingly suffocated urban struggle to maintain Palestinian existence in the grip of protracted annexation.”

further contributing to high drop-out rates. Siyam also comments that the majority of school drop-outs are boys who opt to work instead of receive an education that they know will not increase their employability in an Israeli job market, especially one that is restricted to remedial labor for the vast majority of underprivileged Palestinians.⁵

The construction of the Separation Wall has further impacted the life of the Palestinians in Jerusalem very negatively. Around 62 percent of Palestinians in East Jerusalem 10 years of age or older are forced to move out of areas surrounded by the Wall to reach educational

and health services, to go to work, for tourism, and for social and entertainment activities.⁶ As Siyam mentioned, “sometimes you have schools and facilities behind the wall. The parents have the cruel dilemma of choosing to send their children to school but losing the Jerusalem ID or, keeping it, but depriving their children from receiving an education. In the end, it is a lose-lose situation.”⁷

(Endnotes)

- 1 Nadia Abu El-Hajj, *Facts on the Ground: Archeological Practice and Territorial Self-Fashioning in Israeli Society* (London: The University of Chicago Press, 2001).
- 2 Palestine Vision, study on Jerusalem, <http://www.palvision.ps/static.php?lang=1&id=2>
- 3 OCHA, *East Jerusalem: Key Humanitarian Concerns*, March 2011, http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_jerusalem_report_2011_03_23_web_english.pdf
- 4 OCHA, *East Jerusalem: Key Humanitarian Concerns*, December 2012, http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_Jerusalem_FactSheet_December_2012_english.pdf
- 5 Jawad Siyam, Interview conducted by MA'AN Development Center, July 9th, 2013
- 6 Sabbaneh, Dr. Luay (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics) *Jerusalem's Economic Shifting and the Gap between City's Arabs and Jews* http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_PCBS/Researchs/Jerusalem_economic_Shifting.pdf
- 7 Jawad Siyam, Interview conducted by MA'AN Development Center, July 9th, 2013



February
شباط

2014



FEBRUARY

شباط

S S M T W T F							S S M T W T F							S S M T W T F							S S M T W T F						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February

شباط

1

Saturday

السبت

2

Sunday

الأحد

3

Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

FEBRUARY																												شباط
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

February
شباط

2014

4 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

World Cancer Day

5 Wednesday

الأربعاء

6 Thursday

الخميس

7 Friday

الجمعة

FEBRUARY

شباط

S S M T W T F							S S M T W T F							S S M T W T F							S S M T W T F						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February

شباط

8 Saturday السبت

9 Sunday الأحد

10 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

FEBRUARY														شباط													
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February
شباط

2014

11 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

12 Wednesday

الأربعاء

13 Thursday

الخميس

14 Friday

الجمعة

FEBRUARY

شباط

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February
شباط

15 Saturday السبت

16 Sunday الأحد

17 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

FEBRUARY																												شباط
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

18 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

19 Wednesday

الأربعاء

20 Thursday

الخميس

World Day of Social Justice

21 Friday

الجمعة

February

شباط

22 Saturday السبت

23 Sunday الأحد

24 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

FEBRUARY																												شباط
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	

25 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

Massacre of the Ibrahimi
mosque in Hebron-1994

26 Wednesday

الأربعاء

27 Thursday

الخميس

28 Friday

الجمعة



March





Youth in the Jordan Valley



Youth in the Jordan Valley

The Jordan Valley is the easternmost stretch of land in the occupied West Bank, bordering the Jordan River from the Dead Sea in the south to the Beisan crossing in the north. In total, the area comprises 28.5% of the West Bank and is naturally rich in water, fertile land, and other resources. Unfortunately, due to the gross restrictions in place on Palestinians in the area by Israel, poverty rates and extreme isolation of youth is rampant.

In the Jordan Valley, 95% of the area is either Area C, or natural reserves, which means it is off limits to Palestinian development. The remaining 5% is allocated to already established villages like Zbeidat, Marj Na'a'je, Ein al-Beida, and others. Palestinian areas are restricted to enclosed, geographic pockets - surrounded in every direction by Area C, settlements, and military bases. The World Bank has even gone so far as to declare the Jordan Valley "Israel's Eastern Separation Zone."¹

This de facto archipelago of Palestinian development in the Jordan Valley means that villages are intentionally cut off from each other and ultimately have minimal contacts with other Palestinian communities. This isolation impacts various aspects of Palestinian life in the Jordan Valley,

but perhaps the most destructive effect is on the economy. First and foremost, if Palestinians wish to obtain employment with a Palestinian company or employer they must either travel to Jericho, the main city of the Jordan Valley, which can be upwards of 90 kilometers away, or they must travel to other parts of the West Bank. There are typically only a few jobs at most that are available in the village itself that are operated by a Palestinian employer. Second, because of a lack in public transportation, it is almost impossible to get to work in a neighboring village and come home every day. They either need to abandon the job or purchase a personal car, which is an extremely expensive option. Ultimately, most Palestinians are forced to work in neighboring settlements for a pittance. Palestinian workers are paid a fraction of their guaranteed wage and their work is very tough manual labor with no recourse should anything happen to their physical being.

"Currently, I am in my last year of university, studying math. After that I wish to find employment in mathematics, either as a teacher or maybe as an adviser. The problem is all the jobs in that field are in Jericho, which means I would have to walk about

3-3.5 kilometers to the main highway very early in the morning to hopefully catch the one bus going in the morning. Then I would have to catch that same bus back a number of hours after I would finish work, and then walk again from the main highway to my house. I would end up spending too much of my day away from my wife and child, and spending a lot of money on inefficient transportation. So in the end I will probably continue working on the settlement waiting for a teaching position at the school in the village, which might take eight to ten years.” -- ‘Ali - Fasayil

A secondary result of the extreme isolation is the lack of interaction between Palestinians in the Jordan Valley and Palestinians in rest of the West Bank, and a political disconnect between Jordan Valley Palestinians and officials in the government. Under Israeli military law, there are heavy restrictions on access to the Jordan Valley for Palestinians who do not have a valid address in the Jordan Valley. This means the overwhelming majority of West Bank Palestinians do not go to areas outside of the city of Jericho for fear of harassment from

the Israeli military. In addition, the transportation to and from Palestinian villages in the Jordan Valley is extremely poor, therefore reaching these places without a private car is difficult. Such a disconnect keeps communities on the periphery of cultural, social, economic, and political life in the oPt and is fundamentally detrimental to the maintenance of cultural and national identity.

Geographic fragmentation is also perpetuated through divided and non-cohesive governance structures. Outside of Jericho and part of the village of al-Auja, all Palestinian villages in the Jordan Valley are in Area B or C. This means basic civil services are, in theory, carried out by the Palestinian Authority. However, in many cases such services are non-existent.

Kept on the margins of socioeconomic and political life, youth of the Jordan Valley remain demobilized and wholly excluded from national development. This exclusion invariably impacts the psychosocial health, economic prospects, and leadership potential of this generation.

(Endnotes)

- 1 The World Bank *The Economic Effects of Restricted Access to Land in the West Bank* 2008 p. 5.

March

أذار

1

Saturday

السبت

2

Sunday

الأحد

3

Monday

الإثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

MARCH

آذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March
أذار

2014

4 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

5 Wednesday

الأربعاء

6 Thursday

الخميس

7 Friday

الجمعة

MARCH

أذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March

أذار

8 Saturday

السبت

International Women's Day

9 Sunday

الأحد

10 Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

MARCH

أذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March
أذار

2014

11 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

12 Wednesday

الأربعاء

13 Thursday

الخميس

14 Friday

الجمعة

MARCH

أذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March
أذار

15 Saturday السبت

16 Sunday الأحد

17 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

MARCH آذار											
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31					

March
أذار

2014

18 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

19 Wednesday

الأربعاء

20 Thursday

الخميس

21 Friday

الجمعة

- International Day for the Elimination
of Racial Discrimination.

- 21-28 Week of Solidarity with the
Peoples Struggling against Racism
and Racial Discrimination.

- Mother's Day.

MARCH

أذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
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March
أذار

22 Saturday

السبت

World Water Day

23 Sunday

الأحد

24 Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

MARCH

أذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March
أذار

2014

25 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

26 Wednesday

الأربعاء

27 Thursday

الخميس

28 Friday

الجمعة

MARCH

أذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
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March
أذار

29 Saturday

السيت

30 Sunday

الأحد

- Palestinian Land Day (Yom al-ard)-1976

31 Monday

الإثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

MARCH

آذار

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
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April





Gender-based challenges:

Economy and Education

Gender-based challenges:

Economy and Education

“...the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields”¹ -

UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Palestinian women have made monumental strides in the cause for gender equality simultaneous to their struggle for liberation and self-determination from occupation. Despite these achievements, Palestinian women and girls remain subject to unequal treatment and are denied often the very basic of rights via the occupation, and through a wide range of Palestinian legal codes and prevailing cultural norms and practices.

Ultimately, women in the oPt are subjected to a ‘double occupation’ – the first, where they face policies from the Israeli authorities including checkpoints, land confiscation, arrests, and home demolitions. Furthermore as women, they are far more vulnerable and likely to be exposed to routine harassment and intimidation

by Israeli soldiers and Border Police. Secondly, women face the confines of a patriarchal society that is exacerbated under the colonial framework merged with military occupation. Palestinian women continue to struggle against traditional gender roles which dictate power dynamics between both men and women in society. While this is not unique to only Palestinian women, the structures against which women here organize and work within and against are complex given the context. Some concerns continue to include struggling against domesticated roles for women, while men continue to be the breadwinner.² Here though it should be noted, that despite the structures emphasized, women constantly transcend these roles given the political conditions around the occupation. This means that when male members of the family are arrested, detained, or are away from employment due to political considerations, it is indeed women who continue to provide for families within their limited capacity via small-scale projects, teaching, cooperatives, or other means including employment across both the public and private sectors.

Statistics indicate that female students at the primary level are as high as 89.1% however the numbers decline at the secondary level to 58.5%. This is mostly due to early marriage and subsequently early pregnancies, which pose obstacles for women to continue their education. Further, it has been recorded that 1.7% of the marriages registered in 2011, the bride was 14 years old, for 45% the bride was between 15 and 19 and for 37% of the registered marriages, the bride was between 20 and 24 years old (compared respectively to 0.01%, 7.4% and 40% for men).³

This remains an important challenge for the physical and psychological health of young women, as well as their personal growth and empowerment. Though literacy rates are increasing among women, from 84.7% in 2001 to 93.6% in 2012, the overall literacy rates for women are still lower than for men, revealing unequal access and expectations towards education.

Moreover, female participation in the labor force is still limited and most young women express the lack of viable and productive employment opportunities. Despite the rise in female

employment in the labor force over the past ten years, female participation rates have remained low where 17.4% of females are actively engaged in the labor force.⁴ The patriarchal structure of society and the assigned role young people are given depending on their gender, limit employment opportunities for women lead to jobs that are largely an extension of traditional roles. Education and service jobs are considered more appropriate for women than employment in the industrial or hotel/catering sector, for instance.⁵ Therefore, when seeking job opportunities, young women are very often forced into fierce competition within a smaller labor pool. Finally, there is a gap in the average daily wages of men and women. In 2012, the average daily wage for women represented 86.8% of that of men.⁶

It is important to note that a recent poll by Sharek Youth Forum indicates that the majority of young people (62%) do believe in equality between sexes.⁷ This increases among females, and especially those living in the Gaza Strip; although, the views of young people may differ when applied to practical situations or when they are asked to define

equality. However, 56% of the surveyed youth believe that gender is not a factor when defining efficiency or competency for employment. Still, this figure also highlights that 44% still consider gender a factor when assessing efficiency. These perceptions somewhat contradict the increasingly importance of women in securing livelihoods in addition to household tasks.

Although women invariably suffer under unique, gendered barriers to economic development, they also exercise a great deal of agency as sole income providers or supplementary income providers in the household. A study of Palestinian women working as street vendors in Ramallah and Jerusalem shows that women often maintain their households as the sole breadwinner following the imprisonment or death of a male breadwinner.⁸ Of those women who are engaged in informal income-generating activities, 74.5% in the West Bank and 80.7% in the Gaza Strip report that such activities are the primary means of income for the household.⁹ Ultimately, the gendered-reality of unemployment, poverty, and social injustice is evident across

the oPt, yet young women remain crucial players within their own households and communities.

(Endnotes)

- 1 CEDAW, <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/text/econvention.htm#intro>
- 2 Sharek Youth Forum, *The Status of Youth in Palestine in 2013*, 2013
- 3 Marriages registered in the Palestinian Territory by age of groom and bride, 2011, PCBS, http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/Portals/_Rainbow/Documents/90b1fcc7-2eb8-41ce-a728-63de23386bf5.htm
- 4 http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_WomenWD2013E.pdf
- 5 UNICEF *The Situation of Palestinian Children in The Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon* 2010. http://www.unicef.org/oPt/PALESTINIAN_SITAN-final.pdf
- 6 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics *International Women's Day 2013* 2013 http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals/_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_WomenWD2013E.pdf
- 7 Sharek Youth Forum, *The Status of Youth in Palestine in 2013*, 2013
- 8 Esim, Simel and Kuttab, *Women's Informal Employment in Palestine: Securing a Livelihood Against All Odds* January 2002.
- 9 Ibid.

1 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

2 Wednesday

الأربعاء

- Israeli forces besieges Bethlehem's church of the Nativity-2002

3 Thursday

الخميس

Israeli forces begin a 7-day assault on the Jenin refugee Camp-2002

4 Friday

الجمعة

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April

نيسان

5

Saturday

السبت

Palestinian Child Day

6

Sunday

الأحد

7

Monday

الاثنين

World Health Day

NOTES

ملاحظات

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

8 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

9 Wednesday

الأربعاء

Deir Yassin Massacre-1948

10 Thursday

الخميس

11 Friday

الجمعة

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April
نيسان

12 Saturday السبت

13 Sunday الأحد

Palm Sunday

14 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

15 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

16 Wednesday

الأربعاء

17 Thursday

الخميس

- Holy Thursday

- Palestinian Prisoners' Day

18 Friday

الجمعة

- Good Friday

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April
نيسان

19 Saturday السبت

20 Sunday الأحد

Easter Sunday

21 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

22 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

23 Wednesday

الأربعاء

24 Thursday

الخميس

25 Friday

الجمعة

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April
نيسان

26 Saturday السبت

27 Sunday الأحد

28 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

APRIL

نيسان

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

April
نيسان

2014

29 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

30 Wednesday

الأربعاء



Photo by Jamal Drouri



May





The FADOC Youth Empowerment Model

The FADOC Youth Empowerment Model

There has been an increased emphasis on youth oriented projects in order to accommodate the rise in population of Palestinian youth community members.¹ Therefore, there is a need for community-based programs to facilitate grassroots volunteer concepts in order to inspire socially and politically conscious communities that can address local needs and recourses critically in line with their dignity and rights.

The MA'AN-FADOC Summer Camp Model

In response to the plethora of challenges for youth in Palestine, MA'AN's Youth and Development program (*FADOC*) was established with the overall objective of ensuring socio-economic empowerment of Palestinian youth. Comprised of various grassroots projects, the MA'AN-FADOC model targets the under 30 demographic specifically with the vision of empowering them to demonstrate leadership via sustainable development concepts based on freedom, participation, equity and equality, respect for human rights,

democracy, and social justice. The concept of *Youth Empowerment* involves "attitudinal, structural, and cultural process whereby youth attain authority, ability, and agency to make decisions and implement change in their own lives and in greater society" which is at the heart of this project.²

"What we aim, is to give the youth space to work, to practice, to gain experience," states Rami Massad, FADOC's project coordinator, "we only provide space for youth, we do not tell them what to do." The involvement of youth from the onset of a project provides its participants with a greater sense of responsibility, as well as motivation: "They feel that the project is their own project,"³ as expressed by Mr. Massad.

While government-funded programs, such as the "National Youth and Adolescents Policy," are implemented to address issues facing youth, the use of grassroots *Community-Based Organizations* (CBOs) and civil society empowerment is equally necessary and resourceful in empowering communities. The summer camp project, launched by MA'AN-FADOC in 2012, is regarded as a successful model

for the empowerment of youth. As the FADOC summer camp brings together several CBOs from all over the oPt, it strongly reinforces the networking of those organizations, as well as strengthening youth capacities by encouraging leadership of youth in their own communities vis-à-vis social change initiatives. According to Mr. Massad, such initiatives are bridging groups within society that otherwise might not interact and exchange their everyday experiences. The summer camp provided a rare opportunity for Palestinian youth from various parts of the West Bank to meet each other in an environment conducive to the exchange of ideas and experiences through cultural activities, popular education, and practical learning.

Yielding an increase of 30 participants from various areas in oPt, the summer camp project ran from June 19th-24th in Al-Faraa Youth Hostel with 80 youth volunteers from 10 CBOs in partnership with Birzeit University and Dar Qandeel, a grassroots cultural organization based in Tulkarem. It focused mainly on networking and capacity building—more specifically courses on life skills,

sustainability, management, and communication.¹ Taking place near the mountains of Tulkarem, the camp brought together young people from 10 different CBOs from the Ramallah and Nablus governorates. Through a variety of activities, ranging from a panel discussion on violence against women, to hiking and physical exercise in the surrounding green areas, to cultural performances including dabkeh dances and sketches, the summer camp not only facilitated a venue to bring together youth, it fostered an atmosphere conducive to networking, partnership, and skill development to empower future community leaders. This indeed was a unique effort to help transcend both the physical and social fragmentations that continue to isolate youth from their respective counterparts. In doing so, there are clear opportunities to replicate such a model for future concepts that will grow undoubtedly through this format into larger and far more refined projects. MA'AN-FADOC's approach also included a popular education component, which emphasizes critical analysis and equal participation for

1- FADOC Palestine Intermediate Report 2012



problem resolution in innovative ways related to the contemporary political challenges of both military and settler occupation.

“The next step”, as Mr. Massad sees it, “is to create a national body in Palestine to work on common issues.” He told MA’AN that it would be absolutely great to see youth coming together to solve problems that are relevant and cross-cutting amongst Palestinians, exchanging ideas, and working towards a unified goal. Indeed, in addition to CBO programs, youth are starting to find their own venues for the creation of political and social spaces. MA’AN is glad to contribute to the growth of future decision-makers and community agents of grassroots and institutional movement across the oPt.

(Endnotes)

- 1 Palestinian Authority *National Youth and Adolescents Policy* 2005 http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Youth/Palestine/Palestine_2005_National_Youth_Policy.pdf
- 2 Fletcher, Adam (The Free Child Project) *Guide to Social Change Led by and With Young People* <http://www.freechild.org/socialchange/guide.htm>
- 3 Rami, Massad. Interview by MA’AN Development Center. In-person interview. Ramallah, August 27th, 2013.

“The summer camp provided a rare opportunity for Palestinian youth from various parts of the West Bank to meet each other in an environment conducive to the exchange of ideas and experiences through cultural activities, popular education, and practical learning.”



May
أيار

2014



1 Thursday

الخميس

International Labor Day

2 Friday

الجمعة

World Press Freedom Day

MAY

أيار

T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May
أيار

3 Saturday السبت

4 Sunday الأحد

5 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

MAYأيار																														
T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

6

Tuesday

الثلاثاء

7

Wednesday

الأربعاء

8

Thursday

الخميس

9

Friday

الجمعة

May
أيار

10 Saturday السبت

11 Sunday الأحد

12 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

MAY																												أيار		
T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

13 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

14 Wednesday

الأربعاء

15 Thursday

الخميس

Palestinian Nakkba
'Catastrophe'-1948

16 Friday

الجمعة

MAY

أيار

T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May
أيار

17 Saturday السبت

18 Sunday الأحد

19 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

MAY																												أيار		
T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

20 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

21 Wednesday

الأربعاء

*World Day for Cultural Diversity
for Dialogue and Development*

22 Thursday

الخميس

23 Friday

الجمعة

MAY

أيار

T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

24 Saturday السبت

25 Sunday الأحد

Week of solidarity with peoples of all colonial territories
fighting for freedom, independence and human rights.

26 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

27 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

- Isra' wal-miraj, expected date

28 Wednesday

الأربعاء

1964: Palestinian National
Charter adopted

29 Thursday

الخميس

30 Friday

الجمعة

MAY

أيار

T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May
أيار

31 Saturday

السبت



May
أيار

2014





June



Administrative Detention and Prison

Administrative Detention and Prison

The rights of children and youth are key components in the wider concept of indivisible human rights. Within the context of protracted occupation, the rights of youth and children held in prison and administrative detention are important aspects of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination and statehood. Due to the fact that youth are categorized as children under international law, the use of the term “child” or “children” in this section includes youth and vice versa. Israeli arrests remain a formidable tool of occupation through which the Government of Israel systemically terrorizes the bodies and minds of Palestinian youth via arbitrary detention, arrests and systematic torture.

The Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) provides the overarching legal framework that protects youth in the context of imprisonment and administrative detention. These rights are unconditional.¹ However, in a 2013 DCI report it was revealed that between 2002 to 2012 and approximate 7,000 children, some as young as 12, have been prosecuted in Israeli military courts and held in military

detention.² As of 1 September 2012, there are an estimated 194 Palestinian children detained in two identified Israeli prisons and detention centers – out of these, at least 30 were under the age of 16.³ UNICEF reports that few children are ever informed of their right to legal counsel.⁴ Addameer reports that there are approximately 700 Palestinian children (under the age of 18) from the occupied West Bank that are prosecuted each year in Israeli military courts after being arrested, interrogated, and detained.⁵ Save the Children reports that an average, 200 to 300 Palestinian children are held in detention on a monthly basis.⁶ Many are also subject to a “revolving door” policy, whereby a child is subject to repeated, consecutive arrests and detention.⁷

The authorities involved in the arrest, prosecution, sentencing, and detention of a child are the army, the police, the Israeli Security Agency, the courts, and the Israeli Prison Service – all are responsible for the protection of the child at different stages once in the military detention system; however Palestinians remain fundamentally unprotected.⁸ In

practice, there are no special interrogation procedures for children detained by the Israeli military, nor provisions for the presence of an attorney or family member to be present when the child is questioned. Further, Palestinian children ages 16 and older serve time in Israeli prisons and detention facilities alongside adults and common criminals until the most recent passing of Military Order 1644, which separates military court trials for children as young as 12 from adults; however the order does not correct basic questions of a fair trial. Addameer concludes that the military order, “will do little to improve the protection of Palestinian children before the Israeli military legal system.”⁹ The following are examples of cases that illustrate the gross rights violations imposed on Palestinian children within the Israeli military system.

Arrest

Mohammad Mahmoud Dawoud Halabiyeh, 16, from the village of Abu Dis in Jerusalem was arrested on 6 February 2010 while distributing wedding invitation cards with his friend. A soldier took him as he attempted to run away, causing Mohammad to fall off the floor of an

unfinished house – approximately 5 meters. He broke his left leg. The soldier then threw a stun grenade in his direction and used his steel helmet to punch him in the chest. Four soldiers proceeded to beat him and curse at him as they took him to their jeep.¹⁰

Most frequently, Palestinian youth are taken off the street by the Israeli military under the pretext of “stone throwing.” Children are typically sentenced for 2-6 months for stone throwing and upto 12 months for throwing Molotov cocktails.¹¹

Interrogation

Adham Jaradat, 20, from East Jerusalem was arrested by plain-clothed undercover forces on 16 March 2010 when he was on his way to visit his grandfather in Jerusalem. The forces beat him, inflicting a deep wound to the right of his eye. Adham was transferred to al-Moskobiyyeh interrogation (Russian Compound) center where he was forced to stand in painful, contorted positions for many hours. The interrogation team of three officers beat him as they asked him questions, including where he was already wounded. He was not given food or water between

9:00 am until 11:00 pm. After this first round of interrogation, interrogators strip-searched him and then transferred him to a cell where other criminal prisoners were held.¹²

Save the Children also reports increased levels of interrogators and Israeli soldiers employ threats around sexual assault in order to coerce confessions from children.¹³

Detention

Rami, 17, from the Balata refugee camp in Nablus, was arrested on 15 December 2008 at 2:30 am. He had no formal charges against him. Rami was first held in Ofer prison in the central West Bank, and was then transferred to Ketziot prison in the Naqab desert in southern Israel. Ketziot is one of the largest prisons in Israel, and holds around 2,595 prisoners, including Israeli criminals. The prison is overcrowded and unhygienic; prisoners are subject to harsh conditions lacking protection from extreme weather. Prisoners live in tents holding up to 20 people each.¹⁴

Child prisoners inside of Israel are also denied the rights afforded to Israeli juveniles, particularly access to education. The Israeli Prison Services provides education only in Megiddo and Rimonim, but allows children to only learn mathematics and the humanities for “security

reasons.” Girls under the age of 18 receive no education. While Israeli juveniles receive 20 hours of instructed education per week, Palestinian boys detained from the oPt receive none.¹⁵

According to DCI, “Palestinian do not lodge complaints with the Israeli military or civil administration for fear of retaliation and the knowledge that the process is totally futile.”¹⁶

(Endnotes)

- 1 Save the Children *The Impact of Child Detention: Occupied Palestinian Territory* 2012.
<http://mena.savethechildren.se/PageFiles/3731/Impact%20Report%20March%2012%20EN.pdf>
- 2 Defense of Children – Palestine, *DCI Palestine Submits Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child* 21 June 2012.
<http://www.dci-palestine.org/documents/dci-palestine-submits-report-un-committee-rights-child>
- 3 Addameer *Key Issues: Children*.
<http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=296>
- 4 UNICEF *Children in Israeli Military Detention* February 2013.
http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf
- 5 Addameer *Key Issues: Children*.
<http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=296>
- 6 Save the Children *The Impact of Child Detention: Occupied Palestinian Territory* 2012.
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- 7- Addameer *Violations Against*

Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centers 2010.

<http://www.addameer.org/files/Reports/EN%20Addameer%202010%20Violations%20Report.pdf>

- 8- UNICEF *Children in Israeli Military Detention* February 2013.

http://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

- 9- Addameer *Key Issues: Children*.

<http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=296>

- 10- Addameer *Violations Against Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centers* 2010.

<http://www.addameer.org/files/Reports/EN%20Addameer%202010%20Violations%20Report.pdf>

- 11- Addameer *Key Issues: Children*.

<http://www.addameer.org/etemplate.php?id=296>

- 12- Addameer *Violations Against*

Palestinian Prisoners and Detainees in Israeli Prisons and Detention Centers 2010.

<http://www.addameer.org/files/Reports/EN%20Addameer%202010%20Violations%20Report.pdf>

- 13- Save the Children *The Impact of Child Detention: Occupied Palestinian Territory* 2012.

<http://mena.savethechildren.se/PageFiles/3731/Impact%20Report%20March%2012%20EN.pdf>

- 14- Defense of Children – Palestine *Urgent Appeal* 18 January 2012.

http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/ua_4_11_azzun_update_18_jan_2012.pdf

- 15- Save the Children *The Impact of Child Detention: Occupied Palestinian Territory* 2012.

<http://mena.savethechildren.se/PageFiles/3731/Impact%20Report%20March%2012%20EN.pdf>

- 16- Defense of Children – Palestine *Palestinian Child Prisoners* June 2009.

<http://www.dci-palestine.org/sites/default/files/cpreport.pdf>



“A soldier took him as he attempted to run away, causing Mohammad to fall off the floor of an unfinished house – approximately 5 meters. He broke his left leg. The soldier then threw a stungrenade in his direction and used his steal helmet to punch him in the chest. Four soldiers proceeded to beat him, and his broken leg. They continued to beat and curse at him as they took him to their jeep.”

1 Sunday

الأحد

Establishment of the Palestine
Liberation Organization (PLO)-1964

2 Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

JUNE

حزيران

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

3

Tuesday

الثلاثاء

4

Wednesday

الأربعاء

International Day of Innocent Victims of aggression

5

Thursday

الخميس

- World Environment Day

- 2nd Arab-Israeli war and annual commemoration of occupation of West Bank, Gaza Strip, east Jerusalem and Golan Heights-1967

6

Friday

الجمعة

June
حزيران

7 Saturday السبت

8 Sunday الأحد

9 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

JUNE																								حزيران					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F			
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10 Tuesday الثلاثاء

11 Wednesday الأربعاء

12 Thursday الخميس

13 Friday الجمعة

June
حزيران

14 Saturday السبت

15 Sunday الأحد

16 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

JUNE																											حزيران		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

17 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

World Day to Combat
Desertification and Drought

18 Wednesday

الأربعاء

19 Thursday

الخميس

20 Friday

الجمعة

World Refugee Day

JUNE

حزيران

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June
حزيران

21 Saturday السبت

22 Sunday الأحد

23 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

JUNE																											حزيران		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
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24 Tuesday الثلاثاء

25 Wednesday الأربعاء

26 Thursday الخميس

- International Day in Support of
Victims of Torture

27 Friday الجمعة

June
حزيران

28 Saturday السبت

29 Sunday الأحد

- Ramadan Begins, Expected date

30 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

JUNE																											حزيران		
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M
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Photo by Issam Rinnawi

July





Education and Employment



Education and Employment

While education and employment remain key development questions globally, in the context of the occupied territories, the interconnected challenges towards livelihoods are deeply rooted in the military occupation that continues to dichotomize Palestinian territories via control, settlement, and enclosures.

In a recent study it was estimated that the Palestinian GDP would double if indeed all the many restrictions imposed and enforced by the Israeli government were lifted.¹ While Palestinians maintain high levels in literacy and higher education the current educational and institutional infrastructure does not adequately prepare young graduates for the needs of the local labor force and does not empower young Palestinians with the tools and skills necessary to become active and engaged citizens.

In the oPt, there is widespread access to basic public education. As of 2012, 83.9 percent of youth ages 15-17 and 48.3 percent of youth ages 18 to 22 were enrolled in some formal education programs. Moreover, 11.9 percent of females and 8.7 percent of males ages 15-29 hold university degrees.² However, years of

schooling do not automatically translate into employment after graduation: unemployment levels have reached a high of 52.5 percent among university graduates in 2013, while out of all the unemployed youth, 45.7 percent have completed at least 13 years of schooling.³ There are many reasons for the growing unemployment rate, and while some intersect issues faced by other developing contexts, in the occupied territories issues structural unemployment are multi-layered and rooted in the military occupation that impacts both education and the growth of the local labor markets.

The manner via which areas and territories are divided contribute towards the fragmentation of educational institutions and further add towards the barriers in early and post graduate education. The schools in Area A are under the administration of the Palestinian Authority and receive comparatively ample supplies and resources, schools in Area B continue to lack basic supplies and financial resources despite falling under the PA civil administration through a series of structural, political and financial reasons. Schools in Area C fall short of basic resources from a duality of the on-going territorial expansion

of Israel and the lack of political will on behalf of the PA to invest necessary financial resources towards enhancing the capacities around education in this area.

Adding to the challenges of poor infrastructure, there is a constant struggle in terms of how the current curriculum is being adapted in accordance to the current labor markets and in relevance to competing educational curriculums regionally and internationally. Some identified gaps include the lack of services around career guidance for students, which is an integral part of career development and management for youth as they make critical decisions towards university degrees and programs. This is coupled by familial expectations around career decisions, which also intersect key financial concerns for local communities. This area continues to lack attention and further creates barriers towards the critical development of youth, in addition to creative growth and potential around the many options across various sectors of employment.⁴ According to Samir Huleileh, the CEO of the Palestine Development and Investment Company, Palestinian universities rarely modify their specializations offered in accordance to the changing

needs of the current labor market⁵. Finally, once in the labor market, Palestinian youth must deal with widespread nepotism, cronyism, and other discriminatory hiring practices.⁶

In the Gaza Strip, lack of employment prospects have compelled young Palestinians into an underground job market. The blockade of the Gaza Strip has forced Palestinians to build a network of underground tunnels, a lifeline, through which various goods – from basic medical supplies to cars – are literally smuggled into the territory. By 2010 there were around 25,000 workers earning a living through the tunnel industry, providing a wage slightly above the poverty line and creating job opportunities for high-school drop-outs.⁷

Therefore, while the system of public education in the oPt requires further policy attention and economic investment among all development stakeholders, Israeli occupation remains the overarching obstacle towards the sustainable development of the local Palestinian labor market. It is extremely difficult to create jobs in an economy where basic import and export policies cannot be created and enforced by a sovereign, governing institution.

Nevertheless, it is crucial that the PA work in coordination with international and national organizations to create a systematic and institutionalized investment strategy for the education sector in order to create capacities for youth. This strategy should include the redesigning of the curriculum in order to adapting it to sectors of the local economy that currently creates opportunities. Further in re-shaping the educational framework creative models around public and private sectors must encourage youth participation and engagement with social entrepreneurship models in order to create capacities and in order to pave the way for future development and employment opportunities. Another area that requires attention includes the resources and tools allocated to teachers and administrators that engage and deal with the students. It is key to provide training and support to educational staff in an attempt for them to inspire and foster critically and analytically the next generation of young and dynamic Palestinians that continue to demand their socio-economic and socio-political rights as they develop their communities and livelihoods.

(Endnotes)

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1 Tuesday الثلاثاء

2 Wednesday الأربعاء

3 Thursday الخميس

4 Friday الجمعة

July
تموز

5 Saturday السبت

6 Sunday الأحد

7 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

JULY																												تموز		
T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
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8 Tuesday الثلاثاء

9 Wednesday الأربعاء

- Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Israeli Apartheid Wall-2004
- Palestinian civil society issues a call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with international law-2005

10 Thursday الخميس

11 Friday الجمعة

World Population Day

July
تموز

12 Saturday السبت

13 Sunday الأحد

14 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

JULY

تموز

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
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15 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

16 Wednesday

الأربعاء

17 Thursday

الخميس

18 Friday

الجمعة

JULY

تموز

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
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July
تموز

19 Saturday السبت

20 Sunday الأحد

21 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

JULY

تموز

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22 Tuesday الثلاثاء

23 Wednesday الأربعاء

24 Thursday الخميس

Lailat Al-Qadr Assumption,
expected date

25 Friday الجمعة

July
تموز

26 Saturday السبت

27 Sunday الأحد

28 Monday الإثنين

Eid El Feter, expected date

NOTES ملاحظات

JULY

تموز

T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
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July
تموز

2014

29 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

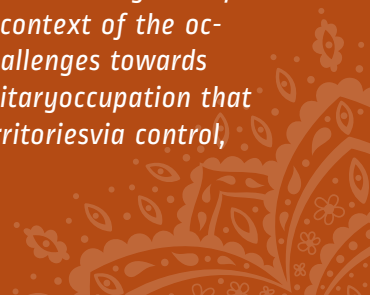
30 Wednesday

الأربعاء

31 Thursday

الخميس

“While education and employment remain key development questions globally, in the context of the occupied territories, the interconnected challenges towards livelihoods are deeply rooted in the military occupation that continues to dichotomize Palestinian territories via control, settlement, and enclosures.”





August





Settlement Labor



Settlement Labor

Palestinian youth in the Jordan Valley live in one of the most impoverished and restricted areas of the oPt. Just over half of Area C in the Jordan Valley is allocated to 38 illegal, agricultural settlements and outposts, which are protected by the Israeli military. In fact, occupation policies are so brutal, that the World Bank has labeled the Jordan Valley “Israel’s Eastern Separation Zone.”¹ Within the context of state building, the Jordan Valley remains a crucial and necessary region for Palestinian development, particularly for food sovereignty and agriculture sector growth.

The Israeli military and illegal settlements maintain a complete monopoly over natural resources, particularly land and water, while land expropriation and checkpoints isolate Palestinian communities from each other – creating systemic unemployment, lack of cohesive economic development, and social estrangement. For example, the average settler in the Jordan Valley uses 487 liters per person per day,² while a number of Palestinian communities are limited to a mere 15-30 liters per person per day.³ Palestinian villages in the area, which are connected to the same water network as the settlements, all have quotas on the amount of

personal and agricultural water they are allowed to use.⁴ The State of Israel actively restricts Palestinian farmers’ capacity to produce in order to create conditions in which Palestinian agriculture remains unprofitable and unstable. This situation has forced Palestinian farmers to work as cheap labor on agricultural settlements. The inability of farming families to earn a decent livelihood through agriculture, compounded with widespread lack of employment opportunities in the region, has compelled a staggering number of Palestinian youth to enter the settlement labor market.

Most Palestinian settlement laborers work in agricultural fields from around 6 am until 2 pm to clean, pick, and package produce that is exported to the European Union and labeled a “product of Israel.” Palestinian workers are paid between NIS 50-90 per day without health insurance, pensions, social security, paid holidays, or even sick days.⁵ Although Israeli law stipulates that all employees, even in settlements, must receive at least NIS 200 per day and related safety nets, there is no enforcement mechanism to ensure Palestinians working in settlements are afforded these basic rights.

The proliferation of Palestinian labor on agricultural settlement is a worrisome trend and one that must be acted upon immediately. For example, decreasing settlement labor must coincide with an increase in alternative job creation programs in the Jordan Valley. While main urban centers such as Jericho and Nablus hold employment opportunities, the sheer physical distance and military checkpoints hinder the ability of youth from many villages to reach these areas. Furthermore, investment in vocational training and university preparation is crucial to ensuring that young people are better prepared for the job market in the oPt, and that they have the practical skills and networks needed to pave a career path. Such programs require coordination, investment, and prioritization among national and international organizations, donors, and Palestinian Authority ministries.

Ultimately, the question of youth settlement employment in the

Jordan Valley is a cross-cutting issue that reflects the broader failure of the development community to ensure services and protections are afforded to Palestinian communities that have been cut-off from the national development projects due to Israeli restrictions. Long-term program-based development is necessary to ensure that settlements are no longer the only option for young Palestinians in the labor market.

(Endnotes)

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- 4 MA'AN Development Center Interviews with village councils conducted between November 2011 – January 2012, documents from the water authorities were presented to prove the case.
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1 Friday

الجمعة

August

آب

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August
آب

2 Saturday السبت

3 Sunday الأحد

4 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

August																												آب		
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August
آب

2014

5 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

6 Wednesday

الأربعاء

7 Thursday

الخميس

8 Friday

الجمعة

August

آب

F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S							
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August

آب

9

Saturday

السبت

International Day of the World's Indigenous People

10

Sunday

الأحد

11

Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

Augustآب

F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S							
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12 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

- International Youth Day
- Tal Al-Zatar Refugee Camp Massacre in Lebanon-1976

13 Wednesday

الأربعاء

14 Thursday

الخميس

15 Friday

الجمعة

August

آب

16 Saturday السبت

17 Sunday الأحد

18 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

August																												آب		
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19 Tuesday الثلاثاء

20 Wednesday الأربعاء

21 Thursday الخميس

1969: Al-aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem suffers great damage when set on fire by Australian jew Dennis Rohan

22 Friday الجمعة

Augustآب

F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	S	S	S			
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August

آب

23 Saturday السبت

24 Sunday الأحد

25 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

Augustآب

F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	S	S				
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August
آب

2014

26 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

27 Wednesday

الأربعاء

28 Thursday

الخميس

29 Friday

الجمعة

August

آب

F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S							
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August
آب

30 Saturday السبت

31 Sunday الأحد

“Ultimately, the question of youth settlement employment in the Jordan Valley is a cross-cutting issue that reflects the broader failure of the development community to ensure services and protections are afforded to Palestinian communities that have been cut-off from the national development projects due to Israeli restrictions.”

NOTES

ملاحظات

August

آب

F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	F	S	S				
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Photo by Hamde Abu Rahma

September





Youth Grassroots Resistance Movements



Youth Grassroots Resistance Movements

Youth-led popular movements have emerged throughout the oPt in recent years in an effort to re-galvanize grassroots resistance to end the occupation. Although these movements have encountered several obstacles that have hindered their growth and stability, youth action remains a crucial part of the popular liberation struggle, including the pressing need to end the territorial and political division between the West Bank and Gaza Strip.¹

- **Youth Against Settlements (YAS)**, is a national non-partisan activist group that works against the constant growth of settlements in Palestine, with a particular focus on Hebron.² YAS organizes protests on illegally occupied land, only to have its members forcefully removed or arrested.³ Nevertheless, YAS continues its struggle by raising awareness through newsletters and workshops, as well as building a network of support among Palestinians in order to foster a stronger and united community. This involves progressive thinking on their part with regards to what they define as a community and who they see as involved with that community. One of the main

guidelines for participating in the youth movement involves “expressing respect towards women and their equivalent role to men in resisting colonization and settlement activities, as well as the equivalent roles of all sectors of society.”⁴

- The **Stop the Wall Campaign** describes itself as a “grassroots movement uniting the struggle of the popular committees in the villages, refugee camps, and cities struggling against the Wall and the settlements and the efforts of Palestinian civil society.” Stop the Wall works directly to mobilize youth in popular demonstrations and actions against the occupation, including those in support of prisoners’ rights, an end to the Paris Protocol restrictions, solidarity work in villages and communities subject to displacement and expropriation, and they strongly encourage youth volunteer work.⁵
- The **Popular Struggle Coordination Committee (PSCC)** was formed by prominent activists in popular committees from all over the oPt and across the Palestinian political spectrum and uses a method of organizing and

resistance structured after the tradition of the first Palestinian Intifada. These diverse, and non-partisan committees lead community resistance to the Israeli occupation in various forms such as marches, strikes, demonstrations, direct actions, and legal campaigns, as well as supporting boycott, divestment, and sanctions. The PSCC derives support from the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement and international solidarity networks.⁶

A recent example of popular youth action against the occupation was the Bab al-Shams campaign, led by the PSCC, which was held in the E1 area between annexed Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Ma'ale Adumim. Bab al-Shams, which means Gate of the Sun in Arabic, was initiated to assert Palestinian ownership of the E1 area through the establishment of a tent village. This specific region was chosen due to the State of Israel's concerted, rapid settlement expansion and land expropriation, which would effectively cut off local Palestinians from accessing Jerusalem. The village began with 25 tents and a medical center, and received evacuation orders from the Israeli Occupation Forces on the same day. While the Israeli

High Court delayed the evacuation for six days, Prime Minister Netanyahu petitioned the court to retract its ruling and Israeli soldiers invaded the camp at 3 am the next morning.⁷ Activists attempted to return to Bab al-Shams, unsuccessfully.⁸ Nevertheless, the campaign was later replicated in other parts of the West Bank and signifies a crucial tool through which Palestinian youth are leading tangible campaigns to reclaim their land.

Moreover, a significant youth movement has also focused on ending the division between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, a fragmentation imposed by the Israeli occupation but exasperated by the divisions between Hamas and Fatah. On the 15th of March 2011, thousands of Palestinian youth across the West Bank and Gaza organized demonstrations, sit-ins, and activities to call for unity.⁹ The results of the protests were varied, yet signaled the mounting frustration and deep disappointment of younger Palestinian generations with self-interested leadership and a lack of strategy to end the occupation.

Ultimately, Palestinian youth's grassroots movements against the occupation have rekindled

Palestinian liberation discourse, the self-articulation of demands, rights, and justice. While still lacking unity and facing serious divisions, it is youth campaigns and grassroots initiatives that provide one of the only viable forums through which Palestinians have been able to articulate the future of the resistance movement. Youth action to end the occupation remains a counterweight to the inaction and stagnation of established leadership, and could one day provide the new leadership that has been so lacking in recent decades.

(Endnotes)

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- 8 Palestine News Network *Activists Return to Palestinian Village Bab al-Shams, Several Arrested* 15 January 2013. <http://english.pnn.ps/index.php/politics/3605-activists-return-to-palestinian-village-bab-al-shams-several-arrested>
- 9 Linah Al-Saafin (Electronic Intifada) *Imperfect Revolution: Palestine's 15 March Movement One Year On*. <http://electronicintifada.net/content/imperfect-revolution-palestines-15-march-movement-one-year/11092>

1 Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

SEPTEMBER

أيلول

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2 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

3 Wednesday

الأربعاء

4 Thursday

الخميس

5 Friday

الجمعة

SEPTEMBER

أيلول

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September
أيلول

6 Saturday

السبت

7 Sunday

الأحد

8 Monday

الإثنين

International Literacy Day

NOTES

ملاحظات

SEPTMBER

أيلول

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9 Tuesday الثلاثاء

10 Wednesday الأربعاء

11 Thursday الخميس

12 Friday الجمعة

September
أيلول

13 Saturday السبت

14 Sunday الأحد

15 Monday الإثنين

International Day of Democracy

NOTES ملاحظات

SEPTEMBER																								أيلول					
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16 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

- International Day for the
Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- Massacre at Sabra and Shatila
refugee camps in Beirut-1982

17 Wednesday

الأربعاء

18 Thursday

الخميس

19 Friday

الجمعة

SEPTEMBER

أيلول

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September

أيلول

20

Saturday

السبت

21

Sunday

الأحد

International Day of Peace

22

Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

SEPTEMBER																								أيلول					
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September
أيلول

2014

23 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

24 Wednesday

الأربعاء

25 Thursday

الخميس

26 Friday

الجمعة

SEPTEMBER

أيلول

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September
أيلول

27 Saturday

السبت

28 Sunday

الأحد

2nd Palestinian Intifada-2000

29 Monday

الإثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

SEPTEMBER

أيلول

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September
أيلول

2012

30 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

Wednesday

الأربعاء





October





Innovation and Entrepreneurship



Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Nurturing entrepreneurial culture is a challenge confronting the entirety of the Middle East- region, including the oPt. Social, political, and economic upheaval continue to stunt investment, while weak governance structures fail to protect small and growing enterprises. Further, education systems do not engender individualistic thinking, risk-taking, and critical problem solving needed to cultivate a generation of entrepreneurial-minded workers. Palestine faces all the aforementioned challenges in addition to the complex reality of occupation, which effectively cuts Palestinian society from access to local, regional, and international markets.

Despite these obstacles, examples of Palestinian entrepreneurship in the oPt reveal the remarkable potential of Palestinian innovation and the power of small businesses to fuel social and economic progress.

Although young Palestinian entrepreneurs are energetic and equipped with the creativity needed to launch ground-breaking start-ups, the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Palestine remains underdeveloped

and unsupportive of small and growing enterprises. Local and international partnerships are key to further develop capacities for entrepreneurs with opportunities of mentorships, training, networks and seed funding.

Further Palestinian Authority legislation, university curriculum, and bank policies must encourage entrepreneurs to take risks in their business plans, share knowledge and information, and have educational tools and resources at their disposal.¹

There is potential for small and growing enterprises to make important contributions towards a greater Palestinian economic system that is self-sufficient and perhaps integrated into the global economy. Sam Bahour, an independent business consultant in Ramallah and co-founder of PalTel, discusses that on one hand, Palestinian small businesses can evolve to address the needs of the local market in order to decrease Palestinian dependence on imports. On the other hand, Palestinian IT has a knowledge base that is growing rapidly, even under occupation, and could serve larger foreign markets without directly confronting the risks of Israeli Civil Administration

movement and permit restrictions.²

To build micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), stronger legislation to protect the interests and needs of small businesses is crucial, this includes properly accounting for the sector in its annual census and creating avenues for information MSMEs to officially register. Non-governmental organizations can develop the effectiveness of small businesses by providing expertise in the areas of management, leadership, team building, procurement, and administration.³ Young Palestinians are making strides in local innovation with small businesses that are making big contributions to the local market.

Solidarity Sheep Farm

Aya Mletat is a 22-year old young woman from the village of Beit Furik in the district of Nablus, is the founder and CEO of Solidarity Sheep Farm, an enterprise she founded in October 2012 that specializes in the breeding, raising, and selling of organic Merino sheep. This brand is unique because it is leaner and has more meat. Aya explains that the goal of her enterprise is to provide consumers with healthy,

organic sheep that are raised on dairy products, but to also meet demands for sheep in the local market. As Aya's company grows, she will look to higher more employees, especially women.⁴ In an interview with Tomorrow's Youth Organization, Aya explains that she grew up in a village that was famous for raising sheep, and watched farmers use the same traditional methods and did not reach full production capacity; further, she observed that women did not own any businesses, despite working on farms, and were unable to keep their own profits. With her new business, Aya is using a system of standards that will increase her productivity and efficiency, including the use of new technologies, while remaining 100% chemical-free. She hopes to empower more women-owned businesses in her village.

Aya explains that major challenges include the stigmas attached to women-owned business in sheep farming, a lack of educational opportunities in marketing or animal husbandry, as well as sufficient statistics on farmers' production levels in Palestine. Many farmers are not encouraged to register as businesses with the Ministry

of Agriculture, which poses challenges for small businesses such as hers to develop complete and concrete business plans. In the first five years of her enterprise, Aya plans to: 1) complete her Master's in management and economics 2) build local and international partnerships 3) increase the production capacity of her farm and maximize its space 4) advertise and distribute Solidarity Farm products in local and international markets.

Mihaniyoun

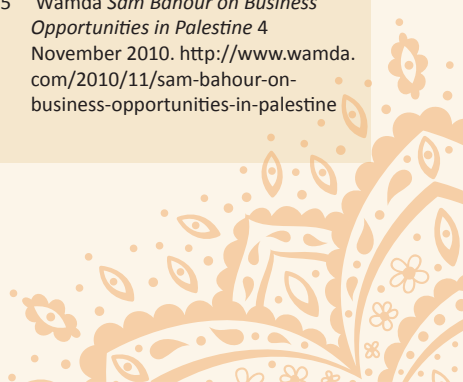
Ibrahim Mattar, a Gaza-based Palestinian entrepreneur, created Mihaniyoun, a detailed white-pages for the Palestinian workforce. Through this network, Mattar has developed a technology that aggregates resumes and details specialists and professionals across sectors. Mihaniyoun features the member's resume, location via Google Maps, and general rates charged for their services. The business incubator – Palestinian Information and Communication Technology Incubator – is working with Mihaniyoun to launch the company later this year.⁵ Mattar explains that he plans to expand the company into Jerusalem and the West Bank in the future.

Newtoon

Hadeel al-Safady, another Gaza-based entrepreneur, has created the first Palestinian company specialized in cartoon animation. Newtoon, produces small, animated films that discuss social issues that are relevant to Palestinian society, and are then distributed among media channels and social media networks.

(Endnotes)

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http://www.huffingtonpost.com/vanessa-zuabi/palestine-entrepreneurship_b_2011630.html
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<http://www.thisweekinpalestine.com/details.php?id=2770&ed=169&edid=169>
- 4 Tomorrow's Youth, *Wise Profile: Aya Mletat* 18 October 2012. <http://www.tomorrowsyouth.org/2012/10/wise-profile-aya-mletat/>
- 5 Wamda *Sam Bahour on Business Opportunities in Palestine* 4 November 2010. <http://www.wamda.com/2010/11/sam-bahour-on-business-opportunities-in-palestine>





1 Wednesday

الأربعاء

2 Thursday

الخميس

- International Day of Non-Violence

3 Friday

الجمعة

OCTOBER

تشرين الأول

W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October
تشرين الأول

4 Saturday السبت

5 Sunday الأحد

- Eid Al-Adha, expected date
- World Teachers Day

6 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

OCTOBER تشرين الأول

W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
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7

Tuesday

الثلاثاء

8

Wednesday

الأربعاء

- Al-Aqsa massacre-1990

9

Thursday

الخميس

10

Friday

الجمعة

October
تشرين الأول

11 Saturday السبت

12 Sunday الأحد

13 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

OCTOBER												تشرين الأول																		
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F							
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14 Tuesday الثلاثاء

15 Wednesday الأربعاء

16 Thursday الخميس

World Food Day

17 Friday الجمعة

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

October
تشرين الأول

18 Saturday السبت

19 Sunday الأحد

20 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

OCTOBER														تشرين الأول																
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
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21 Tuesday الثلاثاء

22 Wednesday الأربعاء

23 Thursday الخميس

24 Friday الجمعة

- United Nations Day & World Development Information Day
- 24-30 Disarmament Week

OCTOBER																	تشرين الأول														
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	
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October

تشرين الأول

25Saturdayالسبت

Al-Hijra, 1436 (Islamic New Year),
expected date

26Sundayالأحد

27Mondayالاثنين

NOTESملاحظات

OCTOBER														تشرين الأول																
W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F
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28 Tuesday الثلاثاء

29 Wednesday الأربعاء

Kufur Qasim Massacre-1956

30 Thursday الخميس

31 Friday الجمعة



November





Youth in Gaza:

a Story of Anguish and Agency



Youth in Gaza: a Story of Anguish and Agency

Facing high unemployment levels, brutal restrictions on movement, lack of adequate access to higher education opportunities, as well as social and familial segregation, Gaza's youth are daily bearing the heavy weight of Israel's ongoing occupation. This is powerfully stated in the manifesto of a Gaza-based online youth organisation, Gaza Youth Breaks Out (GYBO)¹:

"We are scared. Here in Gaza we are scared of being incarcerated, interrogated, hit, tortured, bombed, killed. We are afraid of living, because every single step we take has to be considered and well thought. There are limitations everywhere, we cannot move as we want, say what we want, do what we want, sometimes we even can't think what we want..."

According to the United Nations (UN), more than 65% of Gaza's 1.7 million people are under the age of 25². Of this group, the

unemployment rate for those aged 15 to 19 is 55.7%, and for 20 to 24 year-olds it is 52.6%³. These are among the highest unemployment rates in the world, and are nearly double the unemployment present in the West Bank (WB). Whilst all regions of the Palestinian territories face the same reality of a crippling Israeli occupation, the divergence in statistics here suggests that the Gaza Strip (GS) can experience the effects of this in a somewhat more intense manner. The continuous 6-year blockade of Gaza by Israel has virtually ceased all opportunities for export, causing an economic standstill in which reductions in unemployment cannot be sustainably achieved⁴.

Additionally, Gaza's fishermen – who are mostly youth, and whose industry comprises an important cultural and economic component of Gaza's communities – are not permitted by Israel to fish more than 3 nautical miles off their own coast, where stocks are limited⁵. B'Tselem has reported that even when within this range, countless young fishermen have been met

1- See <http://gazaybo.wordpress.com/manifesto-0-1/> for the full 'manifesto'

2- UN (2013) 'UNSCO Socio-Economic Report: Overview of the Palestinian Economy in Q2/2013', 5

3- *ibid.*

4- Ma'an News Agency (2011) 'UN says Gaza unemployment rate at 45%', para. 5

5- B'Tselem (2011) 'Gaza Strip: Restrictions of fishing', para 1

by Israeli navy soldiers who have forced them to strip naked on their boats and swim back to shore in the freezing water⁶. This frequent humiliation and danger has seriously pressured the fishing industry, upon which more than 30,000 people directly depend. Furthermore, the UNRWA has warned that the economic despair generated by these effects of the occupation would make the creation of a viable Palestinian state incredibly difficult should a realistic opportunity arise⁷. For youth in Gaza, this paints an incredibly bleak picture for their future employment prospects and, importantly, for their capacity to be drivers of their self-development process.

For youth in Gaza who cannot find employment locally, options are few. Since the beginning of the occupation, the Gaza strip has essentially remained an isolated block and has earned the compelling, colloquial title of 'the world's largest open air prison' - and rightly so. Contrary to Israel's agreement in the Oslo Accords to recognise the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a single territorial

unit, travel between the two is prohibited; meanwhile, the Rafah crossing into Egypt is frequently closed for weeks at a time⁸. This creates immense difficulty not only for young people wanting to travel between the West Bank and Gaza to visit family and maintain friendships, but also for those wishing to leave the territories in search of a better future.

The story of Shahd Abusalama is particularly illuminating here. After three years of hard work recording her daily struggle as a Palestinian youth through her online blog, the 22-year old artist and aspiring writer received a letter from an Italian publisher who wanted to compile her blog into a book. But, even after obtaining all necessary visa requirements and funds, she was denied the opportunity to go to her own book launch in Italy because she was not allowed to leave her cage: Gaza, her home⁹. This narrative is by no means isolated, or exaggerated, but also rings true for many aspiring tertiary students in Gaza who have received scholarships to go and study at prestigious international

6- *ibid.* para 3

7- UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness, in Ma'an News Agency (2011) 'UN says Gaza unemployment rate at 45%', para. 5

8- OCHAoPt (2011) 'Fragmented lives: humanitarian overview 2011'

9- See <http://palestinefrommyeyes.wordpress.com> for Shahd's blog, and story.

universities, yet are being routinely denied the freedom to leave and pursue these pathways. Furthermore, Gaza's internal education and medical systems are similarly suffering under these occupation restrictions due to the blockade's barring of critical scholastic supplies and essential medicines, as well as the extensive infrastructural damage to schools and hospitals caused by Israel's unpredictable incursions, offensives and air strikes into the territory¹⁰.

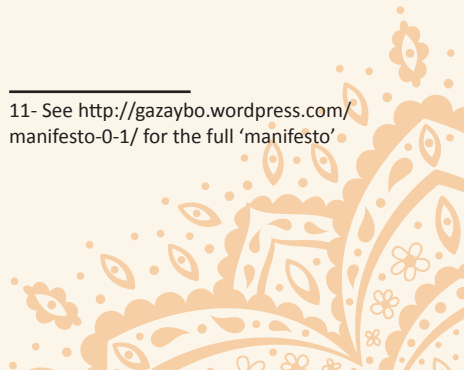
For these reasons, the ongoing occupation has ensured that Gaza's youth remain effectively trapped with little opportunity to communicate their struggle to the international world and, importantly, no opportunity to break free from its' powerful hold altogether. Additionally, extensive internal segregation has developed due to ongoing political split and resultant tensions between Hamas and Fatah supporters; this continues to polarize society and divide families, and has deeply affected the cohesion of Gaza's youth. In this environment, it would be reasonable to think that Gaza's youth should have lost hope entirely. Yet, on all accounts, these

young people are a vibrant and incredibly resilient group whose determined existence is proof of their ability to turn anguish into agency. This is powerfully encapsulated in the closing sentences of the GYBO manifesto¹¹:

"We will start by destroying the occupation that surrounds ourselves; we will break free from this mental incarceration and regain our dignity and self-respect. We will carry our heads high even though we will face resistance. We will work day and night in order to change these miserable conditions we are living under. We will build dreams where we meet walls."

10- UNICEF (2013) 'CAAC Bulletin: January 2013', 4

11- See <http://gazaybo.wordpress.com/manifesto-0-1/> for the full 'manifesto'



November
تشرين الثاني

2014



November

تشرين الثاني

1 Saturday السبت

2 Sunday الأحد

Balfour Declaration 1917

3 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

NOVEMBER														تشرين الثاني															
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	S	S	S			
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4 Tuesdayالثلاثاء

5 Wednesdayالأربعاء

6 Thursdayالخميس

International Day for Preventing
the Exploitation of the Environment
of the Environment in War and
Armed Conflict

7 Fridayالجمعة

NOVEMBERتشرين الثاني

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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November

تشرين الثاني

8 Saturday السبت

9 Sunday الأحد

- International Day Against the Wall-
Destruction of the Berlin Wall-1989

10 Monday الإثنين

NOTESملاحظات

NOVEMBER																												تشرين الثاني	
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

11 Tuesday الثلاثاء

Death of Palestinian
President Yasser Arafat-2004

12 Wednesday الأربعاء

13 Thursday الخميس

14 Friday الجمعة

NOVEMBER

تشرين الثاني

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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November

تشرين الثاني

15

Saturday

السبت

- Declaration of Palestinian
Independence-1988

16

Sunday

الأحد

International Day of Tolerance

17

Monday

الاثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

NOVEMBER														تشرين الثاني															
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S							
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18 Tuesday الثلاثاء

19 Wednesday الأربعاء

20 Thursday الخميس

Universal Children's Day

21 Friday الجمعة

NOVEMBER														تشرين الثاني															
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November
تشرين الثاني

22 Saturday السبت

23 Sunday الأحد

24 Monday الإثنين

NOTES ملاحظات

NOVEMBER														تشرين الثاني															
S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	S	S					
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25 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

International Day for the Elimination
of Violence against Women

26 Wednesday

الأربعاء

27 Thursday

الخميس

28 Friday

الجمعة

NOVEMBER

تشرين الثاني

S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

November

تشرين الثاني

29 Saturday

السبت

- International day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
- UN Resolution 181-1947.
- Recognition of Palestine as non-member state observer

30 Sunday

الأحد





December





12

Social Media



Social Media

The massive increase in social media users across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Asia-Pacific has significantly contributed to the increased global usage of social media. Next year, the MENA region will have the second largest social media user-ship audience in the world. In 2013, the MENA region will also have the highest gains in new users of social media.¹ The oPt is a part of this global and regional trend.

Currently, around forty percent of the Palestinian population residing in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are using social media sites, which ranks the oPt at the highest level of social media usage in the Middle East.²³ Between 2012 and 2013, the annual rate of Twitter users in Palestine has grown by 232 percent. Palestinian youth have utilized social media as a crucial tool through which to communicate messages of resistance under occupation.

One major push for social media tools in political activism comes from Palestinian efforts to break the monopoly of media and information that the Israeli government and its officials have been enjoying for over six decades.⁴ Throughout recent

history, there has been a clear lack of a Palestinian voice in global mainstream media outlets. However, with the help of Facebook posts, photos, videos, or Twitter messages, Palestinians are now capable of representing their own reality under occupation and exposing Israel's acts of repression. Ultimately, social media sites have brought forward important Palestinian voices both nationally and internationally.

In addition to being an outlet for disseminating what would otherwise be inaccessible information about life under occupation, Palestinian activity on social media sites has resulted in the continuous formation of an alternative political discourse in the region. The demands and actions of online activists do not have to coincide with the views held by the political elites: the popularity of the online movement can contribute to the construction of an original Palestinian political narrative necessary for the strengthening and empowerment of the civil society.⁵

The virtual space has also enabled young Palestinians to more easily connect with each other, which in a way surpasses the political

and physical obstacles in place.⁶ “Twitter is a reflection of the occupation-imposed Palestinian geographical and cultural fragmentation, and an attempt to weld this division by closing the gap through cyberspace. When events take place in Jerusalem, we know who we can count on, and who to follow for updates, as in Gaza and the West Bank,” says Linah Alsaafin, a writer and editor based in the West Bank, describing the unifying effect of social media on the Palestinians.⁷

As has happened in a number of countries undergoing the Arab Spring revolutions, social media sites are often utilized by young Palestinians to mobilize the population for various protests and demonstrations. For instance, rapid mobilization during the March 15th Movement in 2011 - a popular movement led by young Palestinians to end the political division between Hamas and Fatah - took place through social media, especially via the End the Division Facebook group.⁸ Just like their young counterparts around the world, Palestinians are exploiting the quickness and efficiency of the dissemination of information online.

At the same time, crucial

challenges remain in terms of utilizing social media to foster popular resistance. Firstly, online commitment does not ensure actual presence at the organized event. A brief statistical analysis shows that only around fifteen percent on average of those claiming to attend a Facebook event created by Palestinian activists actually come to the real event.⁹ Secondly, online mobilization can be stifled by fear of surveillance by the Palestinian or Israeli authorities, which is also fueled by a legitimate concern of being discriminated against in the labor force.¹⁰

Lastly, online activism and other opportunities that social media sites provide should be ideally combined with on-the-ground action. Today, the major challenge for the Palestinian youth activists is learning how social media tools can facilitate the organization and communication of the liberation struggle on the grassroots level.¹¹ While social media does not create revolutions, it remains a primary tool through which academics, political and social justice activists, as well as broader communities may communicate and coordinate their collective resistance.

(Endnotes)

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- 5 *ibid*
- 6 *Ibid* (Using Social Media for Community Organising in Palestine)
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- 8 Sherwood, Harriet (The Guardian) *Young Palestinians Call for Protests on 15th of March* 24 February 2013 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/feb/24/palestinian-young-people-protests>
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- 10 Palestinian Youth and the Arab Spring. NOREF REPORT. P.10
- 11 Quran, Fadi (This Week in Palestine) *Using Social Media for Community Organising in Palestine* March 2012 <http://www.thisweekinpalestine.com/details.php?id=3650&ed=204&edid=204>

1 Monday

الاثنين

World AIDS Day

NOTES

ملاحظات

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

2

Tuesday

الثلاثاء

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

3

Wednesday

الأربعاء

International Day of Disabled Persons

4

Thursday

الخميس

5

Friday

الجمعة

International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development

December

كانون الأول

6

Saturday

السبت

7

Sunday

الأحد

8

Monday

الاثنين

- 1st Palestinian Intifada 1987

NOTES

ملاحظات

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W							
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9

Tuesday

الثلاثاء

- International anti-Corruption Day

- Human Rights Day

10

Wednesday

الأربعاء

11

Thursday

الخميس

12

Friday

الجمعة

December
كانون الأول

13 Saturday

السيت

14 Sunday

الأحد

15 Monday

الإثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
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16 Tuesday الثلاثاء

17 Wednesday الأربعاء

18 Thursday الخميس

19 Friday الجمعة

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
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December
كانون الأول

20 Saturday

السيت

21 Sunday

الأحد

22 Monday

الإثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

23 Tuesday الثلاثاء

24 Wednesday الأربعاء

- Christmas Eve
- Israel launches Operation
Cast Lead in Gaza Strip
killing over 1,400-2009

25 Thursday الخميس

Christmas

26 Friday الجمعة

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December

كانون الأول

27 Saturday

السيت

28 Sunday

الأحد

29 Monday

الإثنين

NOTES

ملاحظات

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December
كانون الأول

2014

30 Tuesday

الثلاثاء

31 Wednesday

الأربعاء

1 Thursday

الخميس

January

2015

كانون الثاني

happy new year

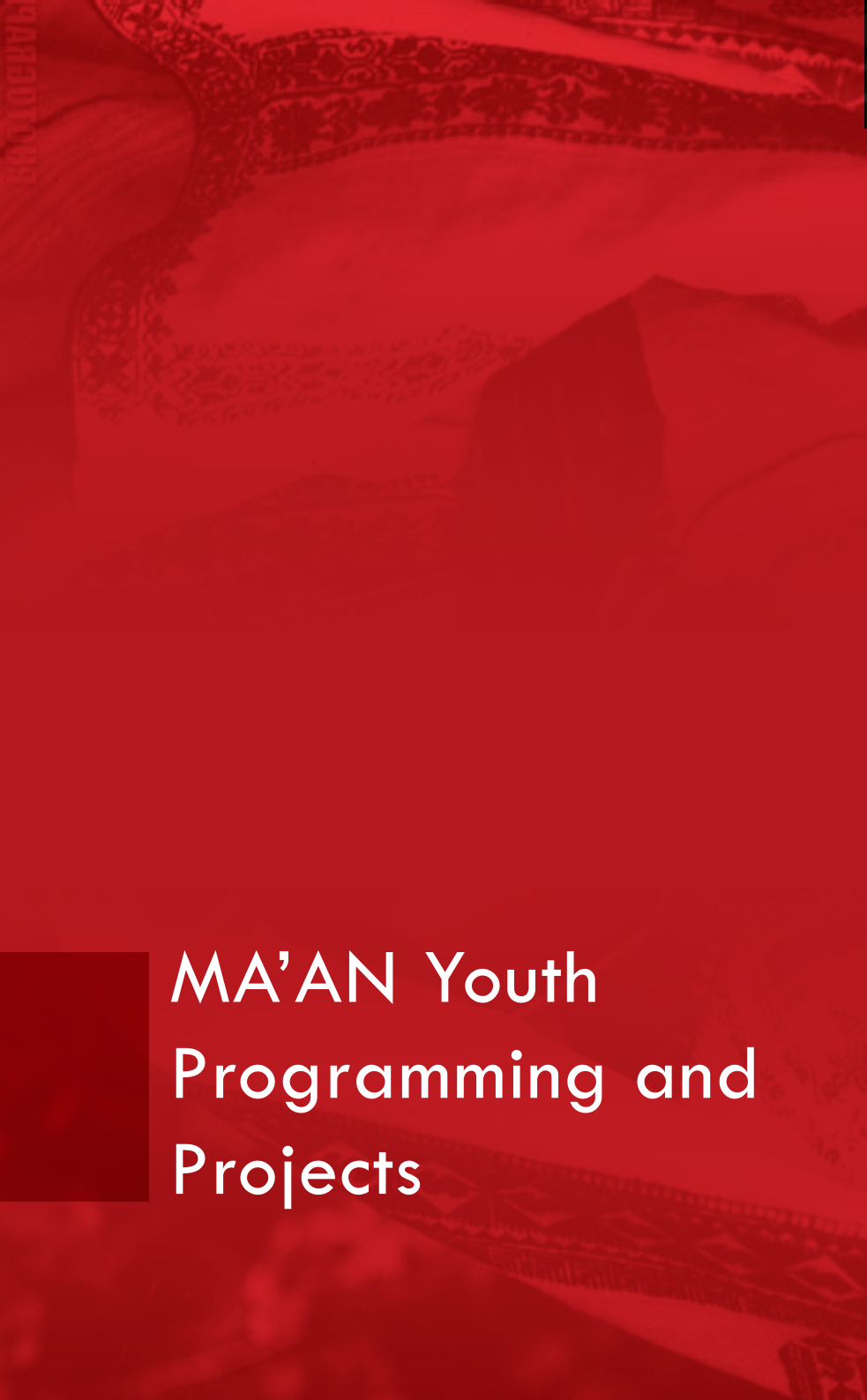
2 Friday

الجمعة

DECEMBER

كانون الأول

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



MA'AN Youth Programming and Projects

MA'AN

Development Center holds a long history working on youth development and rights advocacy in the oPt. Former and current MA'AN projects have focused on infrastructure support for youth, including the rehabilitation of community kindergartens, the construction of shaded areas in secondary schools, the rehabilitation of government schools (Grades 1-12), capacity building and grants for youth clubs in the Jordan Valley, capacity building for women's centers in income generating projects, youth rights self-empowerment, youth grassroots organizing, as well as job training and education. MA'AN streamlines its gender-strategy into its youth projects and coordinates all of its work with relevant government actors and local stakeholders.


MA'AN approaches youth development through three primary methods:

1) Capacity building: Capacity building activities for infrastructure development in

schools and community based organizations (CBO), as well as management training and internal systems development. In addition, projects often include the provision of basic equipment and furniture.

2) Awareness raising: MA'AN's youth projects increase awareness and provide tools for action-based change among youth, parents, and community members. This is done in order to increase national and international knowledge of rights-based challenges in the region and to increase the amount of accessible resources for community-led rights advocacy.

3) Advocacy on the local and national levels: It is crucial that government and donor policies invest in youth development and that PA national policies integrate the interests and needs of Palestinian youth across socio-economic and geographic lines. MA'AN further prioritizes youth-led rights advocacy through grassroots



activities and projects that develop the capacity for youth and communities to lead independent campaigns and initiatives.

MA'AN uses a grassroots level approach to youth development, ensuring that beyond the completion of a project, youth are well-equipped to lead development within their communities. Using this methodology in all of its work, the projects below provide a brief glimpse into the various ways that MA'AN has engaged youth in issues ranging from popular movement, to social media engagement, and employment.

UActiv8; 2012-2015, British Council; to promote cross-community cooperation and to create a network of young community leaders who will bring positive social change in the separated Palestinian communities of Jordan, West Bank, Gaza and Israel

Active Citizens; 2010-2011, British Council; to preserve public property in schools and raise the awareness level of students


and the local community against direct destruction of public property

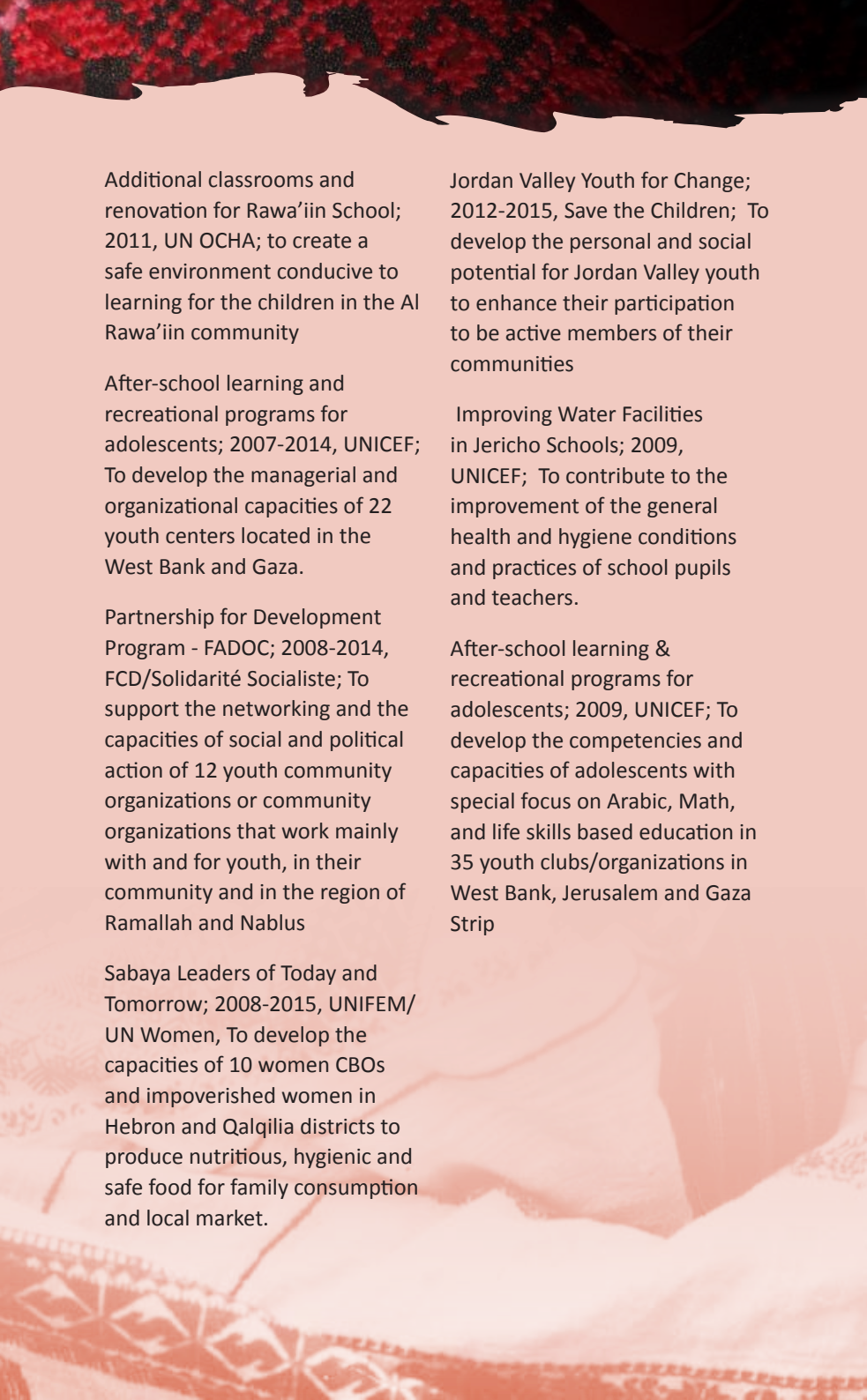
Renovation Works in schools in Fasayil al-Foqa; 2010, Paltel Group Foundation for Community Development; to establish a primary school in the village of Fasayil al-Foqa to provide education infrastructure for school-age children.

Renovation Works in Fasayil Schools; multiple years, multiple donors; to establish and develop school infrastructure for the pre-school and primary school of Fasayil al-Foqa

The Palestinian NGO IV Project; 2011-2012, NGO Development Center; To empower youth in the Jordan Valley to become active citizens who can effectively and proactively shape their communities

Emergency Rehabilitation of 4 Schools in Area C; 2011, UN OCHA; to create a safe environment conducive to learning for the children in Kallet Sakaryia, Ka'abneh, Fasayil Al Foqa, and An Nabi Samwel communities





Additional classrooms and renovation for Rawa'iin School; 2011, UN OCHA; to create a safe environment conducive to learning for the children in the Al Rawa'iin community

After-school learning and recreational programs for adolescents; 2007-2014, UNICEF; To develop the managerial and organizational capacities of 22 youth centers located in the West Bank and Gaza.

Partnership for Development Program - FADOC; 2008-2014, FCD/Solidarité Socialiste; To support the networking and the capacities of social and political action of 12 youth community organizations or community organizations that work mainly with and for youth, in their community and in the region of Ramallah and Nablus

Sabaya Leaders of Today and Tomorrow; 2008-2015, UNIFEM/ UN Women, To develop the capacities of 10 women CBOs and impoverished women in Hebron and Qalqilia districts to produce nutritious, hygienic and safe food for family consumption and local market.

Jordan Valley Youth for Change; 2012-2015, Save the Children; To develop the personal and social potential for Jordan Valley youth to enhance their participation to be active members of their communities

Improving Water Facilities in Jericho Schools; 2009, UNICEF; To contribute to the improvement of the general health and hygiene conditions and practices of school pupils and teachers.

After-school learning & recreational programs for adolescents; 2009, UNICEF; To develop the competencies and capacities of adolescents with special focus on Arabic, Math, and life skills based education in 35 youth clubs/organizations in West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza Strip





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MA'AN
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