



**Dalia Association**

*Because Community Giving is our National Wealth*

**20** ANNUAL  
REPORT **20**

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# 01 - Letter from the Board of Directors



**Alia' Naser Eddin**

Chairperson

The Board of Dalia would like to extend its gratitude to our dedicated team, supporters, partners and friends here and in the Diaspora.

Our vision is to create an environment for the Palestinian civil society to thrive, by mobilizing our local resources. We do that through our community-controlled grantmaking programs, with a focus on agriculture, youth, and women. We believe community philanthropy to be the pathway to achieve durable development, therefore we raise awareness about the importance of giving locally and with the Diaspora.

Like many other local organizations, we faced a particularly challenging year. The global COVID-19 pandemic affected our civil society, politically, economically, and socially. Israel's relentless settlement building in the West Bank continued with looming threats of annexation of the Jordan Valley, one of the major food baskets for our population. This will negatively impact the economic situation of the country, in addition to the difficulties we will face as a result of this ongoing pandemic.

Despite all these challenges, we pulled through and continued to deliver our programs and our activities to the best of our abilities. Adjusting our programs to comply with COVID-19 restrictions meant that we had to postpone our annual Social Change Auction, where we support local initiatives through live crowdfunding. We also succeeded in acquiring new funding: the Giving for Change project, which presents a different vision on how to "achieve development" by focusing in particular on local resource mobilization and activation, while amplifying the voices of community members, unleashing their creativity, and strengthening their ability to claim their rights on different levels.

## 02 - Community Programs

The below articles are reflections from Dalia's Programs Officers on the importance of community controlled development, and local resource mobilization in the context of Palestine.

### • **IBDA' Youth Program**

We established the IBDA' youth-controlled grant-making program in 2016, to create an enabling environment for the participation of youth in their country's development. The program focuses on enhancing opportunities for youth to become leaders in their community and economy. The program targets youth in villages and towns of all age groups up to 35 years of age. We also implement this program in schools targeting 7th-11th graders.

### • **Women Supporting Women Program (WSW):**

The WSW brings together women to mobilize local resources for local or regional projects of their choice. This program is entirely run by women, and extends funding solely to women's organizations, individuals, or volunteer groups.



## Persevering in times of COVID 19

Saja Shami

Community Programs Officer

On the fourth of March, we were in the village of Al Mughayer, west of Ramallah. Our meeting with the local youth took place in a humble room that later turned into a local bookstore after the implementation of the IBDA' Youth Program. Following the meeting, we took pictures with the blossoming almond trees on the side of the road. At that time, we didn't realize that this would be one of our last physical gatherings, as that day marked the start of the lockdown from the pandemic. Nothing was as it seemed, and there was a general sense frustration in the air, coupled with fear of the unknown. "What comes next"? "When will all this end"?

"Tomorrow the nightmare will end, and the sun will shine brighter than ever" This sentence swept all social media channels in an attempt to raise hope for the people. Often times it was much better to live in this darkness than to wait for the sun that did not seem to shine.

Our responsibility as an organization didn't stop at standing on our own two feet, we didn't have the luxury to give in, therefore we continued to deliver and adapt, and this included the IBDA' Youth Program.

We had to employ different and suitable methods, which wasn't easy, we faced so many challenges, but we were able to complete the mission: launching the program in the community, reaching new youth groups,





coming up with suitable community initiatives, holding public voting days, providing all kinds of support, from material to technical, and finally implementing these initiatives. Later, the leaders showcased their initiatives in a local market organized by Dalia. On paper the above mission and steps seem easy, but it was difficult to implement; everything was closed, the economic situation was deteriorating day by day, and the local purchasing power was in flux. Out of the fruits of our labor, 11 initiatives in the West Bank and Gaza saw the light. This was achieved through the collective efforts of our partners and supporters: DROSOS FOUNDATION, Ruwwad-Palestine, YWCA, Nawa for Culture and Arts Association, and others.

The impact of the program goes beyond these 11 initiatives; the journey begins with the individuals, and ends with a new meaningful sense of spirituality entrenched within them. Barriers were overcome, as they trusted themselves, their abilities, and their newly gained skills. What we are seeing after the launch of the various initiatives and the joy of achievement is greater participation of youth, who seek to go through the experience again, armed with the various skills they have developed, which enriched them and opened the path amidst all these challenges. Despite everything, striving to adapt in every situation is a skill that Palestinians have acquired as a means of steadfastness.



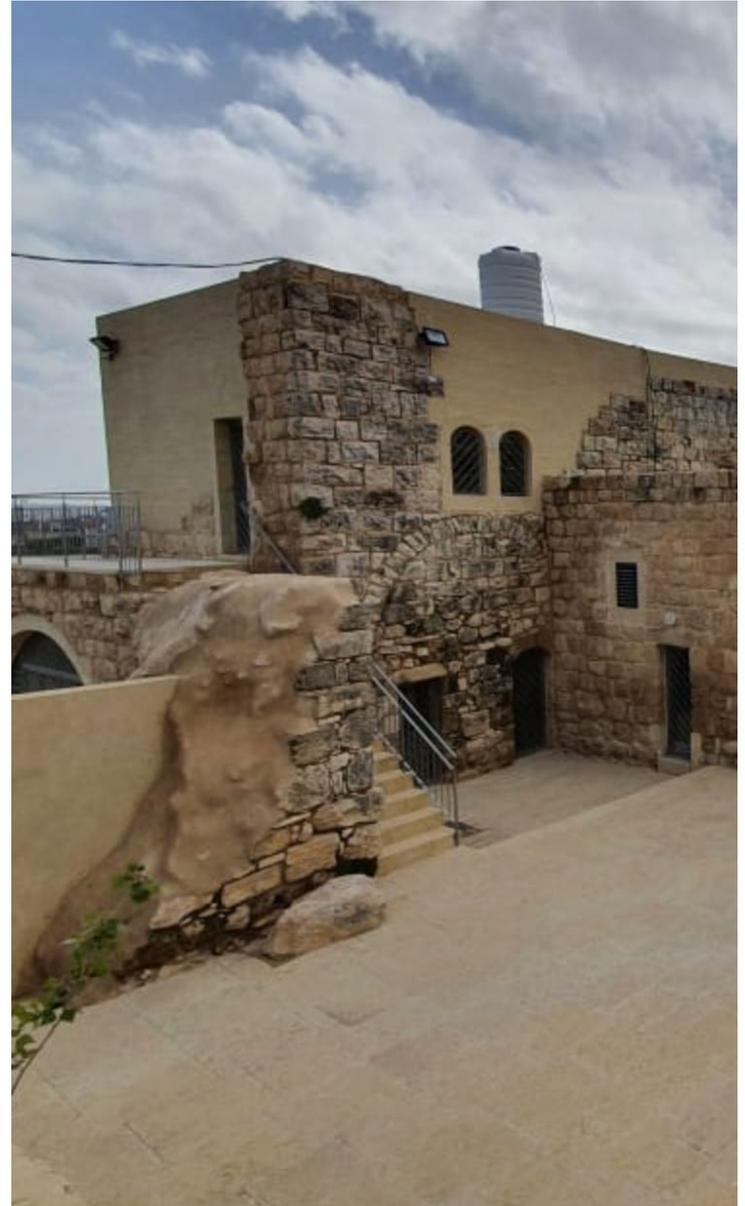
## • Al Saha Program

Al Saha means space in Arabic, and here it's a community space where community members, especially youth, can hold gatherings, mujawarat (convening), training, and workshops. At the same time, Al Saha aims to provide future funds to the IBDA' Youth Program in different locations across Palestine as well as to generate income to sustain Dalia's core costs.

Beit Al Karmeh:

As part of Al Saha, we launched Beit Al Karmeh, a guest house, that is located in the middle of a cluster of Ottoman-era buildings in the old city of Kufr Aqab. During a visit to the place, one can go back in time and explore how our grandmothers and grandfathers lived in these houses. Beit Al Karmeh includes a community kitchen, meeting rooms, and co-working spaces, in addition to two guestrooms. It is equipped with the latest equipment to host meetings and workshops.

Dalia Association, in partnership with the RIWAQ - Center for Architectural Conservation, and the Municipality of Kufr Aqab, collaborated to preserve the old city of Kufr Aqab and protect it from rapid urbanization through the rehabilitation of the historic building and site into a usable public space for the community. Beit Al Karmeh is supported by the DROSOS FOUNDATION.



## Social Distancing...not community distancing

Shaden Tubaileh

Al Saha Program Officer

Closures...Gatherings are forbidden.... Social distancing

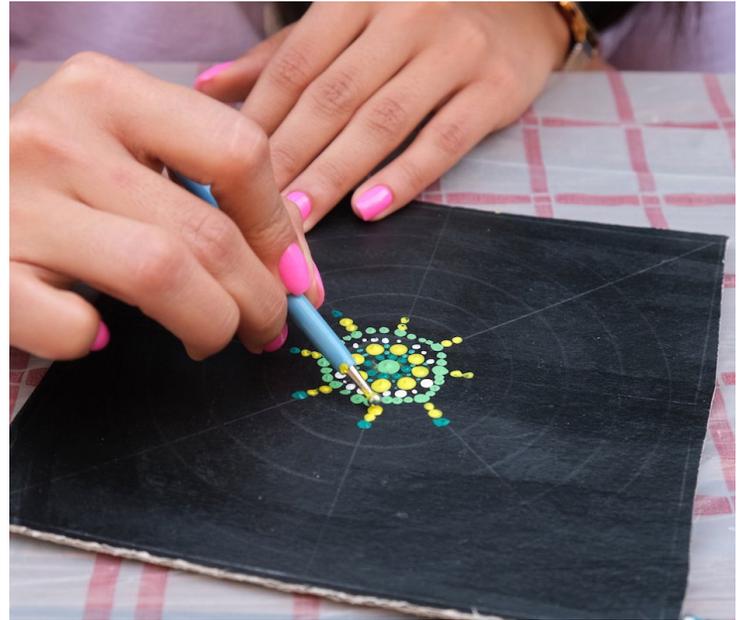
These were the main challenges that faced Al Saha program during the year 2020, as the aim of establishing the program was to create a community space, especially for youth and women, that our cement cities lack.

This year was marked with health, social and economic challenges faced by the entire world, in light of the spread of the coronavirus epidemic, which made it imperative for us to socially distance ourselves and avoid any kind of gatherings. How can the Al Saha program embrace gatherings of the members of the community and community's rapprochement, amidst all of the constantly changing social distancing protocols?

Despite all these difficulties, we thought of the best activities that would preserve the safety and well-being of individuals in compliance with COVID-19 protocols. During the lockdown, we created an online shopping platform using Instagram to display the products of "Dukkan" - our second-hand shop - and we focused on showing valuable books to encourage people to invest their time in reading, while keeping in touch during this closure. After the lockdown, we



started hosting yoga classes with limited numbers with the Farashe Yoga Center, and to support members of the community to communicate and support each other in light of the exceptional circumstances that humanity has experienced. One of the desires that people demanded during this pandemic was to learn a new skill. We complied. We organized "Dot. Mandala" workshop, which is a dotted painting method, that can help channel energies and emotions, and we accepted a limited number, although the demand for it was high. In our keenness to maintain our social ties we organized a bazaar "Bastet Mubadarat" (Arabic for Market of initiatives) for local artisans, and leaders of initiatives in the IBDA' program, in the outdoor garden and roof. The bazaar proved to be an opportunity for artisans and youth to display their products in the absence of tourism and local markets, and a platform of support, by simply offering the space.



## Our role towards achieving food sovereignty

Lina Isma'il

Communitiy Programs Officer

The term national food sovereignty may sound dreamy when you first hear it, you would think, is it possible for a colonized nation, with no sovereignty over resources and borders, to practice national food sovereignty?

But what if we look at it as a liberating development approach that preserves our right to live in dignity? Starting with the pursuit of self-sufficiency in the food production process through relying on local natural inputs and the rich local knowledge inherited through generations.

In light of the continuous deterioration of the agricultural sector, whose various political, economic and social factors cannot be ignored, in spite of the external funding that continues to pour into large agricultural projects relying on the latest agricultural technologies (albeit less than in previous years), can we not stop for a minute and reconsider the current agricultural approach we are taking? Why not try an agricultural development approach that is environmentally sound, inexpensive, applicable, replicable, and does not depend on external inputs?

And what is our role as a people, civil society, government, and private sector in adopting this approach? What if we start with our gardens, our rooftops, and farms in our villages, cities and refugee



camps? What if we used food scraps, and plant and animal waste to enrich the soil instead of relying on imported chemical fertilizers? What prevents us from saving heirloom seeds from season to season? What if we could share these seeds?

What if all civil society institutions working in the development sector, could focus on this concept in their development strategies and empowerment



projects, instead of spending big money on importing agricultural technologies whose input largely depend on external knowledge, chemicals, and seeds? Which will eventually lead to the loss of our traditional agricultural knowledge inherited over generations, and will further alienate us from identity and land, by commodifying it and reducing its value to abstract materialism, in addition to the loss of our genetic stock of heirloom seeds that are adapted climatically to our region, that is also distinguished in taste and nutritional benefit.

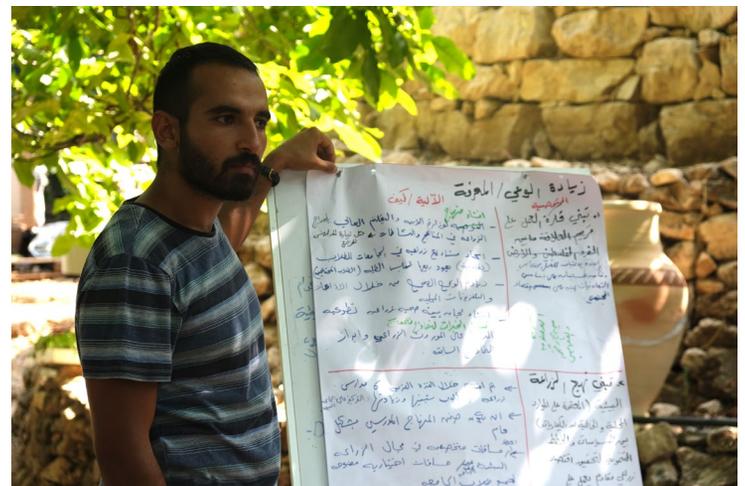
These are all questions that we raise, explore and experiment with at Dalia, out of our belief in the



right of the Palestinian people to have a say in the “development” process, in addition to restoring faith in our local resources. Thus, we are addressing the concept of Food Sovereignty and its fundamental focus on the richness of local resources, and their utilization in agricultural production, in addition to providing job opportunities for youth and women, and the revival of social and cooperative values in the Palestinian Society. We started this process in 2018 with mujawarat (convening) discussing the “Role of Community Giving in Achieving Food Sovereignty” which resulted in a recommendations paper, on the importance of having a community-supported body,

and knowledge production in this field, in addition to the role of the government in supporting farmers towards food sovereignty.

Based on the recommendations paper, we conducted a series of Mujawarat (convening) in 2020, to develop a position paper on “Palestinian National Food Sovereignty”, and later a study on “Palestinian National Food Sovereignty in light of colonization which will be launched in 2021. This study aimed to identify priority issues to be addressed in the process of realizing national food sovereignty, considering the different factors in the political, economic, and social context. This was done through dialogue sessions with several actors in the field, including experts and academics, various agricultural and development institutions, community leaders, farmers, and activists, in addition to agricultural unions and cooperatives and village councils, in order to consolidate opinions and positions with regards to food sovereignty, and engage in discussions with decision-makers on the possibility of adopting it in the development policies and strategies. Another study was also conducted on “Status of Farmers in Border Areas in the Gaza Strip from Food Sovereignty Perspective”, which analyzed the reality of the farmers in border areas in the Gaza Strip, their challenges, and proposed solutions based on local inputs and resources, using a territorial approach that addresses the specificity of each region.



We are aiming to build on the studies' findings in developing our programs on the subject, and on several aspects, among them are: working at grassroots level in supporting different farming models adopting the concept, knowledge production and sharing, and influencing policy-making.

At Dalia, we also work on adopting agroecology as a backbone for achieving food sovereignty throughout our activities in our community programs, such as Mujawarat and trainings, this also includes our community garden in our headquarter office.

We believe in the importance of collaboration to achieve the desired change through community work, and we consider our work to be complementary to the efforts being taken in this regard, therefore, we seek to build partnerships that will advance this movement of agroecology and national food sovereignty in the country, and we call upon all those interested to join us.



## 03 - Distributed grants



### Back to Land

Focuses on solutions to reduce agricultural, environmental and health problems resulting from the excessive use of chemical fertilizers by farmers in the Gaza Strip. This project includes the production of crops such as tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, eggplant through safe and organic cultivation.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Al-Sheikh 'Ijleen - west of Gaza city

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Zero Fatty

Reuses the nuclei of dates and turns them into products of nutritional value. The project plans to manufacture more than 30 items of pastries, cakes and other sugar-free foods, as the Gaza Strip lacks a place dedicated to providing appropriate food for diabetics, dieters and people who are gluten intolerant.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Gaza city

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Paletta Store

Recycles garments with the aim of promoting a community value that adopts the optimum reuse of available local resources in a modern way, along with the production of handicrafts such as drawing on grape leaves.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Dier Al Balah - Gaza

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Be My Eye

Produces various audio recordings, for people with visual impairment. The initiative also targets children, as there with recorded stories and podcasts

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Gaza

**Amount** \$1000 U.S



### Ghasak store

Produces furniture and decorative items from used wood. The project contributes to cleaning the environment, converting discarded wood into artistic and useful tools, while also creating jobs.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Khan Younis - Gaza

**Amount** \$1000 U.S



### Al Baydar Spice Mill

Provides a spice mill for the village of Beitillo and its surrounding. The mill has offered a solution for the women who, plant, collect and sell the thyme, because it is costly and far to reach the closest mill in Ramallah.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Beitillo - Ramallah & Al-Bireh

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Studio Online

A studio for media production tailored to local NGOs, companies, and stores, in addition to filming social events such as weddings.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Ni'lin - Ramallah & Al-Bireh

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Al Ghaleh (The food basket)

Sells animal produce such as eggs and cheese in the village.

**Program** Women Supporting Women Program

**Location** Al Mughayer Village-Ramallah & Al-bireh

**Amount** \$1500 U.S



### Fanna'i

Provides art activities for children in the villages surrounding the city of Bethlehem, and helps them express themselves creatively through the use of music and drawing. Art and music is used as a tool to cope with the occupation.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Bethlehem and villages

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Salon Adabi (Art Salon)

Encourages creative writing, through providing space for young men and women in the area of Bethlehem to develop their writing skills, and to use it as a tool of self-expression.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Bethlehem

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### Jrabbat

Manufactures socks with Palestinian symbols to encourage the Palestinian textile sector and support local production. Profit from selling the socks goes to support university students. The initiative is implemented by a group of young activists, with the aim of increasing the spirit of volunteerism and promoting the idea of Al Ouneh (community philanthropy) and social solidarity.

**Program** IBDA' Youth program

**Location** Bethlehem

**Amount** \$2000 U.S



### One for All

Reviving the art of mosaics in an innovative and modern way. The initiative trained groups of women aged between (20-40) years in this art, while using recycled materials such as marble, glass, bricks, crystal, shell, porcelain and ceramic.

**Program** Women Supporting Women Program

**Location** Deir Al Balah - Gaza

**Amount** \$1500 U.S



### Bassma

Works with women with disabilities and empowers them economically and socially by supporting their crafts, and providing primary raw materials.

**Program** Women Supporting Women Program

**Location** Rafah-Gaza

**Amount** \$1500 U.S

## 04 - Indicators

Indicators	Cumulative 2020 Calendar Year
# of volunteers	15
# of Dukkan donors	91
# of donors: a. # individual donors from Diaspora b. # individual donors from solidarity community	a.6 b.13
% Individual donations/ Institutions donations: a. total \$ amount donated by individuals/ total \$ amount from institutions b. total # individual donors/ total # institutional donor	a.93% b.12%
# of communities receiving grants: a. West Bank b. Gaza	a. 6 b. 5
# of grants distributed (community programs and funds) a. West Bank b. Gaza	a. 6 b. 7

### **Team Dalia:**

Mahmoud Musleh, Executive Director, Rania Younis: Financial Officer, Asma' Al Sheikh: Administrative Assistant, Rasha Sansur: Communication and Resource Mobilization Officer, Lina Isma'il: Community Programs Officer, Saja Shami: Community Programs Officer, Shaden Tubaileh: Al Saha Program Officer, Ali Al-Rozzi: Community Programs Officer.

### **Board members:**

Alia'a Naser Eddin, Fida Touma, Melia Tannous, Soraida Sabbah, Yanal Hammouda, Rami Hinawi, Arda Shamshom, Aisha Mansour, Yara Abdul Hamid.

### **General Assembly:**

Arda Shamshoum, Alia Nasser Eddin, Naila Ayish, Fatima Abu Kata, Sami Alul, Fida Touma, Hekmat Bessiso, Rami Hinawi, Siham Rashid, Yanal Hammouda, Abdullah Abu Kishk, Luna Saadeh, Soraida Sabbah, Nader Dagher, Ashira Ramadan, Riyad Ayassi, Jihad Shojaeha, Yara Abdul Hamid, Fareed Taamallah, Zainab Asbetan, Fida Mousa, Aziza Musa, Noor Nusseibeh, Melia Tanous, Lina Odeh, Aisha Mansour, Lilliane Corbesier, Rand Khatari, Rahaf Rifai, Tamador Shallaneh.

### **Social Change Auction Committee:**

Luna Aroury, Alia Al Rousan, Fadya Salfiti, Hussam Ghosheh.

### **Individual Donors:**

Anita Barter, Nadim Hasan, Lina Subklew, Elizabeth Scott, Aaron Taylor, Ali Hussain, Radamis Zaky, Anna Attie, Riccardo Varrecchoin, Kosi Achiefe, Abigail Sarmac, Hussam Alatrash, Sami Ali, Marcy Kelley, Fadi Saba, Donna Wallach, Anna Lermer, Edward Thompson.

### **Education Fund Donors:**

Quiz Night Fun-raising event.

### **Dukkan Donors:**

Mohammad Samir, Elena, Rawan Tarazi, Lubna Basalat, Manal Samara, Da'ad Seirafi, Jawad Saeed, Dina Shaltaf, Higiri Issa, Nader Dagher, Alice Youssef, Rami Barghouti, Ahmed Qara'in, Banan Hammouri, Ahmed Shuaibi, Rana Zahalka, Suhaib Abdel Hadi, Umm Samer, Samer Hijazi, Israa Shalabi, Jack Theodory, Jamalath Barghouti, Kawthar Taha, Lama Abdul Raziq Sheikhah, Salam Saadeh, Zainab Nowara, Nada Naser Eddin, Dana, Najwan Odeh, Hadi Awad, Laura Theodory, Joanna Abu Al-Zulf, Rania Haddad, Misbah Yusef, Sarah Kuhail, Dana Asaad, Heba Qawasmi, Maysa' Shehadeh, Bashir Duha, Rantia Sabah, Ibrahim Mualla, Hamiza Jawaira, Mowafak Matar, Raja' Abu Salama, Rand Dabbour, Lara Verdu, Salam Bandak, Wafaa Besharia, Ruba Izz, Nour Moussa, Manal Shami, Myriam, Cesar Abu Maryam, Rawan Muhammad, Rawan N'airat, Silvia, Lina Abu Al Zulf, Majd Hammouri, Rand Abdel Qader, Shaden Tubaileh, Rasha Sansur, Saja Shami, Lina Ismail, Fatima Abdel Karim, Areej Al Taweel, Reem Masir, Aisha Mansour, Tariq Naser Eddin, Al Yasmina Company, Malak Afouneh, Saed Hajl, Fadi Nabulsi, Elizabeth Tesdell, Lisa Mir'i, Rania Zabana.

### **Volunteers:**

Ahlan Saeid, 'Alia' Jumhour, Yousef Hamam, Maysa Abu Baker, Chris Akel, Samer Al Sharif, Saja Tantour, Wael Obaidi, Ghassan Abu Alia, Kathem Al Haj Mohammad, Sulaima Ramadan, Yousef Al Khawaja, Bassem Murar, Hiba Khalil, Team Dalia (Lina Isma'il, Saja Shami, Asma' Al Sheik, Rasha Sansur, Rania Younis, Shaden Tubaileh, Ali Al-Rozzi).

### **Institutional Donors and Partners:**

Global Fund for Community Foundations, Global Fund for Women, DROSOS FOUNDATION, MADRE, Nawa for Culture and Arts Association, RIWAQ Center for Architectural Conservation, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung- Palestine & Jordan Office, Mama Cash, Aisha Association for Women and Child Protection.



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## Contact Us

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