PRESS RELEASE

“Happy International Women’s Day”

Heinrich Boell Foundation Palestine & Jordan Office (hbs) and its partners wish to all Palestinian women happy International Women’s Day. Through the project “Advancing Rights for Vulnerable Palestinian Women and Children in East Jerusalem”, funded by the European Union, our consortium of six organizations -hbs, War Child Holland, ACAD, Sawa, ArtLab and Right to Play- has been actively providing economic and psychosocial support to a great number of beneficiaries. On this special day, we take the opportunity to reiterate our commitment and engagement on continuing our efforts towards improving the well-being of women in occupied East Jerusalem.

Only during the first year of the project, hundreds of women have been reached and benefited from various activities, such as psychosocial counseling, trainings on entrepreneurial and life skills, as well as preparing for the establishment of small businesses and other income generating activities. As a result, many Jerusalemite women from marginalized communities have increased their participation in the social and economic life and have found some space for free expression. “Now I feel that I have a strong personality”, said one of the women. “It’s the first time I speak in front of group of people without feeling shy or anxiety.” Elham Ghaith, Burj Luq Luq

In light of the International Women’s Day, several activities will be implemented throughout March to honor our female participants, including special workshops, focusing on violence against women and gender issues, as well as social media campaigns. “Palestinian women have always been the backbone of their society. In these difficult times their role is even more crucial”, said Dr Bettina Marx, director of Heinrich Boell Foundation. “With our comprehensive and multifaceted project we reach out to women and youth in many underprivileged communities of East Jerusalem. Our aim is to provide them with support in their struggle for equality and dignity.”

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For more information please contact:

Dana Abu Lail  
Communication & Visibility Coordinator  
T: +972 2 296 11 21  |  F:+972 2 296 11 22  
E: dana.abulail@ps.boell.org  |  WP: www.ps.boell.org

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