



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Empowering Women and Youth for Equality,
Freedom and Justice in Palestine

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HIGHLIGHTS, CHALLENGES AND LOOKING AHEAD

BY: MIRA RIZEQ - NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY

The year 2018 marked 125 years of service for the YWCA of Palestine! Indeed a rich history and legacy that we proudly celebrated with some of our partners and a large number of vibrant youth during our International Youth Conference, which was held in October of 2018.

Needless to say, the most important achievement during 2018 was the International Youth Conference titled “Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice”. Over 450 Palestinian youth and tens of internationals, mostly youth and leaders from partner YWCAs and YMCAs around the world, attended this conference that was centered around UNSCR2250 - Youth, Peace and Security.

The conference resulted in a statement that was submitted to the Palestinian government on the last day of the conference, soliciting support and striving to bring youth organizations together to produce a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR2250.

To take the lead in this, the YWCA of Palestine needs to have clear and pro-active youth recruitment policies and strategies, especially at the local YWCAs level. This is our greatest challenge, yet the only hope of sustainability as a youth organization.

The YWCA is also convinced that it needs to focus its work on adolescents: this is where rooting of values and culture starts. This is where building a culture of justice, respect, and equality also starts. It was a privilege for the YWCA of Palestine to win through a competitive bidding process in Norway the Operation Day's Work (ODW) Grant along with the East Jerusalem and Gaza YMCAs. This is a project funded by Norwegian school children, for the purpose of supporting sustainable justice and peace in Palestine. This four-year project channeled through Y-Global will help shape a solid strategy for the YWCA for working with young people on a long term basis, to build democratic structures, and a society that nurtures mutual respect, gender equity, tolerance and resilience.

Despite the challenges of the current situation, we continue to find hope and courage through our partners. We are very grateful for our long-term and short-term partners who believe in our work and are able to continue to support us financially, technically and even emotionally. We recognize that our partners are also facing financial constraints in this new economic and political order, and hope that available resources will be invested in peace and development, rather than in war and destruction, which has been the greatest challenge of all.



Mira Rizeq

“YOUTH PARTICIPATE AND YOUTH DECIDE: TOWARDS FREEDOM AND JUSTICE” INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

The YWCA of Palestine's International Youth Conference under the title “Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice” was the first of its kind in Palestine within the framework of UNSCR2250. The conference was convened in both Ramallah and Gaza from 12 – 14 October 2018. It was organized by the National YWCA of Palestine and in partnership with Al-Haq, Al-Marsad, the YMCA of Gaza, and the Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI), and with the support of the YWCA/YMCAs of Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Horyzon, World YWCA, UNFPA, and the Global Ministries.

More than **500 participants** attended the conference from historic Palestine, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, out of which 337 were young people, between the ages of 18 – 29, making it a conference for youth and led by youth! Also attending were international participants from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Japan, USA, Macedonia, India, Ukraine, Romania, Switzerland, and Finland.



Conference Group Picture

The YWCA of Palestine and its partners within the global movement invited youth from around the globe to meet and exchange ideas about their economic, social, and political contexts and rights. We were excited to have offered a platform that allowed for creative engagement and participation, and through which young people explored issues about their rights as they relate to the implementation of UNSCR 2250 in the local and global contexts.

The YWCA believes that young people are and can be the agents of change, and given the right opportunities, support and platforms, they can create the positive future that promises freedom and justice for all. Priority was thus given to young women and men under the age of 30. Pre-conference activities included site visits and events that were held over five days, and a witness visit for the International participants by which they were given the opportunity to learn and witness the everyday life and challenges of young people and learn about strategies of resilience under Occupation. Participants were also given the chance to participate in the Olive Picking event that is organized through the Joint Advocacy Initiative; a joint project managed by the YWCA of Palestine and East Jerusalem YMCA, after the conference.

Conference Statement and Recommendations

In recognition of youth rights to participate and decide, and in recognition of their role as agents of change, we concluded the conference with recommendations to the Palestinian government, civil society organizations, and international community.

Most importantly, we appealed to the Palestinian government to set forth a national action plan towards the implementation of UNSCR2250 with the full participation of youth and relevant civil society organizations, and for this action plan to be endorsed as part of the national policies agenda “Residents are the Priority”; we also called on the government to take the appropriate legislative and policy measures that would ascertain the participation of youth in decision-making by at least 30%. The youth recognized how damaging the internal division between all Palestinian political factions were, and urged government to work towards building national unity that nurtures freedom and democracy.

As for the international community, we called on



Youth participants

them and their respective governments, especially the ones who are signatories to the 4th Geneva Convention, to continue to support justice and freedom, uphold their duties to protect Palestinian youth under occupation, and to hold accountable the perpetrators of violations and criminalization of violators of International law.

All the demands would be incomplete if not ascertaining that the youth will have their basic rights fulfilled. The Palestinian people have remained steadfast in the call to self-determination as a basic and irrefutable right that is affirmed in international law. The Palestinian people are entitled to put an end to their state of siege and asylum, and to demand their right of return to the land from which their ancestors were displaced, and to end the occupation. This should continue to be the sole and only national agenda that can secure dignity and freedom to all Palestinians, including Palestinian youth who are the future of Palestine, and the future leaders.



Young people at the Post-conference Youth March

Conference Feedback from Youth

“For me, this checkpoint [at Al-Shuhada Street in Hebron] was difficult to contemplate, it felt wrong to enter this area so freely yet our friends could not and I chose to wait with them while the group carried on. What happened next changed me in many ways. While we waited, a settler appeared in the doorway of a building that was forcefully taken from a Palestinian family three years back. As he sat on the steps but a few feet away from us with an AK 47 between his legs, I had a feeling of discomfort so deep that it was hard for me to understand the trauma the family must have gone through” **by Jade Brady, World YWCA 2018 intern**

“I am really speechless and don't know what to say or how to start, but the conference was more than great! I benefited a lot and gained new information and shared information with others. Also, there was a lot space for discussion and expressing one's opinion. I am really happy I attended the conference and participated in the workshops. I will continue to participate in anything that leads to my growth and development. I was eager to, benefit and engage in the discussion and express my opinion whenever possible. In my opinion, the conference reached its goal 100%” **by Daoud Betar, YWCA of Jerusalem youth member**

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Programs under this thematic area are intended to empower women, especially young women to demand their rights from duty bearers and help collectively promote pro-women and gender sensitized economic policies. At the same time the YWCA has been creating employment opportunities and providing business services for women enterprises and cooperatives in the West Bank through vocational training programs and entrepreneurship development so women, especially young women, can live a dignified life.

Vocational Training Programmes

The YWCA continues to provide Market-Driven Vocational training programs mainly for marginalized young women at its two Vocational Training Centers in Jerusalem and Ramallah. This main program of the YWCA continues to be mainly supported by Bread for the World in Germany.

YWCA of Jerusalem

In 2018, a total of 66 students graduated from the VTC in Jerusalem with Photography, Modern Kitchen and Graphic Design.

Graduates 2018	Males	Females	Total
Specialization			
Office Management	0	22	22
Photography	1	5	6
Modern Kitchen	9	24	33
Graphic Design	2	3	5
Total	12	54	66

Graduates of the Photography and Graphic Design specialisations attended training under the title “Start your own Business”, which was offered by the Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce. They all wrote business plans, collected prices for their chosen items and presented their projects in front of a specialized committee. Three of them won and received the needed equipment for their projects, namely a high-tech laptop together with external hard drives for each one of them. These graduates received follow up coaching by the same trainers who trained them for one year in order to monitor the progress in their businesses. This is the second group to attend such a training and receive such equipment. This kind of networking has helped the graduates start their own businesses.



YWCA of Jerusalem VTC graduate

The employment rate for our graduates one year after graduation reached (77%), which is excellent considering the situation.

The highlight of 2018 for YWCA of Jerusalem was the launching of a diploma programme in Modern Kitchen, which is taught by a well-known chef and has been really successful. The course is conducted at the main kitchen in the YWCA of Jerusalem building.

In September 2018, the new scholastic year started with 44 students who enrolled in two different specializations: Office Management and Photography. The Modern Kitchen course will start in 2019.

Enrolled 2018/2019	Males	Females	Total
Specialization:			
Office Management	1	31	32
Photography	4	8	12
Total	5	39	44

YWCA of Ramallah

In 2018, a total of 52 students graduated from the VTC in Ramallah with a Diploma in Office Management and Information Technology. The employment rate for the VTC graduates reached (70%) in 2018.

YWCA of Ramallah VTC 2018 Graduates



Graduates 2018	Males	Females	Total
Specialization:			
Office Management	7	37	44
Information Technology	5	3	8
Total	12	40	52

In this scholastic year, which started in September 2018, 35 students enrolled in two different specializations, namely Office Management and Management Information System.

Enrolled 2018/2019	Males	Females	Total
Specialization:			
Office Management	6	8	14
Management Information System	6	15	21
Total	12	23	35

The Story of one of our Graduates

Sabina graduated from the YWCA of Ramallah VTC in 2018 with a Diploma in Office Management. As a person with disabilities, she had a great learning experience at the VTC as the YWCA of Ramallah provided her with the suitable environment and facilitated her access to its services. Reflecting on her experience, Sabina said, “my physical disability and the challenges I face didn’t stop me from pursuing a degree in Office Management at the YWCA of Ramallah, which was such a wonderful experience. After graduation, I was very successful in finding a job at a government department”. Sabina is very grateful to the YWCA of Ramallah for offering her the opportunity and space to learn and develop her professional competence.



Sabina

Livelihood Trainings Offered by the YWCA of Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Jericho in 2018

In 2018, the YWCA of Jerusalem offered livelihood trainings to 45 marginalized women in Shufat Refugee Camp. The trainings took place in the CBOs in their neighborhoods because Shufat camp is surrounded by the Separation Wall and a checkpoint. Some of these women do not have the necessary papers to cross the checkpoint neither can they afford to commute to Jerusalem. The trainings specialized in Fashion Design and Beauty. These trainings were demanded by the women themselves and can generate incomewhere the women

can work from their homes. Some of these women already started to make money.

The YWCA of Ramallah reached 185 women through livelihood trainings from June - December 2018 distributed as follows:

- In cooperation with World Vision, the YWCA trained 20 women from marginalized areas, namely Rantis, Beit Soreek, Al Tireh, Ramoun, KufurNe’meh, KharbathaBaniHarith, Bel’een, DeirGhassaneh, and DeirNitham, who took a three-month course in Office Management to enhance their skills and knowledge on different levels. These women will participate in YWCA Annual Employment Day in May 2019.
- In cooperation with the Women’s Centre in Jalazoune Refugee Camp, the YWCA trained 20 women in Food Production as part of capacity building for the kitchen that they own.
- In cooperation with Birzeit Women’s Association, the YWCA trained 40 women in Culinary Arts to start the production for Christmas market.
- In cooperation with and the support of the United Church of Christ (UCC) in Oregon, the YWCA organized a training for an additional 20 women from Jalazoune Refugee Camp in Design and Quilting. The women’s group enjoyed having Rev. Diane Dulin, Marcia Sims and the trainer Marica Gilliland with them, and want them to come back again in the future!
- The YWCA supported 20 young women from Saffa and Tireh villages to attain an English course to enable them to compete for job opportunities in the market.
- In cooperation with the Women’s Centre in DeirGhassaneh village, the YWCA trained 20 women in clothing alternations.
- In cooperation with the Women’s Centre in Taybeh village, the YWCA trained 25 women in Food Production
- In cooperation with the Women’s Centre in Am’ari Refugee Camp, the YWCA trained 20 Women in food production.

The YWCA of Jericho organized a training in Hair Dressing and Beauty. The course lasted for 6 months; 5 months theoretical and practical training and one month training in beauty salons. 19 young women participated in the training through which they gained considerable skills in the field. The course was supervised by the Ministry of Labor and the trainees received certificates after completion of their training in the salons.

YWCA of Jerusalem: Hope for School Dropouts

The YWCA of Jerusalem hosted 40 youth who were school dropouts. The percentage of school dropouts is very high in Jerusalem starting from males in 2nd grade and reaching up to nearly 40% among males in 12th grade. These young males and females were hosted in two special consecutive summer camps where they underwent trainings in life and interpersonal skills. They were, as well, introduced to the variety of vocational training specializations in all the Palestinian cities including Jerusalem. 18 out of the 40 youth decided to either go back to regular schools or sign up for a vocational training course or diploma in institutions of their choice. Some of them even enrolled in the vocational training centre run by the YWCA of Jerusalem.

Meet Mahmoud



Mahmoud

Mahmoud is a very committed young man who was unlucky at school and who has found his passion through vocational training, specifically for photography. One can feel the great enthusiasm when Mahmoud discovered his love for the light and frame. He felt that through his lens he was documenting moments, life, stories, illusions, and people. That was sheer magic to him, he felt he had delved into a new world and explored a new horizon and developed new hope. His family offered great help and support, as they felt that the YWCA has saved their son from an otherwise gloomy future. His success was an inspiration and motivation for his younger siblings, as he is the eldest. Instead of being labeled the failure, he is now the role model!

Mahmoud also taught himself the art of film makeup and camouflage. He can make fake wounds on the skin and complexion, a thing used in real films. This new skill that he learned proves that he is on the right track and he can develop his skills and abilities in such a way that can make a positive difference.

Jericho Food Production Project

The YWCA of Jericho Food Production Project was initiated in 2001 to create job opportunities for women right after the second Intifada. Since then, the YWCA of Jericho managed to run and develop this project, which has been empowering women not only economically but also socially, as with economic independence comes power of decision making and more community participation.



One of the male school dropouts during training at the YWCA of Jerusalem



Food Production in Jericho

The products produced are made of natural ingredients and are free of any chemical additives or preservatives, so they are healthy and delicious!

In 2018, the project provided employment opportunities for 16 women and 3 men, who are mainly the sole breadwinners for their families.

This year, we noticed the increased visibility of the products as we have increased the project's marketing channels and its points of sale. Moreover, the staff participated in several exhibitions that helped promote the products into other areas of the West Bank.

The main challenge has been continuing to meet the increasing demand for our products despite our limited production space available, but yet maintaining the good quality and taste that our customers expect from us.

YWCA of Jericho "Mustaqbaluna" Project: Increasing Job Opportunities for Vulnerable People in Palestine

In 2018, the YWCA of Jericho, in partnership with AVSI Foundation (an Italian NGO), started a new project funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation under the title "Mustaqbaluna: Increasing job opportunities for vulnerable people in Palestine", which aims at promoting decent job opportunities for the most vulnerable groups in Palestine.

The project targeted nine cooperatives and charities led by women and four individual groups in Jericho that have the potential to develop. The interventions included:

- Improving administrative and accounting capacities such as: pricing, bookkeeping and registering daily transactions.
- Improving the packaging and storage of products.
- Developing and improving the products quality and presentation.
- Offering marketing and promotional opportunities for the products, and establishing networks through various marketing and distribution channels.
- Strengthening the concept of civic engagement and communication with decision makers to adopt policies that facilitate women's access to the labor market.

Young Business Coaches (YBCs)

This initiative, which was launched in 2016 by the National YWCA of Palestine, is the first step in the direction of establishing sustainable business services that can be accessed by women-led businesses in rural areas.

The second batch of 23 young business graduates/students received training through the Institute for Community Partnership (ICP) run by Bethlehem University in the period between February and May 2018. An advanced training was provided to 19 YBCs from both training batches and concluded in July 2018. In 2018, 26 women-led businesses were supported through the initiative.

The advanced training included theoretical aspects of management, financial management and marketing, as well as digital marketing and creativity. A training manual/toolkit has been produced based on the training, which will be used through the business management services provided to the cooperatives and women-led businesses. Four YBCs are currently recruited by the YWCA to provide business services to nine women-led enterprises in Bethlehem and Hebron areas through a new project funded by Christian Aid and Bread for the World.

Women's Economic Empowerment Project in Bethlehem and Hebron Areas

A new project was launched in the Bethlehem and northern Hebron areas this year funded by Christian Aid and Bread for the World. The project targets nine women-led businesses in the southern area and aims at helping those businesses become more profitable.

As an initial step, a workshop was held in August 2018 for all selected groups with representatives from the Ministry of Labor in Bethlehem to encourage those who are not yet officially registered to start the registration process as cooperative societies.

A Market Study was also conducted through a consulting agency to identify the market needs for similar products. This study will be used to guide the project interventions in the second and third years of the project.

Business trainings will start in early 2019 for the target group, but for this year, they already are receiving coaching by four Young Business Coaches that were recruited following the previously mentioned advanced training.



Youth Participants

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

As a youth centered organization, the YWCA of Palestine offers safe spaces for youth, especially young women, to grow, learn and engage in an environment free of violence. It also strives to build the knowledge and capacity of young people around their rights, especially their participation and engagement in decision-making in their local communities, and at the national level as well.

Youth documenting GBV cases and National Campaign for increased youth participation (SMC)

As part of the Swedish Mission Council (SMC) funded project through YMCA/YWCA Sweden the YWCA of Ramallah continued to mobilize youth, especially young women locally through workshops and trainings on UNSCR1325 and 2250.

More than 100 youth in the four targeted villages in Ramallah have improved their knowledge on issues related to Gender Based Violence and have been actively participating in local initiatives related to that in their communities. More than 30 of those youth have further built their skills on communication, presentation and advocacy and are leading awareness raising sessions and different interventions in their communities and mobilizing others towards more women and youth participation and protection.

25 out of those 30 have actively participated in documenting cases of gender-based violence and violations of those UN resolutions in their villages. Four of those cases have been compiled into a video documentary that was shared at the international conference in October 2018.

This year, the youth have decided to address the issue of lack of participation and representation of youth in the decision making on several levels. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, the Young People in Palestine between ages 18 and 29 constitute 30% of the total population, while only 0.7% of youth participate in decision-making. Hence, the YWCA youth embarked on a National Campaign to call for the increase in youth participation in the decision making on all levels. The Ramallah youth group motivated other youth YWCA youth groups to join in the campaign and the advocacy and lobbying meetings with decision makers covered most of the West Bank areas, even reaching locations where the YWCA has never reached before through its programs. Over 100 decision makers and influencers have been targeted on the local governance and political levels and 50 of them signed a Code of Conduct document stating their utmost support and dedication to increasing youth participation in all decision making levels.

Advocacy on Gender Based Violence: A Project Implemented by the YWCA of Jerusalem

As part of its agenda to combat violence against women and girls, the YWCA of Jerusalem continued working on a project funded through the Spanish organization "Alianza por la Solidaridad" (APS) throughout 2018. The project which started in 2017, targeted youth and community based organizations in Jerusalem, mainly in the old city and Shufat Refugee Camp. Through this project, the YWCA of Jerusalem managed to train 32 youth and two CBOs on Gender, Protection from Gender Based Violence, Advocacy and Campaigning. In 2018, the CBOs and the youth groups worked jointly on two Campaigns; one around Early Marriage and another around Sexual Harassment.

The YWCA of Palestine Receives the ODW Funding: A Token of Hope and Solidarity

In 2018, the YWCA of Palestine along with the EJMCA and the Gaza YMCA received the Operation Day's Work (ODW) funding through its partnership with Y Global Norway. This was such an important and valuable opportunity for us and it expressed the solidarity of the Norwegian people, especially youth, with Palestine.

Operation Day's Work (ODW) is the largest youth solidarity campaign in Norway, funded entirely by school students across the country. Every year, students choose to work for a day and donate all the money collected to the ODW project. It focuses on global issues, such as poverty, inequality and development. Each year, a country is chosen based on a youth-led voting process and the funding is granted to NGOs working in the country for project implementation.



Young People in Norway holding a banner with the campaign slogan: **There is No Life without the Freedom to Live**



YWCA of Palestine Media and Communications Officer and EJMCA Rehabilitation Programme beneficiary with youth in Norway during ODW 2018 Seminar.

The funds raised in 2018 will be used in a four year program under the theme "Empowering Youth for Sustainable Peace in Palestine". The YWCA of Palestine will work with school students between the ages 13 to 19, empowering them to be leaders of change in their communities and enabling them to take part in achieving a sustainable peace in Palestine.

The project will work towards two main outcomes where youth are transformed from passive subjects to active citizens and have transformed their perception of gender roles.

ADVOCACY AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

The National Level

The YWCA of Palestine continued to mobilize relevant stakeholders both nationally and internationally to engage in the promotion of just peace, mainly through its membership and leadership role in the five national forums that focus on Just Peace and the implementation of UNSCR1325, which are the Higher Commission of UNSCR1325, The National Coalition of UNSCR1325, The VAW Muntada, CEDAW and the PIEF (Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum) in relation to the World Council of Churches, and the National Christian Committee of Palestine (NCCOP).

Through these forums, the YWCA of Palestine has contributed to influencing policy change on several national issues of concern, such as the Electronics Crimes Law and promoting youth participation in the decision making processes on all levels.

Currently, the YWCA of Palestine is the host organization of Al Muntada, which is the Palestinian NGO Forum for Combating Violence against Women (VAW). Through its role as a member and currently as a host, the YWCA has contributed to mobilizing public opinion, lobbying decision-makers and transforming Violence against Women to a 'public issue'.

YWCA of Palestine at CSW62

For the past six years, the YWCA has been actively participating in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York which is convened in March of every year to celebrate the International Day for Women, as well as United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva. The YWCA of Palestine has been striving to build young women's capacities in international advocacy and offering them platforms to advocate for a just peace in Palestine.

This year, the sixty-second session of the CSW focused on the priority theme "**Challenges and Opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.**"



YWCA of Palestine Delegates at CSW 62

Six delegates attended the CSW from the YWCA of Palestine representing all levels of leadership: Haifa Baramki, YWCA of Palestine National Board President and World Board Vice President, Ropina Rafidi, YWCA of Ramallah Executive Director, Heyam Batrawi, a youth member at the YWCA of Ramallah, Vera Pano, YWCA of Jericho President, Ruba Odeh, National Program Coordinator for Gender, Peace and Security; and Mayadah Tarazi, National Youth Coordinator and Office Manager.

A highlight of attending the CSW every year is the opportunity for the YWCA of Palestine to meet with about 100 other YWCA delegates from more than 20 different countries and work collaboratively towards the World YWCA Goals.

The delegates organized a parallel workshop around the theme: Integrating Business Services and Policy Reform as Rural Empowerment Strategy in Palestine. The workshop presented a model on how promoting gender equality could be used as a tool for social and economic empowerment. More than 30 attendees participated in this side event.

Heyam Batrawi: A Young Woman Empowered and Engaged in Promoting Just Peace

Not only was Heyam born in a country under occupation, she also suffered a childhood in a broken family. However, joining the YWCA as a youth member and participating in several trainings on women's rights and how to advocate for them empowered her to become an active member of her community and to make her voice heard on one of the most important international arenas.

Young women in Palestine grow up lacking the awareness and capacity to understand and demand their basic rights. In a country under occupation the violations of their rights are countless. This project was initiated to build the capacity of young women, like Heyam Batrawi, in understanding their rights and empowering them with the tools and skills to advocate for them. Heyam is a 20 year old woman from Ramallah area.

"The YWCA of Palestine helped us build our skills as youth. Some of those skills were presentational skills, social skills and creative ways of problem-solving. Those skills have helped me a lot in expressing myself and in handling my challenges in a different manner of thinking." Says Heyam.

In addition to building their capacity with knowledge and skills, the YWCA creates opportunities for those youth to participate in national and international forums and share their experiences as young people living under occupation and also demand their rights from duty bearers on the highest levels.

"I was one of the luckiest people who had the opportunity to represent the YWCA In the United Nations at the CSW62 in March 2018 in New York. No matter what I say I can't describe how amazing this experience was. I got the opportunity to meet a lot of people and I got inspired by many. When I came back to Palestine, I shared my experience with everyone, and I couldn't stop talking about it!"



Heyam presenting during YWCA of Palestine parallel workshop at CSW 62

Heyam was one of the active youth members who worked on initiating and leading the International Youth Conference in 2018 - "Youth Participate and Youth Decide: Towards Freedom and Justice".

"Being a part of the YWCA changed my life and opened my eyes to better things in this world. It made me believe that being strong is important. I learned how to stand up and speak up for myself and for other people. It taught me how to help people and how to fight for my rights and for others' rights." Concludes Heyam.

OUR CHILDREN

KGs in Refugee Camps

The two YWCA centres in Jalazoune and Aqabet Jaber Refugee Camps continue to offer a space for creative learning, healthy growing and confidence building for children.

In 2018, 71 children were enrolled in the KG at the Jalazoune Refugee Camp centre, while 42 children were enrolled at the KG in Aqabet Jaber Refugee Camp centre. The teachers and caregivers at the KGs continuously attend trainings to improve their skills in supporting the development of the children, so they can grow into healthy, active and motivated adults.



Our Children at the KG

A Little Girl Called Asma

Asma is a little girl from Aqbet Jaber Refugee Camp. When first enrolled at the YWCA kindergarten in the camp, Asma was an introvert and refused to take part in any activities, play with her classmates and was not responsive to her teachers. The YWCA team worked closely and intensively with Asma and her family, especially her mother who was not very outgoing and didn't have strong social relationships. Asma made great progress and became more social. In fact, she now participates in all kindergarten activities and loves playing with her classmates.



Asma

Children and Youth Activities at the YWCA of Jerusalem



Children at Summer Camp

The YWCA of Jerusalem hosted 60 children in its Nursery and Kindergarten in 2018. It has also organized six summer camps for children aged 3 to 15. The camps included a Kindergarten camp, art based camp, dance camp and skill camps introducing teenagers to graphic design and photography.

The children's centre continued to provide a safe and creative space for kids through offering several extracurricular activities such as Karate, Gymnastics and Ballet. In 2018, 80 children took part in those activities.

The highlight of the year was that the ballet girls who have been attending classes for 4 years performed for the Royal Academy of Dance from London!

Summer Camp at YWCA of Bethlehem

July 2018 was an exciting month for children at the YWCA of Bethlehem after the association organized a summer camp under the title "Sawa", which means together. The summer camp took place at the YWCA of Bethlehem premises in partnership with Beit Jala Women's Association for Child Care. 80 children took part in the summer camp where they spent quality time in a safe space doing fun indoor and outdoor activities such as cooking, painting, and sports. They also had some tours and trips that included visiting St. George Church in Al khader, a poultry farm, a park and several swimming days in public pools in the city.



Children at YWCA of Bethlehem Summer Camp

BEYOND BORDERS: INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

Visitors and Delegations

Throughout 2018, several YWCA and church delegations and many of our partners visited our offices and programs to develop a deeper understanding of our programs and context, especially issues facing women and youth.

We welcomed visitors from YWCA Toronto, YWCA/YMCA Sweden, UCC Oregon, ODW Norway, Y-Global Norway, and Christian Aid in addition to the delegates to our international youth conference. We also had the pleasure of having Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, President and CEO of Global Fund for Women and former General Secretary of World YWCA.



YWCA National President, staff, board members and volunteers with Dr. Kanyoro

Representation in Regional and Global Events

What	Who	When and Where
NGO Forum for Combating Violence Against Women (Al Muntada) Strategic Planning Meeting	Duaa Suliman Haneen Khalil Sabah Salameh (Al Muntada Coordinator)	Jordan, January 2018
Y-Global YPI Training	Ruba Odeh	Nairobi, February 2018
UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) # 62	Ruba Odeh Mayadah Tarazi Heyam Batrawi Ropina Rafidi Vera Pano Haifa Baramki	New York, March 2018
ODW Seminar	Amany Abu Awad	Oslo, August 2018
Global Week	Selina Salameh	Oslo, August 2018
YWCA/YMCA Norway Spekter Festival	Amany Abu Awad Selina Salameh	Oslo, August 2018
YWCA Middle East Regional Meeting	Haifa Baramki Mira Rizeq Queen Masoud Selina Salameh	Amman, October 2018
Global Advisory Meeting	Mira Rizeq Wael Obedi	Oslo, November 2018
YWCA/YMCA Denmark Meeting	Haifa Baramki Rana Qumsiyeh	Denmark, November 2018

YWCA of Palestine Staff Members Attend Y-Global Advisory Group (YPAG)

In November of 2018, Mira Rizeq, the National General Secretary, and Wael Obeidi, the Field Supervisor, attended the Advisory Council followed by the Y-Global Programme Advisory Group Meetings in Oslo. This meeting is held every two years, and includes General Secretaries and/or Program Managers that manage the relationship directly with Y-Global in Norway.

The meetings offered an opportunity to meet other international partners of Y-Global as well as common Y-partners. As usual, the discussion was centered on the strategic plan/direction of Y-Global, to make sure that it responds to and is relevant to partners.

Y-Global framed its new strategy within the SDG Goals, which will be the basis for the new funding cycle 2020-2023. During these meetings, the group agreed on the time-frame for the new proposal, and Y-Global oriented the participants on the new NORAD financial requirements including procurement procedures, anti-corruption, child protection, gender and security. During the visit to Oslo, the General Secretary also met with several official government departments, including NORAD and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the National Committee on UNSCR1325.

The General Secretary also shared the highlights of the Youth Conference that was held in Palestine in October 2018, as well as the recommendations. Both Y-Global and NORAD offered in-depth briefings on UNSCR2250 and the importance of framing our youth work to address this resolution.

Moreover, the partners from Palestine had the opportunity to meet with ODW management and get some orientation on the work held in Norway in preparation for the new project to be implemented by the three partners in Palestine: namely EJMCA, YMCA in Gaza and YWCA of Palestine.

The Visit to YWCA/YMCA Denmark

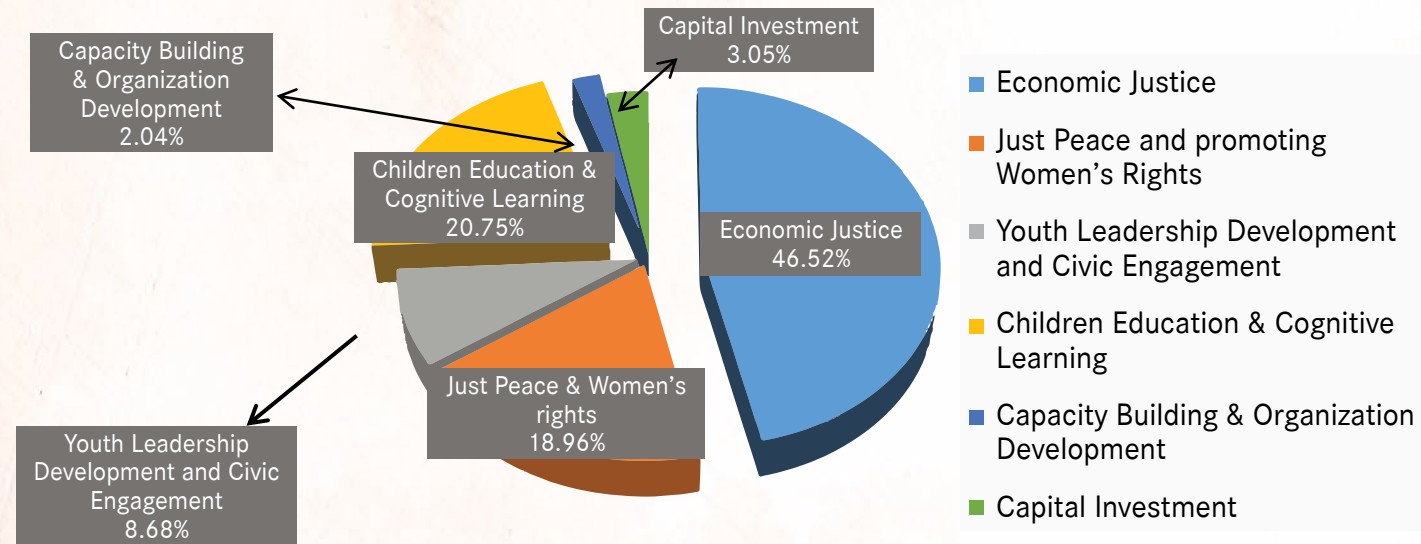
The YWCA of Palestine was also invited in November of 2018 to attend the General Assembly Meeting of the YMCA/YWCA of Denmark. Haifa Baramki, the President of the YWCA of Palestine and Rana Qumsiyeh, the Head of Operations and Public Engagement participated in this visit.

In addition to attending the General Assembly Meeting and taking part of this big event, the representatives from the YWCA of Palestine met with the Palestine Committee to discuss ideas for starting a new partnership between the YMCA/YWCA of Denmark and the YWCA of Palestine. It was decided to start with Youth Exchanges, mainly for the "Wonderful Days" event in 2019.

OUR DONORS

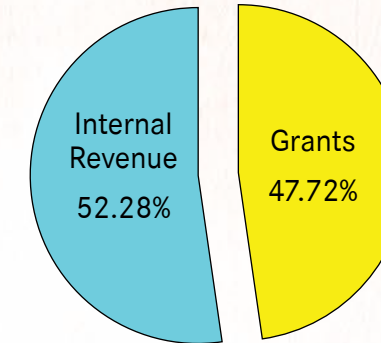
In 2018, the YWCA of Palestine received donations from KFUK-KFUM Y-Global Norway, Bread for the World (BFTW), YWCA/YMCA Sweden, Taawon, Oxfam Quebec, Alianza Pro La Solidaridad (APS), Y-Care International, GIZ, Global Ministries / UCC Churches, Horyzon, ICCO Kerk in Actie, Christian Aid, UNDP, UNFPA, Global Fund, Joint Advocacy Initiative (JAI), Church of Scotland, Miftah and COOPI.

We express our sincere gratitude to our donors and partners for their continued support of our mission and work. Your commitment and solidarity “Keep our Hope Alive” for a just peace in Palestine and a brighter future for all. It is through your generosity that we are able to continue to serve the people of Palestine, especially women, young women and youth. We want you to know that your contributions are making positive changes in people’s lives in Palestine, so Thank You!

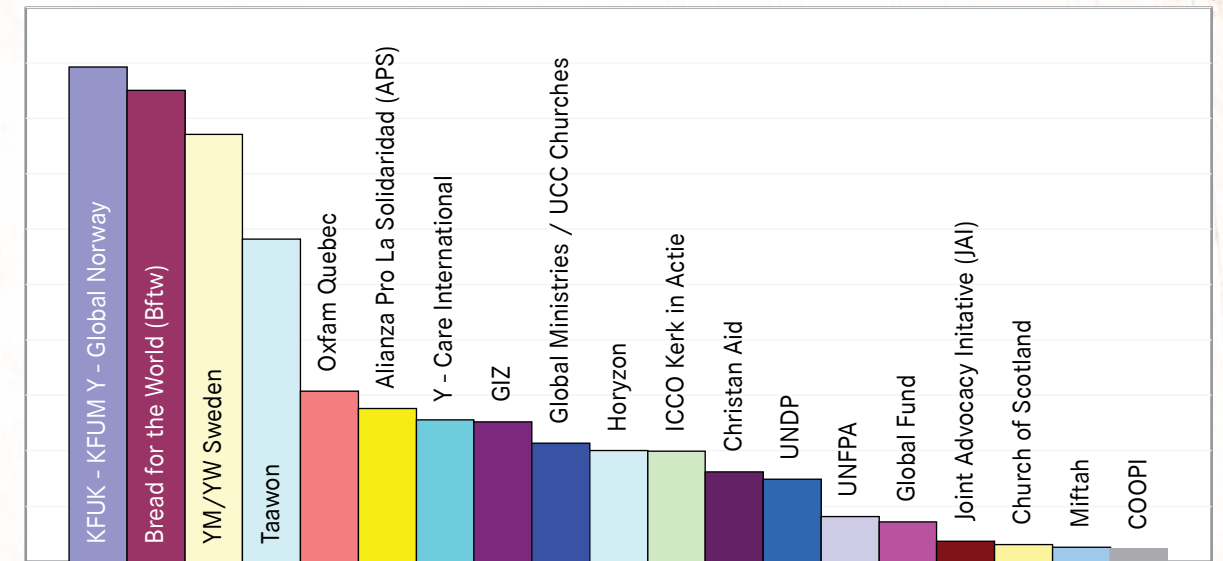


YWCA OF PALESTINE 2018 EXPENDITURES BY SECTOR

YWCA EXTERNAL VERSUS INTERNAL FUNDING



DONOR FUNDS RECEIVED DURING 2018



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- Miftah
- COOPI





National YWCA of Palestine

Sheikh Jarrah, Ibn Jubeir St. - P.O.Box 20044 Jerusalem

Tel: +972-2-6277911 Fax: +972-2-6282082

E-mail: council@ywca-palestine.org

Website: www.ywca-palestine.org

 **YWCA Palestine**