



# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022

*Because Community Giving is our National Wealth*



# CONTENT

1. A Year of Resistance and Solidarity	1
2. A Year of Challenges and Achievements	3
3. Summary	4
4. Strategic plan 2022 - 2026	5
5. Projects and Community Programs:	
• We are proud of our youth	9
• An integrated vision in community work: Community philanthropy training as a model	11
• Al-Saha Program	13
• Women Supporting Women in Gaza	15
• Women Mujawara	17
• Food cultures	18
• Community mental health "Dalia Association's training model	21
• I was with "Dalia" in 2022	25
• Dalia and Rawa... Five years of cooperation and collective efforts	27
• For a Sustainable Environment	29
6. Distributed Grants	30
7. Indicators	54
8. Dalia's Family	55

08th March 2023

## A YEAR OF RESISTANCE AND SOLIDARITY

AISHA MANSOUR - CHAIRPERSON



2022 was the deadliest year for Palestinians since the UN started counting in 2005, and 2023 is not looking any better. Only yesterday, another invasion by the Israeli Occupation into the Jenin Refugee camp left six dead and many others injured. The UN and politicians are calling for an end to violence. The killing of Israeli and Palestinian civilians must end, they say. But no one seems to have the solution. And no one is asking us Palestinians on the ground what we think. Palestinians, like everyone else around the world, want to be able to go to school and work, and return home safely. We want to go out in the evening and know that we will be able to get home 'in one piece'. Palestinians have various aspirations and ambitions that they hope to achieve. We expect to be able to access basic services such as health and education and participate actively in our economy and local civil affairs. Yet, the global leaders fail to address the root cause of the problem; the Occupation that has been limiting and strangling the existence of the indigenous peoples of the land of Palestine.



Dalia aims to ensure our communities across Palestine are in control and leading the change they envision for their immediate communities and Palestine. We strive for a strong Palestinian community that is sustainable in all aspects including the social, economic, environmental, as well as cultural dimensions. In this annual report, you will read about the recipients of our community-controlled grants and how they impacted their communities. From sustainable agriculture cooperatives to cultural and artistic groups, from youth activities to projects led by people with disabilities and women, Dalia supported more than 40 community initiatives in 2022.

The coming period will likely be another difficult period for us. We at Dalia will continue to work with our communities to understand how we can best facilitate the needs of the Palestinians during these hard and scary times. How can we ensure that Palestinian communities are more resilient as ever? I don't have the answer, but I hope that we will figure out some ways to support the community Sumood as we talk and learn and think together.

I hope you will also join in the conversation and help us develop how best to proceed in this new frightening reality.

In solidarity,

Aisha



# A YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Samar Awaad- Executive Director

The year 2022 has been one full year with Dalia Association. A challenging year in solidarity and resilience for the Palestinian people, which put a high demand for a responsive community organization who situate community on the top of its priorities.

**During 2022, we organized several extensive workshops for Strategic Planning purposes, resulting in Dalia Association's strategic plan for the coming three years. This plan will guide our operational activities for 2023 and beyond, ensuring that we remain steadfast in our mission to respond to the community's needs.**

In the past year, the Food Culture program was established in Dalia, with the support of the community kitchen in Beit El Karma- Kufr Aqab. Our pop-up kitchen events became a monthly habit. The program flourished thanks to the help of the community in Kufr Aqab and the involvement of various chefs and community associations.

Throughout the year, a full cycle of initiatives passed by so quickly, with Dalia providing grants for forty-two initiatives in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. While we provided grants, we also furnished training to all the initiatives according to their needs for sustainability. Community mobilization and philanthropy were major topics of training.

Looking ahead, I am looking forward to a new year with Dalia Association, to continue being responsive to the community's needs, by strengthening our ability to overcome challenges and increase our resilience.

Towards Community Giving,  
Samar Awaad



# SUMMARY

Dalia Association is a community foundation that realizes our rights as Palestinians to control our resources for our own durable development for generations to come. Our mission is to mobilize and properly utilize resources necessary to empower a vibrant, independent, and accountable civil society, through community-controlled grant-making. Our community development approach focuses on the ecological, local economy, social and cultural dimensions.

By:

- Making grants to support inspirational and relevant civil society initiatives, especially grassroots efforts that seek to supplement local resources.
- Link resources by introducing people with expertise, ideas, contacts, equipment, and other assets to community activists who can use them to serve their communities. This helps decrease our dependence on outside resources.
- Encourage giving by locals, companies, and refugee and Diaspora Palestinians. We revive local traditions of philanthropy and volunteerism such as mujawara\* and al Ouna\*.
- Advocate for systemic change in the international aid system so that it respects Palestinian rights and responds to local priorities.

Mujawara (neighboring) are ideas shared freely with no control by any authority, and Al Ouna (indigenous aid system), a form of collective efforts led by the community to help individuals in their personal affairs, and to enhance the well-being of the entire community. These traditions are successful methods reviving a culture of sharing and convening, which is enabling us to have an active civil society ensuring its own democratic autonomy.

# STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2026

At the beginning of 2022, Dalia Association embarked on a planning process aiming at developing its third strategic plan that will guide and govern the planning and implementation of its various programs and interventions in the coming five years (2022- 2026). Based on the accumulated learning and experiences over the years, the intention of the planning process has been to involve Dalia's Board of Directors (BOD), Management, and staff in an in-depth strategic analysis and discussion about the current context, programs, and collectively reaffirm/develop Dalia's values, future vision, mandate, and strategies that appropriately address the challenges and make use of the new potentials present in the prevailing political, legal, and socio-economic conditions at the local, national and global levels.



We expect to achieve our overall goal that ***“Local communities are controlling their resources in an efficient and inclusive way and in harmony with community's diversified needs, capacities, and priorities”.***

**More specifically, we expect to achieve the following strategic objectives by the year 2026:**

## 1. Partner communities mobilize and efficiently utilize available resources for local community-controlled development

Our primary focus continues to be inclusive community-controlled development that valorizes local resources and capabilities. In the upcoming five years, we will build and deepen our partnerships with local communities in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and Gaza – where we will invest in community organization, mobilization, and inclusive and diversified leadership. We will support local communities to mobilize and properly utilize available resources and implement community initiatives that address their own priorities and support ‘Sumoud’ (steadfastness) and community accountability



## 2. Community accountability towards each other is enhanced

We will invest in facilitating exchanges and networking between community initiatives in diverse locations for social movement building. Our main program strategy will continue to be to support and expand community-controlled grant making – where we facilitate small, unrestricted grants through which grantees improve the integrity and impact of their community work, and communities hold grantees accountable.

## 3. Dalia is an administratively and programmatically flexible, efficient, and resourceful association

We will develop our organizational culture and build adequate internal administrative and financial systems that improve our effectiveness and impact. We will also work to institutionalize the structures, approaches, and procedures that render Dalia to be a ‘learning organization’, enabling it to grow and develop based on accumulated learning, and to become more efficient, effective, and flexible in its response to the needs and priorities of its various partners, and in providing appropriate support to them.

## 4. Dalia has a stronger local and international presence and is more financially stable

In the coming period, we will follow a ‘consolidation strategy’ drawing on our accumulated experience and expertise to develop and institutionalize our concepts, approaches, and the way we manage our programs and interventions. We will continue to integrate the operational dimension with a results-oriented approach, balancing the need for ‘quick results’ with the need for entrenching participatory processes in decision-making and in the management and implementation of various interventions. While carry out these, we will work to create adequate spaces for flexibility, innovation and learning. In order to enhance Dalia’s institutional stability and the independence of its decisions, we will intensify our efforts to gradually reduce our dependence on international donors, and in parallel expand and diversify our resource and revenue base, and increase the share of locally raised resources, in particular. Finally, it is clear that the ‘consolidation strategy’ must be accompanied by a strong media and communication plan with appropriate tools and mechanisms that present and promote Dalia’s unique characteristics, promote its values and orientations, and showcase its programs, activities, success stories, etc. It will also be instrumental in encouraging community giving and mobilizing support in Palestine and in the diaspora community giving and mobilizing support in Palestine and in the diaspora.

Our approach will be guided by the following four distinct programmatic principles and approaches:

### **Partnership approach:**

The core center of our partnership is with local communities – this is where we invest in facilitating community organization, mobilization and social movement building. We will also build partnerships with like-minded organizations and have similar commitment to community ownership of development, in order to be able to have a greater outreach, to replicate successful community initiatives, and to share lessons. At the same time, we will build partnerships with donors and community philanthropists that share our values, in order to facilitate locally-controlled community development.

### **Accountability:**

We will ensure our own accountability towards the communities we work with through (i) meaningful participation of community representatives and partners in the development, review, and adaptation of our strategies and plans; (ii) sharing information with community members; and (iii) setting up feedback mechanisms in the communities we work with.

### **Geographic Coverage:**

We will use both ‘deep engagement’ (depth) and ‘wide engagement’ (breadth) approaches. We will be strategic and opportunistic – e.g. we will be flexible and work in new geographic areas where we identify opportunities and potentials for social movement building. We will have a wide geographical impact by facilitating networking/bridging between community initiatives, and by facilitating linkages between community leaders/ institutors and other actors (private sector, civil society sector, and public sector) that can help replicate/upscale/sustain initiatives.

**Learning and knowledge production:**

Knowledge production is a core practice of Dalia Association. All of our programs aim to serve as a space for knowledge exchange and sharing of ideas and resources. We will invest more in institutional learning and in documentation, mapping/analysis of past initiatives and arising potentialities.



## WE'RE PROUD OF OUR YOUTH

Saja Shami – Community Program Officer

This phrase has been trending lately; it has drawn our attention to a generation perceived by many as the generation of TikTok and Facebook, resembling its “shallow interests,” without actually understanding the challenges they go through in the lack of an inclusive environment that supports their development.

Palestinians, especially the youth, are suffering complex political circumstances due to political accords that divided the Palestinian land, created borders between citizens of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem, and Palestinians of the 48’ areas, who depending on the type of identification they hold, they are faced with difficulties or advantages.

In the shadow of the control of capitalist corporations on the market and the absence of supportive leadership, Palestinian youth are trying to change this reality with their humble experience. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, unemployment rates amongst the youth in Palestine have reached fifty percent; thirty-two percent in the West Bank and seventy-five percent in the Gaza Strip. Official statistics do not cover disguised and frictional unemployment. These high unemployment rates have severe social and economic impacts resulting from the significant amount of unutilized energy in the shadow of increasing prices, inflation, and the continuously changing life necessities that add more pressure on the Palestinian youth.

Small-capital emerging initiatives and projects of the youth face significant challenges. They compete against well-known global products, which are superior in packaging and quality and more cost-effective compared to emerging local community initiatives. These small initiatives are struggling to gain a market share due to the control of big corporations with their products dominating the shelves in every store, preventing local community’s products from finding their way to the market.

Dalia Association has dedicated the youth-controlled grant-making IBDA' Youth Program to create a space for young women and men to acquire a leading societal role. This space enables them to gain various skills and promotes original Palestinian values of solidarity, social cooperation, and more. Many honorable initiatives have emerged within the program, proving that the youth are capable and can take responsibility for their leading role. The only thing they lack is space and opportunity.

Therefore, significant efforts are needed to create a supportive environment for youth-led initiatives. This is the responsibility of organizations, companies, and the general public as individuals. The primary role of individuals in this context is to support these initiatives by changing the expected consumption behavior and rerouting it towards supporting smaller businesses by purchasing their products if they meet the basic quality standards without expecting them to meet the standards of big global companies, such as packaging and presentation or the added artificial flavor agents. By doing that, the purchasing power becomes a way of supporting emerging youth and a motive for them to continuously enhance their products' quality, create more jobs, and promote, in the long term, the middle class and prevent its decline and the expansion of the poorer class. Changing consumption behavior and making it supportive instead of only focusing on the consumption itself will significantly impact the economic status of the less fortunate. It also promotes more investments in land, as most of these products rely on seasonal farming, promoting farmers' steadfastness in their lands. This, as a result, will empower a multi-layer (or multi-class) system. In addition, most of the youth initiatives comply with critical social values and needs, which will positively impact the whole of society.

Many of the initiatives that are emerging every day prove that the young generation is hard-working; it strives to advance despite a globalized economy, technology-driven fast-paced reality which is not necessarily good for humanity, complex political circumstances that restrict every aspect of the youth's life, a fragmented leadership, and capitalism that is willing to acquire everything. This generation deserves to be viewed differently, away from older generations' claims of superiority. The youth need the opportunity to utilize their energy to make a difference under all these circumstances. The general public, especially those with purchasing power, must change their consumption behavior and trust their ability to contribute to change and support the youth because "We're proud of our youth."



# DALIA ASSOCIATION APPROACH

## An Integrated Vision in Community Work Community Philanthropy Training as a Model

Alia Al- Rosan | Field coordinator

The Dalia Association is distinguished by the fact that it was founded by a group of Palestinians in exile and diaspora, who experienced the reality of foreign funding, its conditions, and its impact on the lives of Palestinians, and decided, based on the social, national, and humanitarian duty towards their community, to intervene and do something about it. So, they embarked on an integrated development vision, in which the Palestinian society in all its parts would be the focal point of community action and movement, and it would be the support for societal activities. Thus, Dalia Association is a social initiative that has taken its institutionalized shape to ensure continuity and development.



## INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT VISION

Dalia's founders were keen to ensure that their community work is integrated, into whatever field the project or community initiative falls under, considering the community and its various needs as an important point for drawing action plans and future directions for the association, deviating from the methodology of many international donors, who fragment the community work and allocate projects in certain places, ignoring the links to other important and necessary factors, limiting the impact of these projects.





## DALIA ASSOCIATION VISION

The work of Dalia Association is to utilize all necessary local resources (tangible and intangible) properly, to enable and create an independent and responsible civil society in which transparency and accountability prevail. This comes from the belief in the right of the Palestinian people to control their resources to achieve community development. This is achieved through the provision of community-led grants to support innovative and appropriate civil society initiatives, especially those efforts by local communities to use and benefit from the available resources. We focus our work on four aspects that ensure achieving a comprehensive integrated community development: the local economy, environment, society, and culture. We also aim to promote community giving in Palestine and the diaspora, because we believe that each of us has something to offer, by contributing our talents, resources, and energies for a prosperous Palestine.

### How does the Dalia Association do this?

The integrated vision of community work also requires various and complementary tools, methods, and methodologies to be achieved. These tools must combine practical, theoretical, and inspiring aspects and visions, and vary between financial, technical, and intellectual support, and depend on reciprocity between the association and society.

“Dalia” sees the community as the first inspiration and the true and most comprehensive source of knowledge. Accordingly, the Association tries to gain sufficient flexibility to deal with the community by opening the doors of dialogue and building cumulative knowledge drawn from the community’s collective experiences, by continuing to learn from diverse community experiences.

### Our experience in community grants training

In the years 2021 and 2022, Dalia Association was able to hold two camps for community philanthropy for youth groups and training for community philanthropy for women's groups. We decided to hold it in the form of training, to take account of women's realities and the inability of many of them to stay overnight as a result of their family duties.

### The vision of Community grants camps

- The concept of the Palestinian camp was linked to the place that brought them together after repression, deportation, displacement, and land theft that they went through the Nakba, Naksa, and other disasters in the last century. It was the place that contained them coming from different parts of Palestine and began to promote shared values of work, emphasizing the preservation of the common identity, initiating the process of construction and restoration, pooling capacities and energies, and organizing them intellectually, nationally, scientifically and on the ground on the message and unified goals that meet on their common concern. so the camps were the effective means to reunite the ranks and heal the wounds, even if temporarily, in order to prepare for facing the challenges posed by the occupation with its continuous attacks and building settlements on the land of the owners who left it by force and oppression, so the camps spread in the survival of Palestine and the diaspora and it brought together the different geographical regions on the common dream and hope for change, return, and liberation.
- It can be said that this spirit of the camp emanated from youth camps, trade unions, liberation movements, and popular gatherings that were formed in the first intifada, where all Palestinians from different geographical regions meet on a joint unitary program that focuses on the concepts of building, development, community philanthropy, mobilization, and building field and trade union work teams in both its social and militant aspects. These camps, with their atmosphere, style, and method, contributed to preparing and building leaders, activists, and volunteers to work on issues that meet the different needs of the people at that time.



- The camp aimed to enhance the spirit of communication, cooperation, rapprochement, and community work among youth groups, encourage building partnerships, cooperate in the field of voluntary work, highlight the importance of social responsibility and the use of local resources, and steer clear of conditional financing, focus on the relationship of resilience and national need with community philanthropy and mobilizing community resources, that encourages the realization of the values of belonging and commitment to the main pivotal issues that everyone agrees on, getting acquainted with the experiences of young entrepreneurs, learn about the experiences of young entrepreneurs, and the experience of the Dalia Association in community giving as a practical model on the ground, re-rooting identity and land through youth initiatives, and spread a spirit of help through camp activities as a first step, and the activities of groups in their regions later.

## OUR AIM!

The Dalia Association team aims to keep and support the spirit of brotherhood and cooperation that the initiators showed each other in the next phase of work after the camp ends. This imposes the depth of experience and the friendships formed by the participants, which were built on cooperation, support, and solidarity based on the love and pursuit of society. This is how our community philanthropy training was a space to work together, uniting us with patriotism and belonging to our authentic Palestinian society, and an opportunity to develop our community work into effective community organizational structures that, through cooperation and partnership, can have a deep and fundamental impact in pushing our society forward, towards development and sovereignty.



# AL-SAHA PROGRAM

## Aya Badha – Al Saha Program Officer

Supportive and sustainable programs, overcoming challenges and turning them into opportunities, were the highlights of 2022 regarding the Al-Saha Program. The program aims to create safe, inclusive community spaces for the youth, within the lack of such spaces for the youth, women, and children.

The key element of the Al-Saha Program is Beit Al-Karmeh, a community center in the old town of Kafr Aqab – North of Jerusalem, which consists of a community kitchen, meeting rooms, and a co-working hall, in addition to two guest rooms and outdoor spaces. This center is critical to the town of Kafr Aqab, which lacks such community spaces.

During 2022, we organized many monthly activities in Beit Al-Karmeh; these activities varied in nature and focused on community, culture, education, and recreation. The activities also strived to turn Beit Al-Karmeh into a place where people feel included and can find the needed facilities.





We focused on a specific group each month, such as women, families, schools, etc. Initially, it was challenging to encourage people to participate in these activities, but with dedication and continuous efforts, community members showed high interest in Beit Al-Karmeh's activities.

Regarding the community kitchen, it is currently run by women from the community who make various delightful Palestinian meals. The kitchen aims to attract the local community to learn more about Palestinian cuisine and is named Zahr Ar-Rumman (Pomegranate Blooms) Kitchen.

Beit Al-Karmeh was granted funding from the A.M Qattan Foundation's Culture, Art and Social Engagement Program (CASE) through our Cooperation Through Culture and Arts program, which aims to activate Beit Al-Karmeh as a safe, inclusive cultural center for the local community.

Finally, it has been notable that Beit Al-Karmeh, which represents Dalia Association, alongside its neighboring centers in organizations in Kafr Aqab, has been facing many challenges due to the complex nature of the area. Yet, with collective efforts, we are turning these challenges into opportunities to revive the old town of Kafr Aqab through our unique activities.

In the November 2022 issue of This Week in Palestine, an article about Beit al-Karmeh was published:

<https://thisweekinpalestine.com/beit-al-karmeh-a-community-center-and-guesthouse-in-kafr-aqab-jerusalem/>



## WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN IN GAZA

Anwar Tatri – Community Programs Coordinator, Gaza Strip

Women Supporting Women is one of Dalia Association's main programs; it utilizes local resources to achieve women's goals and promote their initiatives. Women run the whole program and manage the grants it offers; they can offer the grants to initiatives by individuals or groups, aiming to benefit the entire community.

To achieve this goal, Dalia Association seeks to provide grants to women through its programs. During 2022, Dalia has provided four grants through the Giving for Change program and four through the Women Supporting Women program. The qualified initiatives varied in their approaches:

**(two food production initiatives**, one community initiative, three cultural initiatives, and one agricultural). These grants have helped women empowering.

Twenty women participated in a training camp organized by Dalia Association; the camp aimed to achieve a deeper understanding of Dalia's ideals, vision, programs, and the main pillars of its initiatives. It also focused on Dalia's approach toward the local communities, which Dalia considers the decision-maker and mobilizer towards volunteering, community participation, and the utilization of local resources. In addition, the discussions focused on promoting the concept of positive change and the awareness of the dangers of conditional and unconditional foreign aid, aiming to consider methods of gradual reliance on local resources.

The camp also focused on the relationship with the land through community initiatives and collective work, in addition to the volunteering spirit as a first step in the camp and later through the participants' activities in their areas.

The camp provided a space to feature distinguished initiatives and activities to mainstream them amongst other participating groups. It also strives to achieve Dalia Asspciation's goals in reality through experimenting with these initiatives with the participating youth groups.

The initiatives were implemented in various areas in the Gaza Strip and targeted marginalized groups such as women, people with disabilities, and domestic violence victims.

#### **Huda Abu Odeh (43)**

a participant and beneficiary of the Rabee' Beladi (Spring of my Homeland), an initiative that serves people with disabilities, has expressed her happiness to qualify for the funded initiatives of 2022. She said: "I benefited from Dalia Association's initiative that supports women and girls with disabilities with training to make a living. Through the initiative, I have developed my products. As a team, we made revenue which helped us rely on ourselves and serve our community."

#### **Zozo Mohammad Ahmad As-Sultan (38)**

spoke about the Mawasem (Seasons) initiative (Cattle Tallow Project), which qualified for funding in 2022. She said: "though Dalia's training camp, we were able to define our needs for the initiative, and with the suitable equipment, we saved time and effort, and we improved the quantity and quality of our products. Thus, we have contributed to the food basket of the elderly, as they cannot make such products independently; this also helped revitalize Palestinian cultural heritage".

#### **Sanaa' Hourani (41)**

participates in Caananite Women Initiative, which aims to revitalize Palestinian cultural heritage. Sanaa' could utilize Dalia's grant to organize several workshops that focused on the fusion of embroidery and contemporary art crafts, in which traditional trimmings and shapes are used, resembling the history of the Palestinian people in the products participants produce and sell.

## **WOMEN MUJAWARA**

A continuation of the contiguous approach to participatory learning experience, which is intended to meet in an incubating and welcoming space to share knowledge and experiences through communication and participation.

To move away from the stereotype and limitations of the traditional concept of "women's empowerment", believing in the rich and authentic knowledge that women pass generation after generation and scheduled for their national struggles; The vision of the women's Mujawara (craft and history) was crystallized. 2022 as this year's Mujawara was more suited to the circumstances of the women participating, especially given the conditions resulted by the spread COVID-19, held over six days, was distributed to third weeks over two days each week, to begin on 27 June and end on 8 July.

(Mujawara to craft and history) came from the need to continue learning and to discover new experiences and skills, the richness of our craft and Palestinian heritage, and the possibility of reinstating pursuing, and developing them in new and harmonious ways to our present era, which has a role to play in supporting women's experiences, enhancing their economic and social status. Mujawara also aimed to deepen knowledge of the relationship between manual and human work, in addition to adhering manual work to the context of the Palestinian feminist struggle and its impact on strengthening the resilience of our people.

In our quest to experience a different model of sharing experience and community mobility, recognizing the importance of building trust and caring for the individual and the community, and creating a supportive collaborative environment, based on having faith on our capabilities and resources as women and as communities, the idea of Mujawara, as a safe space where women from women's funds from different regions gather, came into a space that empowered them from being closer to themselves and move far from life's obligations and pressures, giving the opportunity to express themselves freely, communicate with them about their thoughts and feelings, and share their stories and experiences, in an atmosphere that stimulates mutual support, and the discovery of their skills. In addition to giving them the opportunity to learn heritage skills and crafts that are important to them as Palestinian women.



# FOOD CULTURE IN DALIA ASSOCIATION

**Samar Awaad – Executive director**

The Palestinian cuisine is a rich and diversified cuisine which vary in use of vegetation meets, and fish. It is diversified according to geography, local farming norms and what the locals can forage from the land around their cities and villages. Each region has its own unique recipes. While the north of Historical Palestine, the Galilee and Nazareth are affected by the Lebanese and Syrian neighbouring areas, the coast is rich with seafood recipes, while the northern West Bank is accustomed to using pomegranate in their recipes, southern Palestine uses yogurt / Kisheck instead in almost most of their recipes.

Throughout Palestine, foraging is a very important practice, with Palestinians enjoying and harvesting during the lush spring season in Palestine. Once the foraging season starts, Palestinians are seen collecting edible plants, shrubs, and flowers, which their mothers and grandmothers used to collect and cook as a main component of the Palestinian cuisine.



The vegan recipes of Palestinian cuisine are numerous, showing how strongly they are tied to their land and to their heritage. The foraging practice of Palestinians in their villages is obstructed by urbanization, Israeli settlements, land confiscation, and apartheid restrictions among other Israeli colonialist policies. In fact, very high penalties are imposed on villagers who are found foraging in the Palestinian mountains. For example, the Israeli police can penalize a villager who is found foraging Zaatar and Akoub. However, Israeli policies, penalties, settlements, and apartheid have had the most significant impact in limiting the areas where people can practice their ancient food cultivation methods.



For Dalia, this partnership alongside community support resembled Al-Ouneh (voluntary support), one of the association's main values and a Palestinian indigenous system of solidarity, whereby community members help other individuals or their entire community. Traditionally, most Palestinians were part of an agrarian society, and Al-Ouneh manifested itself especially during the harvest season, as villagers helped their neighbors harvest their crops once they finished harvesting their own. But Al-Ouneh was apparent also in other aspects of daily life when people helped each other build homes, schools, and other projects. Dalia Association reemphasizes the importance of this concept and applies it to our modern-day context to eventually build trust with and within the communities it works with. In Dalia, we use Al-Ouneh in our community kitchen and in our food culture events.

Kafr 'Aqab is an overwhelming example of the loss of public space due to urban expansion and to the ongoing implementation of colonial policies. Along with our partners, Dalia aims from this event to counteract such effects by providing a safe and comfortable public space for this community. This is achieved by enabling the local community to gather and hold cultural and food events and by raising the awareness of the community on issues like food and land sovereignty.

Dalia strives to achieve its goal in Kafr 'Aqab by turning this community space into a celebration of Palestinian cultural heritage and identity by preserving indigenous Palestinian cuisine. In Beit Al-Karmeh's community kitchen, for example, our ancestors' and grandmothers' recipes are revived and documented and therefore protected from being appropriated or erased. They are prepared using seasonal and local ingredients, made and cultivated by Palestinians on their land. Monthly, sometimes even weekly, pop-up kitchens and food events are held with chefs and women's organizations to meet this goal.

During 2022, Dalia Association hosted several events and pop-ups in food culture, which included Khubayzeh pop-up by myself and the storyteller Hamza Aqrabawi where three Khubayzeh recipes were cooked to highlight the diversification of our cuisine according to different geographical areas. In addition, we held the First Kafr 'Aqab Food Bazaar, the celebration of Saint Barbara Day in cooperation with Aboud Women's Association, and





Hajjar's Zalabia with myself and storyteller Fida' Attaya, baking traditional Manaqish (traditional pastries filled with spinach, za'atar or cheese) on an open fire, or preparing the traditional dishes maqluba, Maftoul, and Musakhan.

Finally, Dalia started a partnership with A.M. Qattan Foundation in Al Ouna through Culture and Art, a main component of this project is concerned with preservation of food culture in Palestine through holding several food culture events and pop-ups to develop awareness and exchange of knowledge of Palestinian indigenous recipes. Dalia team held an event in November of the Palestinian dish Al Rummaniah, also called Habit Rumaneh. The dish comes originally from the coastal cities of historical Palestine, Yaffa, Lud, and Gaza.

**Look out for our food events planned for the year 2023.**



## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH: DALIA ASSOCIATION'S TRAINING MODEL

Georget Rizq Allah: Field Coordinator

In a country overwhelmed by psychological and social pressure, we find ourselves in need of those who support us, preferably strangers, because the beauty of beginnings encourages us to open up about our feelings, thoughts, and concerns without feeling ashamed or concerned for our social status because our mental health is the goal, and that's why we are here.

The mental health support training through arts was conducted with a group of women from the initiatives of the 2022 grants cycle. The training has a significant role in defining community mental health and community mental support. Since the first session, it has witnessed great harmony and compatibility between participants despite their differences. The women had a great need for a safe space to express their major and minor concerns and worries or even exchange opinions; it was an opportunity to think about the meaning of their lives, leaving their problems behind, even if for only one day a week, there was a need for logical and emotional interventions to help participants in this group that has formed during the training organized by Dalia Association and provided by the trainer Wissal Khalil who was a source of comfort through using various arts in her training.

The training was organized as several group and one-on-one sessions over seven weeks, with twelve participants from the youth and women initiatives participating in the 2022 grants cycle: 'Irzal initiative, Let's Play initiative, Rural Cinema initiative, a Space for Hope initiative, and the Anata Women for Cultural Heritage Preservation initiative. These initiatives have varied in the services they provide and their approach to change in different psychological, social, and cultural aspects. They were able to create a supporting system they could rely on to overcome difficulties in their personal lives and regarding their initiatives which may consist of sensitive situations dealing with beneficiaries by initiators.

The training was based on various arts, such as painting, simulation, clay, and collage. It was orchestrated through thoughtful dialogue and questions by the trainer Wissal, aiming to understand the thoughts and feelings of participants and positively route them so the trainees can deal with problems they may face in the future during their fieldwork.

**Dana Mussleh** from the **Let's Play initiative** said that to provide, we must understand. To understand, we must know. To know, we must learn. And to learn, we must experiment.

I am **Dana** from the **Let's Play initiative**; I've had a wonderful experience with Dalia Association (Mental health support through visual arts) with the great trainer Wissal and the kind coordinator Georgette. What I meant by the first sentence is that to help someone, it's essential to understand them; to do so, we need to understand ourselves deeply.

For a period of time, I was communicating with myself, trying to understand it (her) better, and this training has helped me do so. During the session that took place every weekend (Friday), I could understand what I loved about it; I felt I belonged; I found a safe space to express myself, a space where I found support and comfort, where I was able to discover.

In every session or activity, to be more specific, I could understand myself and others more through tiny details I didn't pay attention to. I've often forgotten I was there for a training session; I could just let out the child within me and go with the flow.

Honestly, it was a wonderful time, full of experiences and great people who later became friends. It was full of empathy and support. The last thought I like to mention that I took with me from the training is "Expand your boundaries, make them touch the sky."

## I WAS WITH "DALIA" IN 2022

**Saad Dagher**

For an idea to become a reality, it needs who holds on to it, works for it, and turns it into a daily life approach towards people. For over six years, "Dalia" has been mobilizing energetic youth and women and leading actual community development through the Ecological Agriculture approach, which resembles the Dalia Association's vision of community-led development that relies on people's creative energies and local resources. This form of agriculture is based on community self-reliance and what nature has to offer in resources, thus, producing food unlike any other, food that is naturally balanced and nutritious for the body as well as the soul in its production and consumption.

Ecological Agriculture is more than a food production system; it exceeds that, creating an aspiration of freedom and liberty, a transition from the dependence on corporations who make chemically altered "poisons" and produce single-use seeds to keep farmers subject to their control to a farmer who is aware of his resources, knows their value, and how to utilize their full potential and reproduce them independently, thus, leading his agriculture to thrive. This is critical to the Dalia Association's approach and vision toward food sovereignty and community-based development.

During 2022, we continued what we started with Dalia through working with farmers (males and females), exchanging knowledge, and conducting field training with them. As a result, more ecological farms are being established, from ad-Dhahiriya to the south of Hebron, across Madama and Aqraba to the south of Nablus, to Deir As-Sudan and





Deir Al-Ballut. Local farmers are working on their lands, creating sustainable work incubators through the harmony of dedication and ideals with the land watered with farmers' sweat.

Other entities have experimented with farmers and youth in ecological agriculture, but Dalia Association's experience differed. Some other organizations use ecological agriculture as another project to attract funding, and the relationship to this approach is over by the funded project. Ecological agriculture is not their original principle; it's just another funding source. Therefore, such practices negatively impact the perception of the ecological agriculture approach. However, the case with Dalia Association is different; it isn't just a project; it comes from the core vision of Dalia, the belief in community self-reliance. Therefore, flexibility is critical, and activity diversity is based on community needs assessment, monitoring, evaluation, and learning lessons.

In this process, Dalia has organized field visits to meet farmers when needed, arranged workshops, and utilized its office garden as a training field. That resulted in spreading grassroots across the West Bank, which led to the creation of more ecological farms led by women and youth who believe in inevitable change based on creating experiences of self-reliance, striving to achieve food sovereignty, which leads to National sovereignty.



## DALIA AND RAWA... FIVE YEARS OF COOPERATION AND COLLECTIVE EFFORT

### Fadya Salfiti

The approaches of Dalia Association and the Creative Palestinian Communities Fund (Rawa) integrally intersect on many levels, most notably the efforts of not only actively contributing to change the balance of power in funding and social contribution but also in social solidarity and supporting community initiatives that seek to organize themselves and affect the traditional common perception of funding, in addition to the cooperation in creatively mobilizing and utilizing various community resources.

There are many examples of cooperation between the two organizations in advocacy and supporting community-based work, specifically the utilization of community participation tools that affect decision-making, thus, shaking and destabilizing power relations in both social and funding scenes. This can be achieved with active partnership and commitment to social values and goals, striving to achieve what we can despite the challenges we face while living under occupation and its details and impact on our work as active community organizations.

The presence of an organization like "Dalia" encourages us at Rawa to continue seeking the development of additional mechanisms of joint action along various paths, based on learned lessons, especially after years of experiences that we have been through together, which may enable us to overcome the most difficult challenges, most notably those that are related to activating tools of advocacy on the community



and global levels. It is also essential in this context to highlight our coordination with the Global Community Foundation regarding thoughtfully communicating our social issues as Palestinians through global platforms in an organized manner.

Expressing our pride in the partnership with Dalia Association in this context is important. A collaboration that has been active for the past five years, especially in community initiatives funded by Rawa through a specialized program for the purpose. These initiatives are nominated, discussed, and voted on by community volunteer committees across Palestine.



## FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The well-being of our environment is a prerequisite for sustaining life on this planet which is currently overwhelmed with pollution. However, preserving it is a national duty for every individual. This duty is a fundamental principle that Dalia Association adopts in all its programs, projects, and grants so that the environmental component and environmental preservation are a fundamental pillar of its work. From this standpoint, in 2022, Dalia Association was interested in funding initiatives that focus on preserving the environment and using its resources correctly and healthily.



“Sallet Baladna” is an environmental initiative for solid waste management that aims to promote a culture of sorting waste by dividing it into three categories: green for organic waste, blue for inorganic waste, and yellow for metal waste. The containers were distributed across a residential complex as an initial experiment in cooperation with the Gaza Municipality; the plastic will be recycled at the Yarmouk station by a specialized mill. Dalia Association's grant contributed to expanding the scope of the initiative to include restaurants, schools, and community institutions, applying a waste sorting system in them, and working with the technical consultant that was provided through the Association to conduct a modern study of the most significant waste percentages within the residential complex in the Tal Al-Hawa area, in addition to working on developing an application that targets all governorates of the Gaza Strip.

In addition to the Salet Baladna initiative, Dalia funded the Khuyout (strings) initiative, a cultural initiative based on reviving the art of marionettes through moving puppets. For making the puppets, the initiative recycles old clothes and wood. It uses them in performing theatrical sketches, in addition to performing plays that promote the idea of preserving the environment. These plays were presented in schools and institutions for various groups.



# DISTRIBUTED GRANTS



An agricultural cooperative in the lands of Khirbet Al-Haffasi, that are threatened with confiscation, aiming to Encourage the youth to work cooperatively in agriculture.

<b>Location</b>	Khirbet Al Haffasi, Kafr El Balad - Tulkarem
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	\$ 3000



Marketing the products of 50 craftswomen and specialists in home production, and allocating a part of the proceeds to support children with autism at Al-Awda Cente.

<b>Location</b>	Tulkarem Refugee Camp
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	4000\$



Shedding light on the issue of children with autism by working with them and their families and providing the necessary psychological, rehabilitative and material needs as much as possible. As well as claiming their rights to an official level through ministries

<b>Location</b>	Nablus
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	3000\$



To revive the idea of returning to lands and cultivating them, and trying to achieve the minimum level of self-sufficiency for Palestinian families as well as to create an income for us as girls. In the plantation, we plant leafy vegetables, and ornamental flowers, in addition to having a plot of land where we grow various crops.

<b>Location</b>	Beit Furik - Nablus
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	3000\$





this cooperative environmental farm lays on a 2 dunams piece of land. We will train school students on this farm on the importance of environmental agriculture, returning to the land and encouraging them to work collaboratively.

**Location**

Burin - Nablus

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$



To revive the idea of returning to lands and cultivating them, and trying to achieve the minimum level of self-sufficiency for Palestinian families as well as to create an income for us as girls. In the plantation, we plant leafy vegetables, and ornamental flowers, in addition to having a plot of land where we grow various crops.

**Location**

Mazare Nubani - Ramallah

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$



A shelter for stray animals that works to spread a culture of compassion and care for animals.

**Location**

Birzeit - Ramallah

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$



Supports rural women economically, ensuring their ability to exploit the available resources, so that they can raise their social status and achieve independence. In addition, it provides them with social and psychological support.

**Location**

Deir Al Sudan - Ramallah

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$



**Disability Rights Activist Group Grant**

Strives to preserve the dignity of persons with disabilities and to secure their right to dignified mobility and easier access to public transportation in the five main transportation lines in the city of Ramallah.

<b>Location</b>	Ramallah
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	3000\$



**Al Sondous Group**

Provides employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the agricultural sector.

<b>Location</b>	Birzeit - Ramallah
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	3000\$



**Yala Nla'b Group (Let's Play)**

Offers psychological support to children and parents who accompany patients from the Gaza Strip to hospitals in the West Bank.

<b>Location</b>	Ramallah
<b>Project</b>	Giving for Change Project
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	3000\$



**Al Reef Cinema**

Promotes a culture of cinema and arts in the Palestinian countryside.

<b>Location</b>	Beit Furik - Nablus
<b>Project</b>	Deir Al Sudan - Ramallah
<b>Grant(\$)</b> Value	3000\$





Creating a Palestinian alternative education space that promotes intellectual, social and psychological values and skills for children (6-18 years) that does not exist in the traditional school environment, to make an effect on individuals and society, thus this space is a tool for societal change - emancipation

**Location**

Ramallah

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

3000\$



Provides capacity-building activities for marginalized groups in rural areas.

**Location**

Deir el Samet - Hebron

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

3000\$



Protects Jerusalem's northeastern cultural heritage in the areas of Anata and Shu'fat camps.

**Location**

Anata - Jerusalem

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

3000\$



Create a safe space for women to express their feelings, develop their skills and increase their self-confidence through the arts.

**Location**

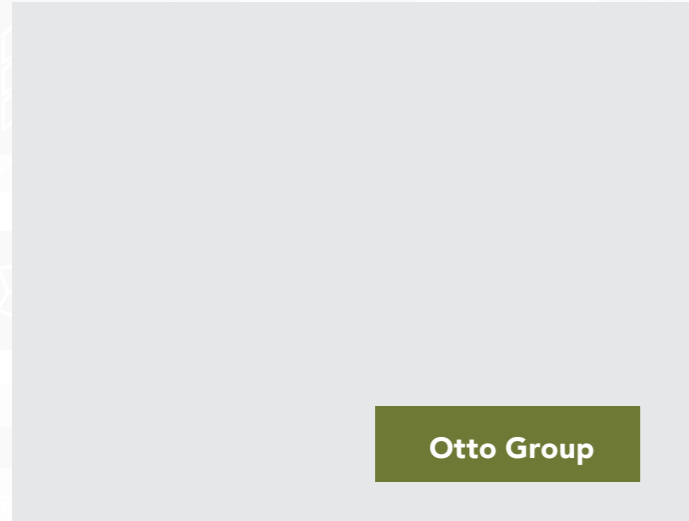
Gaza

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

3000\$



Otto Group

As an emerging youth group, it seeks to create an integrated team of initiatives to strengthen the artistic and culture environment in Betlehem, away from capitalist educational institutions.

**Location**  
Betlehem

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**  
3000\$



Isnad Center for Community Education

It aims to rehabilitate work in the land in general, and to promote the aspect of ecological agriculture in particular.

**Location**

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**  
3000\$



Seasonal Women's Gathering Initiative

A newly-established cooperative by marginalized women in the Abasan area, who gather every agricultural season to participate in the production of specific goods, which they then promote and sell in

**Location**  
Gaza - Khan Yunis Abasan Al Kabira

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**  
3000\$



Baladi Spring Initiative

Create a safe space for women to express their feelings, develop their skills and increase their self-confidence through the arts.

**Location**  
Gaza Al Nasr

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**  
3000\$





Woman to Woman Initiative

An initiative for women working in the agricultural sector for diary and milk production.

**Location**  
Gaza - South-Al Qarara Area

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
3000\$



Canaanite Women Initiative

Preserves the cultural heritage of traditional crafts, especially embroidery, through trainings and workshops for women, as well as exhibitions.

**Location**  
Northern Gaza - Jabali Area

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
3000\$



National Light Initiative

Seeks to secure fair educational opportunities for people with visual impairments, and on the other hand, it works to disseminate Palestinian culture, books, articles, stories and Palestinian novels.

**Location**  
Gaza Beach Camp

**Project**  
Women Supporting Women Program

**Grant(\$)** Value  
1500\$



Choco Bites

Produces healthy chocolate, free of diary, soy and sugar for elderly, children and people with diabetes. Different shapes and good flavour together with a high nutritional Palruoegrarme o/Fffuenred/Ftuona/Irla. ising Event/Community Fund.

**Location**  
Gaza Al Karameh

**Project**  
Women Supporting Women Program

**Grant(\$)** Value  
1500\$



Recycling food by disposing of the leftover food as natural fertilizer or feeding it to domestic chickens, reducing the waste of large quantities of animal fats in waste and guiding people on ways to use them, in addition to reviving an old idea of using animal fats by melting those fats and placing them in pottery pots.

**Location**

Gaza Jabalyia

**Project**

Women Supporting Women Program

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

1500\$



Provides services to children and women, by creating safe, and environmentally friendly spaces for children to play in order to reduce accidents that children are exposed to, especially after the Israeli attacks on Gaza.

**Location**

Gaza Central Governorate - Al Zahara'

**Project**

Women Supporting Women Program

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

1500\$



Spreading the culture of preserving the Palestinian heritage locally and globally and focusing on the cultural and artistic aspect such as the Dabkeh, embroideries and the group performances of Palestinian traditional songs by training 50 children (10-19) years of both sexes on the skills and moves of Dabkeh - and the performance of traditional songs by "Palestinian Folkloric Choir" - and learning the skills of making Palestinian embroideries.

**Location**

Gaza Nuseirat

**Project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$



The Rim Banna initiative is an artistic youth initiative that reinforces the roots of Palestinian culture and identity as a deep, continuous legacy from grandparents to grandchildren, by employing kinetic theater, contemporary art, and folklore as an artistic method.

**Location**

Gaza Al Karameh

**Project**

Women Supporting Women Program

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$



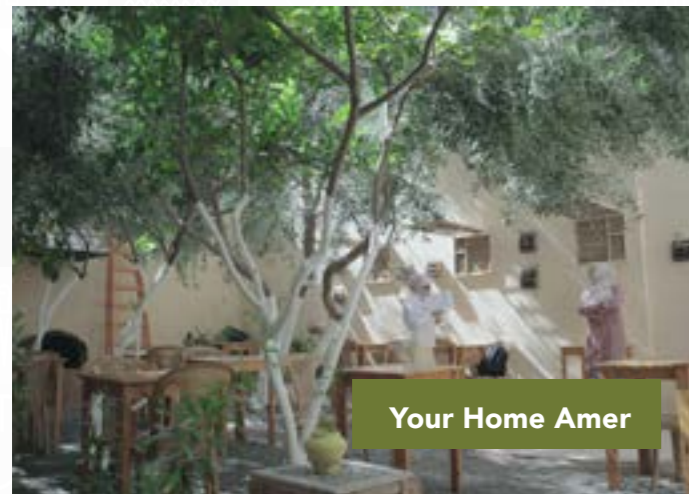


After a group of engineers conducted a study on the reality of solid waste in the Gaza Strip and the extent of its impact on the Gazans' lives, this youth initiative came about to solve an environmental catastrophe in Gaza as well as to offer employment opportunities to

**Location**  
Gaza

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
3000\$



A group of artists and cultural actors working in different artistic fields hold workshops for drawing, design, urban arts and organize art exhibitions in the areas of the Old City in archaeological and historical sites.

**Location**  
Gaza - Old City

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
3000\$



The idea of the initiative is based on reviving the art of the marionette theatre (thread puppets). This art is intertwined with many others, visual and performing arts. This initiative aims to invest in empowering women and girls to express themselves through marionette theatre.

**Location**  
Gaza Sidra

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
3000\$



Aims to provide a safe space for children through re-maintaining the park in Shaboura area, which is considered one of the mostly populated areas in Rafah.

**Location**  
Gaza South - Rafah Area

**Project**  
Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
3000\$





**Seiko Window Initiative**  
Museum Al Qarara

Promotes the cultural heritage of the Roman Mazen Market located east of the city of Khan Yunis. It deals with the environmental and social cultural dimensions, focusing on providing job opportunities especially for wPormogernam.

**Location**

Gaza

**project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

3000\$



**Back to Earth Initiative**

Focuses on producing foods that are free of synthetic chemical contaminants and of high nutritional values, by maximizing the use of soil resources. Instead of pesticides, some types of natural fertilizers are used. The initiative provides seasonal job opportunities for the local population.

**Location**

Gaza North - Al Shaimaa, Beit Lahya

**project**

Giving for Change Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

3000\$



**Red Gold Initiative**

This initiative is concerned with spreading awareness about safe agricultural practices among a team of experts, producing strawberries and other crops and marketing them with specific strategies.

**Location**

Gaza North - Al Atatra

**project**

Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value

2000\$





Formed by a group of housewives and female activists, this cooperative provides fresh, chemical free vegetables that meet the needs of the village. Being the first women-led farm in the area, it has the potential to be a model for women-led agricultural cooperatives that use solely clean farming methods.

**Location**

Qira village - Salfit Governorate

**Project**

Agro-resistance Program

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

2000\$



Dalia worked with Lamees, a female farmer in Der Ballout village to restore a piece of land (around 1 dunum) that she inherited from her father. Through financial support and technical assistance on agroecological practices, Lamees and her family returned to sustainably farm the land

**Location**

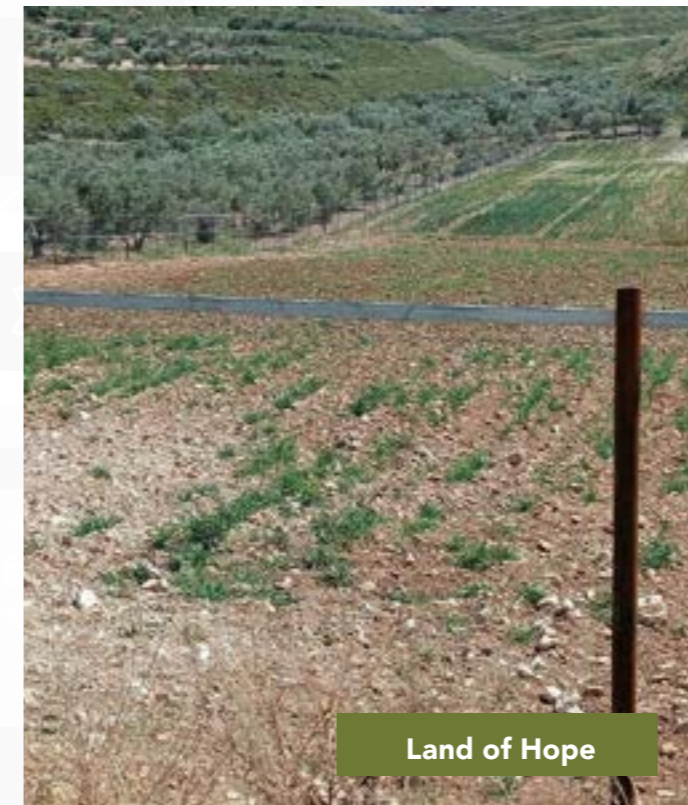
Der Ballout village - Salfit Governorate

**Project**

Agro-resistance Program

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

\$1000



Madama village/ Nablus Governorate faces continuous attacks by illegal colonial settlers in the area, causing -along with the harsh economic situation- youth to leave the village in search for jobs. Ard al-Amal (meaning 'land of hope') cooperative is an emerging youth-led agricultural cooperative that seeks to protect and preserve the village agricultural lands, through farming as a means of living and cooperativism as a model of collective work and mutual support. Dalia worked with Ard al-Amal to start their agricultural project through grant provision and technical guidance in agro ecological farming, along with the Youth Partnership Forum's support in cooperative work and operation. Ard al-Amal cooperative worked on the reclamation and preparation of a 6 dunum for agricultural activities.

**Location**

Madama - Nablus

**Project**

Agro-resistance Program

**Grant(\$\$) Value**

3000\$





The idea of the initiative is to train the youth on the archeological farming on a farm located in Almasafer of Yatta.

**Location**  
Yatta

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$

**Feed yourself by your country's grace.**

The initiative is about linking the small farmers with market in cities. They will support the farmers by market their products without the need for an agent. Food processing and the art of cooking will be used to market the different products.

**Location**  
Ramallah

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$



Joneh means the hey basket; meaning in Arabic is: the title is the basket of health. The initiative aims at creating a farm in which all the healthy styles will be used and applied; no chemicals will be used. It will also create a community space.

**Location**  
Joreesh-Aqraba-Nablus

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$



Recycling of glasses waste to produce interior stones.

**Location**  
Toolkarem- Kufr Allebad

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$





Zahra

An initiative that aims to encourage environmental farming especially among school children.

**Location**  
Hebron

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$



Rommanah Library

The initiative is a library in the area of H2 in Hebron for children. The idea is to improve and develop the library so it can serve less aged kids who generally don't have specialized books of their age category.

**Location**  
Hebron

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$



Fesh Fresh

It is an environmental economic agricultural initiative aimed to awareness and modern environmental vision where fish are raised on the roof of the house and fed on the azola plant .

**Location**  
Gaza

**project**  
Drosos Project

**Grant(\$)** Value  
2000\$

# INDICATORS

This Indicator Cumulative 2021 Calendar Year



# DALIA'S FAMILY:

## Team Dalia:

Samar Awad, Executive Director, Rania Younis: Financial Officer, Rasha Sansur: Communication and Resource Mo-bilization Officer, Lina Isma'il: Community Programs Officer, Saja Shami: Community Program officer, Aya Badaha: Al Saha Program Officer, Ala' Sajdeyeh: Admin and Financial Assistant. Alia Alrosan: Field Coordinator, Georget Rizq Allah: Field Coordinator, Rima Ajouri: Programs Coordinator, and Anwar tattari: Programs officer

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Thank you!





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