



Registered Charity Number 1020238

Annual Review 2022-2023





Annual Review

2022-2023

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Cover Photos: *Top:* Emergency Support to Gaza Farmers. *Bottom:* Destruction of Gaza, Israeli Military Bombardment Oct 2023

REPUBLIC ▲ Jaramana A Qabr Essit OSWEIDA (A) Dera'a amp No.I O Dead * Map provided courtesy of UNRWA. The boundaries and names shown on the maps do not imply official O KARAK endorsement or acceptance by the ISRAEL United Nations.



Report of the Trustees

Hospitals receiving injured patients in South Gaza October 2023

The humanitarian community estimates that in 2023, approximately 2.1 million Palestinians across the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) will require some form of humanitarian assistance. Palestinians are in their 55th year of grappling with the safety, security, financial, and emotional consequences of occupation. Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza continue to experience violence, loss of property and land, and reduced access to services on a daily basis at the hands of Israeli settlers and Israeli military forces.¹ 31% of Palestinians in the West Bank and 81% of those in Gaza have reported challenges in meeting their basic needs, with food, health, and utilities being the top three challenges.²

In Palestine in 2022:

- According to UN OCHA, 952 Palestinian-owned structures across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, were demolished, confiscated, or sealed by Israeli forces in 2022. 140 of these (15%) were funded by international donors.
- There were 849 settler-related incidents recorded in 2022, a 58% increase over 2021.
- 209 Palestinians were killed in the occupied Palestinian territory and Israel in 2022, including 50 Palestinians killed in Gaza during the escalation of hostilities in August. 21 Israelis, including four members of the Israeli forces, were killed by Palestinians from the West Bank in 2022.³

On 1st February 2022, Amnesty International released a report documenting acts proscribed in the Apartheid Convention and Rome Statute in all the areas Israel controls, although they occur more frequently and violently in the OPT than in Israel, Israeli authorities enact multiple measures to deliberately deny Palestinians their basic rights and freedoms. including draconian movement restrictions in the OPT, chronic discriminatory underinvestment in Palestinian communities in Israel, and the denial of refugees' right to return. The report also documents forcible transfers, administrative detentions, torture, and unlawful killings, in both Israel and the OPT. Amnesty International found that these acts form part of a systematic and widespread attack directed against the Palestinian population, and are committed with the intent to maintain the system of oppression and domination. They therefore constitute the crime against humanity of apartheid.4

Throughout 2022 conditions in Palestine have continued to worsen with the ongoing occupation, including the siege on Gaza and increased restrictions and denial of rights by Israel. This has been compounded by a reduction in funds from institutional

¹ Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023 | United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs - occupied Palestinian territory (ochaopt.org) (Last accessed 13 Feb 2023)

² IBID

³ https://www.un.org/unispal/document/palestine-violence-and-demolitions-2022-overview-echo-daily-flash-non-un-document/ (Accessed 19 Jan 2023)

⁴ Amnesty International. ISRAEL'S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS, CRUEL SYSTEM OF DOMINATION AND CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/up/loads/2022/02/MDE1551412022ENGLISH.pdf (Accessed 20.1.2023)

donors largely due to the global economic downturn, and the ongoing impact of COVID-19. Elections at the end of the year in Israel resulted in a new government (seen as the most right-wing in Israel's history) led by Benjamin Netanyahu - serving his sixth term as prime minister. His coalition contains extreme far-right parties, including one whose leader was convicted of anti-Arab racism. Palestinians fear the new government will strengthen Israel's hold on the occupied West Bank. Mr. Netanyahu's coalition partners reject the idea of a two-state solution, the internationally backed formula for peace which envisages an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank alongside Israel, with Jerusalem as their shared capital.⁵

West Bank

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, ⁶ Israel's direct military occupation continues and with it the appropriation of land and resources. Standards of living, economic growth and employment prospects continue to be undermined by restrictions and obstacles preventing access to land. While freedom of movement remains restricted by a multi-layered system of administrative, bureaucratic, and physical constraints imposed by Israel, citing security concerns.

Access to agricultural land in areas behind the Barrier, or in the vicinity of settlements, which are subject to a permit or prior-coordination system, has continued to be limited. In December 2022 UN OCHA⁷ published a fact sheet explaining the humanitarian impact of 20 years of the barrier:



Clearing the rubble in Gaza

Gaza

The land, air, and sea blockade of Gaza, imposed by the government of Israel (which entered its 16th year in 2022) is considered illegal under international law as a form of collective punishment.8 Restrictions on the free movement of people, goods, and trade continue to decimate Gaza's economy, devastating productive capacity and putting any future development at risk.

Gaza suffers from acute financial contraction. With the severe restrictions on the import and export of goods – including a denial of entry of resources needed to maintain, repair, and expand existing infrastructure – and restrictions on the cross-border movement of people, Gaza exists essentially in a state of isolation. These factors, combined with repeated destruction caused by recurrent escalations of hostilities have

KEY FACTS

- In 2002, the Israeli authorities started to build a Barrier with the stated aim of preventing violent attacks by Palestinians inside Israel. Most of the Barrier's route is located within the West Bank, rather than on the 1949 Armistice 'Green' Line. The area between the Green Line and the Barrier is referred to as the 'Seam Zone'.
- The Barrier is one element of a range of restrictions that Israel has imposed on Palestinians since 1967, which include physical obstacles, bureaucratic constraints such as permit requirements and the designation of areas as restricted or close. The Barrier consists of concrete walls, fences, ditches, razor wire, sand paths, an electronic monitoring system, patrol roads, a buffer zone and several military checkpoints.
- The Barrier's total length, constructed and projected, is 713km, more than twice the length of the Green Line. About 65 per cent of the approved route is complete.
- Eighty-five per cent of the Barrier's route runs inside the West Bank. If finished, as planned, it will isolate 9 per cent of the territory of the West Bank including East Jerusalem.
- Seventy-one Israeli settlements and over 85 per cent of the settler population, are in the 'Seam Zone'.

- Approximately 150 Palestinian communities living in the rest of the West Bank have farmland located in the 'Seam Zone', forcing them to seek special permits or 'prior coordination' to access their crops and flocks.
- Farmers can only reach their land through 69 designated gates which are controlled by the Israeli authorities and are typically closed. Most agricultural gates only open during the October-November olive harvest for a limited time each day.
- Around 11,000 Palestinians living in the 'Seam Zone' and who hold West Bank ID cards also depend on the granting of permits or special arrangements to live in their own homes.
- Palestinians with West Bank ID cards require special permits from the Israeli authorities to enter East Jerusalem; they may do so through four of the 14 Barrier checkpoints.
- On 21 June 2022, following a series of attacks in Israel, the Israeli authorities began repairing and fortifying a 45-km stretch of the Barrier in the northern West Bank, replacing segments in that section, to prevent Palestinians entering Israel through unregulated openings.

created a complex and multi-faceted crisis defined by widespread poverty, with one of the highest unemployment rates in the world, and limited prospects for genuine development.⁹

Gaza has experienced a series of Israeli military strikes in 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021, and 2022, causing fatalities, injuries, mental health needs, and each subsequent destruction of property and key infrastructure hinders recovery from previous attacks. This has added further pressure to over-stretched services and also resulted in energy supply deficits. From 5-7 August 2022, in the significant Israeli military attacks on Gaza, 50 Palestinians, including 17 children, were killed. 360 others were injured, including 151 children and 58 women, according to the local Ministry of Health. According to the Israeli authorities, a total of 70 Israelis were injured.

Of the 2.2 million inhabitants living in Gaza, ¹⁰ over two-thirds or 1.48 million, are registered Palestine refugees. ¹¹ This represents over a quarter of the total Palestine refugee population registered with UNRWA across the five fields of operation of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, West Bank, and Gaza. As of July 2022, the food insecurity rate in Gaza was 65%, up from 62.2% in June 2021, and the poverty rate stood at 65%, up from 59% in 2021. ¹² 93% of food insecure families felt worried about not having enough food to eat, 55% of families had to skip a meal as a coping mechanism. ¹³

During the third quarter of 2022, the unemployment rate in Gaza reached 47.5%. ¹⁴ Unemployment is especially high amongst women (72%) in Gaza due to the lack of opportunities and social barriers limiting access to formal employment. Young people between the ages of 15 and 29 are also badly affected, with an average unemployment rate of 75%. A chronic electricity deficit continued to disrupt the daily lives of Gaza's residents, reducing access to health care and economic opportunities. The water crisis in Gaza (due to overextraction from the coastal aquifer, sea water infiltration

and pollution) is particularly severe, and lack of access to clean water supplies in a growing population affects over 90% of households, impacting health and general hygiene and causing more than a quarter of all childhood diseases.¹⁵

Lebanon

In 2022. Lebanon entered its third year of an economic and financial crisis that is among the worst the world has seen.¹⁶ Unemployment increased from 11.4% in 2018-19 to 29.6% in 2022. There has been a dramatic collapse in basic services, driven by depleting foreign exchange reserves since the onset of this crisis. Severe shortages of fuel resulted in the national electric grid experiencing more than eight rolling blackouts as public electricity supply averages one to two hours per day. Fuel shortages have also impacted access to healthcare and clean water, while food supply shops. transport service providers, and telecom network operators face severe disruptions to their supply chains.¹⁷ At the same time. Lebanon has also been dealing with the aftermath of the catastrophic Beirut Port explosion in August 2020, as well as the continuing COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns.



Receiving winter fuel vouchers in Wavel Camp, Lebanon

- 5 BBC News, Israel's most right-wing government agreed under Benjamin Netanyahu. Published 22 December 2022. https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middleeast-63942616 (Accessed 13.2.2023)
- 6 Pending a final status agreement, East Jerusalem remains an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory and the Palestinian population of the territory should have the right to access East Jerusalem, including for specialised health and education services, work, social, cultural & family relationships and for worship at the Muslim and Christian holy places. East Jerusalem is of continuing importance as a centre of life for Palestinians throughout the oPt, at a time when it is becoming increasingly separated from the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory.
- 7 UN OCHA. FACT SHEET: THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF 20 YEARS OF THE BARRIER. December 2022. In its 2004 Advisory Opinion, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) established that the sections of the Barrier which run inside the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, together with the associated permit and gate regime, violate Israel's obligations under international law. The IC called on the Israeli authorities to cease the construction of the Barrier, dismantle the sections already completed, and repeal all legislative measures related to the Barrier, https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/Barrier_Factsheet_Dec2022.pdf
- 8 See, among others, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, "Situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with a focus on collective punishment" (22 December 2020) UN Doc A/HBC/44/60.

- 9 World Bank Group. Economic Monitoring Report of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee. November 2021.
- 10 Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). On The Occasion of The International Population Day, 11/07/2022.
- 11 UNRWA Population Dashboard. October 2022
- 12 UNOCHA. Movement in and out of Gaza in 2022. 23 Feb 2023.
- 13 OCHA. REACH. Multi Sectorial Need Assessment OPT. MSNA Report. 2022.
- 14 PCBS Labour Force Survey (July-September, 2022) Round (Q3/2022). Press_En_8-11-2022-LF-en.pdf (pcbs.gov.ps)
- 15 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), State of Environment and Outlook Report for the oPt 2020. https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ state-of-environment-and-outlook-report-for-the-ord-2020-un-environmental-oro-oram-report/
- 16 World Bank, Poverty & Equity and Macroeconomics, Trade & Investment Global Practices. Emissions data sourced from CAIT and OECD. April 2022
- 17 Revenues are estimated to have declined from an already low 13.1 percent of GDP in 2020 to 6.3 percent of GDP in 2021, the third lowest revenue ratio worldwide in 2021, ahead of only Somalia and Yemen, Wominal GDP plummeted from close to US\$52 billion in 2019 to an estimated US\$22 billion in 2021.) The crisis has also led to a triple-digit depreciation and inflation, decimating the country's oracs foreion reserve base.

It is in this context that more than 479,000 Palestine refugees (PRL) remain registered with UNRWA in Lebanon:18 of these 45% live in 12 refugee camps. These families face overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to essential services. In addition, since 2011 and the crisis in Syria, over 23,000 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) have moved into these camps and gatherings. As PRL and PRS are not formally citizens of another state, they are unable to claim the same rights as other non-Lebanese nationals living and working in Lebanon and are barred from working in up to 39 professions in Lebanon. They are also precluded from owning property.

According to UNRWA, 93% of Palestinian refugees were living below the poverty line as of September 2022, compared to 86% in March 2022, and 73% in July 2021.19 Families struggle to cope with the rising costs of hospitalisation as well as the non-availability of certain medications through the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), both of which reduce the ability of Palestinian refugees to access the medicines and healthcare services they require, particularly impacting those with chronic healthcare needs.20 The deteriorating socio-economic situation in Lebanon, including inflation and rising prices for basic goods and services, continues to be a key determinant of the protection situation among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. Their ability to pay for food, shelter, transportation, electricity, and other basic services is declining. Debt levels remain high; 51% of Palestinian refugees report taking on debt at the end of 2022.21

The number of Palestinians attempting to reach Europe from Lebanon by means of irregular sea crossings increased in 2022. A growing number of families with young children are undertaking these journeys. UNRWA noted that between July and September 2022, 16 boats departed with Palestinian refugees on board. These perilous voyages often lead to the loss of life. For example, the sinking of a boat off the coast of Syria in late September 2022, when it is thought 94 people died. Of these, 13 Palestinian refugees are known to have died, many were residents of Nahr El-Bared camp. The impact of this on the local community is devastating. In addition, community members report that people are paying US \$6,000-\$10,000 or more for the crossing. Families have sold all their assets to raise the funds and many have borrowed. Where people have drowned or been returned, families have then immediately been asked to pay the debt (with threats when they cannot), pushing surviving families into a greater cycle of despair and poverty.22

In all projects implemented in 2022, Welfare Association programme teams and beneficiaries followed COVID-19 protocols, which include measures to mitigate the spread of the virus, such as wearing masks, regular sanitising of hands and work stations, social distancing, and avoiding crowding, etc.

Financial Review

The financial review in this report relates to the financial year from 1st January - 31st December 2022. In 2022 the charity raised a total of £1,077,975 from the general public, the British Council and a number of organisations in the UK and overseas. In comparison to 2021, the funds are less as a result of the global economic downturn, which saw one of our donors cancel two major programmes, and another donor's late grant payment came in early 2023. It should also be noted that in 2021 we had a number of major emergencies in Palestine (in Jerusalem and in Gaza) when several of our donors granted additional and substantial emergency grants. In 2022, the restricted income includes two pilot programme grants of £16,725 from the British Council (in partnership with the UK Government's DCMS),24 the first, to document historic buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem, and the second, to map embroidery collections in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. The total funds to restore the livelihoods of 231 Gaza farmers was £120,599, while funds to distribute Ramadan fresh food parcels to 1.863 vulnerable families in Gaza totalled £188.070. In the West Bank, the childcare programme providing quarterly food vouchers and annual back to school vouchers for over 1.200 children was £454.296. In Lebanon, projects including winter assistance to families in the Bekaa and shelter rehabilitation in Buri El Barajneh, totalled £52,854. In 2022 the charity spent a total of £1,131,136.



Additional News: As this brochure was being finalized on 15th November 2023. Israel had been

bombing Gaza for 39 days, with 11,078 killed, 27,490 injured, 1.6 million displaced (70% of Gaza) and no ceasefire.23

- 18 The World Bank in Lebanon. 2 Nov 2022 https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/lebanon/overview (Accessed 14.2.2023)
- 19 UNRWA, Crisis Monitoring Report High Frequency Survey Results, September 2022, March 2022 and July 2021.
- 20 UNRWA Protection Monitoring Report Quarter 3 (Q3) 2022
- 21 IBID 22 IBID
- 23 UNOCHA Flash Update 39.
- 24 UK Government DCMS (Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport)

Objectives and Activities

The charity's main objects are the advancement of education, the relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health, and the relief of poverty for the benefit of the inhabitants of Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Jordan (particularly the communities in the West Bank and Gaza areas).

Programme Activities, Achievements and Impact

Welfare Association's emergency humanitarian relief work has continued to support the growing numbers of people in crisis including those under bombardment in Gaza during August 2022. As well as the ongoing demands of COVID-19, with precautionary measures in place to help prevent the spread and mitigate the risks, the continuous closure and restrictions of Gaza crossings, the Syria crisis impacting the camps and gatherings of Lebanon, as well as the financial crisis in Lebanon; all were factors influencing programme decisions and implementation in 2022.

Taking into consideration the regional political context and factors impacting programme implementation as mentioned above, the trustees will continue to meet the objectives of the charity by supporting the most vulnerable communities and the most marginalised sectors of society with longer term sustainable



Gaza Ramadan Project- Children receiving fresh vegetables

development programmes where possible, and humanitarian relief programmes as necessary.

In line with the charity's aims and objectives and the priorities set by the trustees, and on the basis of a process of continuous needs assessment in consultation with local communities, local partners and other stakeholders (to avoid duplication and identify urgent needs and gaps in service provision), projects are designed in the field and subsequently discussed and approved by the trustees. The trustees have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission, when setting their objectives for the charity.

Programmes in 2022



Health

Expanding the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Al Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital (Stage 2)

Al Makassed Charitable Islamic Society Hospital is the largest Arab hospital in East Jerusalem with 250 beds and 80 ICU beds, including 16 paediatric beds, and with an adequately equipped Paediatric Cardiac Surgery Unit and Emergency Room. It is the main tertiary referral center for the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is also the main teaching hospital for undergraduate medical students and post-graduate residency training in ten specialties and subspecialties.



The Paediatric Unit needed to expand its capacity to meet the high demand for its services.

This 6-month project completed in April 2022, was implemented to expand the capacity of the Paediatric ICU. The Paediatric ICU required a Fully Digital Echo Ultrasound System, to serve both paediatric and adult patients. In addition, the unit needed a full synergy UHD4 4K Camera system, as well as paediatric laboratory equipment and consumables, and Paediatric cardiothoracic instruments. The equipment was successfully procured, delivered, and installed in the relevant departments, with training in the operation of the systems provided for hospital staff. The project timeline had to be extended by a month, due to delays in procurement and staff absence at Al Makassed. This equipment will play a key role in enabling the Paediatric Units to increase admissions and provide the best medical care to paediatric patients.

Providing Access to Healthcare for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

Approximately 95% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon do not have health insurance and cannot access services provided by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health. UNRWA provides full coverage of primary healthcare services for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. However, it provides only partial support for some tertiary healthcare and treatment required for chronic diseases. According to UNRWA, 37% of all PRL (Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon) and 33% of all PRS (Palestinian Refugees from Syria) have chronic medical conditions. The situation of elderly PRL and PRS is even worse, as more than 80% have some type of chronic disease. Due to their age and medical conditions, many require hospitalisation, which is partially covered by UNRWA and other NGOs (such as Welfare Association). UNRWA covers 90% of the cost of secondary hospital services and 60% of the very high costs of tertiary treatment at contracted Lebanese hospitals.25

This year-long project provided financial support for Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, allowing them to access the essential healthcare they need. The project was implemented with local partner Health Care Society (HSC), and staff from both organisations worked together to identify patient beneficiaries. The criteria for selection of beneficiaries was:

- a) Age (beneficiaries above 60 years old are prioritised).
- b) Beneficiaries must be PRL or PRS.
- c) Cost of surgery should be between US \$5,000 and \$8,000 (to be referred directly to HCS).

- d) Beneficiaries must be eligible for 60% coverage of medical treatment cost provided by UNRWA under regular hospitalisation support.
- e) Severity of the medical condition.
- f) Type of intervention (lifesaving or not).
- g) Socio-economic situation of the beneficiary.
- h) Contribution provided by other NGOs / institutions, etc.

Through this project, 44 Palestinians were assisted and accessed the healthcare they desperately needed. Breakdown of the beneficiaries is as follows:

- 28 male and 16 female beneficiaries.
- 24 from refugee camps in North Lebanon, 12 from camps in Beirut, and 8 from camps in South Lebanon.
- 26 patients with blood vessel / coronary artery disease; 9 orthopaedic; 5 cancer; 4 ICU patients.

School Counselling Units for Traumatised Children in Gaza

Welfare Association has implemented the School Counselling Unit Programme in Gaza for well over a decade. So far more than 50 schools and 11,000+ children have been supported through this programme. This is an important intervention enabling traumatised students to access mental health services in schools. It is being implemented with the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), a local partner of Welfare Association. This project's start was delayed due to



25 In addition, UNRWA currently utilizes two different systems to support patients in need of hospitalization. The first, is the regular support for tertiary hospitalization [which covers 60% (up to a ceiling of \$5,000 per admission) of the total cost]. The second, is under the "Medical Hardship Fund" support (partially covering the fees for patients whose cost of admission for in-patient treatment is USD \$8,000 and above). The percentage of support depends on the total value per admission in both contracted and non-contracted hospitals, up to a ceiling of \$6,000.

COVID-19 and resulting school closures, it began in the new school year in September 2022.

Planned Activities include:

- Establish and equip two school-based Counselling Units across Gaza Governorates.
- Conduct 24 hours of training for head teachers, teachers, and counsellors (photo).
- Provide support and supervision for counsellors and teachers working at the targeted schools.
- Conduct 10 awareness-raising sessions for caregivers and the community, with an average of five sessions in

- each school (two parents' sessions, and two teachers' sessions, and one community session) according to the actual need and in consultation with the school and the community groups.
- Provide counselling sessions for approximately 100 traumatised children in the two targeted schools, with referral of children with acute mental health needs to advanced services.
- Conduct two therapeutic recreational activities (open days).

By the end of 2022, the project activities were well underway.



Education



Safety Renovation Project at Nour Al Quds Elementary School, East Jerusalem

Nour Al-Quds School is located in East Jerusalem, in the Ras al Amoud / Silwan neighbourhood. It is part of the educational, developmental, and cultural non-profit institution Nour al-Quds that was established in 2005. The school currently has more than 700 male and female students from kindergarten to eighth grade. The school's electricity network had become unsafe and urgently required upgrading. This was affecting lessons in laboratories, the computer network and the internet. If the electricity network deteriorated any further it could had forced the school to close, leaving 700 students without a school.

The 6-month project completed much needed electrical safety and renovation works at Nour Al Quds Elementary School in order to:

Noor Al Quds School's Manager Mrs. Elham Mashal said:

"We were facing a severe power shortage and electricity blackouts, especially during the winter season. We urgently needed to upgrade and renovate the power system at the school to ensure a safe environment for the students and staff. We received no support from the local authorities, and this school is in a marginalised area where the student's families are not able to contribute.

Thank God, the electrical capacity has been increased and we are to connect the equipment again. The danger of fires in the electrical panels has gone. The lighting in the classrooms has improved the teaching conditions and the children are much happier. We have been able to reopen the main sports hall, which had to be closed due to the continuous electricity problems. This place has become a safe space also for extracurricular activities when it is raining outside, or after school hours. We are very grateful to Welfare Association for your valuable support to Jerusalem schools in such critical times. God Bless you."



- Improve the educational environment at the school by providing maintenance for the entire electrical network.
- Maintain a safe school environment, by increasing the electrical load and upgrading the school network, requiring various local authority approvals. This greatly improved the electricity network, and reduced the previous connection issues and power outages.
- Protect the equipment in the laboratory and the school facilities from electrical damage.

Supporting Higher Education at Birzeit University

This project between Welfare Association and Friends of Birzeit University (FoBZU) provides access to higher education for outstanding students who would like to complete their university degrees, but are unable to afford tuition fees. In 2022 the project enabled eight students to complete the 21/22 academic year by providing full scholarships for their studies, as well as a travel and textbooks stipend for one student.

The students' majors were in Computer Science, English, Accounting, Finance (2), Public Administration, Translation and Computer Engineering. All eight students completed the year with very impressive grades. Two of the students were on the 'Honour List' for their outstanding academic achievements.

Education Programme at the Palestinian Museum (PM)

This two-year project has been extended to three years of activities, due to delays and closures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is funding a series of public events including book launches, literary events,



Annual Conference at the PM

symposia, panel discussions, workshops, tours, film screenings, an exhibition related conference, and two academic publications, as well as conference proceedings and papers.

During 2022, a total of 15 academic Research Papers were funded and published across the following subjects:

Research Paper Open Call Titles	Number of Papers Published
Art History in Palestine from the 19th century until late-20th century (1990s) and its discourses	8
The Palestinian Coast: From the Late Ottoman Period Until the Present	3
New Perspectives on Contemporary Palestinian Culture	2
History of Printing in Jerusalem	2

The project also facilitated and held the following events throughout 2022:

Schedule of Events	
Date/Title	Number of Attendees
July 2022 The Palestinian Coast, Heart of the Mediterranean	554
August 2022 A Poetic and Musical Evening: A Sea of Poetry and Music	250
August 2022 Podcast: I'm going home	1,000 (listeners)
October 2022 Book Launch – Brunch with Suaad Amiry	80
8 + 9 November 2022 Research Papers Launch Conference	1,156

This project is ongoing and has been extended until 31 December 2023. The final activities will focus on the production of research project books.



West Bank Childcare Programme

This project began in 2019 and continued throughout 2022. The project is contributing to the empowerment of orphaned children in the West Bank, by improving their quality of life and access to some of their basic rights.

The programme objectives are:

- To enable up to 1,800 orphans to access an adequate standard of living, through the provision of basic food and hygiene items.
- To support the orphans' access to basic educational services, through the provision of basic 'Back-toschool' items (textbooks, uniform, etc.).
- To enable the orphans and their guardians to avoid exploitation, through awareness raising and support.

Key project activities include:

- 1. Prioritising children to be included in the programme, through the programme's eligibility criteria.
- Pre-qualification of grocery stores and 'Back to School' shops, where the grocery and 'Back to School' vouchers will be exchanged, based on quality of items, shop capacity and location.
- Quarterly grocery vouchers are delivered to the children's guardians, specifying the shops to be visited for redemption against required items.

4. 'Back to School' vouchers are provided once a year (in August) for the purchase of essential items in time for the new school year. During 2022, an average of between 1,200 and 1,300 children were supported through this project.

Restoring the Livelihoods of West Bank Olive Farmers

This four-month project restored the livelihoods of West Bank olive farmers by replacing burnt and/or uprooted trees with new trees, and replanting their land. It was initially planned that approximately 74 farmers from six communities would plant an estimated 6,100 seedlings, to return their land to productivity. This would restore their olive groves and start to provide an income for their families. It would also show a clear and active presence on their land and prevent its confiscation. Due to the high demand and need for this project, the number of beneficiary farmers was increased to 180, with the number of seedlings provided to each family being reduced. This was due to the urgent need to protect as much Palestinian land (and families inhabiting it) from confiscation as possible. Families most threatened and at greatest risk of land confiscation were prioritised in the selection process. The programme team received 364 applications for support, highlighting the urgent need for this project.

The project successfully supported Palestinian olive farmers across the Jenin. Nablus and Ramallah districts.

- 6.380 new olive seedlings were planted.
- 356 dunums of land replanted and protected against confiscation.





 180 Palestinian farming families had their trees restored which will provide them with olives and will help them generate an income going forward.

Replanting also brings a number of environmental benefits: restoring green areas, preventing soil erosion, replenishing water in the underground aquifer and reducing pollution.

Distribution of Fresh Food Parcels Ramadan 2022, in Khan Younis and Rafah, Gaza

Through this project some of the most marginalised families in the South of Gaza were able to receive weekly fresh food parcels for five weeks during the Holy Month of Ramadan, to enable them to meet their minimum food requirements and re-allocate their

limited resources to other family essentials. The fresh food items were purchased from struggling farmers and producers in Gaza and each week the parcels included: eggs or chicken (as a source of protein), together with a variety of freshly harvested vegetables, fruit and herbs. In addition, Eid cookies were purchased from local women's cooperatives for including in the final parcel delivered before Eid. These freshly harvested crops and fresh food items were then packaged and distributed to impoverished families. This innovative approach doubles the project's benefit during Ramadan, reaching a greater number of struggling families and contributing towards improving their food security and supporting the agriculture and livelihood sectors in Gaza.

The breakdown of the final number of beneficiaries:

#	Intervention	Planned	Target Reached
1	Providing beneficiary families with fresh food items during the month of Ramadan	1,130 (once per week for 5 weeks)	1,282 families (1,130 families received once per week for 5 weeks and 152 new families received fresh food parcels for one week)
2	Supporting small-scale farmers / producers to sustain their careers and continue to be economically self-sufficient	150 farmers / producers	167 farmers/producers (68 are women) were supported, includes 67 farmers, 36 chicken breeders and 64 women working in women's cooperatives
3	Creating temporary job opportunities for unemployed laborers working in packaging and distribution stations	300 working days	281 temporary working days were created for unemployed field workers

The key achievements of the project were:

- 1,130 vulnerable families received food parcels for the 5 weeks of Ramadan.
- An additional 152 families received a parcel during the final week with Eid cookies.
- 8,879 family members benefited directly from the fresh food parcels.
- 6.932 fresh and nutritious food parcels were distributed.
- 103 small-scale farmers and producers had their crops and produce purchased to fill the food parcels.
- 64 women's cooperatives' workers received an income following the purchase of their goods.
- 15 local workers were provided with 281 temporary working days' income to support their families.

Total quantities of the foods provided in the parcels distributed throughout the project:

Item	Total Quantity
Tomato	16,276 kg
Cucumber	16,276 kg
Potato	16,276 kg
Onion	16,276 kg
Lemon	7,084 kg
Zucchini / Courgette	7,910 kg
Green Peppers	2,825 kg
Melon	7,084 kg
Orange	6,780 kg
Molokheya (Egyptian Spinach)	10,170 kg
Red Cabbage	1,130 units
Garlic	1,130 kg
Cauliflower	1,130 units
Eggplant	2,260 kg
Eggs	2,260 boxes of 30
Chicken	4,824 kg
Eid Cookies	2,260 kg
Maftoul (Palestinian cous cous)	2,564 kg

Distribution of Fresh Food Parcels Ramadan 2022, in Khan Younis, Gaza

This project provided support to some of the poorest families in the most marginalized areas in Khan Younis; they received fresh food parcels before and just after the holy month of Ramadan, which otherwise they could not afford. The food parcels contained chicken, eggs, fruit, vegetables and herbs, bought from local farmers, and in the final week of Eid they included cookies and other baked goods purchased from a local women's co-operative. The project objectives were: 1. To reduce the hardships on 565 impoverished families in South Gaza by supplementing their poor diet and reducing their expenditure on food, and 2. To protect the livelihoods of 40 small scale farmers and producers (badly affected by the conflict and closure policy), including female farmers and women's cooperatives by purchasing their crops, produce and baked goods for distribution to vulnerable families.

The project team was able to support more families and farmers than originally planned, providing a total of 581 vulnerable families with fresh food parcels,



with the crops and produce purchased from 71 farmers and one women's cooperative (employing 17 women), bringing the percentage of beneficiary female farmers and workers in this project up to 27%. Fresh food parcels were provided for 565 families for three weeks, and an additional 16 families received fresh food parcels for one week, a total of 581 families received 1,711 fresh food parcels. In addition, 71 small farmers/producers (including 19 female farmers and workers) were supported, rather than the 40 planned, and 124 temporary working days were created for 12 unemployed field workers.

Total quantities of the foods provided in the parcels distributed throughout the project:

Item	Total Quantity
Tomato	5,714 kg
Cucumber	5,714 kg
Potato	5,714 kg
Onion	5,714 kg
Lemon	1,759 kg
Zucchini / Courgette	2,873 kg
Green Peppers	581 kg
Bell Peppers	1,162 kg
Melon	4,584 kg
Orange	2,873 kg
Molokheya (Egyptian Spinach)	1,695 kg
Garlic	16 kg
Okra	581 kg
Corn	4,083 kg
Eggplant	2,857 kg
Eggs	581 boxes of 30
Chicken	3,051 kg
Za'atar	565 kg
Maftoul (Palestinian cous cous)	1,130 kg

Survey of Historic Buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem

This pilot project, funded by the British Council' Cultural Protection Fund and DCMS,26 undertook a survey and evaluation of historic buildings close to Al Agsa Mosque, in the Old City of Jerusalem. The survey was to study and evaluate the buildings, to update Welfare Association's OCJRP team's (Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program) understanding of their current condition, in order to prioritise future interventions for maintaining and preserving the historic buildings. The buildings were assessed in terms of cultural and architectural importance, as well as their social, political, and economic conditions and significance. The study highlighted 11 historic buildings in need of renovations, predominantly from the Mamluk and Early Ottoman periods. Three areas in the Old City were also recognised as neighbourhoods requiring largescale interventions in order to preserve their buildings and cultural heritage. This survey will enable Welfare Association to better focus their efforts to preserve the history, culture, and buildings of the Old City.

Mapping Palestinian Embroidery Collections

The second pilot project funded by the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund and DCMS in 2022, was to map important Palestinian Embroidery Collections in Palestine, Lebanon, and Jordan, Practices related to the embroidery of Palestinian costume are shortlisted on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage commission. The project was carried out in partnership with the Palestinian Museum (PM), as an early step in a programme to develop a museum-standard online database of Palestinian traditional costume held by regional private and institutional collections. The PM is surveying, researching and mapping Palestinian ethnographic collections, focusing on traditional embroidered dresses (Thobes) and their accessories, held in Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon. The study was successfully completed and documented 33 collections in all, dating from 1700 to 1948, including items such as: Thobes, belts, scarves, head & face coverings, jackets. vests, and accessories. Based on the outcomes of the survey, a 3-point action plan was produced to:

- 1. Create an online embroidery portal.
- 2. Increase the PM's conservation and restoration capacity.
- Develop embroidery and cultural heritage educational activities.

²⁶ Funded by the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund and the British Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)



Emergency & Humanitarian Relief



Emergency Support to Restore Gaza Farmers' Livelihoods in Rafah and Khan Younis, South Gaza (2021-2022)

This seven-month project is built on the learning and knowledge of previous projects, and is in response to the huge demand for the restoration of farmers livelihoods in Gaza, especially with new losses as a result of the bombardment of Gaza in May 2021 and in August 2022. Agriculture is one of the most critical sectors for the Palestinian economy, as it contributes significantly to income, exports, food security and job creation. However, due to the previous wars on Gaza. the damage and destruction of infrastructure, buildings, equipment and farmland and greenhouses has still not been repaired and restored. With their land ruined and equipment destroyed, Palestinian farmers have been unable to afford to return to farming. Restoring the livelihoods of farmers in Gaza is essential, for their families' income, for local community food security and for the Gaza economy.

The project began in October 2021 in Khan Younis and Rafah, South Gaza, and was successfully completed in May 2022. The project's timing aligned with the planting season and was planned so that harvesting coincided with the start of the Ramadan fresh food parcels project in early April 2022, also in South Gaza. (The Ramadan project purchases the freshly harvested crops of these farmers and packages them for distribution to struggling families, throughout Ramadan). Agricultural land / open fields were cleared, ploughed, planted and irrigated; and the greenhouses were fully repaired, re-covered with thick nylon sheeting, replanted and irrigated. The farmers were provided with equipment, materials and seedlings as required. Crops were selected according to soil type, availability of water and market needs. The project also

Emergency Support to Gaza Farmers 2021-22

Mr. Abdel Karim lost his livelihood after his greenhouse was completely destroyed by the bombardment of Gaza in May 2021. He did not have any source of income and was not able to restore the greenhouse. Abdel struggles to support his family of 10 people, including his wife, his son, and the family of his married son. They have been unable to find regular employment in Gaza, with high unemployment and lack of opportunities.

Abdel was prioritised to be included in this project restoring farmers livelihoods and provided with new equipment and seedlings to repair his greenhouse and replant, including plastic sheeting for the greenhouse, tomato seedlings, and the irrigation network, etc. As a result of this project, his greenhouse was rehabilitated; Abdel and both of his sons were able to re-cultivate his land with tomatoes, sell the crops and secure an income for their family again. Abdel said "You have enabled us to renovate and re-plant our land. I can once again meet the needs of my family, and my sons help me, we are all blessed to have the vital support of this project. Thank You!"



provides each farmer with expert advice and guidance to ensure all are following the most environmentally friendly and effective practices to maximise their crop quality and quantity. Beneficiary farmers had either two dunums of open fields rehabilitated (except one farmer with a single dunum rehabilitated), or two families shared a two dunum greenhouse. Many unemployed local workers also benefitted from this project, as they were temporarily employed to assist the farmers in all stages of project activities.

The key achievements include:

- 141 farmers and their families had their fields and greenhouses restored to productivity.
- 173 dunums of agricultural land was restored to productivity (open fields and inside the greenhouses).
- 21 local workers were employed for a total of 944 days throughout the project.
- 173.5 tons of fresh produce had already been grown, harvested and sold by July 2022.
- 864 tons of fresh produces is expected to be produced in total in this season alone.

Emergency Support to Restore Gaza Farmers' Livelihoods in Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun, and Jabaliya (2022-2023)

This 7-month project began in October 2022, as following the many wars on Gaza, the needs of farmers are great and the impact of these projects is sustained. Once the projects are completed and the farmers begin to successfully secure an income, they can also start to restore more land and may even choose to diversify crops according to market needs. The income from selling crops benefits the farmers' family, the crops themselves help guarantee the food-security

of the local community and the sales help boost the economy in Gaza. This project will continue the important work to restore and rehabilitate the land and greenhouses of some of the most marginalised farming families in Gaza, returning their land to productivity and restoring their livelihoods, in the Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun, and Jabaliya areas.

This project will rehabilitate and plant 30 greenhouses (two farming families per greenhouse) and 60 dunums of open land (two dunums per farmer), and these 90 farmers will be equipped with all the agricultural inputs required to return to work and restore their agricultural properties' productivity and their livelihoods. The greenhouses are more urgently needed during the winter season for some crops to survive the cold winter weather and to ensure production in sufficient quantities to meet market needs. This is very important for the availability of essential crops (i.e. tomatoes, cucumbers, zucchini). Open land / fields farming, is needed as some crops cannot be grown inside a greenhouse (i.e. potatoes, greens/ leafy vegetables such as lettuce, spinach, mloukhiyeh, cauliflower, peas, etc. depending on the season). The project investment will contribute to supporting the basic needs of both types of farming to meet local market demand. This project will address farmers actual needs and restore livelihoods by returning marginalised small-scale farmers to sustainable working in agriculture, through the rehabilitation of their production property (greenhouses & open lands) and provision of all agricultural inputs required. Welfare Association's team will also facilitate the marketing of the farmers crops by buying them for the Ramadan Fresh Parcels project in March / April 2023 where possible. By the end of 2022 the project was well underway.





Gaza Emergency Appeal: Providing **Emergency Medical Supplies to the Abdel** Shafi Community Health Association (ACHA)

This emergency appeal was launched as the Israeli military bombardment of Gaza began (on Friday 5th August 2022). Israeli military airstrikes in Gaza at this time included those in Rafah, Khan Younis, Beit Hanoun, and Al Shujiya, all densely populated areas. The Palestinian Ministry of Health (MOH) reported 47 Palestinians killed and 360 injured including 151 children. The Israeli military forces intensified their airstrikes on Gaza, flattening residential buildings all over the Gaza Strip, resulting in 1,761 housing units in Gaza sustaining damages, 18 of which were fully destroyed and 68 severely damaged. 84 families (450 people) were displaced, and the homes of 8,500 were damaged. These sudden attacks left Gaza's population of more than 2.1 million people trapped and without essential supplies, as Israel had closed the crossings into and out of Gaza. With no fuel allowed into Gaza, the main power plant in Gaza closed. The collapse of the health sector was an inevitable result of Israel's 15-year blockade of Gaza, as reported by MOH. This latest electricity crisis paralysed all hospital departments, especially intensive care units, oxygen-generating stations and baby units.

This project supported the Abdel Shafi Community Health Association (ACHA) in Gaza City, a Palestinian non-governmental organisation (NGO), established in 1972 (previously known as Red Crescent Society-Gaza Strip).27 ACHA is a specialised NGO providing health services and medical care for patients, and emergency medical services for those injured in Gaza in times of crisis. This project was planned to rapidly provide urgently needed medical and disposable supplies to enable the replenishment of depleted stocks and the continuation of vital services provision to the local community.

The project contributed to enabling ACHA to sustain their provision of health services and medical care for people in need. The items supplied in this project were used to treat 6,045 patients in the various depts and clinics of the health association: emergency, orthopaedic, thoracic, abdominal, diabetes clinic, oncology clinic, brain and nerve clinic, diagnostic radiology, and dental departments. 65% of beneficiaries were female.

Emergency Lebanon Winterisation and Shelter Rehabilitation Project

Lebanon's political and economic situation is extremely unstable as a result of the following events: the ongoing financial crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Beirut Port explosion. All of these issues have further exacerbated existing conditions such as the conflict in Svria, when thousands of families fled to Lebanon, in addition to the long-term refugees from Palestine who remain there after many decades. All of this has placed the country in a precarious state, further impacted by a weak governance structure unable to undertake reforms and an exponential rise in sectarian and social tensions. The Lebanese pound has been devalued by over 80%, inflation exceeded 140%, and unemployment lies at a staggering 40%.28 As a result, refugees residing in Lebanon are in extremely sub-standard and unhealthy daily living conditions. This six-month project began in November 2021 and was completed April 2022. It provided emergency winterisation assistance to the most vulnerable families living in Wavel refugee camp, in the Begaa region of Lebanon, and then essential shelter rehabilitation to families living in Burj El Barajneh refugee camp, in Beirut.



27 http://www.hilal.ps/en/

28 https://thearabweekly.com/poverty-surges-amid-lebanons-self-inflicted-crisis

Lebanon Winterisation and Shelter Project 2021-22

Aida lives with her mother, an elderly women of 81 years, her daughter and her husband, all in a small shelter of approx. 35 meters square. Aida's husband, has a back injury that prevents him from working. The water connections in the kitchen and bathroom were broken and constantly leaking, issues with the sewer pipes attracted rodents, broken sink and toilet, dampness filled the home, the ceiling above was cracked, there was unsafe wiring and damaged windows.

The shelter was in very urgent need of repair for the previous three years, as they had been unable to afford it themselves the conditions had deteriorated further, all of these issues were a nightmare for Aida and her family.

Following the project interventions, all of the required works were completed and most of Aida's time now is in kitchen. (Before and after photos to the right.) All the water and sewage pipe connections are fixed, broken fittings were replaced, bathroom and kitchen were updated, and a new door and windows were installed. The shelter is now safe, and the entire family is more comfortable.

Aida said "In a short period of time, the shelter was transformed. I don't remember the bad old conditions. You changed everything. Thank you to everyone who worked to make the impossible possible."





A total of 300 families received the emergency winter fuel vouchers (each set of vouchers was for a total of US \$50 of fuel). These families could exchange the vouchers for heating fuel in pre-qualified local petrol stations to help them stay warm and survive the freezing winter temperatures of the Begaa. Following the winter assistance, the programme team moved to Burj El Barajneh Camp and with the help of an engineer they shortlisted 38 family shelters in urgent need of rehabilitation works. The project team had to prioritise 15 of these most vulnerable households for urgent shelter rehabilitation. Works focused on the most essential structural safety (e.g. fissures, cracks, corrosion, ceilings, roofing); health and hygiene (particularly in kitchens and bathrooms); and security, privacy, and weather protection (windows and doors) - in order to bring their shelters up to an adequate standard and improve these family's daily routines and daily lives.

The winterization activity targeted Wavel refugee camp located in Bekaa Valley were the temperature during winter regularly drops far below zero. It came during a severe fuel crisis with escalating fuel prices, making access even more difficult, for the most vulnerable families. Investing in rehabilitating homes inside Burj El-Barajneh camp benefits both the tenants and landlords, noting that the majority of camp residents are vulnerable. The impact of the rehabilitation for the families was reflected in the great improvement of their homes:

- 3 of the 15 shelters, underwent very urgent rehabilitation, where families were at risk from damaged rooftops and falling debris.
- All 15 families enjoy improved hygiene as a result of the rehabilitated kitchens and bathrooms.
- 7 of the 15 families have greater natural lighting due to the enlargement of windows.

- 8 of the 15 the shelters will no longer experience rainwater leaking into their rooms.
- 15 shelters had some internal electrical improvements, for the safety of the home's occupants.
- · Damp problems have been resolved in the renovated homes.



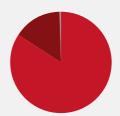
WAUK Lebanon Emergency Winter Appeal -Additional Winter Support

As winter was approaching, and with the limited access to food, fuel, and clothes. Welfare Association was increasingly concerned for the Palestinian refugee population living in and near Wavel Refugee Camp in the Bekaa Valley in East Lebanon, who are among the most badly affected, noting the harshness of the winter in the area. To extend the impact of the above project and reach out to as many more impoverished families as possible in the Begaa region, WAUK launched an emergency appeal to provide winterization assistance. Through this appeal, Welfare Association provided vouchers exchangeable for fuel, which was identified as the top priority, the aim was to reach 535 more households of the most vulnerable Palestinian refugees living in Wavel Refugee Camp.

Due to the success of the appeal, and the generosity of all those who donated, the programme team were able to include an additional 569 Palestinian families (approx. 2,330 people) and provide them with vouchers exchangeable for heating fuel. Some of the challenges faced during project implementation included finding suppliers of heating fuel in the targeted area as availability of fuel in Lebanon was generally low, as a result of the economic crisis. The weather conditions were also a challenge during this period, as a number of snowstorms hit the area impacting beneficiaries' ability to reach the distribution point. However, the distribution proceeded as planned and despite some difficulties, targeted families received their fuel vouchers before the harshest storms hit the region.

Welfare Association in Numbers

(1 January 2022 - 31 December 2022)



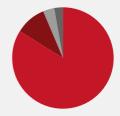
Income

Restricted Programme Funds General Donations and Legacies Investment

£909.637 £168.296 £41

TOTAL INCOME

£1,077,974



Expenditure

Restricted Programme Grants £950,896 **Project Activity Costs** £110.465 Raising Funds £41,378 Awareness Raising £28.397

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£1.131.136

Acknowledgements

The trustees greatly value all of the voluntary help that has been offered to Welfare Association during 2022. Welfare Association benefitted from a number of gifts in kind. The charity greatly values the continued and very generous support of Mr. Omar Al-Qattan and the Qattan Foundation in providing our free office accommodation. We would also like to thank the volunteers who have helped us in 2022.





Humanitarian and Development Projects for Palestinians

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