A Glimpse on hbs

The Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung (hbs) is part of the green political movement; it has developed globally as a response to the traditional politics of socialism, liberalism and conservatism. Its primary objective is to support civic education both within Germany and abroad, thus promoting democratic involvement, socio-political activism and cross-cultural understanding.

Working independently as a nonprofit organization with headquarters in Berlin, hbs maintains close ties to the German party Alliance 90/the Greens and receives financial support mainly from the German Ministry of Development and Economic Cooperation (BMZ).

With an extensive international network with offices in around 40 countries and funding projects in more than 60 countries all over the world, hbs constitutes a think tank for green visions and projects. In the Middle East and North Africa region, offices are located in Beirut, Rabat, Ramallah, Tunis and Tel Aviv.

In cooperation with local partner organizations, hbs organizes seminars and workshops, conferences, summer schools and visiting programs. Through its programs and activities hbs aims to raise awareness, initiate public debate on political, social and cultural issues and enhance dialogue between different political stakeholders on the national and international level.
Heinrich Böll (1917-1985) is one of the most important and best-known writers of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for his novels and short stories in 1972.

His legacy of courage to stand up for one's beliefs, the encouragement to meddle in public affairs and unconditional activism in support of dignity and human rights inspired the foundation’s name.

Standing for political awareness, artistic creativity, and moral integrity, Heinrich Böll remains a role model for today and future generations.

The foundation was established in 1996 and adopted the name of Heinrich Böll.
The regional office for Palestine and Jordan was opened in the city of Ramallah in 1999. We work in close partnership with more than 20 local organizations in Gaza Strip, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Jordan. Our partners are committed to the values of human rights, democracy, gender equality and environmental sustainability. Our relationship with our partners is based on partnership and cooperation rather than partner-donor relationship. Our partners have various activities including capacity building workshops, conferences, policy papers, awareness campaigns, advocacy and lobbying, film-making and media projects and others.

Furthermore, hbs organizes debates and round tables and welcomes delegations to provide them with background information on the political situation in Jordan and Palestine. We also publish books, reports, researches and newsletters.

**Components and project examples**

In Palestine/Jordan we work in three main components: Environmental Justice, Democracy and Human Rights, and Policy Analysis. The three components are connected to our values: ecology and sustainability, democracy, human rights, self-determination, justice and equal rights. Through our partnership with strategic partners who share our values, we achieve our goals in Palestine and Jordan.
A. Environmental Justice Component

Our Environmental Justice component highlights the linkages between the environmental issues and the dimensions of equality, human rights, gender, and sustainability. In addition, it promotes debates and discussions on environmental sustainability and justice. Our partners conduct projects on various environmental issues such as environmental justice and violations of environmental rights, natural resource management, sustainable development, environmental advocacy and lobbying, environmental research and gender equality. In our program, we focus on actors of change as our target groups.

Our main aims behind this component are:

• Advocate the linkages between environmental issues and human rights, such as equal access to natural resources, right to a clean environment, or food security

• Strengthen the local and regional discourse on sustainable resource management

• Initiation of debates on environmental sustainability in Jordan and Palestine

Projects and Partners (examples):

Summer / Autumn Schools

In cooperation with the hbs offices in Beirut, Rabat and Tunis, hbs Palestine & Jordan organizes regional Summer/Autumn Schools for young professionals from Arab countries in the MENA region. hbs carries out these regional schools to build the capacities of the participants, to initiate debates on certain policy and environmental topics, and to provide a platform for experience exchange and networking among different actors. Each year, hbs regional schools focus on a certain environmental topic such as climate change adaptation strategies, right to natural resources, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), gender and sustainability.
MA’AN Development Center

This pioneer environmental organization is our strategic partner in Palestine. In its partnership with hbs, MA’AN focuses on raising the awareness on environmental issues in Palestine and in the region, promoting environmental advocacy and lobbying tools and providing up-to-date information on environmental issues based on human rights based approach. MA’AN publishes a monthly online environmental magazine addressing many environmental topics and concerns in the Palestinian, Arab and global contexts.

The Royal Marine Conservation Society of Jordan (JREDS)

This well established environmental organization that focuses on maintaining clean sea and the beaches in Jordan is our strategic partner in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Through its partnership with hbs, JREDS works on promoting and empowering communities to play a role in advocating for environmental justice and policies that protect the environment in Jordan. JREDS also focuses on raising the awareness of policymakers as well as private sector and civil society in order to play active roles in protecting the environment and marine life in Jordan.
http://www.maan-ctr.org/magazine/
B. Democracy and Human Rights

This component focuses on projects that aim to encourage political democratic reform actors, human rights defenders and media producers, in order to increase opportunities for social and political participation. In all its activities, hbs emphasizes the importance of gender democracy. Partners in this component are – amongst others – Birzeit University, Filastiniyat, a Palestinian NGO supporting the equitable participation of women, Palestine Center for Policy and Research MASARAT and in Gaza Strip Community Media Centre (CMC) and Center for Women’s Legal Research and Consulting (CWLRC).

Our main objectives in this component are:

• Increase opportunities for social and political participation of actors of change with focus on young actors.

• Strengthen human rights actors and defenders to improve the human rights situation including minority rights, women’s rights and gender democracy in Jordan and Palestine.

• Strengthen civil society organizations in order to expand participation in political decision making.
Projects and Partners (examples):

**Madaa Palestine Center TSD**

The Madaa Palestine Center TSD aims at revealing the facts and history of the village of Silwan in East Jerusalem – one of the worst hit areas by the Israeli occupation. The Center works on bringing shedding the light on the occupation’s violations against human rights, in terms of institutions and settlement organizations, and tries to keep the narrative of the neighborhood alive.

**Alhudood**

The Jordanian non-profit organization Alhudood (Arabic for “the limits”) publishes satirical articles and caricatures on their Arabic and English websites and on Facebook.

Their work is an approach to tackle and criticize the increasing tense atmosphere in politics, economy and culture. In addition, they hold workshops to train a new generation of satirists to deal with these issues in a humorous way.
STUDENTS PROVE THEORY OF EVOLUTION USING TOOLS IN THEIR HUMBLE KITCHEN

A number of university students at the University of Science and...
C. Policy analysis

Under the third component, hbs supports partners who analyze the political situation in Palestine and Jordan and the underlying causes of conflicts, in order to provide policy advice to European and regional decision makers and to raise the public’s awareness.

Our main objectives in this component are to:

• Strengthen capacities for academic research, analysis and strategic thinking
• Support publications that provide on-the-ground analysis
• Raise international awareness of the Palestinian struggle under occupation

Projects and Partners (examples):

Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS)

The Institute of Jerusalem Studies (IJS) is a branch of The Institute of Palestine Studies (IPS) and has been a partner since 2007. It is the oldest institute in the world dedicated to documentation, research, analysis, and publication on Palestine issue as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict. The aim of our cooperation is to generate knowledge and analysis on the Palestinian society, history and politics, and to build archival resources. hbs supports IJS’s annual conferences and contributes to the publication of the Jerusalem Quarterly magazine.

Al Shabaka - The Palestinian Policy Network

Logo Al Shabaka/Al Shabaka (English: the network) calls itself a think tank without borders. It is an independent, nonpartisan, and non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and foster public debate on Palestinian human rights and self-determination within the framework of international law.
Additional and self-organized activities

“Böll Debates” are round table discussions organized by hbs in Palestine and Jordan. The aim is to bring together Palestinian, Jordanian and international representatives from the civil society, government and private sector in order to trigger discussions and debates on current political, social, and environmental topics. We usually have guests from different sectors and backgrounds as speakers for these debates.

Within the Böll debates we discuss topics such as climate change in the Arab world, Israeli settlements and their impact on the Palestinian economy, the refugee crisis in Europe and other issues.
Publications

Perspectives

Perspectives - Political Analysis and Commentary from the Middle East is a publication series of the hbs offices in Beirut, Rabat, Tunis and Ramallah that provides analysis and viewpoints of experts from the region. For older editions, please check our homepage. Our bi-annual newsletter can also be found on our homepage.

“Conscious Choices: A guide to Ethical Consumerism in Palestine”

A guidebook that invites its readers to get to know the people behind the products they buy, and to build and expand their own individual network of producers for a conscious and ethical way of life.

You are welcome to pick up a copy of our publications at our office or to access the www.ps.boell.org
Space for ideas, discussions and exchange

Our office is equipped with a beautiful and large meeting room, seating around 35 people, and equipped with a projection system. It has a wonderful, panoramic view extending from Ramallah to Jerusalem. hbs invites activist groups and NGOs, that share the values of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, to use this room free of charge.

The room is available during our office hours from Saturday to Thursday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. In exceptional cases and with prior agreement meetings are possible outside of the office hours.

To schedule meetings or acquire further information, please send an e-mail to info@ps.boell.org or call +970 2 2961121

We also have a small library specializing on Environment which can be accessed during office hours, after prior arrangement.

If you are interested in our work, or if you would like to enter into partnership with us please get in touch.
To get more Information about hbs, its partners, and projects visit the Palestine/Jordan office in Ramallah or have a look at our webpage!