

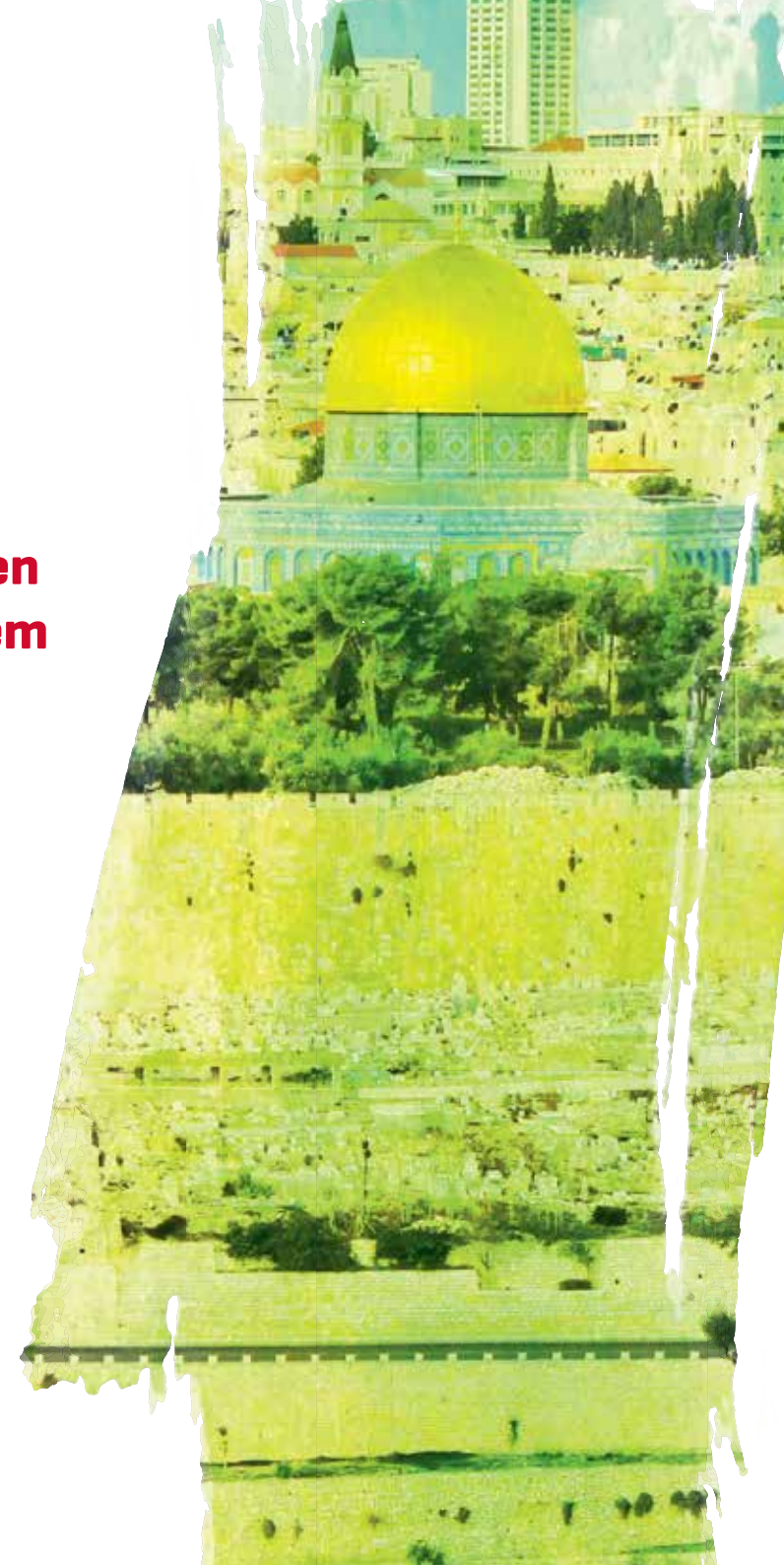
HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
PALESTINE & JORDAN

Advancing the rights of vulnerable Palestinian Women and Children in East Jerusalem



PROJECT BOOKLET

September 2014 – October 2017





Dear readers,

In the year 2014 the Heinrich-Boell-Foundation [hbs] in Ramallah set out – together with 5 Palestinian and International partners – to realize the EU-funded project “Advancing the Rights of Vulnerable Women and Children in East Jerusalem”.

Our partners were the Arab Center for Agricultural Development [ACAD], Sawa, War Child Holland, Right to Play and the Palestinian-Italian Artist collective ArtLab in East Jerusalem.

During three adventurous and challenging years our partners and hbs implemented a multitude of activities in order to improve the lives of Palestinian women and children in occupied East Jerusalem. Together with our subgranting partners, community based organizations, we offered workshops and training classes for youth and women, we rehabilitated and upgraded schools and children’s playgrounds, we established micro businesses for women to generate income for vulnerable families, we provided help and counselling for victims of violence and we introduced students to art and music.

Throughout these three years we were confronted with mounting problems, mainly by the Israeli authorities, access restrictions, political violence and unrest on the Israeli and Palestinian side. This created unexpected difficulties and challenges, but we managed to overcome them and make this EU-funded project a success.

This booklet will allow you a short glimpse into the project, a very brief overview of our activities and success-stories. I hope you will enjoy the read and continue to support the vulnerable women and children of East Jerusalem.

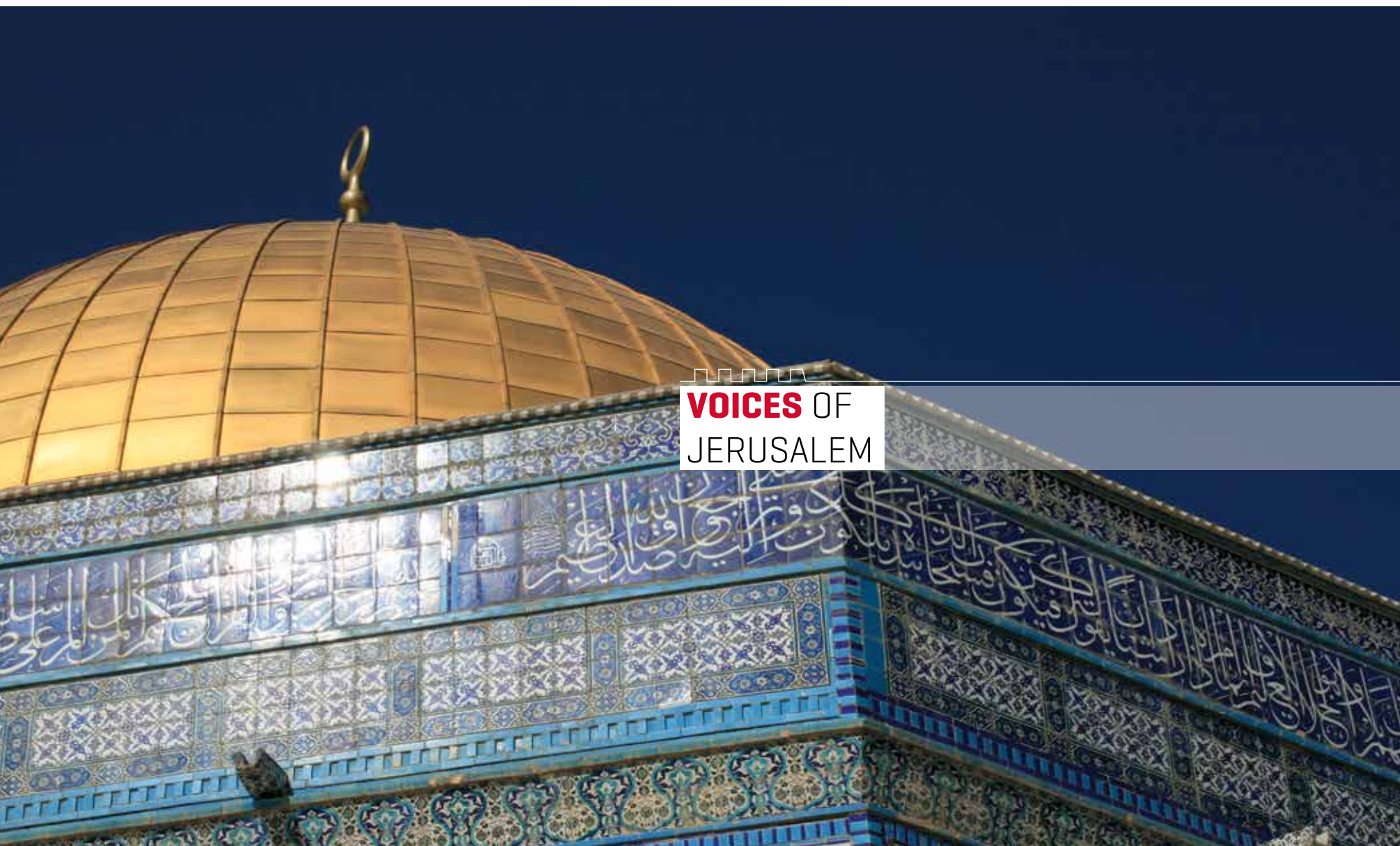
Sincerely,

Dr. Bettina Marx

Director hbs

Ramallah, October 2017





VOICES OF
JERUSALEM

A normal weekday in East-Jerusalem on Main Street Shuafat: The Light Train from the Israeli settlement Pisgat Zeev in direction of West-Jerusalem runs through the Palestinian neighborhood in short intervals ringing from time to time when crossing intersections. A few traffic lights are out of order and so are the ticket machines at two stop overs which were burnt down during the days of riots after the murder of the Palestinian teenager Mohammed Abu Khdeir in early July 2014. City workers covered those automats with metal sheets and put a sign that tickets can be bought at the bakery across the street. The days seem to be gone when Palestinians boycotted the train out of anger and Israelis avoided to take a ride through Arab neighborhoods out of fear to get stones from young and angry kids.

But you still feel the tension. There are always border policemen stationed at different corners. Sometimes I can watch them from the window of my office controlling bags of Palestinian teens and asking for their IDs. Especially when darkness sets in a patrol car will drive along the line to guard the train. Only on Friday afternoon, after the sirens from the closed-by Jewish settlements signal the begin of Shabbat and the trains remain in the station for 24 hours, a different, relaxed atmosphere takes over. Young Palestinians get their horses out to ride on the lane between the train tracks, some boys will use them for a race on their bikes. Time for some fun beyond Israeli surveillance.

Inge Guenther, Journalist, June 2016



"My son Abdel-Nasser was only 14 when he was arrested last year; it was three o'clock in the morning, we were asleep. Since then I wake up terrified every night at the exact time. He is just a kid; his imprisonment had turned our life to hell. Forget about the money we are paying to the lawyer and other expenses. Looking at his empty bed is a daily torture, visiting him is another type of torture: you lose the whole day through transportations, inspection, meeting him and coming back heart broken. The Israeli authorities were punishing us even before my child was convicted with whatever they are accusing him of. I am a Jerusalemite with Blue ID "Residency Status", while my husband holds a West Bank identity card "Green ID". We were married almost 25 years ago, and we have applied for family unification in order for my husband to have a residency status like me and our children, but, after years he was only offered a stay permit and till today he didn't get the "Residency Status". After the imprisonment of our son, the Israeli authorities have revoked his stay permit; my husband cannot live with us in our home in Jerusalem anymore"

Om Abdel-Nasser, October 2016

"Teaching in general is a difficult career that needs a lot of patience and passion. However, teaching in Jerusalem has a different face than in any other city. It needs a teacher who can stand pressure most of the time, a teacher who can legitimize the students worries about their present and future from getting killed, jailed and dragged into drugs. It is obvious that education is affected by the surrounded social environment. The students who suffer from social problems will probably have difficulties in the learning process".

Aya, teacher, May 2016



FACTS ABOUT JERUSALEM



- East-Jerusalem is home to about 372,000 Palestinians, making up about 37% of inhabitants of the city.
- About 75% of Palestinians in the Eastern part of the city live under the poverty line
- More than $\frac{1}{4}$ of residents live in Jerusalem neighborhoods physically separated from the city center by Israel's security barrier, which makes access to health and social services difficult.
- Palestinian Jerusalemites are not granted equal Israeli citizenship. Instead, they are given "Permanent Residence" cards [Blue ID].
- East Jerusalem is almost completely socially, economically and physically detached from the surrounding Palestinian areas of the West Bank.
- The part of the Wall in and around East Jerusalem is approximately 90 kilometers long with twelve official gates; only four of which are open to Palestinians and the rest are reserved for the settlers' use only.
- Only 41% of Jerusalemite students are enrolled in the official municipal education system
- It is estimated that there are over 6,000 drug addicts in East Jerusalem today, compared with 300 in 1986.



THE NEEDS OF THE VULNERABLE GROUPS IN **EAST JERUSALEM**

Palestinians in occupied East Jerusalem face many difficulties and challenges in their daily lives. They are not recognized as citizens with equal rights, but are merely inhabitants of Jerusalem with limited rights and opportunities and in danger of losing these rights at any given moment. Their neighborhoods are neglected, their schools understaffed and underfinanced, thousands of classrooms are missing and the dropout rate is high. Families have to struggle to make ends meet and to provide their children with a solid and comprehensive education. The poverty rate has risen to 80 percent and unemployment is high.

Especially for the needy and the disabled, much has to be done. Here is what they need most:

- More free space for movement and expression
- Better services
- Recreational and psychosocial activities for children and adults
- More cultural activities
- Capacity building for Civil Society Organizations
- More economic opportunities
- Upgrading and improvement of school facilities
- More facilities for people with disabilities





OUR PROJECT IN **EAST JERUSALEM**



Six partner organizations, Right to Play **(RTP)**, War Child Holland **(WCH)**, Sawa, the Arab Center for Agricultural Development **(ACAD)**, **ArtLab** and the **Heinrich Böll Foundation Palestine & Jordan**, as the lead partner, came together in September 2014 to implement the EU funded project “Advancing the rights of Vulnerable Palestinian Women and Children in East Jerusalem”. This 3-year project came to an end in October 2017 having touched the lives of thousands of Palestinians in East Jerusalem, bringing smiles, hope and dreams to its beneficiaries, through improved social, psychosocial, economic and cultural opportunities and well-being for vulnerable children, youth and women in occupied East Jerusalem. Project activities included amongst others, youth trainings on visual arts, support for female entrepreneurs and micro-businesses, awareness raising on violence against women and women’s rights, psychological relief and support for children, as well as support for youth clubs and small community based organizations.

OUR PROJECT **ACHIEVEMENTS**



**OPENING FIVE MICRO-BUSINESSES FOR WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS IN EAST JERUSALEM By ACAD**





Sim Sim Business for pastries and sweets at Al Azzarieh Charitable Society





Maqdeseyat Workshop for Sewing and Tailoring at Women's Center Al Thure Silwan





Jerusalem Seeds at Burj Luq Luq





Jerusalem Hands at Burj Luq Luq





The Gypsy Kitchen at Domari Society
of Gypsies in Jerusalem





“ I like taking care of plants but I had no experience in this field prior to taking the vocational training in Agriculture as I am living in the Old City with few green spaces
S., Burj Luq Luq ”

“ I learned how to solve my personal problems through this project
D., Women's Center Al Thure Silwan ”

“ I did not know what were my rights as a woman. Now I feel more confident
I., Burj Luq Luq ”

“ I feel like a businesswoman now; I control the inventory, take customers' orders and deliver the products to them
O., Burj Luq Luq Social Center Society ”

“ I discovered the importance of a business plan to lead the business's strategy
R., Women's Center Al Thure Silwan ”

WHAT DO THE WOMEN
ENTREPRENEURS HAVE TO SAY



FACTS FROM SAWA's HELPLINE



Within the Project, Sawa's Helpline has provided psychological support for 40,492 cases in need, of which 21,580 were girls and women and 19,212 were boys and men. Callers have shared with the counsellors on the helpline various issues related to violence and sexual violence, inquiries of how to deal with their children, academic performances' problems, issues related to their psychological and social health, and others shared with their relationships with their families and peers.

- **Only within the second year of the project, there were 1,909 recorded cases of abuse and violence, where 77% of the callers were females and 21 % were males.**
- **Female callers** within this category most frequently reported various forms of **Sexual Violence (34%)**.
- 26% of the Females under this category shared with issues related to Family Violence, 24% shared with Emotional Abuse.
- **Male** callers most often reported family violence [25%], physical abuse [25%], abuse [23%], and bullying [16%].
- **26% of the total number of calls involved Sexual Abuse, Rape, Incest, and Indecent assault, with women accounting for 92% of the calls within this subfield.**
- For women, rape was most often committed by a member of their family. **19 %** of the reports by females sharing rape issues involved **incest**, while **marital rape** counted for another **23%** of the cases.

SAWA's WOMEN EMPOWERMENT GROUPS AND SESSIONS WITH MEN

Sawa has raised awareness for 122 women in East Jerusalem in sexual education issues; teenager period, how to deal not violently with children, violence, and sexual violence, and sexual violence within the family and towards children. Those women have transferred the knowledge acquired within the workshops for 456 other women.





Sawa has raised awareness for 68 men from different areas and field of work in East Jerusalem. Those groups of men varied between bus drivers, traditional mediators, teachers and male social workers working with girls and boys in danger.





ART MATTERS!

ArtLab's keywords for this project were: youth, freedom of expression and opportunities. Professional trainings in the audio-visual field were offered to the Jerusalemite youth between the ages of 16 to 25. The overall theme of our work was "gender and diversity in Jerusalem". The project's beneficiaries were 51: 38 young women and 13 young men.

By the end of the project, around 15% of ArtLab's students have found job opportunities in the artistic field and not only. After navigating them through the process of finding the keys for their future, some of these youths were able to be employed in Jerusalem and to apply for art academies and studying opportunities both in Palestine and abroad.

But Youth StArt Up [YSU] is much more than numbers, indicators and figures. It was a generous and rich learning process for all the people involved: youth, supervisors and consultants.





Sarah

My name is Sarah, and I am 17 years old. I'm very quiet, I'm intellectual and I read a lot of books and novels. I like learning and growing my expertise in everything because I read a lot. I also like drawing, taking photos, and being photographed. I love everyone and respect them, and I don't get mad at anyone. I try to not make anyone mad at me, and to have everyone love me.



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Kareem

My name is Kareem and I am 24 years old. I am both a dancer and an English literature student. I am attracted by words, colors, arts and movement. I'm a likeable person. I am not particularly hilarious, but I love to laugh and make others laugh with me. I am also not much of an intellectual but I love discussing subjects that move and inspire me. I can be a little awkward in certain situations but have decided to embrace my inner weirdo at anytime, anywhere. I like listening to people and dig deep inside their personalities. I love observing faces and body language. I am quiet and calm but can lose my temper when things don't proceed as I wish. I love going on adventures and discovering new places. I care a lot about my friends and family. And I love food way too much.



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Joey

Hi I'm Joey, I'm 19 years old, and I'm a bit unsure about my personality traits because I don't like labelling myself or anyone. People say I'm smart, sensitive, and kind, I can sometimes be flaky and childish, but I'm also mature and have an old soul, which for some reason makes it easier for me to date people. I love watching old movies, I like Jazz, 80s and Indie music, I love La Crosse hockey and American football, even though I don't play sports that much. I love arts and entertainment, which is why I make videos on YouTube for others to watch. I am the only boy in the Yacoubian family. For this reason my father has always been proud that I "his firstborn" will carry the family name. I don't think my father cares about that stuff much, but I'm sure you all know how family members can pressure others sometimes. Thankfully I'm not a troublemaker like most of my other friends. Grownups in my community used to think I would always get into trouble and rebel just because I'm a boy. Well, I proved them wrong in the end.



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Ghassan

Hello, I am Ghassan and I'm a 21-year-old university student. I am tough and brave like my mother, and kind like my father. I constantly strive to be confident, assertive, and carefree.

I am a man who was never challenged when picking a university major, I chose freely, and when changing majors, at 21, people told me that I'm young and I still have life ahead of me, and there's no need to rush. I walk in the streets feeling completely and totally safe any time of day, not fearing harassment, catcalls, and sexual assault. I was never told to dress modestly. I don't feel pressure to conform to traditional beauty standards, the way I look doesn't affect my self-worth or respect. I hang out with members of the opposite sex and I never have to worry as to what assumptions people would make when they see us together.



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Anas

My name is Anas, I'm in college studying journalism and I really enjoy it. My parents allow me to do whatever I want, including riding and having a motorcycle, and attending traditional parties at night. I wear whatever I want without receiving any criticism about me or my parents' background. I play football and basketball, I'm not that good, but because I'm a man nobody prevents me from playing them. I love rapping and sitting on Bab Al Amoud's (Damascus Gate) stairs.



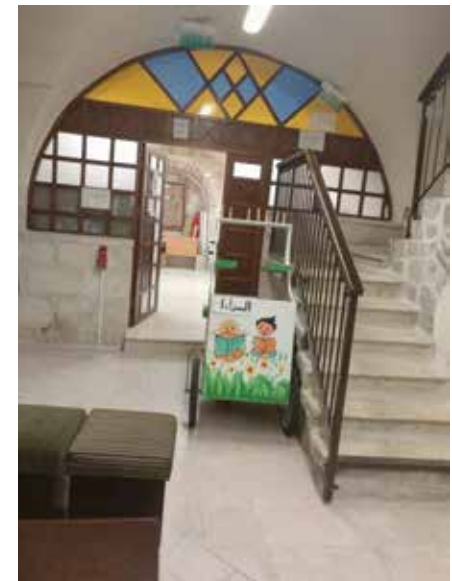
EMPOWERING CHILDREN TO SHAPE THEIR **OWN FUTURE**



Within the 3 year project War Child Holland supported 9 different Community Based Organizations in and around Jerusalem, training 92 coaches and reaching 2,044 children with its IDEAL sessions, which are sessions based on a unique technique developed by War Child Holland.



In total WCH renovated 9 safe play areas for children during the 3 years of the project and worked with 9 CBOs on developing their code of conduct and child safeguarding reporting procedures.





Right to Play reached over



63

schools



131

teachers



76

youth coaches



4004

children

The teachers and youth coaches were given unique tools and techniques to provide children with suitable, compassionate, supportive and safe environment. Moreover, Right To Play targeted 21 community organizations that are dedicated to work on the inclusion of children with disabilities and children.



During the project, RTP also organized 7 awareness raising campaigns and 8 play days.

Right To Play rehabilitated 18 access facilities (ramps and bathrooms) for different CBOs and schools in East Jerusalem, to facilitate the participation of children with special needs in the regular activities at schools and CBOs. In addition 9 different play spaces at schools and CSOs were rehabilitated to provide children with safe places to play in.





A FEW WORDS FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

“

I was able to know my own identity better after I took part in the “strengths and difficulties exercise” and after participating in the “Big Deal” sessions I am able to work on some of my “difficulties”, and now I am using the skills that I gained through Big Deal to overcome those difficulties

WCH beneficiary, 17 years old Big Deal Male participant

”

“

During the “Big Deal” sessions, I found the leadership module is very useful and needed because the leadership skills are very important to lead the community.

WCH beneficiary, 16 years old Big Deal Female participant

”



SUPPORTING THE GRASSROOT JERUSALEMITE ORGANISATIONS

HBS, over the course of the project, supported seven community based organizations (CBOs); Jerusalem Center for Women, Al Mortaqa Women organization, Al Razi Cultural and Social Association, Old City Youth Association, Nibras Al Quds Society for Individuals with Special Needs, Sabreen Association of Artistic Development and Spafford Children Center in the Old City of Jerusalem. The support constituted in grants of around 19.000 euro, for each partner CBO, to implement projects for the benefit of the vulnerable communities in East Jerusalem.





Hbs organized an “Open Day” in Jerusalem, hosted at the YWCA, on 19th October 2016. At this special event, the project partners celebrated and proudly presented to the public their work and achievements. Hundreds of beneficiaries attended and participated in the different activities, engaging children and adults. The “Open Day” was also attended by the EU Representative Mr Ralph Tarraf, the Palestinian Governor of Jerusalem, Mr. Adnan Al Hussein, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Education and Higher Education/ Jerusalem district.

**CELEBRATING THE JERUSALEMITE
IDENTITY**

THE WAY FORWARD – LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

hbs also commissioned a study on the manifold difficulties and challenges facing women and children in occupied East Jerusalem. The study was conducted by the East Jerusalem based scholar Dr. Safa Dhaher on the basis of in-depth interviews with East Jerusalem Palestinians.

In her study Dr. Dhaher presented some important conclusions and recommendations.





- On the humanitarian level, the international organizations' role is vital, not only because they are the only players in East Jerusalem for the time being, but also because their services became vital in slowing down, if not preventing, the deterioration, especially at the social level.
- Cooperation and coordination between CSOs is essential to avoid duplication in the programs, target groups and geographic locations. The international community could help in putting these organizations to work together by designing programs, such as the "Advancing the Rights of Vulnerable Palestinian Women and Children in East Jerusalem" that involves many CSOs and covers different sectors.





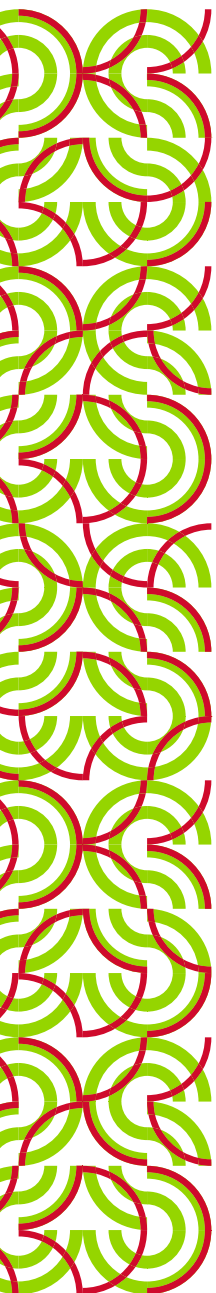
- It is advisable to design special programs directed towards the youth for long term and effective results to positively influence attitudes. This will also help in enhancing other values such as voluntary work, community service, environmental care and recognition of the human rights of vulnerable groups, especially the disabled and young females.
- More investment should be made in “women empowerment” programs to raise awareness regarding their rights, in order to strengthen their abilities to fight against culturally inherited customs and laws that consolidate gender inequality. In addition, programs that target males to spread the culture of equity could support this cause.



- There should be more focus on “preventive programs” to raise awareness and prevent social problems such as addiction, divorce, domestic violence and sexual harassment, in addition to the programs that help the target groups to overcome the consequences of these problems.
- Reaching a political arrangement is the favorable way to resolve the struggle over East Jerusalem. However, till then, the International Community’s intervention at the political level is essential to force Israel to see the Palestinians as human beings and respect their rights despite the ongoing conflict.







This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Heinrich Böll Stiftung or the partners and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



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This Project is funded by
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