

# **Annual Report 2023**

# 40Years of Serving Palestine & Still going Strong



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# Annual Report 2023



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#### **Message from the Chairperson**

The year 2023 was an exceptional year for Taawon, as we celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the founding of this organization, which touched the lives of millions of Palestinians. However, our celebration was not complete, as this year also witnessed, specifically in October, an attack against the Gaza Strip that was the most severe and longest since its siege 17 years ago. Therefore, it was necessary for us to mobilize all our energies and capabilities to support the people in the Gaza Strip.



When discussing our notable achievements, interventions, and initiatives achieved during this year, we must start by highlighting our efforts to provide relief to the people in Gaza. Since the beginning of the attack, we have consistently stood by the people in Gaza, who are facing an attack that created an unprecedented tragic reality.

Taawon was at the forefront and the first to initiate an immediate, urgent and direct response to the overwhelming humanitarian needs, aiming to cover urgent basic necessities that contribute to strengthening the steadfastness and resilience of the people in Gaza and improve their living and health conditions.

We formed a Gaza Emergency Task Force, which included members of the Board of Trustees, the Executive Board and others, to draw up a strategy for our immediate interventions during the attack and the day after the war stops.

In brief, our direct interventions focused on meeting urgent needs and supplies, including clothing, water, food, fuel, and sanitary and medical tools. This was done in coordination with our partners, to help alleviate the burdens and suffering of our displaced people throughout the Gaza Strip, providing them with the tools necessary to build their resilience and cater to their most basic needs.

In an effort to intensify our relief program for Gaza, we launched the "Gaza Needs Us Now" campaign. Through this campaign we were able to collect more than 5 million US dollars, which were allocated to cover various humanitarian and relief needs. Additionally, we applied for a two million US dollar grant from the Arab Fund to rehabilitate the agricultural lands, water wells and orphans.

As part of our endeavor to evaluate and crystallize potential interventions, we have launched the Gaza Orphan Care Program, in partnership with the Bank of Palestine

Group, to support 20,000 children orphaned by the war. Additionally, we have prepared a framework for programs related to training, rehabilitation, and youth employment. We continue to evaluate and study needs such as volunteering, education, saving the academic year, and compensating for educational losses for school and university students, among others.

Despite our intensive efforts, and the urgent need for Gaza relief, we have remained committed to implementing our development programs in the West Bank and refugee camps in Lebanon. Additionally, within our strategic vision to enhance the steadfastness and empowerment of active Palestinians within the community and local environment, we began implementing two programs in the West Bank to empower schools through the (STEM) approach, and another to qualify and train youth (LEARN to LEAD).

There is no doubt that the new reality, resulting from this attack, which targets the eradication of lives and aims to extinguish the spirit of hope in our people, is at the forefront of our relief and development efforts. Therefore, one of our top priorities in the coming years, in coordination with our network of close partners is to weave the threads of this ongoing story with their support and goodwill, aiming to achieve a tangible and lasting positive impact.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Welfare Association (Taawon), a source of pride for us all, we reflect on our distinctive identity and successful achievements. This milestone inspires us to continue implementing our 2023/2025 strategy, focusing on empowering influential, innovative, and pioneering Palestinians. Through education and skills development, we aim to equip them with the competence to lead and drive change in our fast-evolving world.

Since its inception and until this day, we, the Taawon family, take pride in those who initiated, worked and contributed to shaping our impactful journey. Through our efforts, we have positively impacted the lives of more than a million Palestinians annually, investing more than 920 million US dollars in educational development, youth empowerment, orphan care, cultural preservation, revitalization of old cities, community development, health, agriculture, and humanitarian aid.

Yes, Taawon embarked on its ongoing journey 40 years ago, and will continue to prioritize the Palestinian people and their empowerment.

#### Dr. Nabil Hani Qaddumi

#### **Message from the Director General**

What was intended to be a year of celebration for Taawon came to an end with a new attack on Gaza, an attack against humanity the likes of which the world has never witnessed, reminding us once again of the significance of our ongoing support for the Palestinian people. Our journey in 2023 has been defined by resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication to our mission of empowering and supporting Palestinian people, and



as you will see in this report, this year we served 419,262 Palestinians on the ground throughout our various initiatives and programs.

2023 marked an important milestone in our organization's history as we celebrated Taawon's 40th anniversary. Over the past four decades, Taawon has remained steadfast in its commitment to serving the Palestinian people, evolving and adapting to meet the needs of our communities. As we commemorated this milestone in Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon we reflected on the impact on the lives of those we serve, and the partnerships that made it possible, reaffirming our dedication to building a brighter future for generations to come.

However, in October, everything changed. We launched our ninth humanitarian appeal for Gaza in the last ten years, and having been on the ground for 37 years in Gaza, we quickly mobilized our local network of well-established civil society organizations as well as local suppliers for the prompt distribution of the limited resources accessible within the Gaza Strip. By the end of 2023, we were able to help 350,000 Palestinians in Gaza.

In parallel, building on 16 years of experience in supporting 4,261 orphans in Gaza, the over 20,000 newly orphaned children of Gaza guickly became our priority. In November 2023 we launched The Gaza Orphans Care Program for the children of Gaza whom we believe are our collective responsibility and need us now more than ever.

While the suffering continues, the resilience and steadfastness of the Palestinian people has been unwavering. The outpouring of support for Palestinians serves as a beacon of hope for humanity. It is a testament to our shared values of justice, dignity, and compassion, transcending borders and uniting people from all walks of life in solidarity with the Palestinian people. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire Taawon family for their commitment, passion, and resilience in the face of adversity.

#### Dr. Aida Assem Al-Saeed



# 40 Years...and Still **Going Strong**

Initiative, Development, and Innovation...Our **Story Continues.** 

Four decades ago, Palestinian and Arab economic and intellectual figures gathered with a vision to establish a capable Palestinian organization dedicated to empowering individuals inside and outside of Palestine. Founded in Geneva in 1983, the Welfare Association (Taawon) emerged as a nonprofit civil association with a steadfast focus on the Palestinian individual.

Throughout years of dedicated efforts, Taawon has evolved into a leading and influential organization committed to Palestinians resilience, preserving their connection to their land, and promoting their identity, heritage, and rich diverse culture within a framework of sustainable development. Taawon aims to empower Palestinians across the West Bank, including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, 1948 areas, and the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. Today, Taawon operates in Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom through its sister organization.

"In 40 years...we have invested more than 920 million US dollars in projects, programs and initiatives with impact and sustainable development interventions."

From day one, its direction was clear in adopting an integrated development approach and creating a sustainable impact. Its work was not limited to charitable initiatives and humanitarian aid, but rather it employed its capabilities, energies, and efforts towards creating an enabling environment to contribute to the growth of human capital and sustainable social development in Palestine.



A journey of influence and growth as of founding until the end of the year 2023, during which more than 920 million US dollars were invested, in the form of projects, programs and initiatives with impact and various development interventions in; education and youth empowerment, orphan care, culture and revitalization of Old Cities, and community development including health, agriculture, and emergency humanitarian aid. Accordingly, the Taawon Awards are granted as a form of appreciation and motivation to institutions or individuals who have achieved outstanding achievements and innovations or who have contributed or sought to create positive and sustainable impacts.

"Annually...we have achieved a positive change and impact in the lives of more than a million Palestinians"

In 2023, as we celebrate forty years of accomplishments that have positively impacted the lives of over a million Palestinians annually, our mission remains to empower Palestinians and invest in the human capital.. We have implemented a practical and promising three-year strategy aimed at empowering Palestinian youth. Our approach focuses on supporting interventions that enhance their skills to adapt to changing times, making them effective individuals. This strategy provides opportunities in innovation and leadership, develops skills for future jobs, promotes quality education and lifelong learning, encourages community participation, and supports culture and cultural heritage.

"Our priority for the next three years is to empower Palestinian individuals to become active and valuable members of society by diversifying their skills to keep pace with changing times."



Our **Vision** 

Taawon envisions the Palestinian people as citizens of an independent, free, and democratic Arab Palestine, living in dignity, prosperity, and Self-fulfillment, with equitable access to opportunities to realize their full potential with distinction and creativity.



Our **Mission** 

As a leading non-governmental Palestinian development organization, Taawon strives to make a distinguished contribution toward furthering the progress of Palestinians, preserving their heritage and identity, supporting their living culture, and building civil society. It aims to achieve these goals by methodically identifying the Palestinian people's needs and priorities and establishing the soundest mechanisms to maximize the benefits from the available funding resources

Our **Values** 

**National** Commitment

Independence

**Professionalism** 

# 40 years...and the **Achievements Continue**

**Since 1983** 

More than 920 million **US** dollars in empowerment and development projects.

More than 8,200 interventions with an annual investment exceeding 40

million US dollars.

More than 200 strategic partnerships

with Palestinian

institutions.

More than 1 million Palestinians, annually.





























# **Important Milestones in Taawon's Journey**

1983

1984

1985

1987



Registering as a charitable organization and establishing an office in Geneva



Convention of the first General Assembly meeting and election of the first Board of Trustees.

Launching the Jerusalem Program in cooperation with the late Faisal Al-Husseini and initiating the First

Small Loan program in Palestine.

#### Launching the two following programs:

Promoting Early Childhood in Palestine. Strengthening the Palestinian presence in the territories occupied in 1948 (cultural and awareness-raising projects, and home restoration).

Inauguration of the Development Consultation Center, with branches in Jerusalem and Gaza.

# 1991 1993

Launching a strategy that focuses on development and reconstruction within three main tracks: institutional development to develop human resources, cultural, and identity.

Launching the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program with support from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

# 994 1997

Implementing a \$14 million project to manage Palestinian NGOs, funded by the World Bank.

Launching an urgent support program for the Palestinian people with supported by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and Arab financial institutions.

2002 2003

Launching Taawon's Award for Excellence and Creativity.

<ul> <li>The "Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program" received the Aga Khan Project Award for Architecture.</li> <li>The youth information technology project received the Dubai Municipality UN HABITAT award for the best project for good practices.</li> </ul>	Launching a campaign aiming to raise 100 million US dollars for Taawon's endowment (members of Taawon donated US\$ 25 million towards this campaign).
Launching the Arab Foundations Forum in collaboration with several leading institutions in the Arab region.	Establishing the Bahrain Hospital in Ramallah with the Palestinian People's Advocacy Committee stemming from the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
Transferring the leadership of Taawon from the founding generation to a younger generation of members.	Signing a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a \$10 million trust fund intended for orphan education in Gaza.
<ul> <li>Setting the foundation stone for the Childhood Institute - An-Najah National University.</li> <li>Signing 181 agreements worth \$ 44.4 million.</li> <li>Establishing a specialized unit for bone marrow transplantation (the first of its kind) at Al-Mutala' Hospital – Jerusalem.</li> </ul>	Receiving the Campden International Award for Charity and Philanthropy; awarded for the first time in the Middle East.
Setting the foundation stone for the Palestinian Museum building in Birzeit.	More than a million Palestinians have benefited from cooperation programs and services, half of whom are women.



#### **Stages of the Development of Program Support Allocations Over 40 Years**

The stages of development for allocating support to implemented programs and projects can be divided as follows:

.......

US \$ 51 million Phase One (1983 - 1993)

Support Palestinian Steadfastness & Self Determination

US \$ 55 million

**Phase Three** (1994-1999)

**Support Development and Restoration** 

US \$ 232 million

**Phase Three** (2000-2007)

Support Humanitarian Relief & Reconstruction

US \$ 155 million

: Phase Four (2008-2012)

Support Development and Steadfastness of the people of Palestine

**US \$ 307** million

**Phase Five** (2013-2019)

**Support Empowerment and Creativity** 

US \$ 123 million

(2020-2023)

Support Innovation and Revitalization

\$48,000,000

# **Extended Impact –** For you Palestine, we Shall Persevere

Within our attempts to keep pace with the requirements of reality and the future, and based on the idea of "collaboration between the generations" for the sake of Palestine, Taawon synchronized its plans and programs to achieve the desired impact through strategic partnerships with donors, and in cooperation with civil society institutions and various development institutions, including government institutions.

We aim to invest in the abilities and potential of Palestinian individuals to equip them with the skills necessary to persevere and progress in life. This will help achieve economic, social, and cultural advancement in our societies, preserve Palestinian heritage, contribute to sustainable development, and highlight our renewed civilization and creativity.

**Program Support Allocations** for the Years 1983-2023



Culture Education



\$62,000,000 \$276,000,000





\$ 24,000,000 : \$ 36,000,000

Community development

\$ 392,000,000 : \$ 85,000,000

The Palestinian Museum





# Following their lead...



"A dream that began as small as the number of those who embraced it, but became as great as their aspirations, and day after day found growing responsiveness by more committed people. Thus, this hope was nurtured and in Geneva, we witnessed the birth of Taawon- the Welfare Association."

The late Abdul-Majeed Shoman **Taawon's First Board of Trustees Chairperson** 



"The idea of Taawon- Welfare Association since its establishment was based on a simple but important principle...the synergy and interaction of the intellectual and economic potentials of the Palestinian people within a broad institution to serve them in all developmental aspects."

The Late Abdel-Mohsen Al-Qattan Former Honorary President, Former Board of Trustees Chairperson



"Taawon- Welfare Association is very keen on making Jerusalem its top priority, and it always seeks to serve the Palestinians who are known for their steadfastness and for their desire towards continuous development"

The Late Haseeb Al-Sabbagh **The Former Vice Chairperson** 



"The Palestinian people are able and determined to demonstrate fortitude and creativity. After all the sacrifices they have been and still are offering, and it is our duty to pursue this goal together with all the material, intellectual and social assets available to us."

The late Said Khoury Former Honorary President, Former Board of Trustees Chairperson

# We Take Pride in the **Trust of our Members**



Taawon is "Palestine" in both its literal and symbolic meaning. The solidarity among its members, their support to each other and to the organization itself led to Taawon's stability and great achievements."

Munib al-Masri, A founder of Taawon, **Honorary President of Taawon** 



"The neighborhoods in the old city of Jerusalem, its historic buildings, and its steadfast people have a place in our hearts...and everything we do for the sake of Jerusalem may never be enough. We must strive to keep Jerusalem the flower of all cities"

Munir Ragheb Al-Kalouti **Member of the Board of Trustees** 



"I am confident that Taawon, as a distinguished and long-standing institution, possesses the capacity to consistently serve as a genuine and unwavering advocate for our rich cultural heritage. Our culture has played a pivotal role in shaping both our national and human identities. Taawon is well-equipped to effectively showcase Palestinian creativity in all its diverse expressions to a global audience."

**Novelist Ibrahim Nasrallah** Member of Taawon, a Prominent Intellectual and Cultural Figure



"Taawon keeps pace with the various stages and carries out development projects to support community steadfastness, enhancing their resilience in the face of occupation.

I am proud of what Taawon accomplished to promote economic and social development and support health, argriculture and infrastructure for a sustainable life."

Taghreed Al-Nafisi Member of Taawon – 2022-2025 General Assembly Rapporteur



"At a pivotal moment for the Palestinian people, in 1983, Taawon was born

We are here, in the most difficult circumstances. We are here: consolidating the values of philanthropy and collaboration. We are certainly not alone, but we have our vision. Now, after 40 years, we have a renewed vision based on the people's accumulation of capabilities and experiences"

Sa'd Abdel-Hadi **General Assembly Chairman** 



"Today, the theory of change has the strength, agility and modernity to be a sustainable platform that enables Palestinian youth to be active and influential in all aspects of life in Palestine or wherever they may be"

**Bisher Jardaneh** Former Chairperson of Taawon (2020-2023)



"For me, Taawon is more than just an organization; it is the idea and goal for which it was established. It brings us all together, regardless of our backgrounds or locations, to work for one thing only... which is giving back to our beloved Palestine."

Rana Diab Member of Taawon's Board of Trustees



"When we talk about Taawon, we talk about steadfastness and making Palestinian children happy. With the occupation's rising cruelty and arrogance, I believe Taawon can shape Palestine's future. Now, we can begin to envision Palestine 2070 and consider how we may realize the dream... the dream of freedom and independence, and a future that ensures that the Palestinian people live in freedom and dignity."

Ammar Al-Kurdi **Member of Taawon** 



"One of the most important achievements of Taawon undoubtedly lies in its firm commitment to create and support numerous educational and development programs throughout Palestine. The profound impact Taawon has had, along with the dedication of its team, is what attracts me most to the organization. As I begin my journey as a new member, I aspire to contribute to technology and digital transformation efforts, as well as entrepreneurship and education collaboration initiatives to play a role in driving positive change and promoting the noble message of Taawon."

Ray Melhem **Member of Taawon** 



"It is a great honor for me to work at Taawon with a distinguished and qualified group of the finest Palestinian people, to provide development and humanitarian support that enhances the presence and steadfastness of our people in Palestine and to empower and rehabilitate the Palestinian individual. I am very proud of Taawon's achievements over the past forty years; as it has broken through many barriers and made a noticeable difference and impact in preserving the identity and heritage of the Palestinian people despite the complex circumstances and enormous difficulties."

Dr. Omar Naeem Abdulhadi Member of Taawon



"Taawon significantly contributes to the resilience of the Palestinian people. The staff and volunteers of the organization perform extraordinary work under unique and challenging conditions. In essence, Taawon embodies dignity."

Ashraf Abu Issa **Member of Taawon** 



"Forty years after the inception of Taawon, the organization renews its commitment to its mission of supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and enabling them to remain on their land. Since confronting the occupation is a long-term struggle, what distinguishes our people is human capital, Taawon's future focus is on empowering the Palestinian individual to be effective and productive in the development and renaissance of society and a catalyst for the desired change."

Dr. Nabil Hani Qaddumi Taawon Chairperson (2023-2025)

# **Recognitions We are Proud** of... Together we Shall Excel



In 2022, the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program (OCJRP) was awarded the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) - Sharjah Award Grand Prize for good practices in preserving and protecting cultural heritage in the Arab region; for the rehabilitation and restoration of residential courtyards and historical buildings in the vicinity of Al-Agsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem between 2017-2022, and for its role in supporting the steadfastness of Jerusalemites and protecting and preserving the historical heritage.

Preserving and Protecting Cultural Heritage in the



**Arab Region:** 

#### Mahatma Gandhi Award:

Taawon received the award in the years:

- 2018-2019: for community work.
- 2020: in appreciation of the humanitarian efforts made in confronting the Corona pandemic.
- 2023: in recognition of its excellence in work, its commitment to high standards and credibility, and its role in social responsibility, leading change and societal impact.



#### **Excellence and Creativity Encounter** (Ligg'a) Award for the Palestinian Contractor in 2016:

- Excellence and Creativity Encounter (Ligg'a) Award for the Palestinian Contractor in 2016:
- The Palestinian Museum received the first prize for the best building as a tribute to the nature of artistic architecture
- The project to restore the Shihabi family building in Jerusalem (headquarters of the National Institute for music), which demonstrated the combination of the building's nobility and historical roots with its modernity the design

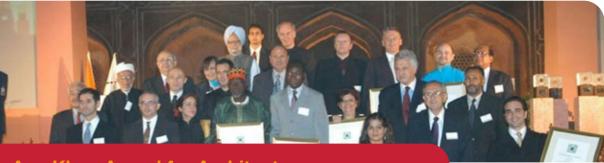


Awards for Best Logo and Best Corporate **Identity, International Communication and Design** 

In 2014, the Palestinian Museum received the Best Logo Award in the International Communication and Design Competition (ICDA).

#### Campden International Award for Charity and Philanthropy:

Taawon received the International Award for Charity and Philanthropy in the Middle East, recognizing it as the premier institution for social giving in the region.



#### **Aga Khan Award for Architecture:**

The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program received the award, in its 2001-2004 session, in recognition of the program's achievements and its comprehensive dimensions In the region preserving community life.

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# **Celebrating Taawon's 40th Anniversary Resilience and Empowerment** 22 Annual Report 2023

## **40th Anniversary Celebration** in Amman

On June 10, 2023, a picturesque event was held at The Ritz-Carlton, Amman, to kick off our 40th Anniversary celebrations. Over 450 supporters, including members and public celebrities, were there. We curated an exciting program that encompassed a range of intellectual, artistic, and charitable activities dedicated to celebrating a futuristic Palestine. We were honored to have Dr. Tamim Al-Barghouti as our keynote speaker, and soulful performances by renowned Palestinian artist Omar Kamal and the talented choral group Mosaica. Laila Al Shaikhli, Principal Presenter at Al Jazeera Television, skillfully guided us through the event, while attendees were immersed in a contemporary and authentic Palestinianthemed atmosphere, meticulously crafted for this occasion by the Nagsh Collective. Guests enjoyed their dinner which featured a taste of Palestine, with a special menu designed for the event by Mrs. Bassima Abu Jaber Ghawi.





#### **40th Anniversary Celebration in Palestine**

On June 13th we headed to Palestine to commemorate our Anniversary in our homeland, where we spent a week touring Palestine's cities, corridors, and alleys. The days felt fleeting, yet the experience and memories created were everlasting and reenergized everyone's commitment to Taawon's mission. 25 of our members, their families, friends, and supporters visited Palestine in a weeklong trip to Bethlehem, Ramallah and Bir Zeit, Jerusalem, Nablus, Jaffa, Acre, and Nazareth and witnessed Taawon's projects on the ground, met our partners, and met our beneficiaries. Below you can find a closer look at some of these events.

#### **Charity Dinner**

We celebrated our 40th Anniversary in our homeland on 14th of June 2023, with over 300 people attending the dinner held at the Millennium Hotel-Ramallah. Public figures, donors, partners, supporters and Taawon members all joined forces on this special occasion to make this day a memorable one and reminding us of who our new focus is on and why, innovative and inspirational Palestinian youth. Our keynote speakers were, Lynn Abu Bakr and Heba Awaisah- the two winners of the "Taawon Youth Award 2020" - Munir Al Kalouti Award "For a Better Tomorrow...We Innovate". Lynn and Heba presented the capabilities, distinction, steadfastness, and determination of Palestinian youth via their platform Sawaed 19. Another former beneficiary of Taawon, The Galilee Quartet, an Oriental/ Classical Quartet consisting of three brothers and a sister, celebrated with us their story and their love for Palestinian music.



#### **Taawon's 40th General Assembly Meeting**

For the first time since its establishment Taawon held the General Assembly meeting in Palestine, on Thursday, June 15, at the A.M. Qattan Foundation in Ramallah. During the meeting, Taawon's 2023-2025 strategy was presented, along with new impactful interventions for supporting youth, the restructuring of the organizational structure based on the strategy was discussed, and the 2022 financial report was approved, and a glimpse of the new Taawon brand was shared.



#### **Celebration at the Palestine Museum**

On June 17, 2023, we celebrated four decades of remarkable achievements not only with our members, partners, beneficiaries, and volunteers in Palestine. The celebration took place within the breathtaking space of the Palestinian Museum, where we enjoyed a wonderful performance by the by El-Funoun Dance Troupe. The 350 people there that night were a testament to our vision, where we laid the founding stone a decade ago and are now able to preserve and celebrate our cultural heritage.



#### Taawon's 40th Anniversary Celebration – Lebanon

#### **Musical Concert**

Continuing its 40th anniversary celebrations, Taawon organized a musical concert, at Sursock Mu-

seum in Beirut, where it hosted an exceptional performance by musician and artist Michel Fadel and his band. The event was attended by more than five hundred people and the proceeds went to support vocational and technical education for Palestinian youth in Lebanon.

#### **Camp Visits**

Following their participation in the Board of Trustee meetings and the musical 40th anniversary musical concert Taawon's Board of Trustees and members of the General Assembly, with their families toured, Lebanon, where they had the chance to visit the Beddawi camps in northern Lebanon and Burj el-Barajneh in Beirut to take a firsthand look at the Taawon's development projects in Lebanon. The tour included a visit to Beit Al-Samoud Children's Foundation in Beddawi, the partner organization in implementing music, early childhood, and mental health programs. They also visited the Kidney dialysis center in Safad Hospital, which is managed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, and the supportive





education program, which is managed by the Women's Programs Association. In addition to visiting Burj el-Barajneh camp, where they learned about the early childhood education support program through a tour to Al-Akhwa Kindergarten, Omar Abdel Hadi Stadium, the Saeed Khoury Public Library, as well as the Active Aging House and Physiotherapy Center both affiliated with the Social Support Society.

#### **Tribute Dinner**

The administrative body of Taawon-Lebanon organized a tribute dinner for the members of the Board of Trustees and its General Assembly who were visiting Lebanon to attend the Board of Trustees meetings hosted by Taawon-Lebanon. During the dinner, the administrative body of the Lebanon branch, represented by its chairperson, Ms. Wafa Al-Yassir, honored Dr. Nabil Hani Qaddumi, the chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The former chairperson of Taawon Lebanon, Mr. Fouad Bawarshi, also honored the current chairperson of Taawon Lebanon, Ms. Wafa Al-Yassir. During the dinner a distinguished work of art presented by the Inaash Association was auctioned off. The auctioned piece of art was a collaboration between Inaash Association and well-known designer Nada Al-Debs.



# Palestine...We are Rooted in You and You are Rooted in Us



am very happy for the time we spent together and for this visit that has strengthened our connection with our country. I am also delighted to have consolidated elationships with former acquaintances and met new people. My gratitude and appreciation go to Taawon, its members, and staff, under the leadership of Dr. Nabil and Aida, for their sincere and heartelt efforts. I also thank them for their neticulous attention to detail, ensuring our safety and comfort. I am proud to be a part of this organization and look forward to collaborating on bigger projects and further accomplishments.

Sincere

Rana Diab



I will always cherish the few wonderful days I spent with you in Palestine.

With amazing people like you, Palestine will one day become what we all hope for. Thank you so much for sharing this experience with us, from Ramallah to Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jaffa, Acre, and Nazareth; it felt like a dream! I hope to see you soon in Abu Dhabi, and especially in Tunisia.

Thank you all, and thank you, Taawon, for your unwavering dedication and values over the decades.

Mrs. Najat Hadrish, wife of Taawon member, Jamal Abu Ali



low is it possible to visit your heart while it renains embraced within your chest?

nis is Palestine! Every visit allows you to set oot on its grounds and experience its beauty.

However, this particular visit had a deeper meaning, as I toured the impressive projects undertaken by Taawon, witnessing the magnitude of its achievements and the strength of its continuity.

you and to our beautiful Palestine.

Ibrahim Nasrallah

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#### First: Innovation and Entrepreneurship

#### Long-term goal: Contribute to developing entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Palestine.

By developing and advancing the thought of innovation and entrepreneurship among the rising generations of children and youth at various age levels, creating an ecosystem for innovation and entrepreneurship in Palestine, and supporting entrepreneurial ideas and projects.

Within the framework of enhancing learning and skills development, during the year 2023, we implemented the following:

Training camps for youth aiming to encourage entrepreneurship in cultural industries.

Daily training for youth in the field of entrepreneurship and idea generation.

Pioneering projects that supported agricultural technology projects.

As part of **the Orphan Care Program**, the following was implemented:

Youth and mothers of orphans participated in a training program in entrepreneurship and understanding the market.

Pioneering projects were developed and supported...



#### Second: The Future of Jobs – Upskilling and Reskilling

#### Long-term goal: Contribute to enhancing skills and developing capabilities and competencies in line with the requirements of the future of jobs.

The labor market is witnessing rapid developments which have led to the eradication of certain jobs and the creation of new jobs that we cannot predict. Through this direction, Taawon aims to contribute to enhancing skills and developing competencies and capabilities in line with the requirements of the future of jobs. Taawon intends to focus on developing the skills of the twenty-first century among Palestinian youth by: preparing them to enter the labor market, reskilling and upskilling workers' skills, supporting technical and vocational education and training in addition to advanced technical and vocational skills; enhancing and developing digital skills for all age groups, empowering workers in the fields of digitalization and multiple technologies in various fields, and supporting science, technology, engineering and mathematics STEM specializations.

As part of enhancing **learning and skills development**, during the year 2023:

Youth were trained and their skills in the fields of agricultural technology, e-marketing, personal and professional skills, and labor market skills were developed.

Youth were qualified as personal skills' trainers.

Jobs were created in the field of digital work.

As part of the Orphan Care Program, the following benefited:

University graduates and professionals from career and life skills programs.

University and vocational education graduates, from the programs "Wajd" and "Mustaqbali" were provided with paid training opportunities during work.

Youth graduates from the programs "Wajd" and "Mustaqbali" were provided with the opportunity to participate in an advanced training program in remote work and self-employment skills.

Youth orphans from the "Wajd" and "Mustagbali" programs participated in 101 training on the topics of the Internet, artificial intelligence, programming, mobile phone applications, and designing electronic projects.

> Youth orphans have received specialized technological courses that qualify them to enter the labor market.

#### Third: Quality Education and Continuous Learning

#### Long-term goal: Contribute to supporting quality education and continuous learning

Taawon seeks to achieve this goal by mobilizing towards a supportive educational system, empowering and preparing teachers, providing learning opportunities that develop twenty-first century skills, and providing quality educational opportunities for all segments of society at the higher education level. Taawon also seeks to support, provide and enhance an education ecosystem that employs technology and educational methodologies which adopt an approach to integrating science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM).

As part of enhancing education and developing skills during 2023, the following was implemented:

Training days for youth in entrepreneurship and idea generation.

As part of **empowering communities and the surrounding** environment:

Educational institutions and facilities were rehabilitated.

Children were given access to healthy drinking water in schools.

Children were provided with needs that enabled them to enroll in the school year.

Students had their university tuition fees covered.

University students were supported through scholarships within the dual study program.

#### As part of the Orphan Care Program:

Orphans from the "Wajd" and "Mustaqbali" programs were provided with supportive education services.

Orphans were provided with back to school supplies.

Orphans from the "Wajd" and "Mustagbali" programs were granted university tuition fees.

Youth orphans enrolled in vocational training programs and were provided with skills that qualify them to enter the labor market.

#### Fourth: Community Engagement

#### Long-term goal: Contribute to Stimulating Community Engagement

Taawon believes that integrating youth and motivating them towards community engagement plays a major role in their empowerment; by providing platforms for dialogue amongst youth, and by providing opportunities for community engagement, as well as enhancing a supportive and stimulating environment.

As part of **enhancing learning and skills development**, during the year 2023:

Community activities and cognitive and educational meetings for youth and children with specialists and experts in promoting cultural knowledge were carried out.

As part of empowering communities and the surrounding environment the following were held:

Cultural and artistic shows and community meetings.

Specialized sessions to develop the skills of workers in community centers.

Community sports activities within the city of Jerusalem.

Rehabilitation of a public park for children.

#### As part of the **Orphan Care Program**:

Guardians of orphans – participated in orientation sessions to raise awareness about children's rights and protection.



#### Fifth: Culture and Cultural Heritage

#### Long-term goal: Contribute to enhancing culture and cultural heritage

Due to the role of culture and cultural heritage in social and economic development, and one of the pillars in empowering individuals and enhancing skills, creativity, innovation and creative thinking, Taawon has given great importance to the culture sector in order to enhance cultural aspects and enhance cultural heritage through developing innovative skills in the cultural and creative industries and preserving archaeological sites.

As part of **enhancing learning and skills development**, during the year 2023:

Youth were trained and their skills in digital content creation, documentation, oral history, and artistic skills were developed.

Cognitive and educational meetings and community activities for youth and children with specialists and experts in promoting cultural knowledge were conducted.

Training camps were held for youth to encourage entrepreneurship in cultural industries.

Pioneering projects were provided in the culture sector.

#### As part of **empowering communities and the surrounding environment**:

Qultural and artistic products in Palestinian heritage and culture have been accomplished.

Cultural and artistic shows were held.

Facility developed to serve as a community work site.

Community centers and partner institutions wherein the capabilities and skills of workers therein were strengthened and developed.

Specialized sessions were held to develop the skills of workers in community centers.

Houses, buildings and archaeological facilities were restored.



#### As part of strengthening resilience and humanitarian aid:

During the year 2023, Taawon contributed significantly to strengthening resilience and providing humanitarian aid throughout Palestine.

As part of **empowering communities and the surrounding environment**:

359	Agricultural acres have been rehabilitated.
30	Greenhouses have been planted.
6,154	Olive seedlings and fruit trees were planted.
12	Educational institutions and facilities have been rehabilitated.
<b>37</b>	Community sports activities were held within the city of Jerusalem.
12,433	Linear meters of irrigation networks for agricultural lands were extended.

Agricultural water tanks were installed.

#### **Empowering communities and the surrounding**

74

142

8,528

1,220

14,213

399

1,303

1,105

1,808

202

Agricultural water wells were rehabilitated. Solar electricity generation systems for agricultural projects have been installed.

> Linear kilometers of agricultural roads were constructed and rehabilitated.

> Acres of agricultural land wherein water harvesting techniques were implemented.

Working days were provided for unemployed workers.

Patients were provided with treatment in various hospitals and health centers in the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza,

Fresh food baskets were distributed to families in need.

Farmers were supported by purchasing their crops and distributing them to families in need.

Families in need were provided with food assistance during the month of Ramadan 1444.

Children were provided with clothes.

Orphans in the West Bank benefited from the provision of food support.

Orphans in the Gaza Strip benefited from the provision of food support.



As part of the Orphan Care Program:

128

95

**250** University graduates and professionals benefited from training programs in life skills.

> Youth specializing in vocational education received training in occupational security and safety standards

**595** Orphans from the "Wajd" and "Mustagbali" programs participated in extracurricular sports, artistic, and literary training.

650 Orphan children participated in psychological support activities.

> Medical examinations for orphan children were conducted and therapeutic and health services were provided, including minor surgeries, plastic surgeries for burns, nutritional medicines and food aid.

Orphans with disabilities received rehabilitation services that included: physical therapy, occupational therapy, treatment of speech disorders, medical aids, integration into education, and psychological support activities.

1,275 Children from the "Wajd" and "Mustagbali" programs benefited from psychological support services.

> Youth orphans from the "Wajd" and "Mustaqbali" programs enrolled in vocational training programs.







Our most prominent interventions in the Gaza Strip from the beginning of the attack until the end of 2023





33,046

Fresh

produce









Families provided with medical care







Square meters of potable water







\$ 483,000 Worth of medical equipment and supplies

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# Sponsor an Orphan in Gaza A Journey to Last a Lifetime

# ORPHANED CHILDREN ARE OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY

https://www.taawon.org/en/content/gazasorphaned-children-are-our-collective-responsibility

DONATE NOW TO GAZA'S ORPHAN CARE PROGRAM





Over the past 15 years, Taawon has supported 4,261 orphans in Gaza through the "Waid" and "Mustagbali" programs. Building on our vision, mission, and commitment, as well as the commitment of our partners, we launched the "Gaza Orphan Care Program" in partnership with the Bank of Palestine Group, to provide care for 20,000 children orphaned by the 2023 attack on Gaza, supporting their education, healthcare services, as well as other activities, in addition to protection, psychological and social support for orphans and their caregivers until they reach the age of 18 years.

Sponsor an orphan annually: 2000 US dollars Sponsor an orphan monthly: 167 US dollars

#### **Gaza Orphans' Program Vision**

Empowering orphans to lead dignified lives and fully exercise their rights outlined in international human rights charters, as capable individuals who can contribute to their own growth and the progress of their communities, in line with a sustainable development outlook.

#### **Gaza Orphans' Program Main Objective**

Contribute to the empowerment of the orphans affected by the 2023 attack on Gaza, so they can live with dignity and contribute effectively to their societies

#### Program's sub-goals

- Provide orphans with basic needs of food and clothing
- Offer psychological trauma therapy to rehabilitate orphans and facilitate their social integration.
- Provide orphans with necessary health and medical care services.
- Provide orphans with opportunities to continue their school education, enhance their performance, and foster academic achievements.
- Equip some orphans with vocational skills and other skills that will enable them to enter the job market upon reaching the age of 18.
- Provide comprehensive social care for orphans who have lost their extended families.
- Improve the quality of services provided to orphans by developing the skills of the individuals dealing with them, whether family members or caregivers.



### **Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program**

#### Our Heritage, Our Identity and Our history...Together we **Shall Preserve and Revive it**

Since its inception thirty years ago, the Program's imprint is still evident on hundreds of projects in Jerusalem and Nablus; to this day, the Program works to implement and prepare a large number of projects within different stages. During the year 2023, the total number of projects implemented reached 33, with a total cost estimated at 3.2 million US dollars.

#### The Program's Most Prominent Achievements for the Year 2023

- 1. Restoration component of historic residential buildings and courtyards and rehabilitation of historic buildings in the historic towns of Jerusalem and Nablus:
- The total number of projects implemented reached 33, at a total cost estimated at 3.2 million US dollars. During the year 2023, 10 of those projects were completed, while the other projects are under implementation, or in the early stages of inception.
- Restoration of 4 housing units in Jerusalem, benefiting 5 Jerusalemite families.
- Restoration of a residential yard in Nablus, benefiting 10 families.
- Restoration of part of a historic building, and installation of a therapeutic pool therein for use in treating the elderly.
- Reinforcement of an unstable retaining wall, and restoration of the main yard therein for the use of a kindergarten in Jerusalem.
- Rehabilitation of 15 historical facades of a historic market in the Old City of Nablus.

#### 2. Documentation component

- Conducting a study to assess and analyze the structural condition of the Ashrafieh School building located in the courtyards of the Holy Mosque. Producing a film about the ICCROM Award received by the Program in 2023; the Sharjah Grand Award for Good Practices in Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management in the Arab Region (2020-2022).
- Creating 26 short visual publications featuring the Old City of Jerusalem, the Old City of Hebron, the Church of the Nativity, and Solomon's Pools. Compiling a text for a specialized, detailed, and analytical book on Jerusalem during the Mamluk era, focusing on its history and architecture.
- Developing a database on the Old City of Jenin.

#### 3. Training Component

- A specialized course was conducted for 8 professionals in the town of Kor, (located in the Tulkarm Governorate of the West Bank), focusing on the restoration of stone facades of a historical building.
- A specialized course on the historical and cultural heritage of Palestine was conducted with Dr. Nazmi Al-Jubeh in Jerusalem. The course featured theoretical lectures and field tours in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and Hebron. Eleven participants attended, and the field tours were documented for the creation of short visual publications. A specialized course on the structural evaluation of historical buildings in Jerusalem was conducted with expert Dr. Ayman Harzallah, with 9 engineers participating.
- An external specialized course titled "Integrated Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Knowledge Exchange in an Integrated Approach" was held in Palermo, Italy, in collaboration with the University of Palermo. This course saw the participation of 9 engineers and students from the Department of Architecture at Al-Quds University and was funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

# Taawon Talks



During the year 2023, Taawon held 10 sessions of "Taawon Talks", a monthly dialogue series created to engage our members and foster interactive discussions with esteemed figures across various fields-academia, literature, art, politics, economics, entrepreneurship, activism, and more.

Since its inception we have hosted several distinguished guests, including Dr. Marwan Muasher, Dr. Rashid Khalidi, Mohammad El Kurd, Noura Erekat, Lamis Deek, Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta, Raja Khalidi, Fadi Qattan and Ambassador Hussam Zomlot.



The extent of the destruction to buildings, institutions, universities, schools and 7 hospitals, as legitimate military targets, is part of a plan aimed at making Gaza uninhabitable.

Dr. Ghassan Abu Sitta **Taawon Talks** 

#### "Let us spread the spirit of giving during the Holy Month of Ramadan" 2023

#### From small farmers to vulnerable families



The campaign aimed to bolster the resilience of the people in the Gaza Strip during the holy month of Ramadan, particularly given the challenging conditions they face. We supported small-scale farmers and provided essential food supplies to needy families. We succeeded in raising over \$900,000, which significantly helped meet the needs of Gaza's families and empowered small producers and farmers economically.



#### Taawon's 2022 Awards for Excellence and **Creativity**

Taawon awards, for the nineteenth year in a row, complement the organization's mission and emulate its identity and values which stem from its belief in the importance of qualitative work. The awards also aim to paint a bright picture of the culture of achievement and empowerment of institutions and individuals; thus, encouraging them to excel and be creative in their work, and strengthen their role and involvement in building the future of Palestine, in order to preserve its heritage, authenticity and roots.

#### Four Periodic Awards were Granted

#### Taawon's 2022 Jerusalem Award

#### The Late Ragheb Al-Kaloti Award for Community Development in Jerusalem - For Jerusalem, We Work

- Objective: To support and encourage work and construction for Jerusalem.
- Funding: Mr. Munir Al-Kaloti
- Value: 50,000 US dollars.
- Winning institution: National Conservatory of Music (Edward Said National Conservatory of Music).
- Project: Jerusalem Girls Band and Choir Project.
- Jury Members: Ms. Rana Al-Nashashibi, Mr.Amira Shaheen, Ms. Fadia Al-Salfiti, and Mr. Ahmed Al-Shurafa.



#### Taawon's 2022 Youth Award

#### The Munir Al-Kaloti Youth Award - For a Better **Tomorrow, We Innovate**

- Objective: To support and inspire youth to pursue their aspirations and entrepreneurial endeavors. Funding: Mr. Munir Al- Kaloti
- Value: \$50,000 USD (\$10,000 maximum per winner).
- Winning initiatives:
  - 1. "Inbred Meat Production" Initiative Alaa Ahmed Abdel Razek Al-Masry -North Gaza Strip.
  - 2. "Kindi" Initiative Ahmed Khaled Amin Al-Hajin Gaza.
  - 3. "Acanari Palestine Initiative for the Development of the Prickly Pear Sector" -Rana Abdel-Jabbar Najeeb Kuo - Tulkarm.
  - 4. "Boom Application for Behavior Monitoring" Initiative Amjad Shughri -1948 Areas.
  - 5. "Ya Rayeh" Initiative Maysaa Khaled Hassan Al-Shaer Ramallah and Al-Bireh.
- Jury committee: Eng. Nadia Sabaaneh, Dr. Adel Jaidi, Ms. Halima Abdel Aziz, Mr. Hussein Murtaja, and Eng. Tariq Thabet.



Rana Abdul-Jabbar



**Ahmed Amin** Al-Hajin



Alaa Al-Razzaq Al-Masry



Maysaa Khaled Al-Shaer



**Amjad Shaghri** 

#### Taawon 2022 Award for Excellence in the **Cultural Sector**

#### The late Naim Abdulhadi Culture Award - We Will Get There Someday

- Objective: To provide opportunity for individual artists and professionals in the cultural sector and its supporting fields to unleash their creativity in designing cultural, artistic, or technical projects.
- Funding: Sons of the late Naim Abdulhadi.
- Value: 50,000 US dollars. (Divided according to winner's rank).
- Winning initiatives:
  - 1. First Prize: "Come on with us to Palestine" Initiative Noman Azzam Noman Salhab. Moeen Naim Abdel Moneim Abu Shkhidem - Hebron.
  - 2. Second Prize: "Tags School for Theater" Initiative Petra Barghouti, Eid Aziz - Ramallah and Al-Bireh.
  - 3. Third Prize: "Shalaldeh Initiative for Manufacturing, Maintaining and Restoring Stringed Musical Instruments" - "Shehada Nabil Shehadeh Shalaldeh - Ramallah and Al-Bireh.
  - 4. Fourth Prize: "Studio without Voices" Initiative Hanin Muhammad Karaz. Nour Muhammad Abdel-Jawad, Mahmoud Fayez Al-Khuraibi, Mahmoud Waseem Al-Hamarneh - Gaza Strip.
- Jury committee: Mr. Ali Ramadan, Ms. Sabreen Abdel Rahman, Mr. Mahmoud Al-Shaer, Mr. Ahmed Saidam, and Ms. Nidaa Nassar.



Shehada Nabil Shalaldeh



"Tags School for Theater" Come on with us to" Initiative



Palestine" Initiative



"Studio without Voices" Initiative

#### Taawon's 2022 Distinguished Teacher **Award**

#### The Munir Al-Kaloti Distinguished Teacher Award - Teacher Innovation ... Renaissance of the **Homeland**

- Objective: To support creativity and excellence in education through the teacher's adoption of innovative, unconventional, modern and advanced methods, techniques and mechanisms in teaching and learning.
- Funding: Mr. Munir Al-Kaloti.
- Value: 45,000 US dollars.
- Winners:
  - 1. Loay Nimer Abdullah Dweikat Abu Bakr Al-Siddig Higher Basic School -Governmental - Nablus - West Bank - Method: Drama / digital modeling / educational games / teaching outside the classroom.
  - 2. Amal Youssef Muhammad Abu Zayed Khawla Bint Al Azwar Secondary School for Girls - Governmental - Gaza Strip - Method: Fun learning inspired by interactive storytelling.
  - 3. Zainab Sufyan Mahmoud Daloul Abdel Muti Al-Rayes Vocational Secondary School for Girls - Governmental - Gaza Strip - Method: Real Learning.
- Jury committee: Dr. Hassan Abdel Karim, Mr. Marai Al-Sous, Mr. Odeh Zahran, Mr. Ahmed Ashour, and Mr. Montaser Halabi.



**Amal Youssef** Abu Zayed



**Loav Nimer Abdullah Dweikat** 



**Zainab Sufyan Daloul** 

# Taawon's Efforts for Palestinians in Lebanese Refugee Camps

# Impactful quality programs

Taawon in Lebanon has consistently concentrated its efforts on targeted, priority sectors to achieve meaningful and impactful results. Our initiatives for Palestinians in Lebanon's refugee camps have centered on education, psychological support, vocational training, and providing medical services and basic healthcare for individuals with disabilities.

# Guide for Educators on Psychomotor Educational Activities

In 2023, Taawon in Lebanon launched an educators' guide for psychomotor education activities, within the "Support Early Childhood Education" (pre-school) Program.

The guide is the first educational reference of its kind in the Arabic language. It was prepared by specialists from the Lebanese Institute for Educators affiliated with the Jesuit University in Beirut, under the supervision and follow-up of Taawon, and with the support of UNICEF.

The guide was distributed to 85 educational centers, including 60 kindergartens operating inside Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Related supporting materials and games were also distributed.



# **Vocational Education Vocational Education Program**

The program provides youth with grants for a period of three years, funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in partnership with the Palestinian Student Fund and UNRWA. At the end of the program, students obtain a technical baccalaureate degree, which enables them to enter the labor market or complete their university education.

**Until the end of 2023, the program provided scholarships to 119 male and female students.** The beneficiaries were distributed among specialized technical institutes in southern and northern Lebanon and in Beirut and the Bekaa within 9 professional specializations, such as: nursery education, accounting, informatics, mechanics, and others.

#### **Program's Mechanism**

The program includes an integrated approach of support, which begins with guidance through visits to schools wherein the student is introduced to the specializations available in vocational education and the needs of the labor market; and ends with providing support to students enabling them to enter the labor market through an integrated series of support extending over three years:

- Guidance and counselling before the end of the intermediate stage.
- Holding awareness and introduction sessions about vocational education with students' families.
- Providing grants for vocational education for a period of three years.
- Providing training on life skills and labor market skills.
- Providing on-the-job training opportunities (Internships).



#### **Empowerment of the Disability Sector**

#### **Inclusion and Disability Program**

In the last two decades, Taawon in Lebanon has contributed to securing the needs of persons with disabilities of various age and gender groups by providing health, educational and rehabilitation services, in partnership with associations and non-governmental organizations in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

In conjunction with this effort, Taawon has recently sought to develop its work strategy for this sector to become more in line with the concept of comprehensive inclusion and the social-jurisdictional approach to disability.

In order to implement this strategy, a survey was conducted to assess the needs of Palestinian institutions working in the field of disability, targeting 13 associations in partnership with the Palestinian Disability Authority. The final report included the general assessment, basic results, and recommendations for each association regarding its organizational capabilities and development priorities with regards to the capabilities of its employees.

In line with the institutional survey, a comprehensive survey was conducted to evaluate the services available to individuals with disabilities in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon to identify current services, areas lacking services, and gaps that hinder access to comprehensive health care services for people with disabilities.

#### During the year 2023, more than 300 children were provided with treatment and their needs were met through:

- More than 700 physical therapy sessions
- More than 5,000 occupational therapy sessions
- More than 5,000 speech therapy sessions
- More than 900 specialized education sessions
- More than 250 psychosocial support sessions



# 30 Years of Accomplishments...

# Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization **Program**

Taawon established the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program in 1994 in order to strengthen the steadfastness of Jerusalemites and preserve the Arab identity of the Holy City.

Over the 30 years since its formation, the Program has established solid roots with the local community and the residents of the Old City and its institutions; this has contributed to the institutionalization of the Program's work despite endless obstacles and challenges.

In 2006, the Program expanded to include the Old City of Nablus, then the historic town of Arraba in Jenin in 2015, the town of Battir in 2018, and now it also includes the Old City of Jenin.

# Program top achievements over 30 years

#### Restoration



- Restoration of 967 housing units in the Old City of Jerusalem and Nablus.
- Rehabilitation of 115 historic buildings for local institutions.
- Restoration of 90 storefronts in the Old City, Al-Zahra Street - Jerusalem, and the Old City - Nablus.
- Restoration of 5 public squares in the old towns of Jerusalem and Nablus.
- Restoration of 80 arches and facades in the old towns of Jerusalem and Nablus.

#### **Training**



- 57 internships.
- 97 specialized training courses.
- 1,145 participants in training courses.

#### **Documentation**



- 2 Plans to revive the old towns (Jerusalem and Nablus).
- · 3 databases.
- 19 research and studies.
- 32 publications.
- 26 visual publications in the form of a 'series'.
- 9 documentaries.
- 300 books.

#### Awareness



- 112 awareness activities.
- 10 audio-visual materials.
- 4,885 participants in community awareness projects and various activities in Jerusalem, Nablus and Battir.

# Our Palestine Gives Us Life...

**Let's Continue the Story** 

#### A legacy to grandchildren for future generations

The "Inscription on Stone Project" was implemented within the Palestinian Folklore

Narrative Grant - The Program to Support the Palestinian People (Eighteenth Phase), with funding from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The goal was to form a vibrant Palestinian narrative and provide new approaches to reading our history and heritage by collecting oral narratives; starting by studying the inscriptions, decorations, and symbols engraved on the archaeological sites located in the ancient towns of Palestine, especially since many of the buildings in these places are either threatened with confiscation, bombing, or suffer from neglect.

The Project was implemented in partnership with the Tamer Foundation for Community Education in alliance with the following institutions: Art Lab - Jerusalem, the Center for Heritage Preservation - Bethlehem, the Municipality of Arraba, and the Tiro Arts Association - Lebanon,



#### **Project deliverables**

- 31 itineraries and field visits to different cities.
- 24 intellectual and cognitive meetings with the participation of 15 researchers/specialists.
- 120 youth participated in cognitive meetings and field visits.
- Collecting photographs and videos documenting the paths taken by the youth and the inscriptions they found.
- Publishing a booklet showcasing researchers' work, which has been scientifically and historically validated. Conducting two workshops on research, documentation, and how to write oral heritage.
- 8 intensive workshops with the participation of local filmmakers.
- 122 youth participated in workshops aimed at teaching how to write a
- 91 youth were trained on how to write a summary of stories (storyboard).
- A camp in the West Bank with the participation of 61 young men and
- A camp in Gaza with the participation of 58 young men and women.
- Filming and producing 5 films about archaeological sites by youth groups in cooperation with Art Lab.
- Supporting the Tiro Association in Lebanon to produce 3 radio episodes about stories told by the elderly.
- Designing a narrative and visual booklet that includes rich information about the inscriptions of Acre and Bethlehem.
- 7 shows in Jenin, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Gaza and Haifa.

#### **Technology and Innovation in Music**

Implementation of the project began in 2021 and is ongoing in partnership with Jafra Artistic Production Company. The goal is to establish an academic program titled "Technology and Innovation in Music" at Palestinian universities and institutes.

This initiative is part of the grant "Supporting the Resilience of the Cultural Scene and Opportunities for Palestinian Youth," funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (Phase 18) and overseen by Taawon.

The program aims to enhance the skills of students in Palestinian universities and professionals in the music industry, equipping them with contemporary technology and tools to advance the music scene in Palestine. This development is intended to boost the impact and reach of Palestinian music both locally and globally.

One of the initiatives that was supported through the Project

#### "Oud Laila" Instrument

Palestinian musician Tamer Omri invented a musical instrument called "Oud Laila," which enables musicians to play Arabic magams with guitar strings.

This innovation came as a result of Al-Omari's desire to add traditional Palestinian tunes to his musical compositions.



#### The First of its Kind Database for the Old City of Jenin

Within the framework of the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program, Taawon completed in 2023 the first of its kind database for the Old City of Jenin, with funding from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

A field survey was conducted to collect data related to historical buildings in the old city of Jenin, to be included on the GIS system; and create an integrated geographical database that will form a basis for future interventions, determine future work priorities and areas of intervention, as well as contribute to preserving the historical and cultural heritage.



#### My Life and Spirit have Changed

"I am deeply grateful to this institution for transforming and uplifting my spirit in a way I had longed for. My thanks also go to all the contractors and engineers—may Allah bless you all. I hope you continue to excel in your work, as you have achieved so much good during your time with us. Thank you very much, and thanks to everyone who contributed to the restoration of our house from start to finish. Your work has been outstanding. We are thankful to Allah for this blessing, and I am truly happy."

Wife of beneficiary Awad Samara (Awad Samara House Restoration Project)

#### We, Most of All, Must Preserve and Be Proud of Our Identity

We, Most of all, Must Preserve and be Proud of our Identity

Within the training component of the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program, external courses were held in partnership with universities specialized in cultural heritage.

"This experience gave me the opportunity to become acquainted with a society that cherishes and preserves its authenticity and its legacies of tangible and intangible heritage. I was able to witness a civilized and proactive model in learning which maintains and is proud of its identity, and even seeks to preserve it through various means and calls for awareness at the local and global levels. This has encouraged, the Palestinian people, to learn about our heritage and cherish it; as we are the most deserving of this preservation.



pride, and rooting of identity. We have seen various models of restoration methods, some of which we have learned theoretically, and seen on the ground the reason for following these methods."

Engineer Bushra Sobh, one of the participants in the external course -Palermo Italy

#### Our Olives... a Symbol of Our Identity and **Steadfastness**

"Olive seedlings are what preserve the land. Once they are planted on vast, uncultivated lands, settlement in these lands is prevented."

#### Mahmoud Amarna - farmer

#### Olive for Palestine Project - Agricultural Relief

"There are many lands that are not reclaimed, and these lands are threatened by confiscation and settlement, therefore we were encouraged to cultivate the lands in order to hold on to them; and olive trees are a major source for livelihood for many families, especially women."



Olive for Palestine Project - Agricultural Relief



#### Students Qualified to Enter the Labor Market

"The importance of transferring the German experience in dual studies to Palestine is to bridge the gap between educational outcomes, i.e. academic graduates, and the requirements of the Palestinian labor market."

Dr. Issam Ishaq - Dean of the Faculty of Dual Studies, Al-Quds University

A project to enhance future employment opportunities for university students by enhancing the experience of dual studies, funded by the German cooperation GIZ

#### A Displaced Woman Who Defied All Odds to **Continue Living**

Mrs. Suha Ahmed Shaat, a widow who worked tirelessly to support her children, started her own project, "Saffron Kitchen," several years ago with the help of a charitable foundation. Despite the 2023-2024 conflict in Gaza, which forced Suha and her children to flee from Khan Yunis to Rafah, and despite the challenges of displacement, Suha remained determined. She persevered in pursuing her dream, bringing along part of her kitchen tools and equipment so that she and her children could continue to earn a living through their diligent and honest work



Taawon in partnership with the Women's Programs Center and in support of Palestinian women, retained Suhaas part of our interventions to provide hot meals to the displaced in Rafah.

40 Years of Serving Palestine & Still going Strong 61

#### From Introvert to Team Leader

The journey of Ibrahim, a 13-year-old boy, began with challenges and transformations in his personal life; he had been suffering from introversion and lack of motivation towards learning when he joined the "Wajd" Orphans care Program.

Initially, Ibrahim suffered from introversion and unwillingness to participate neither in school activities nor within the Project's supportive education centers. These difficulties are related to his experience in kindergarten, where he suffered from introversion and unwillingness to engage with his peers; his mother says:

"Ibrahim does not know his father and misses him constantly. He lives in a state of sadness and always tends to sit alone; this has had a negative effect on him. In light of these challenges in which Ibrahim faces, the team of Taawon's workers made efforts to in-



tegrate Ibrahim into a range of educational and sports activities, with the aim of enhancing his leadership skills and interaction with others; they made sure to give him leadership roles, reinforce and encourage him, as well as include him in psychological and emotional release sessions and life skills sessions."

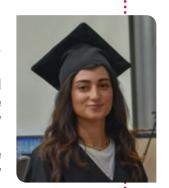
The next step was to support Ibrahim to achieve academic excellence and increase his motivation towards education by providing supportive education in 5 basic subjects "Arabic language, English language, mathematics, science, and technology," using active learning strategies and learning through experience; this led to an increase in Ibrahim's self-confidence. Despite his transition this year from the primary stage to the preparatory stage, the difficulty of the curriculum, and the intensity of the educational content, he maintained an excellent academic level.

In parallel with his academic success, Ibrahim showed interest in the fields of technology and applied sciences. He was able to present the idea of his project "The Smart Guardian" at the Wajd Students Hackathon, which competed with 21 project ideas. However, he was able to convince the judging panel of the importance of the project idea which addressed societal problems, thus allowing him to present his project as a whole at the Wajd Student Products Exhibition. Ibrahim's project received great interest and appreciation from the exhibitions' visitors.



# Our Challenges Motivate us to Succeed

"Our search for a learning opportunity is aided by two essential factors: firstly, determination and perseverance, and secondly, donors' confidence in our abilities. Despite the work restrictions imposed on me as a Palestinian refugee in Lebanon, this did not prevent me from achieving my dream of studying pharmacy. I believe that every person has the right to learn and choose the specialty they like, regardless of their nationality. Thank you for standing by my side throughout my university education journey, and for believing in my abilities."



Hala Saied

University Education Program – Lebanon

#### **Treatment Since Birth**

She is fourteen months old and has been in treatment for eleven months!

Baby **Mira** was diagnosed at birth with Spina Bifida, a congenital defect of the spine. She started physical therapy at three months, twice a week, which is a necessary intervention to strengthen her muscles and nerves.

"Improvement in Mira's condition is noticeable," says Aya Al-Ali, a physical therapist at the Women's Charitable Association Center in Al-Bass Camp, southern Lebanon. "Today, Mira can sit for a while and move from side to side while lying down; this is considered a huge achievement in her case. She even moves her legs from time to time, which is also a very positive sign. Today, we are expecting a new assessment from the doctor overseeing her condition to outline the next treatment plan and determine if she will be able to walk using assistive devices. However, I can confirm that her physical therapy will need to continue for an extended period.

Mira benefits from therapy sessions within the rehabilitation and treatment projects supported by Danish Muslim AID, which benefit about 215 children in various Palestinian camps in Lebanon.



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# We take pride in our supporters and partners

#### Thank You to all Donors, Institutions and Companies for **Your Support**

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# We take pride in our Supporters and Partners

Thank you for your support in celebrating our 40th anniversary

## Strategic sponsorship













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# **Platinum sponsorship**







## Golden sponsorship







## Silver sponsorship



















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# We take pride in our Supporters and Partners

#### Our partners for 2023

#### The West Bank including Jerusalem

Union of Charitable Societies (USC) - Jerusalem

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Qalqilya Municipality

Nablus Municipality

Al Quds University

An-Najah National University

Birzeit University

Patient Friends Association - Al Amal Hospital, Jenin

Friends of the Islamic Orphanage Association

Al-Aqsa Islamic School – Jerusalem

Agricultural Development Association (PARC)

Arab Studies Association - Land Research Center

Jerusalem Society for Welfare and Development

The Social Center Charitable Society

Burj Al-Luqluq Community Center and Society

Custody of the Holy Land

Department of Endowments and Islamic Affairs

General Company for contracting

Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry – Jerusalem

Hebron Rehabilitation Committee

Nablus Civil Committee

Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG)

Riyad Al-Aqsa School

Directorate of Education - Jerusalem

Arab Guidance Center for Education

The Arab Counseling Center for Education

Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation Center (CCHP) - Bethlehem

Riwaq Center

Yabous Cultural Center

Al-Mutalaa Hospital

Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (National Conservatory of Music)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Palestinian Vision Organization

Dar Al-Tifel Al-Arabi Foundation

Faisal Al-Husseini Foundation

**Engineers Association** 

The Ministry of Education

The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities

#### **Gaza Strip**

Union of Agricultural Work Committees - Gaza Palestinian Environmental Friends Association Unlimited Friends Association for Social Development Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children Palestinian Medical Relief Society Nuseirat Rehabilitation and Social Training Association Agricultural Development Association (PARC) The Developmental Agricultural Association Al Awda Health and Community Association United Cultural and Social Society Al-Manal Association for the Development of Rural Women Palestine Save the Children Foundation Beit Lahia Development Association Mojadidoon Charity Development Association For Youth Support Gaza Culture and Development Group Al-Tawasol Forum Society Natuf Organization for Environment & Community Development Wefaq Society for Woman & Child Care University College of Applied Sciences Women Programs Center - Rafah Ma'an Development Center - Gaza Fares Al-Arab for Development and Charity Works

Palestinian Organization for Development

# Refugee Camps in Lebanon

General Union of Palestinian Women

Prima Materia

Just Childhood

Ajyal Association

Ahlam Lajea Association

Fraternity Association for Social and Cultural Work

Human Association for Relief and Development

Women's Programs Association

Community-Based Rehabilitation Association

Al Jaleel Al Tanmawia Association

Al-Houla Organization

Social Support Society

Health Care Society

Al Shifaa for Medical and Humanitarian Services

Al Izza Educational and Cultural Association

Humanitarian Relief for Development

Al Kamandjati Association

Al Mobader Association

Mabarrat Charity Association

Women's Humanitarian Organization

The Popular Aid for Relief and Development

Association Najdeh - Lebanon

Human Call Association

Palestinian Red Crescent Society

Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps INAASH

Unite Lebanon Youth Project

Jannat Al-Ibdaa Association

Shahd Association

Peace for You Association

Mousawat Organization

Palestinian Students' Fund

Council for the Welfare of Religious Affairs (Murshid)

Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon

Children and Youth Association Alma's Kindergarten

Human Development Center

The Arab Resource Center for Popular Arts

Saint Joseph University of Beirut - Institut Libanais d'Educateurs

Abu Jihad Al Wazir Institution and Rehabilitation for Disabled and Handicapped People

The National Institution of Social Care and Vocational Training – Beit Atfal Assumoud

Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation

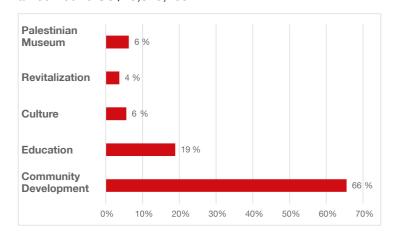
Women's Association for Care and Social Networking

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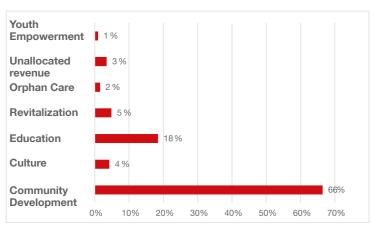


# **Financial Indicators** for 2023

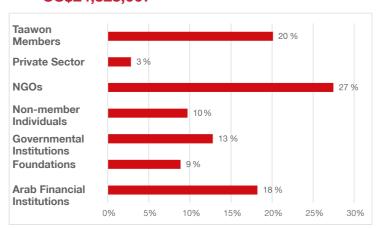
#### **Programmatic Spending:** Total disbursement amounted to US\$25,045,765



#### Revenue Received: Total revenues amounted to US\$24,828,667



#### Distribution of Revenue according to Funding Sources for 2023 **US\$24,828,667**





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C.R. No. 562201038

Independent Auditor's Report To the Board of Trustees of Welfare Association

State of Palestine

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Welfare Association (Taawon), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2023, the statement of activities and changes in net assets and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Taawon as at December 31, 2023, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of Taawon in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter - War on Gaza strip

We draw attention to Note (27) to the accompanying financial statements, which relates to the war on Gaza Strip and the measures taken by management to mitigate its impact on Taawon. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

#### Responsibilities of Management and Board of Directors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing Taawon's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate Taawon or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors is responsible for overseeing Taawon's financial reporting process.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Taawon's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on Taawon's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause Taawon to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board of Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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Ramallah - Palestine June 10, 2024

Welfare Association (Taawon)

#### Statement of Financial Position As at December 31, 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
Assets			
Non-current Assets			
Property and equipment	3	343,832	473,011
Property of the Palestinian museum	4	18,634,499	19,206,123
Investment properties	5	3,780,158	3,879,908
		22,758,489	23,559,042
Current Assets			
Contributions receivable	6	27,503,774	32,914,487
Other current assets	7	1,049,062	1,725,713
Financial assets at fair value through	•	1,040,002	1,720,710
profit or loss	8	45,233,677	47,878,706
Cash and deposits at banks	9	16,729,454	13,078,757
	_	90,515,967	95,597,663
Total Assets		113,274,456	119,156,705
		77072111100	110,122,702
Net Assets and Liabilities			
Net Assets			
Unrestricted net assets	10	1,860,779	1,923,115
Endowment fund	10	45,029,304	48,764,666
Total Net Assets		46,890,083	50,687,781
Non-current Liabilities			
Provision for employees' bonefits	<b>1</b> 1	1,687,578	2,167,482
Long term portion of lease liability	12	120,032	199,393
Deferred revenues	4	10,395,052	10,714,856
		12,202,662	<u>13,081,731</u>
Current Liabilities:			
Current portion of lease liability	12	90,248	90,248
Credit facilities	13	331,014	2,095,358
Accounts payable, accruals and other			
provisions	14	4,991,761	4,041,500
Deferred contributions	15	48,768,688	49,160,087
		54,181,711	55,387,193
Total Liabilities		66,384,373	68,468,924
Total Net Assets and Liabilities		113,274,456	119,156,705

2023

2022

The attached notes 1 to 27 form part of these financial statements

## Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets For the year ended December 31, 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	U.S. \$	U.S. \$
<u>Grants</u> and <u>other re</u> venues		_	
Deferred contributions recognized	15	22,944,780	20,020,955
Deferred revenues recognized	4	319,804	319,804
Unrestricted contributions	16	863,824	1,353,477
	,	24,128,408	21,694,236
December and desired and desir			
Program costs and administration expenses	17	25 045 755	34 770 146
Program costs	17	25,045,765	24,778,146
Administrative expenses			
General and administrative expenses	18	2,030,207	3,392,923
Provision for expected credit losses	19	3,364,177	127,647
Other provisions	20	1,188,267	-
Depreciation of property and equipment	3	150,474	134,382
		<u>31,7</u> 78,890	28,433,098
Other gains (Income)			
Other gains (losses)  Net investment portfolio gains (losses)	21	E 100 000	(7.064.570)
Finance cost	21	5,186,925	(7,964,578)
Write off		(5,939) (23,729)	(10,145) (138,851)
Currency exchange		(4,107)	(135,884)
Other, net		19,003	13,743
Net gains (losses)	,	5,172,153	(8,235,715)
42 (144440)		9,172,100	(0,200,710)
Decrease in net assets		(2,478,329)	(14,974,577)
Net assets, beginning of the year		50,687,781	65,662,358
Transfer from the endowment fund	10	(1,319,369)	-
Net assets, end of the year		46,890,083	50,687,781

