

Special Issue

November 2019

This Week in Palestine



CRC30 YEARS
CONVENTION ON THE
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

**FOR
EVERY CHILD
IN PALESTINE**



Cover: Children from East Jerusalem participating in a sports day organized by UNICEF, UN Women, and Paces to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Day of the Girl. Photo by Ahed Izhiman, UNICEF-SoP/2019.



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T WiP Team

Publisher: **Sani P. Meo**

Art Director: **Taisir Masrieh**

Graphic Design: **Tamer Hasbun**



Telefax: +970/2 2-295 1262

info@turbo-design.com

www.thisweekinpalestine.com

www.facebook.com/ThisWeekInPalestine

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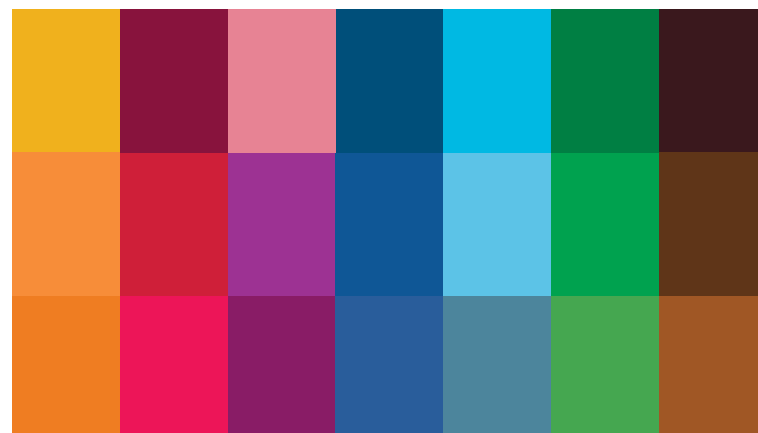
It's been a pleasure to work on this special issue of *This Week in Palestine*, themed "For Every Child in Palestine." The topic itself touches one's heart, and it is encouraging to learn that so many good people and institutions are working to alleviate the suffering and pain of Palestinian children, particularly those in remote locations and in impoverished communities.

UNICEF initiated the idea of this special issue to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC is basically a human rights treaty that sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural rights of children.

The content of this special issue covers a wide spectrum of basic children's rights and topics, including education, health, water, sanitation, hygiene, food security, psychological and social determinants, safe space, human rights issues, and statistics from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The issue also includes lighter material such the story of a walk along Masar Ibrahim (Abraham's path), a very popular hiking trail in Palestine. Finally, there is a lovely interview with ten children who share what they would like to be when they grow up.

This Week in Palestine would like to thank UNICEF for the confidence shown in choosing our platform to promote such an important topic. We pray that we have lived up to their expectations, and we hope that you, our readers, will enjoy and learn more by reading this special issue.

The TWiP Collective



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Foreword



By Jamie McGoldrick
and Genevieve Boutin

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Why such a focus? For one thing, November 2019 marks 30 years since the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was signed in 1989. It is the most widely ratified international human rights treaty, which reminds the world that children are holders of rights, and adults – in particular governments – are responsible for upholding these rights.

Second, and more importantly, we feel that this moment marks a crossroads for children’s rights in Palestine. The considerable advances realized in the past decades, notably the near-universal coverage in immunization and very high enrolment rates in primary education – including for girls – are particularly commendable in the midst of multiple obstacles that result from continued occupation, sporadic armed conflict, chronic instability, and shortage of resources. The commitment of Palestinian families, communities, and authorities to the rights of children is manifested every day in investment decisions made by the Palestinian Authority as well as the dedication of professionals in health, education, social work, and other fields.

At the same time, much remains to be done. Too many children still do not enjoy their full rights or get a fair chance to realize their potential. This may be because they were born with a disability, live in a hard-to-reach area, are affected by movement restrictions or other conflict-related violations, or are exposed to violence at home, at school, or in the streets. Of urgent concern also is the fact that the advances made thus far are under threat because of fiscal limitations, continued occupation-related violence and other restrictions, and the lack of investments in sustainable systems, in particular in the Gaza Strip due to the division and blockade.

The articles in this collection aim to contribute to the ongoing collective reflection on how to safeguard and promote rights @ForEveryChild in the unique and challenging context of Palestine. As we look forward to the presentation of the State of Palestine’s first State Party report to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in January 2020, we invite all stakeholders to explore innovative ways to do more and better, for each and every girl and boy.

Jamie McGoldrick is the United Nations Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Genevieve Boutin is UNICEF’s Special Representative in the State of Palestine.

Palestinian girls participating in the hike along the Masar Ibrahim Trail, celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Children's Rights and the CRC



By Iain Murray

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he year 2019 marks the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC builds upon the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed in 1948, which states that fundamental human rights are to be universally protected;ⁱ it has been translated into over 500 languages, making it the most translated document in human history.ⁱⁱ These human rights treaties lay out a framework for everyone to be entitled to rights and freedoms without discrimination due to race, gender, religion, national or social origin, or birth, among other factors. Once ratified at the national level, these human rights treaties become part of a country's national legal system, and the state has an obligation to enact laws to ensure that these rights are upheld and enforced.

The CRC entered into force globally on November 20, 1989 and has since become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. The CRC codifies children's rights, including the rights to life, survival, and development; freedom of expression; and protection from abuse and neglect. The Palestinian Authority ratified it in 2014, alongside six other global human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Rights of Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability. The government of Israel ratified the CRC in 1991.

Children's rights around the world

Globally, since the CRC was adopted in 1989, many children's lives have improved. The number of children missing out on primary school has been reduced by almost 40 percent. The number of children stunted under five years of age has dropped by over 100 million. Three decades ago, polio paralyzed or killed almost 1,000 children every day – today, 99 percent of those cases have been eliminated. Many of the interventions behind this progress – such as vaccines, oral rehydration salts, and better nutrition – have been practical and cost-effective. The rise of digital and mobile technology and other innovations have made it easier and more efficient to deliver services in hard-to-reach communities and engage young people in debates.

more children will demand their rights in order to grow and thrive, and they will require access to quality health and education services.

Globally, poverty, inequality, and discrimination deny millions of children their rights. As many as 15,000 children under five die every day, mostly from treatable diseases and other preventable causes. The stubborn challenges of child marriage and child poverty continue to threaten children's health and futures. The list of child-rights challenges is long.

For example, whilst the numbers of children in school is higher than ever, the challenge of achieving quality education remains. Being in school is not the same as learning. More than 60 percent of primary school children in developing countries still



Two Palestinian students receiving back-to-school kits at one of the schools in the Gaza Strip. Photo © UNICEF-SoP/2019.

In 2016, there were 2.3 billion children under 18 years old globally,ⁱⁱⁱ of whom 153 million lived in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. With population growth in the MENA region,

fail to achieve minimum proficiency in learning, and half the world's teens face violence in and around school, which renders the school environment unsafe.

Children today face new challenges. There are conflicts across the MENA region, globalization and urbanization place new pressures on children, and we face new weather phenomena due to climate change. However, the child-led Global Climate Strike movement has shown us the importance of children's voices in flagging their concerns. Sixteen children from across the world are currently petitioning the CRC Committee to hold five of the world's leading economic powers accountable for inaction on the climate crisis.^{iv}

Child rights in the state of Palestine

Major strides have been made in the last decades to improve the situation of children in the State of Palestine, with social indicators such as near-universal immunization coverage and high school enrollment rates – including for girls – in primary education.

However, across Palestine, more than one million children are in need of humanitarian assistance, including almost 80 percent of the population in Gaza, who are reliant on some form of humanitarian assistance. Almost one-third of Palestinian families live below the poverty line, defined as a monthly expenditure of less than US\$640. Unemployment rates are high, with youth unemployment in the Gaza Strip reaching 60 percent – this is one of the highest rates in the world.

Much remains to be done for every Palestinian child to realize his or her full potential. This entails addressing the many obstacles that children and young people face in accessing basic services and securing their rights. Such obstacles are due to many factors, not least the very high levels of violence they are exposed to as a result of the continuing conflict as well as violence in their schools and communities.

Some 61 percent of students have reported witnessing physical violence at school, and 91 percent of Palestinian children have reported experiencing psychological aggression or physical punishment. Conflict-related violence leaves a significant impact on the physical and mental well-being of children. In 2017, 15 Palestinian children were killed and 1,160 injured; 4 Israeli children were reported injured – all in incidents related to armed conflict. Children continue to endure violations of due process when held in Israeli military detention in the West Bank and Jerusalem.

Every day, however, Palestinian children are the source of inspiring stories of resilience and hope. Many adolescents demonstrate great skills and talents, a determination to continue to learn and to succeed despite the odds, and a drive to come up with innovative solutions to the problems that their communities face in order to help build a brighter, more peaceful future.

Thirty years of the CRC for Palestine

November 2019 not only marks the 30th year of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, it also marks the first year in which the State of Palestine has submitted a report to the CRC Committee in Geneva. Civil-society organizations have also raised their issues of concern. To promote children's voices, the Palestinian Authority (PA) consulted children during the development of the State of Palestine report to the CRC. In January 2020, the PA will present the State report to the committee, after which the committee will issue a list of issues for the PA to respond to over the next five years.

The system of reporting and State response on a five-year cycle applies to all State Parties which have ratified the CRC, including both the State

of Palestine and Israel. This system holds States accountable to deliver on children's rights and demonstrate evidence of what they are doing to uphold these rights. This allows States to demonstrate the progress they are making to realize children's rights by putting systems in place, increasing services, and engaging children in the discussion on what matters for them. The government is accountable to ensure that that rights of children in Palestine – whoever and wherever they are – are upheld.

We can all use the child-rights framework to take opportunities to break down barriers that endanger children and young people and prevent

them from reaching their potential. We can harness innovation, including digital technology and social media, to give children and young people a platform to demand accountability and drive change. If children and young people have a voice in society, they can demand their rights and secure the rights of the next generations of children in the State of Palestine.

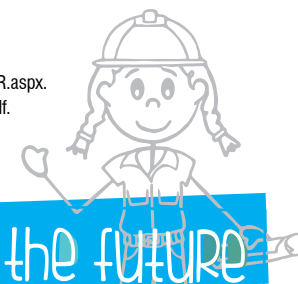
Iain Murray is the Chief of the Social Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation programme in the UNICEF State of Palestine Country Office. He is Scottish and has worked for UNICEF for over ten years in the MENA region and Sub-Saharan Africa.

ⁱ <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>.

ⁱⁱ <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/AnewworldrecordUDHR.aspx>.

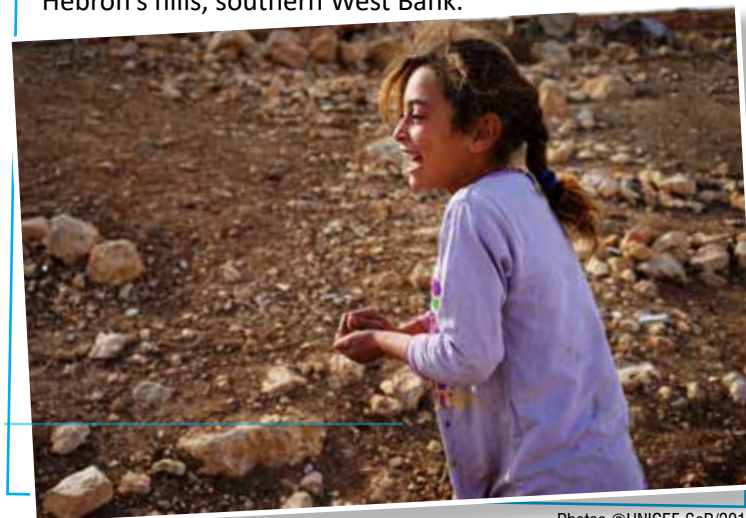
ⁱⁱⁱ https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/SOWC_2017_ENG_WEB.pdf.

^{iv} <https://childrensviolencecrisis.org>.



What I want to be in the future

"In the future, I would like to become an engineer to build a real house for my family, so that they would not have to live in a tent," explains Ahlam, 8, from Sh'ib al-Butum in Hebron's hills, southern West Bank.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Palestine Refugee Children



By Matthias Schmale
and Gwyn Lewis

The 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a good time to pause and reflect upon what the convention has meant for the protection of Palestine refugee* children who live in the occupied Palestinian territory today. When the CRC was adopted in 1989, children were promised that their rights would be protected, promoted, and respected. Thirty years ago, however, was also a date that marked the Israeli occupation entering its 22nd year while the first Intifada was raging, and Palestine refugees had already been displaced for over four decades. At the time, the CRC provided hope to Palestine refugee children: it spoke to them about their right to be safe in their homes, to go to school, to reach a doctor who could provide care, to enjoy opportunities to learn and to play, and to be protected in order to survive and to thrive.

Today, there are achievements to celebrate in terms of the rights of Palestine refugee children as provided for under the convention. UNRWA provides hundreds of thousands of children with high quality education services (including during times of crisis) and access to effective primary health services every day. Our schools incorporate a human-rights, conflict-resolution, and tolerance curriculum, unique in the region. Children have shown us their happiness, joy, achievement, resilience, hope, willingness to stand up, try again,



Mr. Pierre Krähenbühl, UNRWA Commissioner General, and Mr. Takeshi Okubo, Ambassador for Palestinian Affairs and Representative of Japan (in the foreground), during their meeting with members of UNRWA school parliament at UNRWA Headquarters office in Gaza City. Photo by Rusdhi Al-Sarraj. © 2017 UNRWA.

push back, speak out, make change, and find a way to claim their rights. And there are, throughout the communities of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, many who stand alongside the children to realize their rights. There are youth groups, women's groups, volunteers, local councils, NGOs, social services, INGOs, and UNRWA, whose incredible staff work in our 64 primary health clinics and our 370 schools across Palestine. In addition, our social workers, counsellors, protection officers, and volunteers provide vital support to the most vulnerable children.

While there is much to celebrate, we must also reflect on today's real challenges and how the aspirations of the CRC have not been met for Palestine refugee children. Children born today in Palestine are brought up under the longest-standing military occupation in recent history, with little hope of an imminent political solution. If we want to speak of challenges to children's rights, we have to speak not only of the occupation but of everyday violence, armed conflict in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian disunity, and protracted displacement. The human impact of these challenges should be at the forefront of our minds.

Imagine Amal, 16 years old and living in Dheisheh Camp. She is continuously worried about the next time Israeli soldiers will enter the camp: When will they arrive? Middle of the night? Just before dawn? Will there be tear gas, will there be shooting? Which children will be arrested, where will they be taken, who will protect their rights?

Mahmoud, only ten years old, is fighting for his life in Gaza. Diagnosed with a serious illness that needs medicine, surgery, and special care. Can they keep the medicine cold at home? Is there enough fuel? The doctors he needs and the surgery he is waiting for are in East Jerusalem. When will his permit arrive so he can receive medical treatment beyond Gaza? Can his father travel with him? How long will they be allowed to stay outside Gaza? What will happen if there are more rockets fired from Gaza?

Regarding the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, pause a moment to consider the many children whose homes face demolition. Imagine Niwal, just nine years old, watching as the bulldozers park nearby, wondering whose house will be next. The demolitions are quick, everything destroyed – the home, the

belongings, the sense of security.

And we should reflect on Ahmed, in Beit Hanoun, near the fence that separates the Gaza Strip from Israel. He is 15 years old but has long since dropped out of school. His family asks why he should study. For what job? He is scraping by, like his brother and his uncles. It's hot out in the sun. The farm needs constant attention or there will be nothing to harvest. But it's dangerous working near the fence. The soldiers are always ready, with a warning shot or something more. It's hard to see the future getting better. When is the next demonstration at the fence? Who will hear his voice?

Thirteen UNRWA students have been killed and more than 375 have been injured by Israeli Security Forces during demonstrations at the Gaza fence as part of the so-called Great March of Return. West Bank refugee camps witness on average 650 security operations a year, many of these operations develop into



Sitting with Fatima, his older sister, Yousuf, 7 years old, plays with a kitten inside their home in a cave in Hebron hills in the southern West Bank. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

***Palestine refugees are those displaced from their original homes in what is now Israel in 1948 following the conflict, or their descendants through the male line. Many refugees continue to live in areas in the West Bank including East Jerusalem, or Gaza, not far from their original family homes, but more than 70 years on they are unable to return and remain displaced. Palestine refugees are spread throughout Palestine in cities, towns, villages, and in the 27 recognized Palestine refugee camps.**

violent incursions involving the use of live-fire ammunition. This year has already seen approximately 100 Palestine refugee children displaced as a result of home demolitions in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. As these statistics and the stories above make clear, child rights are far from being protected and fulfilled in line with the CRC.

The CRC was a promise the world made to children. Every right, for every child. No exceptions. This is not about geography, about checkpoints, or closed military zones, access restricted areas, or the Green Line. The CRC does not mention fences or walls. The convention is a promise to children everywhere – Amal and Niwal, Ahmed and Mahmoud. And the rights of the convention

have duty bearers who must bear their responsibilities and hold accountable those who violate children's rights. They must respect the fact that rights are not privileges that can be granted and withheld.

On this 30th anniversary of the CRC, we, as UNRWA, must also speak of the more than 70 years that Palestine refugees have been waiting for a just and lasting solution to their plight. While the prospect of a political solution appears more distant than ever, the CRC tells children: "These are your rights, you don't have to wait."

This message is vital for children to hear when they are raised during a time when there is so much waiting: waiting for political negotiations, for the conflict to be resolved, for the blockade to be lifted, for

the occupation to end, and most importantly, for a just and lasting solution to their plight. The CRC is worth celebrating because it reminds Palestine refugee children that they do not have to wait for the right time or the right place to claim their rights. And the CRC reminds all of us to do what we can to fulfill the CRC's promise. For Palestine refugee children that means pushing for the changes that are needed to make child rights a reality today.

Matthias Schmale is the director of UNRWA operations in Gaza, and Gwyn Lewis is the director of UNRWA operations in the West Bank.



Child Rights in Early Childhood Education



By Paula Malan

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arly education for all is a national policy priority in Palestine. Palestine adopted a basic education law in 2017. The law seeks to expand public preschools with the aim to eventually make this stage of education free and compulsory. With the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), early childhood education is for the first time included in the global goal for education for all. I went to the Ministry of Education to find out what the legal and policy developments mean for child rights in early childhood education in the Palestinian context. I talked about the topic with Dr. Rabiha Elayan, acting director general for general education, Suheir Awad, head of the Division for Preschool Education, and Najah Harb, preschool educational supervisor from the Ministry of Education.

Public preschool classes have been recently established, and the vast majority of children in Palestine attend private preschools. What rights does the law guarantee in practice?

“With the new law, it became the responsibility of the Ministry of Education to provide access to preschool education for five-to-six-year-olds, one year before entering grade one. We call this stage KG2. Our aim is to reach every child in Palestine, and we are prioritizing the most marginalized areas. The ministry is gradually opening preschool classes in government primary schools, especially in remote areas or areas with high



Rana from UNICEF reading a story to a child during a visit to an early childhood development center in Ramallah. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

poverty rates. We have success stories in places such as Jaluud in Nablus district, Abu Nuwaar in Jerusalem district, and Arab Frejat in South Hebron where children now for the first time access early childhood education. All children have the right to equal opportunities. This is why we are starting with the most vulnerable. There are still many challenges, of course. In Gaza, there are very few public preschools. In Area C, we must find alternative solutions for setting up classrooms. UNRWA does not provide preschool education, but the government cannot open schools in refugee camps either, and therefore we need the support of nongovernmental organizations to cater for children in refugee camps. We have plans to set up preschool classes in Gaza with the support of the World Bank. But we also need to strengthen public-private partnerships and support to private schools. The large proportion of unqualified teachers in private schools is a big challenge. We are working to launch a new diploma program to address this. By 2030, we aim to reach at least a gross enrollment of 95 percent in KG2, in line with the SDGs.”

Children with disabilities have an equal right to develop their potential and participate in society without discrimination. Yet, there are attitudinal and environmental

barriers that prevent them from doing so. Do children with disabilities enjoy an equal right to early childhood education?

“We are not yet ready in our agenda and policies. We need to think more about how to develop inclusive preschools. Currently, children with minor challenges are accepted, but preschools are not catering for children with more severe disabilities. There are some specialized preschools for children with disabilities, but this is an area that needs much more attention. With the support of UNICEF, we are doing very valuable work to assess development and behavioral skills of children and have developed a tool for that. This will enable those children whose challenges are less obvious to be identified and supported at an early stage.”

Governments, but also parents or other guardians, are duty bearers responsible for the rights of the child. What is the importance of parental involvement in early childhood education? And what should parents know about preschool education?

“Parents need to understand the importance of play in children’s development. There are parents who expect children in preschool to learn to read and write, and they demand homework. They don’t look



Ahlan Kamal Hjazzi, preschool supervisor and talented artist visualized the Palestinian approach for preschool education.

at early childhood education from the perspective of the rights of the child but rather as a preparation for formal schooling. Usually by the end of the year, parents are satisfied when they see the benefits to their child's development. It is important that parents send their child to a licensed preschool. The license guarantees a minimum standard in terms of safety of the environment and a developmentally appropriate program. We are launching an advocacy campaign to educate parents on the importance of early childhood education with a set of key messages on topics such as play, positive interaction with the child, and respecting the rights of the child."

Protection from violence, neglect, and abuse are rights of the child. How can these rights be enforced with parents, communities, and teachers; and within schools?

"The ministry has a policy of nonviolence in schools. We organize awareness sessions for parents and children alike on the rights of the child. Parents also need to be trained on positive discipline methods, on how to talk to their children and how to deal with children's anger or sadness in a supportive way. And if a child comes to preschool with symptoms of neglect or abuse, there are counselors in public schools who

can deal with the situation and talk to the parents. If needed, we refer the case further. Preschool teachers need to be prepared to manage behavior in the class positively, teach children to interact positively with others and respect their rights; for example, by sharing toys.

Unfortunately, many of our children live in an environment where they are exposed to violence due to the occupation and conflict. We try to ensure that preschools are protective environments in which children feel safe and free from violence. We try to identify the safest possible location for a preschool class, away from exposure to dangers such as tear gas and violent confrontations. In Hebron H2, the protective presence provided by international observers is very important, but since the TIPH (Temporary International Presence in Hebron) mission was discontinued, we are very concerned, especially about the youngest ones."

You have recently launched a manual for teachers. How did you consider the rights of the child in this work?

"We have tried to gather existing best practices into a unified Palestinian approach to preschool education. This is the culmination of discussions with and input from numerous stakeholders

and partners, and based on experience of organizations such as UNICEF, UNESCO, Right to Play, Save the Children, Terre Des Hommes, RTM, Trust of Programs for Early Childhood, Family and Community Education, World Vision, the Early Childhood Resource Centre, and Anera – all members of a thematic working group that provides technical advice to shape our policies. Our approach is holistic, inclusive, and based on learning through play. It utilizes children's active agency and creativity. The preschool program is divided into four major themes through which children learn to take care of themselves, interact with their environment, and appreciate their identity and their Palestinian culture and heritage. The rights and best interest of the child are a benchmark for our approach."

Paula Malan works as the Head of Development Cooperation at the Representative Office of Finland in Ramallah, Palestine. She has previously worked as Counsellor for Development Cooperation at the Embassy of Finland in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and as a program analyst at the UNRWA Headquarters in Amman, Jordan. In addition, she has worked as a teacher and an adviser in Finland, Namibia, and Zambia. Ms. Malan holds master's degrees in social sciences, with a major in development studies, and in education, with a major in early childhood special needs education.



What I want to be in the future

Meet Karam, 6 – the best striker in Ibbziq Village in the northern Jordan Valley! "I hope someday we will have a football field in my village. I know it is going to be amazing to play on it with all the other children."



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Education for Every Child



By Jennifer Moorehead

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chools should have nothing to do with the conflicts happening in the country. Children here should have the right to education, just like all the children of the world.

As an organization that fights for children's rights across the world, Save the Children considers the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to be the single most important document for its work. Without it, there would have been no recognized children's rights to fight for. The other reason why Save the Children has the UNCRC in its DNA is that our founder, Eglantyne Jebb, drafted the first Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted in 1924 by the League of Nations and became the predecessor of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. One hundred years ago, our founder wrote: "Every war is a war against children." With all the current conflicts in our region and the extent to which children are being disproportionately affected, her words are more relevant now than ever before. This is why we launched Stop the War on Children, our biggest campaign this year. It calls on leaders, governments, armed non-state actors, humanitarian NGOs, and relevant bodies to recommit to protecting children in conflict. In the context of Palestine, we are calling on Israeli and Palestinian duty bearers to ensure access to safe, inclusive, quality education as a fundamental human right for every child, among their other rights.

The CRC enshrines children's right to education and commits states that have signed on to it to take measures to make education available and accessible to all children. All countries face different challenges depending on how they make this happen, and they do it with varying degrees of success. When it comes to countries experiencing conflict or military occupation, the challenges can be overwhelming. But they are not insurmountable. This firm belief guides us in our fight for the right of every Palestinian child to education. For many Palestinian children and for their families – in the West Bank, in East Jerusalem and in Gaza – accessing their right to education is a daily struggle and requires enormous commitment and perseverance. We

Save the Children; they acted out their experiences, feelings, and fears from a day on which they had to evacuate their school by being hidden in the back of a food truck. After the skit, they told us how their involvement in the resilience-building and crisis-management work supported by Save the Children helps them cope with critical situations, which are a daily reality for them en route to school, in school, and on the way back. Their experiences are backed by reports by the UN Secretary General stating that military presence and security operations in H2 often involve the use of force by the Israeli military, as well as harassment and arbitrary arrests. Children in Gaza are especially restricted when it comes to accessing their basic right to education. In Gaza,



Rima, 13, goes to school in the West Bank. Israeli soldiers patrol outside the school gates and have even come into her home. She has experienced tear gas attacks and is afraid of crossing military checkpoints.

recently met with girls in one of our programs in the old city of Hebron H2, whose school is located in what was defined as a "closed military zone." They performed a skit for

70.4 percent of UNRWA schools and 62.8 percent of Ministry of Education schools run on a double or triple shift, and there is a shortage of 1,081 classrooms.



Samir, 13, plays with his friends at his school in the Gaza Strip, occupied Palestinian territory. "Every time I hear the word 'war' I get really scared," he admits. "It's only a three-letter word but it has a lot of meaning."

Save the Children supports vulnerable schools like this one in the West Bank to enhance their safety through school disaster management, disaster risk reduction, psychosocial support, and national system strengthening. We help communities to build their capacity to support the protection and education needs of children affected by the conflict. We also work with Palestinian government ministries and civil society to end violence against children inside the schools and at home, including offering positive-discipline trainings for teachers and parents.

Through our work in Gaza, we witness the growth of remarkable boys and girls who form child-led groups to monitor how children's rights are upheld.

We also work to support the inclusion of children with disabilities

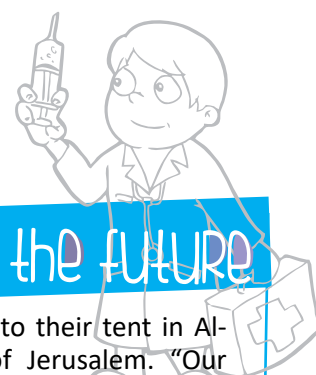
in education by equipping schools with sensory rooms and assistive devices, adapting curricula and school facilities, and providing Braille and talking laptops, in addition to establishing a special education database for follow up on children with disabilities in the schools.

To guarantee the right to education of Palestinian children, we have called on both Israeli and Palestinian decision-makers to sign and implement the Safe Schools Declaration, endorsed by almost 100 countries. States that sign the declaration agree on the importance of the continuation of education during armed conflict and emergencies, and take steps to ensure it. The Palestinian government has endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration, and we are supporting the Ministry of Education's efforts to implement it.

We are also calling on the Israeli government to sign and implement the declaration. This would facilitate the revision of Israeli military behavior in and around Palestinian schools and strengthen the commitment to protect schools and schoolchildren from settler violence.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child remains the most widely ratified UN Convention and has already made a huge difference in the lives of millions of children on our planet. In Palestine, we celebrate its 30th anniversary with the unbreakable resolve that it will do the same for Palestinian children's rights.

Jennifer Moorehead is Save the Children's country office director in the occupied Palestinian territory.



What I want to be in the future

Montaser (left) and Karim play next to their tent in Al-Kabneh Bedouin community east of Jerusalem. "Our father travels two hours to receive medical treatment. When we grow up, we want to be doctors, so people can be treated in their villages," explains Karim.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Psychological and Social Determinants of Child Development

Child Development in an Emergency Context



By Rima Salah



On this auspicious occasion of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), we rightly celebrate the impressive gains achieved for the children of the world.ⁱ The global mortality rate for children under 5 years of age has declined significantly. Hundreds of millions more children are being vaccinated and have access to clean water and adequate nutrition. Millions more children are going to school. More countries have translated the international CRC treaty into their national laws and policies, ensuring that all their children enjoy all their rights.

Unfortunately, progress has occurred only for some, leaving millions of other children left behind, with their rights to thrive and grow to their full potential denied. We know that over 250 million children under 5 years of age in low- and middle-income countries will face social inequity and fail to reach their developmental potential. They will be met by a range of risk factors that include poverty, poor health, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, as well as inadequate care and lack of learning opportunities.ⁱⁱ

This is compounded by situations of war, protracted wars, violent conflicts, military occupation, and displacement, to which families and children are exposed, disrupting the fabric of their societies and compromising the very



Khalid Abu Sharif and his daughter Talya, 9 months old.
© UNICEF/UN0217150/Shennawi.

foundation of their institutions. This is a time of unprecedented displacement of more than 70 million people, primarily women and children.ⁱⁱⁱ An estimated 50 million children have migrated across borders or have been forcibly displaced, and 28 million children have been uprooted by horrific violence.^{iv} Most worryingly, the exposure of parents to instability and stress challenges their ability to provide for their children who need their protection and nurturing care.

The plight of children and their families whose lives have been shattered by armed conflict and occupation continues to haunt us. Images of children suffering from appalling abuses continue to haunt us. Images of children fleeing their homes, communities, and villages continue to haunt us. Images of children abducted and detained behind bars continue to haunt us. What is even more alarming and should concern us all is the lasting negative impact of deprivation and violence (structural and systemic) on young children and how these detrimental effects will eventually affect our societies and communities.^v

Exposure to toxic stress and adversity at an early age is related to a broad range of negative outcomes that can occur across the life span. These include major emotional and behavioral problems, which can become self-perpetuating cycles that continue for generations.

Today millions of children are trapped in situations of war, conflict, violence, and displacement. Science shows that violence has a detrimental effect on the development of young children. It also heralds a new era, with opportunities to contribute to sustaining peace and preventing violence through investment in early childhood development.



3-D rendered anatomy illustration of a human girl body shape with active brain. © Shubhangi Kene | Dreamstime.com

But we can say with confidence that advances in developmental neuroscience and in an emerging and well-established body of scientific evidence from multiple disciplines (epigenetics, psychology, and economics) hold significant implications for the future of millions of children who live in fragile and emergency contexts. Evidence-based science continues to substantiate the link between the early years of life and the early life environment with long-term well-being. It also substantiates

the link between violence prevention and the development of prosocial behaviors that can lead to more peaceful communities.^{vi,vii}

This new science heralds an era with windows of opportunities to contribute to sustainable development and peace through investing in positive early childhood development (ECD). It further highlights the importance of responsive parenting and reinforces the evidence that shows how early stimulation, bonding, and safe

environments can positively influence early brain development so that children can grow, learn, and thrive.^{viii,ix}

In these critical times, there is, unfortunately, insufficient investment in the early years of life as a path to human and sustainable development, peace, and violence prevention. This is true despite the existence of many examples of early childhood programs that have been successfully developed and disseminated across the globe, from Afghanistan to South Africa, Nigeria, Northern Ireland, Turkey, and Lebanon.^{x,xj,xii} The holistic and inclusive approach of these programs aims to mitigate trauma, promote emotional regulation and sensitivity to others, eliminate harsh punishment, and encourage the formation of positive social relationships within families and communities.^{xiii}

It is time to elevate the position of ECD on the development and global peace agenda. It is time to demonstrate by science and practice how the transformative power of ECD strategies and programs can reduce violence, poverty, exclusion, and inequity.

In this regard, we need to unite our strengths and advocate for universal access to ECD. Most importantly, we must emphasize the urgent need for increased investment in programs for families and young children who live in emergency contexts. “They cannot be left behind.”

We need to continue in the pursuit of knowledge and address the gaps in science with a focus on interdisciplinary research. Doing so will help reinforce the evidence that will further inform global policies, national policies, strategies, and programs for ECD.

We have the knowledge and experience. “It is our shared responsibility” to design ECD programs for the children of Palestine and the MENA region in collaboration with the Arab Network for Early Childhood Development. They should be multileveled, benefiting the child, the family/parents/caregivers, the community, and the institutions at the national and regional levels. The programs should be safe, protective, and inclusive. Most importantly, they must be culturally sensitive, address



Two young refugee mothers proudly hold their toddler son and baby daughter. © Radek Procyk | Dreamstime.com.



Smiling refugee girl showing the peace sign. © Radek Procyk | Dreamstime.com



Mother and father walking through a refugee camp carrying their toddler and baby.
© Vasilis Ververidis | 123rf.com.

the needs of the family, and allow children and parents the space they need to be the driving force for social change. “The time is now.”

It is only by moving together that we can secure the rights of Palestinian children and the children in the MENA region for sustainable development and peace. In order to accomplish this, we need an unflinching vision and an unwavering commitment, as well as a strong partnership for and with children and their families. The International Conference on Children, Hope and Peace: A Global and Local Perspective being held at

the Palestinian Child Institute at An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine, is a giant leap forward on the right path.

Dr. Rima Salah is former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF. She served as a member of the United Nations High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations. She is currently at the Child Study Center, School of Medicine, Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA.



Two hands joining puzzle pieces. © Andrey Popov | Dreamstime.com.

ⁱ United Nations General Assembly Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Treaty Series, Vol. 1577, 1989. Retrieved from <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%201577/v1577.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ *The Lancet*, “Advancing early childhood development: From science to scale,” 2016. Retrieved from https://www.thelancet.com/pb-assets/Lancet/stories/series/ecd/Lancet_ECD_Executive_Summary.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Global report 2018*. Retrieved from http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/gr2018/pdf/GR2018_English_Full_lowres.pdf.

^{iv} United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), “Uprooted: The growing crisis for refugees and migrant children,” 2016. Retrieved from <https://weshare.unicef.org/Package/2AMZIFQ>.

^v J.F. Leckman, “The transformative power of responsive parenting: Perspectives, concepts, dimensions and next steps,” 2014, UN High-level Forum on The Culture of Peace, organized by Yale University, the Early Childhood Peace Consortium, and UNICEF, New York, NY: UNICEF.

^{vi} Early Childhood Peace Consortium, “Contributions of early childhood development services to preventing violent conflict and sustaining peace,” 2017. Retrieved from http://www.ecdpeace.org/sites/default/files/files/ECPC_Brief-v6FINAL_ENG.pdf.

^{vii} M.R. VanTieghem and N. Tottenham, “Neurobiological programming of early life stress: Functional development of amygdala-prefrontal circuitry and vulnerability for stress-related psychopathology,” *Current Topics Behavioral Neuroscience*, 2017 Apr 25, https://doi.org/10.1007/7854_2016_42. [Epub ahead of print].

^{viii} P.R. Britto, I. Gordon, W. Hodges, D. Sunar, C. Kağitçibaşı, and J.F. Leckman, “Ecology of peace,” in J. F. Leckman, C. Panter-Brick, and R. Salah (eds.), *Pathways to peace: The transformative power of children and families*, pp. 27–42, Boston, MA: MIT Press, 2014.

^{ix} United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), “Early childhood development, a statistical snapshot: Building better brains and outcomes for children,” 2014. Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org/earlychildhood/files/ECD_Brochure_FINAL_LR.pdf.

^x M.M. Black, S.P. Walker, L.C. Fernald, C.T. Andersen, A.M. DiGirolamo, C. Lu, and J. Shiffman, “Early childhood development coming of age: Science through the life course,” *The Lancet*, 389 (10064), pp. 77–90, 2017.

^{xi} P.R. Britto, S.J. Lye, K. Proulx, A.K. Yousafzai, S.G. Matthews, T. Vaivada, and L.C. Fernald, “Nurturing care: Promoting early childhood development,” *The Lancet*, 389 (10064), pp. 91–102, 2017.

^{xii} L.M. Richter, B. Daelmans, J. Lombardi, J. Heymann, F.L. Boo, J.R. Behrman, and T. Dua, “Investing in the foundation of sustainable development: Pathways to scale up for early childhood development,” *The Lancet*, 389 (10064), pp. 103–118, 2017.

^{xiii} J.F. Leckman, C. Panter-Brick, and R. Salah (eds.), *Pathways to peace: The transformative power of children and families*, Boston, MA: MIT Press, 2014.



Ayat and Zikra, twin sisters, play basketball at a UNICEF Palestine-supported facility in East Jerusalem. “We play basketball every day after school; it is our favorite hobby, and we want to be professional players when we grow up,” they said.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Reflections on Palestinian Child Participation



Courtesy of Defense for Children International – Palestine

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hen two Palestinian children addressed the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in June 2019, they brought to life one of the central tenets of the 30-year-old Convention on the Rights of the Child: children participating in the actualization of their rights.

“Children have the right to freely express their views on all matters and decisions that affect them, and to have those views taken into account at all levels of society. It is the right of every child, without exception,” the committee states.

The CRC, which the State of Palestine signed on to in 2014, is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. At one time, it was incomprehensible in most countries to consider the period of infancy – a time marked by low survival rates – as a sacred time worthy of a state’s investment. Equally shocking was the notion that childhood extended all the way to the age of 18; or that regardless of class, race, or gender, every child was entitled to an education.

When the CRC was adopted in 1989, it established these and many more fundamental rights. It laid out the social, civil, political, and cultural rights of children. Moreover, it recognized children as human rights actors rather than mere recipients. Three years later, in 1991, the best interests of the child and child participation were the principles that propelled former executive director Rifat Kassir to found the independent, child rights organization, Defense for Children International – Palestine (DCIP).

Prioritizing children’s experiences and voices over adult experts remains a commitment that runs through all areas of DCIP’s work. For this reason, when DCIP led efforts to prepare a joint alternative report on the State of Palestine’s compliance with the CRC, children were involved from the outset.

In signing the CRC and the Optional Protocol, the State of Palestine accepted an obligation to respect, protect, promote, and fulfill the enumerated rights – including by adopting or changing laws and policies that implement the provisions of the CRC and Optional Protocol. It also obligated itself to periodic review.

DCIP facilitated open discussion sessions in Nablus, Hebron, Ramallah,

“The experience of representing Palestinian children at the United Nations was a pivotal point in my life,” said one of the two child representatives. “I now know that children are able to effectively participate and share their opinions. I wish that all children’s voices would be heard,” he added.

Overall, the report found that the State of Palestine has significant obstacles to overcome on a range of issues in order to achieve full compliance with the CRC. On the principle of participation, the report stated that children’s input is not sought out or used to inform government strategies related to education, healthcare, treatment, prevention, or rehabilitation.



DCIP workshops with children on child participation.

and the Gaza Strip to gather children’s firsthand experiences about their access to rights. The discussions were child-led and inclusive across gender, geographic areas, and ability. In addition, two children were able to speak directly to the working group for the Committee on the Rights of the Child during a dedicated part of the 83rd pre-session in Geneva.

Poignantly, in cases where children are victims of sexual violence or neglect, the report stated that children are not given the opportunity to express their views in proceedings related to interventions and other protection measures. In fact, the report noted that children’s right to express their opinions is denied during most legal procedures in Palestinian courts.

“Child participation is essential in a juvenile justice system as it demonstrates that the child in conflict with the law is also a rights-holder,” said DCIP’s Legal Unit Coordinator, Sawsan Salahat. “DCIP is proud to promote the value of child participation, which is one of the most important pillars of restorative justice.”

Outside of a courtroom or UN session, empowering children to become active human rights defenders can have a profound effect on a child’s personal development. DCIP’s Community Mobilization Unit has seen this firsthand in the course of facilitating child-led protection teams across the West Bank. Through this program, children learn how to document human rights violations and abuses. The teams then convert their documentation into advocacy campaigns or initiatives and meet with local decision-makers.

Among children whose transformation stood out was 14-year-old Omar N. from Ajoul Village, north of the West Bank city of Ramallah. Omar completed elementary school in his village, but then decided to leave the secondary school he attended next. His parents supported his decision, feeling the school did nothing to support their son, as a student with a cognitive disability. “They didn’t take good care of me at school. My classmates used to hit me and sometimes curse at me. The school didn’t even give me books,” Omar said, describing the harsh experience he endured.

He is currently enrolled in the Star Mountain Rehabilitation Center, a private institution operating in Ramallah that trains and rehabilitates Palestinian children and adults with intellectual disabilities. There, Omar also joined a DCIP child-led protection team that meets on the campus. The group

stresses the right of children with disabilities to fully participate in their communities with equal rights. The team participated in a series of workshops that covered topics such as life skills, rights awareness, and documenting violations. DCIP also invited the children to participate in conferences and individual meetings with policymakers to directly voice their concerns.

Omar’s demeanor has visibly changed in the two years since joining the protection team, DCIP staff has noted. He now has a strong understanding of his rights and is not afraid to raise his concerns and needs in public meetings. He has also identified his goals for the future. “I want to be a carpenter and get a driving license,” Omar said. Another child, 15-year-old Reem B., said that she had become aware of her own biases as a result of her membership in the group. She was hesitant at first while interacting with children who had cognitive disabilities, despite growing up with a brother who has a physical disability. After some time in the protection team, she told DCIP that the whole group had grown close. As a result of these friendships, Reem said that she feels a sense of personal responsibility to work toward equal rights in Palestinian society. “Sometimes a society oppresses those with disabilities,” said Reem. I will not be silent if a violation happens in front of me, I will defend their rights.”

Defense for Children International - Palestine Section is an independent, local Palestinian child rights organization dedicated to defending and promoting the rights of children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

They Have a World of Their Own, Let’s Be Part of It!



Children with neurological and psychological/behavioral disorders require special and comprehensive care that results in their overall well-being and their inclusiveness in their communities.

Their unique minds make them see and feel things differently than other children. However, once we work together to understand these differences, we can create a positive and educated community that strives to engage and involve children with special needs.

At Takween Center, our mission extends from improving the quality of life of children with special needs to enabling them to engage with their communities. We do that by offering these children comprehensive and multidisciplinary care and educating the community to be part of their unique world. Takween stands by the right of every child with special needs to enjoy the best quality of life possible and hopes that its contribution as the first Palestinian Center of Excellence for Brain Development will help remove obstacles for children with special needs and support them to become independent and participate actively in their community.



TAKWEEN

Palestinian Center of Excellence
for Brain Development



Her Education, Our Future

A Force for Gender Equality and Lasting Change



By Junaid Sorosh-Wali

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irls' education is at a juncture of two of the most important challenges of our time: education and gender equality. A collective consciousness is rising to ensure that the right to quality education for all girls becomes a reality. The challenges are still immense. Worldwide today, more than 132 million girls are still out of school, and 9 million of them – compared to 3 million boys – will never even enter a classroom. In addition, of the 600 million adolescent girls who will enter the labor market in the next decade, more than 90 percent live in developing countries and will work in an informal economy where unpaid work, abuse, and exploitation are more prevalent.

Gender equality is a global priority for UNESCO, and the support of young girls, their training and their full ability to make their voices and ideas heard are drivers for sustainable development and peace. In too many cases across the globe, teenage girls drop out of school due to forced marriages or child labor. UNESCO is committed to ensuring that all girls have access to quality education and a dignified life. In Palestine, girls in particular are at high risk of school dropout due to security concerns and the parent's fear of their children's safety during the school commute.ⁱ The presence of checkpoints and travel by public transport raise security and socio-

cultural concerns experienced by girls and their parents, especially in Area C.ⁱⁱ These challenges that Palestinian children face in order to access quality education affect their learning outcomes and may lead to increased school dropout and a greater likelihood to indulge in risky behavior. Palestinian girls who drop out of school are among the most vulnerable, since they tend to score lower for psychosocial well-being due to social isolation. Women and girls with disabilities face particular challenges, as schools are not suitable or adapted to their needs, which further prevents their access to education.ⁱⁱⁱ

An investment in realizing the power of adolescent girls upholds their rights today and promises a more equitable and prosperous future, one in which half of humanity is an equal partner in solving the problems of climate change, political conflict, economic growth, disease prevention, and global sustainability.

Too many girls and women are still held back by social norms and traditional school practices that impact their educational rights and opportunities. For example, in Palestine women are excluded from a number of professions, as vocational courses



Aida Refugee Camp. ©UNESCO and Anne Paq. Photo by Anne Paq.

Adolescent girls have the right to a safe, educated, and healthy life, not only during these critical formative years but also as they mature into women. If effectively supported during the adolescent years, girls have the potential to change the world – both as the empowered girls of today and as tomorrow's workers, entrepreneurs, mentors, household heads, political leaders, and mothers.

are often considered “masculine jobs” and unavailable to girls. In addition, social norms and expectations about what is an appropriate profession for a woman further contribute to this development.^{iv} Despite the challenges, education in Palestine, especially for girls and women, is one of the most important investments that the country can make for its future.



Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

Palestinian women are among the most educated in the Middle East. According to the UNESCO Institute of Statistics (UIS), the literacy rate of women in Palestine aged 15 years and older is 96 percent.^v Girls are equally represented in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) alongside boys, and their presence in universities continues to grow. Palestinian girls consistently outscore their male peers in the General Secondary Exam, and more women than men are enrolled in university.^{vi}

On International Day of the Girl Child (October 11, 2019), UNESCO continued to highlight the role of education in empowering girls to be a force for lasting change. We celebrated the #GirlForce: champions who are working to empower girls and women to reach their full potential and the girls who, through education, have managed to walk past gender norms and bias to follow their dreams.

“Her Education, Our Future” is UNESCO’s drive to accelerate action for girls and women’s education

by leveraging political and financial commitments, as well as leadership for women and girls. It will contribute to the UNESCO Strategy for Gender Equality in and through Education (2019–2025) and its three pillars, aiming for better data to inform action for gender equality in and through education; better legal, policy, and planning frameworks to advance rights; and better-quality learning opportunities to empower.

All over the world, UNESCO, as the lead agency of the SDG4 Agenda, is dedicated to ensuring that girls’ access to education is free of charge. UNESCO is committed to advocating for gender equality in education and to addressing all aspects that impede girls’ freedom and that constitute barriers to their intellectual formation and social and professional integration.

Ahmad Junaid Sorosh-Wali is Officer-in-Charge, Head of UNESCO Ramallah Office. He has been the Head of Culture Unit in this office since 2013. He joined UNESCO in 2002, first as

consultant at the World Heritage Centre and then as Programme Specialist in the Tangible Heritage Section. In 2005, he was appointed as Focal Point for Western, Nordic, Baltic and South-East Mediterranean Europe at World Heritage Centre before joining UNESCO Ramallah Office. Mr. Sorosh-Wali holds a master’s degree in architecture (DPLG) and another in heritage conservation and management in the Middle East and Maghreb from France.

ⁱ UN Hebron Strategy, 2016, https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/joint_un_strategy_for_hebron.pdf.

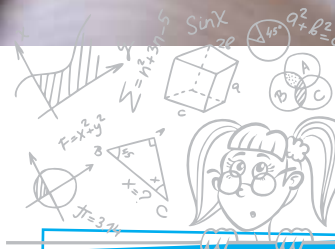
ⁱⁱ Education Cluster and Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) Mapping Exercise 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019: https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/humanitarian_needs_overview_2019.pdf.

^{iv} UNCT, Common Country Analysis for Palestine, 2016, https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/ccca_report_en.pdf.

^v UIS, <http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ps?theme=education-and-literacy>.

^{vi} Ministry of Education, Education Sector Strategic Plan 2017–2022.



What I want to be in the future

“I love math, it is my favorite subject. When I grow up, I want to be an engineer,” says Ahlam, 10. Here she solves a math problem for the class at her school.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Creating Safe Ground

A Place Where Children Can Play



By Bridget Forster
and Soula Kreitem

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unshine, children running, laughing, and playing – it's a childhood idyll that is not experienced by many children. We don't expect our children to be at risk from death or injury from explosive remnants while they are playing, but many children can't access places to play because of the danger from mines, unexploded grenades, or tear gas canisters. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Palestine has been working in Gaza and the West Bank since 2010 to mitigate the risks posed by explosive hazards of war and mines. We do this by providing technical guidance and support, offering risk education to those most vulnerable, supporting clearance, conducting risk assessments, and maintaining emergency preparedness measures. UNMAS has helped clear thousands of explosive hazards in Palestine to make the land safe for children to play in the aftermath of conflicts.

Particularly in the context of ongoing conflict and occupation, it is important for girls and boys to have that modicum of normalcy, to be able to play safely and freely, whether in a safe place to run around or play games, or in a more formal space to play various sports. UNMAS has used sports to engage with the community and deliver mine-risk education in the State of Palestine since it began working there. This year on the April 4, which marks the International Day of Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, UNMAS organized a football tournament in Gaza in collaboration with UNRWA. Teams

made up of UNRWA schoolgirls faced off in a skillful and energetic match, and afterwards, teams made up of players from the Palestine Amputee Football Association competed for a trophy. Children and adults cheered from the sidelines and danced to music blaring from speakers. The day allowed children and youth to gather and to play sports in a safe and secure environment, far from the usual tense atmosphere that those living in Gaza have grown accustomed to. Play is such an important part of childhood development that the United Nations has recognized it as a right for every child, and UNMAS was honored to be a part of a day that allowed the children of Gaza to enjoy that right. In the lead-up to the day, UNMAS also organized a drawing competition at several schools in vulnerable communities in Gaza. The winners of the drawing competition received a prize, and their pictures were displayed in an exhibition during the day's festivities and then auctioned at an international photography exhibition organized by the Swiss consulate to raise money for the Palestine Amputee Football Association.

UNMAS understands the importance of play in its risk-education program. A vital part of UNMAS work in Gaza is providing risk education on the threats of explosive remnants of war. UNMAS has introduced specialized sessions for children that send the message through play such as games, puppet shows, role playing, theater, music, and dance to ensure that children receive the important safety messaging in an easily accessible manner. Through such interactive and fun risk-education sessions, UNMAS has been able to reach over 76,000 children since 2015.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Article 31- Right to Play:
States Parties recognize the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

Children playing a game during a risk-education session in Gaza. Photo credit: @UNMAS.





Girls' football teams at Mine Action Day in Khan Younis. Photo Credit: @UNMAS.

At a recent risk-education session in Rafah, thirteen-year-old Amir said: "This knowledge is very important as we learned about the risky behaviors that we see other kids do. I like the way you do this with games and songs. I think if the other kids know it is this fun, they will come to all sessions like this." Twelve-year-old Ahmad reiterated how the vital lifesaving messages provided to the children through play are received: "It is nice because the trainer gives us this information through games which is very enjoyable. The time feels shorter when we do it by games. I think I will not forget what was said in the session."



Children playing at Mine Action Day in Khan Younis. Phot Credit: UNMAS.

The UN has just launched a five-year campaign called Safe Ground to bring attention and assistance to the survivors of armed conflict through the promotion of sport and the Sustainable Development Goals. The campaign slogan? "To turn minefields into playing fields." UNMAS is one of the UN organizations that is working in Palestine to ensure that children have Safe Ground to play on.

Sport and play are human rights, fostering a sustainable peace to bring communities and people closer together. Safe Ground aims to work in conflict-affected areas to clear explosive remnants from sport-oriented infrastructure, stadiums, sporting complexes, or spaces where sports can be played so that girls and boys, women and men (with or without a disability) can play. Once a field or stadium is cleared, the Safe Ground can be used for play, for education; and in the case of a stadium, it can be used to generate financial resources for assistance to the victims/survivors of explosive hazards. Each Safe Ground project will consider access for all and will promote survivor participation, ensure gender inclusivity, and raise awareness about survivors of

explosive hazards. Perhaps most importantly in Palestine, each Safe Ground project will aim to provide a safe and friendly space where children can play in their communities.



What I want to be in the future

"I love math and geometric shapes. When I grow up, I want to be a physicist," says Shayma'a, 15, while making a dice stone at a UNICEF-supported learning center in Gaza.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Rebuilding Lives and Futures for Children



By Tokumitsu Kobayashi

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n a world with ongoing crises and conflicts, children continue to pay the highest price. Instead of living a normal life, feeling safe and secure, children are being exposed to violence, destruction, and displacement.

Having a safe home and easy access to services – such as electricity, sewage, and clean water – has unfortunately become only a dream for hundreds of thousands of children. Increasing complexities in our world have shown us just how dependent we all are on infrastructure. From our homes to the schools where we send our children, to the hospitals that care for the sick, infrastructure affects every aspect of our lives and impacts our ability to live and flourish in a functioning society.

In honor of the 30th anniversary of the CRC, United Nations Office for Public Services (UNOPS) reaffirms its commitment and recognizes the fundamental human dignity of all children and the urgency of ensuring their well-being and development. We are positioned to be a leader in support of sustainable infrastructure development, which we view as playing an integral role in protecting and promoting the rights of every child. UNOPS understands the value of a home for children and their families, and how it contributes to brighter futures. Pursuant to Article 27 of the CRC, we believe that every child has the right to a standard of living that is adequate to meet their physical and social needs and supports their development. We also believe that a home is a fundamental structure in

which a family can ensure a natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children.

At UNOPS, we feel responsible and more determined to provide an adequate standard of living by creating and supporting quality infrastructure with greater access to services to guarantee children's rights and allow them to live in dignity and safety.

In 2016, we started a house reconstruction project in Gaza funded by the Federal Republic of Germany, through its German Development Bank KfW. Through this project, we have rebuilt 180 homes for some of the most vulnerable families in Gaza, providing a safe and secure space for

In light of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), UNOPS highlights the importance of investing in sustainable and resilient infrastructure, which is vital for improving the living standards of all children and their families. Through infrastructure, the world can fight inequalities and provide opportunities to those most vulnerable. Accordingly, infrastructure helps make the world a safer place for these children.



Children - Gaza 2017 © Elise Laker.

around 390 children. A space that will remain dry as heavy rains pour, and a space in which to safely play with their friends and siblings and keep their toys.

Infrastructure, however, also plays a very important role beyond the home. To help provide energy and respond to the ongoing electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip, we have developed a project that aims to reconstruct and strengthen

the electricity supply system in Gaza with renewable energy. With funding from the government of Japan and in close coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Energy and National Resources Authority, UNOPS installed solar photovoltaic systems to create reliable and sustainable access to electricity, providing families across Gaza – approximately 1,160 residents



Nisma and Taj Alden Abed and their six children in Gaza, 2017. © AnnaSofie Norm.



The Musbah Hanna family in their new home in Shujayeh, July 2017. © AnnaSofie Norm.

– with essential services. Children of these households can now – with the flick of a switch or the push of a button – have access to light, heat, and communication. Sustainable electricity sources such as these allow children in Gaza to exercise their fundamental rights, such as studying after dark with the lights on, having a warm shower, eating hot meals, enjoying entertainment, or charging their mobile devices and laptops. Renewable energy sources also allow disabled children or others with health conditions to use medical devices efficiently at home without having to go to the hospital.

Every child is entitled to have the best chance for a healthy, happy life. This requires that each child have access to professional and responsive services, including medical care. Thus, to improve living conditions and secure critical and essential health care services for

approximately 100,000 Palestinian patients in Gaza, including children, we have developed another project to install and implement a sustainable electricity source at the European Gaza Hospital.

Pursuant to Article 19 of the CRC which is concerned with the protection of children from violence, abuse, and neglect, UNOPS is working hand in hand with the State of Palestine through its governmental and ministerial institutions and bodies in the justice sector to improve the rule of law, justice, and human rights for women and children in the West Bank. To achieve this, we established and fully equipped seven “safe facilities for women and children” in seven different public prosecution districts around the West Bank.

These safe facilities aim to create a child-friendly and stable environment for both women and children who are witnesses or victims of various types of violence or abuse. The design of the facilities allows the interviewed mothers to observe their children playing in specially designed rooms through the use of a glass divider installed between the prosecution room and the children’s room, helping to protect children’s privacy and dignity.

Infrastructure plays a key role in safeguarding children’s rights and is the foundation for development. It plays a central role in preserving human dignity and improving well-being not only for children but for all humanity.

Housing infrastructure provides protection, shelter, and a stable place to call home. Energy infrastructure helps people to access affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy

which offers a family and a community the opportunity to grow, develop, and improve their quality of life in a sustainable way – giving them the power to change for good.

The protection of children’s rights can only be achieved with the support and joint efforts of governmental and nongovernmental organizations, the donor community, development partners, and the private sector to implement infrastructure services that are essential for the healthy development and the future well-being of children.

We, at UNOPS, stand ready to continue to contribute to these efforts.

For more information, please contact Ms. Fidaa Maaytah, UNOPS Jerusalem Office Communications Assistant, mobile: +972 (0) 54 324 9322; office: +972 (0)2 628 1881; e-mail: fidama@unops.org.

For more information about UNOPS, please visit our website: www.unops.org.

Tokumitsu Kobayashi is the director of the UNOPS Jerusalem Operations Centre. Previously, he worked with the government of Japan, JICA, and the United Nations in several countries around the world. His most recent assignment before joining UNOPS was as First Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Kenya.



Meet Hala, 8, from the Gaza Strip. She wants to become a ballerina and tour the world when she grows up.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Palestine

Responding to Children's Basic Needs



By Rachele Daffara

I

n the Palestinian context, and especially in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank's Area C, water scarcity and lack of WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) infrastructures due to Israeli restrictions have directly led to the deterioration of basic living conditions. Vulnerable people and communities living in Gaza and the West Bank's Area C are negatively impacted by the water crisis, resulting in conditions of poor health and sanitation.

When aid workers evaluate the household's general socio-economic conditions, the status of domestic and potable water-storage facilities, prevailing hygiene practices, and the prevalence of waterborne diseases, they pay specific attention to children. In fact, children are particularly affected by the deterioration of living conditions and are particularly vulnerable, as their bodies are more sensitive to waterborne and hygiene-related diseases such as diarrhea and intestinal worms.

To avoid childhood illness and potentially life-threatening conditions, numerous projects have been implemented over the years by a wide range of humanitarian and development actors in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) with the aim of supporting affected children and their families to benefit from safe and affordable water and sanitation, and improve hygiene practices.

Some partners, for example, assist in installing or rehabilitating household sanitation facilities (e.g., WC,



Theater show on good hygiene practice in Tyaseer School - Tubas. Photo by Nesreen Al-Hafeth.

kitchen and toilet sinks, and water mixers) and connect households in unserved areas to the nearest wastewater network system. To guarantee safe access to sanitation services, clean water, basic toilets, and good hygiene practices are essential for children's survival and development.

Activities such as the provision of water cisterns, the rehabilitation of water networks, latrines, and school WASH facilities are often carried out in parallel with soft-component interventions, such as awareness-raising campaigns and training, which aim to improve people's knowledge of water issues and good hygiene practices.

Action Against Hunger has implemented hygiene-awareness campaigns and workshops both at household and community levels to promote key messages concerning safe water handling and storage, safe drainage of wastewater, and good personal hygiene practices. To protect children from unsafe water, communities and schools are often provided with awareness-raising materials on waterborne health risks and household water management. This also includes street billboards,

posters, brochures, responsibility calendars, informative stickers, and follow-up sheets to facilitate planned actions with family members, including boys and girls. In addition, in order to creatively engage people and increase the community and children's participation, theater shows, environmental clubs, and summer camps have been also organized during the last few years.

WASH interventions in vulnerable communities in the oPt have greatly improved basic living conditions for children and their families. When access to drinkable water and appropriate household sanitation facilities are ensured, children and their families have more hygienic shelter surroundings. Due to the availability of flushing water and handwashing facilities, the levels of water consumption increase, and hygiene practices improve.

At school, girls and boys have WASH facilities at their disposal. They are also encouraged to participate in awareness-raising activities to improve their knowledge and attitudes regarding good water use and hygiene practices.



Awareness-session activity in Birin School – Hebron.
Photo by Nesreen Al-Hafeth.



Handwashing demonstration in Birin School – Hebron.
Photo by Nesreen Al-Hafeth.



Awareness session for students in Mantiqat Sh'ib al-Butum School – Hebron. Photo by Nesreen Al-Hafeth.

Water availability reduces family expenditures related to water by almost half, and households usually reallocate their savings to benefit children's health, education, and recreation.

Success Story: Awareness-raising campaigns in Jaba'a Tajamu' Badawi (Action Against Hunger)

Jaba'a Tajamu' Badawi community is located in Area C, not too far from East Jerusalem. In order to increase access to safe and affordable water and sanitation, Action Against Hunger has rehabilitated the existing water network and provided households that were lacking sanitation services with water tanks and mobile latrines. In addition, a mixed primary school with WASH facilities has also been constructed for the children of the community. After the school was built, it became apparent that the students had poor hygiene practices and, as a result, a hygiene-awareness campaign was organized to improve the water-use and hygiene practices of children, parents, and

school staff. Within the framework of this campaign, several sessions and practical demonstrations were carried out, and fun activities targeting both students and their mothers were organized. During the sessions, hygiene kits containing soap, cleaning solutions, disinfectants, a cleaning brush, and toilet paper were distributed to all participants, and children learned various good hygiene practices related to washing their hands after using latrines, bathing, hair cleaning, and tooth brushing. Thanks to the systematic and continuous follow up done by school staff, a great improvement was noticed in terms of knowledge of good personal hygiene practices.

In the words of Mohammad Ka'abneh, nine years old: "Now I always bring soap bars in my school bag to wash my hands before and after eating, and after I use the WC. I feel that this is important for my health to avoid diseases."

Rachele Daffara holds a master's degree in human rights from the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratisation (EIUC) and currently works for Action Against Hunger oPt as Advocacy and Communication Specialist.



What I want to be in the future

"I need to keep going to school; it gives me an opportunity to improve my mind," says eight-year-old Marwan who wants to become a photographer.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Palestinian Children's Right to Food Security



Fuad Qumber

A

According to the first executive director of the World Food Program (WFP), Addeke Boerma, "If human beings have a right to life at all, they have a right to food." The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recognizes that "the right to adequate food is realized when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access at all times to adequate food or means for its procurement."

Almost half of Palestine's population needs humanitarian assistance, and one-quarter of the population needs food, nutrition, and livelihood assistance. The main reason for food insecurity in Palestine is the longstanding occupation, which restricts people's access to their land, water, and other natural resources. The occupation also enforces territorial fragmentation between the West Bank and Gaza Strip as well as within the West Bank, resulting in high unemployment and poverty, and hence people's limited access to adequate food.

Although many groups in Palestine that face the danger of malnutrition need to be protected, children should be the priority, given that children are powerless and need others to take care of them. Protecting children's food security, nutrition, and well-being is a valuable and effective investment in the health of future generations. Child malnutrition, however, is a growing problem in Palestine.

Article 24 (3) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) states that children are entitled to adequate and nutritious food, thereby making state parties to the CRC, including Palestine and Israel, accountable to preserving and achieving this fundamental right.

Access to adequate food is a major challenge for Palestine's vulnerable people. As a WFP staff member, I visit households all over Palestine and witness firsthand their distress and poverty. One of the families I visited in Yatta in southern Hebron consisted of the parents and eight children. Seven children are under the age of eighteen years, and the eldest, who suffers from a severe physical disability and uses a wheelchair, is twenty years old. The family's economic situation is devastating. The father is unemployed

and hardship case in the Ministry of Social Development and receives modest financial assistance through the ministry's cash assistance program and monthly food assistance from the WFP through its cash-based transfer program.

Despite numerous attempts to gain employment, the father has not been able to find a job. "We live in a very difficult situation, and if the food assistance stops, we don't know how we will feed our children," the wife explained. The eldest son jumped into the conversation: "I would like to have an opportunity to open a grocery store and support my family."

There are tens of thousands of families in Palestine that experience similar socio-economic hardships, and



Photo by Khaled Abu Shaaban.

and has a neurological disease, which leaves the burden on the wife to raise the children by any means possible. She has no source of income from which to provide her family with basic nutritious food. For this reason, the family is registered as a social

many families are in an even worse situation. The question, then, is who is responsible to protect Palestinian children from hunger and malnutrition? What steps can be taken by the local community, the government, and the international community to respond to



Photo by Anas El Baba.

this need, and what should they do to combat poverty and food insecurity in order to spare Palestine's vulnerable children additional distress and build them a brighter future?

The responsibility to protect the rights of Palestine's children and ensure that they are adequately fed rests on various actors. The parents are the ones who are primarily responsible to adequately nourish their children. However, this cannot be achieved without the support of the local community, civil society, the Palestinian government, and the international community, including international nongovernmental organizations.

A key obstacle to realizing children's right to adequate and nutritious food in Palestine lies in the limited and overstretched budget of the government, which undermines its ability to provide comprehensive and adequate social services to every family in need of assistance. The substantial decline in external aid has also undermined the government's social safety-net programs as well as the capability of international organizations to respond appropriately to the existing urgent food and nutrition needs.

Ensuring that Palestine's children have access to adequate and nutritious food requires a holistic response that can lead to a major transformation in the political, economic, and social conditions of Palestinians. In this vein, it is essential to empower government institutions, local communities, and families through multiple forms of assistance. Furthermore, the proper environment and resources are requisite to the launching of development, resilience, and income-generating projects which could pull vulnerable families out of poverty and end their dependency on assistance. As long as the Palestinian government does not enjoy full sovereignty over food resources, however, the right of children in Palestine to have adequate and nutritious food will remain unfulfilled.

Fuad Qumber is a United Nations staff member and holds a master's degree in international relations.



Want to Be More Creative?



How about trying to think more like a child?

Remember what it felt like when you explored more? Investigated with a curiosity like no other and persisted to ask WHY a million times? Curiosity, Imagination, Investigation, Exploration – among many others – are reasons why children are more creative than adults. Think more like a child, and better yet, understand and learn how to foster creativity in children, to encourage the development of a self-confident, and creative generation.



*Zoom supports Children's Right to Freedom of Thought and Expression. The creative children of today are the creative adults of tomorrow.



Realizing Children's Rights in the oPt

Steps Taken and the Long Road Ahead!



By James Heenan

I

n the words of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Michelle Bachelet, “Every child has a right to grow up safe, to benefit from essential services, and to express her or his opinions, desires and needs. Children are human beings with fundamental rights, and their views must be heard and taken into account at all levels of society.”

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history. It has been a powerful driver for change. At a global level, girls and boys today are in a markedly better situation in terms of health or education and, generally speaking, enjoy greater freedoms than ever before to make their own choices. Now more so than ever, children across the world are acting to claim their human rights and the rights of others, standing up to power and demanding change.

In fact, as one recent striking example, sixteen child petitioners – including Greta Thunberg – from 12 countries around the world presented a landmark official complaint to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to protest lack of government action on the climate crisis. This was made possible through the third Optional Protocol to the Convention which created the first international complaints procedure giving children the possibility to claim their rights at an international level.



Eleven-year-old Ahmad collecting his family's clothes before the storm in Jabalia Camp's Al-Saftawy neighborhood. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

It is an important complement to the convention to strengthen the status of children as rights holders, to ensure that children can seek redress if their rights are violated, and to expand their possibility to be heard in an international forum.

In the implementation of the convention, virtually every country has passed laws to protect the rights of children and has set up programs to realize those rights to the benefit of the children involved and equally to that of society at large. Programs in areas such as education, access to justice, nutrition, and health care have had a tremendous positive impact on children across the world. In doing so, states have also contributed to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the SDGs. Indeed, the convention and the SDGs, while separate frameworks, are mutually reinforcing: the realization of child rights supports the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of the SDGs supports the realization of child rights. As governments operationalize the SDGs at local and national levels, they contribute to realizing the normative principles established through the convention.

However, despite the noticeable advancement of the situation of children over the past decades, our work is far from over. The rights of many children continue to be violated, particularly children growing up in vulnerable situations because of conflict, discrimination, and deprivations.

In the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), a similar picture of improvement over the years combined with ongoing sizeable challenges presents itself. Major strides have been made during the last decades to improve the situation of children in the oPt, with some social indicators showing near universal immunization coverage and high school enrollment rates – including for girls – in primary education, demonstrating progress well beyond other countries in the region.

But much remains to be done before every Palestinian child is to fully enjoy every fundamental human right. This entails addressing the many obstacles that children face in accessing basic services and fulfilling their rights. According to UNICEF, in the oPt, 2.5 million people (a little over half the population), including more than



With help from his grandchildren, Jamal Abu Hamada, 60 years old, prepares his fishing net in Gaza, Palestine. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

1 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. Almost one-third of Palestinian families live below the poverty line, and unemployment rates are high (32.4 percent across the oPt and 53.7 percent in Gaza, where youth unemployment reaches 60 percent). Coping mechanisms are eroding fast, with some children and families resorting to negative strategies such as school dropout, child labor, substance abuse, and early marriage. Such obstacles are, to a large extent, developmental in nature and at times linked to cultural and religious issues as, for example, the case with child marriage or the violence children face in their schools and communities.

However, the major factor that impedes the full realization of children's rights in the oPt comes in the form of the decades-long Israeli occupation, including the Gaza blockade.

In the oPt, out of a total population of around 4.8 million, about 2.3 million (1.3 million in the West Bank and 1 million in Gaza), or almost half of the population, are children. On the basis of these figures alone, it is clear that children will be disproportionately affected by the conflict. As the United Nations Secretary-General stated in his June 2019 report on children

and armed conflict, as of December 2018, 203 Palestinian children were held over security offences by Israeli forces, and for the whole of 2018, 59 Palestinian child casualties were attributed to Israeli forces. Moreover, children have suffered in terms of enjoying their right to health in instances of delays in permit applications to Israeli authorities for accessing medical treatment in Israel, or in terms of their right to education when schools were damaged in the context of military escalations or security operations. The impact of the restrictions on freedom of movement – in the form of checkpoints and the permit regime – only compound the challenges Palestinian children suffer in the enjoyment of their rights.

Perhaps the situation of children in the context of the Great March of Return demonstrations in Gaza is most egregious of all. Since the start of the demonstrations on March 30, 2018, no less than 43 children have lost their lives, and a staggering 4,067 children have been injured. As if these numbers are not baffling enough, we should also not be oblivious to the much wider and protracted impact on the mental health of children and families as a result of the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

It is hard to see how the overall situation of children in the oPt can be reconciled with the core principles of the convention, namely, nondiscrimination, the child's best interests, the right to life, survival, and development, and the right to be heard. And yet every day Palestinian children display inspiring stories of resilience and hope. Many demonstrate great skills and talents, a determination to continue to learn and to succeed despite the odds, and a drive to come up with innovative solutions to the problems their communities face and help build a brighter, more peaceful future.

Decision-makers and elected officials should follow the example of these children's inspiring stories. I call upon the duty-bearers in the oPt to heed the call by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which is the body in charge of monitoring states' compliance with

the provisions of the convention, to renew their commitment to the convention, in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the convention, by pledging to take one specific and measurable action for the promotion, protection, and realization of the rights of the child.

James Heenan (Australia) is head of the oPt country office of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). He has worked with OHCHR for 15 years. Previous roles include chief of a treaty body section in headquarters and country representative in Cambodia. Prior to joining the UN, he worked in academia on labor-rights issues and was a practicing lawyer in the United Kingdom and in his native Australia.



What I want to be in the future

"I don't know about the future, but we live under siege, and this is the only thing that makes us feel free," explains Fares, 15.



Photos ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



A Human Rights Approach to Education in the State of Palestine

Courtesy of UNDP's Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (UNDP/PAPP)

I

n 2015, world leaders adopted the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are an agreed-upon vision that forms the bedrock of a new development agenda that sets the world on a course of action to end poverty, transform lives, and protect the planet.

Kufur Aqab, Qalandia. UNDP, photo by Ahd Izhiman.



Better vaccines, nutrition, and disease control have cut in half the global death rate for children over the past 20 years; globally, the maternal mortality ratio dropped by nearly half. Yet, the indignity of poverty has not been ended for all. Children are overrepresented among the poorest people – one child in five lives in extreme poverty. Globally, youth are three times more likely than adults to be unemployed. Only 35 percent of children worldwide enjoy effective access to social protection; and an estimated 19.9 million children did not receive vaccines during the first year of life, putting them at serious risk of potentially fatal diseases. Children's rights violations through aggression and sexual violence continue to plague many countries around the world, especially as underreporting and lack of data aggravate the problem.*

For this reason, the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals, with a network of 169 related targets, will continue the journey towards breaking new ground.

The dignity of children and their right to live free from violence and from fear is now recognized as a distinct priority on the international development



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Article 26, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

agenda, particularly since almost a billion children live in countries where the SDGs remain out of reach. Placing children at the center of the SDGs frames their role as initiators and beneficiaries of development, as critical agents of change, and ensures that children are not denied their rights and left behind.

Education is undeniably one of the most important aspects of our lives, providing the key to unlocking our future aspirations. Placing aside the obvious attributes of economic prosperity and development, a quality education grounded in human rights, dignity, and social justice develops the skills and values that help citizens to transform the world they live in. An inclusive education fosters respect, unsettles harmful norms, and breaks

down social boundaries. Ultimately, education is liberating; it fosters a vision that reaches beyond borders to the wider possibilities of our increasingly complex, competitive, and connected world.

The human right to education was first recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. This has since been reaffirmed by numerous global human rights treaties and conventions

over the past years, around 262 million vulnerable children and youth around the world, aged 6 to 17, were still out of school in 2017 with no access to equitable quality education.

Importantly, provisions on the right to education in international law are robust and go far beyond simply requiring all children to be enrolled in school. The human right to education requires a commitment to allowing



Forqan School. UNDP, photo by Ahed Izhiman.

which have enshrined it in international law, most notably the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). The right to education has remained high on the development agenda of the international community: education, as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, aspires to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” But despite the considerable progress on education access and participation

children to unlock their potential, realize opportunities for employment, and develop life skills. Children also have a right to a suitable and respectful learning environment, where they are allowed meaningful participation and freedom from all forms of violence. A central tenet of human rights treaties is that no individual should be denied access to and fulfilment of their rights or suffer discrimination on any basis, such as their gender, nationality, ethnicity, etc.

Education is highly valued in the State of Palestine, with around 1,310,000 students entering the 2019 scholastic year. Yet, students’ performance is negatively impacted by the wider context, and the provision of basic education persists in a fragile balance. Many Palestinian children have to study in schools that cannot afford heating or electricity, and some face long daily journeys to school punctuated by checkpoints and obstructions.

In Gaza, for example, classes are desperately overcrowded with an average of 37 children per class. Over 70 percent of UNRWA and Ministry of Education schools are forced to operate on a double-shift system, resulting in poorer quality lessons and reduced ability of teachers to properly support students, particularly those who have learning and behavioral difficulties.

In 2018, the UN documented 111 interferences to education in the West Bank affecting 19,196 children; some 50 schools in the West Bank, including in East Jerusalem, are under threat of demolition.

In spite of these challenges, the State of Palestine has achieved some extraordinary educational outcomes. Girls and boys are admitted into basic education at nearly equal rates, and more female students are admitted into secondary schools and universities with no significant regional variations. The Palestinian state is one of the most literate nations in the world, with a 97.2 percent literacy rate in 2018.** School and university enrolment is high by both regional and global standards, and the dropout rate has decreased drastically since the 1990s to 1.2 percent in secondary education. All these factors have contributed to Palestinians boasting one of the most successful and gender-equal educational systems in the region.

These mixed realities of life lived under occupation occasionally capture the attention of the international community. However, it is viewed as panoptical. Every sector – be it housing, industry, health, water and sanitation, etc. – requires its own analysis. Education is no exception. Reframing the current situation of education in the State of Palestine from a human rights perspective is an essential part of reaching a genuine and transformative solution that demands that all children receive a full, quality education.

Rather than viewing the human rights framework as abstract or simply background narrative, it provides an important basis for decisions and actions. A human rights-based approach renders explicit the legally binding obligations of all nations to ensure that human rights are protected and fulfilled. In doing so, it enables rights holders to demand meaningful change and accountability. It also sets a higher standard of what we expect a basic education to be. As long as barriers to the provision of education exist, Palestinian children are being robbed of their rights.

*Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019

**PCBS – 2019 International Literacy Day



Data Collection and Statistics In Realizing the Rights of Children



By Ola Awad

S

tatistics are a powerful tool to drive change for the world's most vulnerable children. The smart demand for, supply, and use of data and statistics can improve the lives and well-being of children. When the right data and statistics are in the right hands at the right time, decisions can be better informed, more equitable, and more likely to protect children's rights. The effective use of data and statistics can help us not just track results for children but also shape those results with better insights about what's working, what's not, which children are thriving, and which children are being left behind. Data and statistics hold more potential than ever before to shape the lives and living conditions of children.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are targets for global development adopted in September 2015, with targets set for 2030. All countries of the world have agreed to work towards achieving these goals. There are 44 indicators across 10 of the SDGs that are relevant to children. There is a national system established to track progress against the SDGs in Palestine, and this requires national partners to generate information on a regular basis. The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), as provider of Palestine's official statistics, is leading the development of data requirements to effectively monitor and review progress indicators in cooperation with the SDGs national team

headed by the Prime Minister's Office. PCBS also represents Northern Africa and Western Asia at the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB).

The first SDG target (SDG1) is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030, including to reduce by half the total number of people living in poverty, with a specific target on children. In 2017 almost one in three people in Palestine (29.2 percent) were living below the poverty level, with 53 percent of individuals in the Gaza Strip found to be poor compared to 14 percent in the West Bank. Moreover, 34 percent of individuals in the Gaza Strip were suffering from deep poverty compared to 6 percent in the West Bank. The number of children living in

five dying before their fifth birthday has fallen from 33 out of every 1,000 live births for the period from 1990–1994ⁱⁱ to 22 per 1,000 live births in 2014.ⁱⁱⁱ

SDG4 on education includes a target that all children have access to quality pre-primary education to prepare them for primary school. According to the Population, Housing and Establishment Census of 2017, 54 percent of children aged 3 to 5 attend early childhood education programs in Palestine, and the rate of children from ages 5 to 17 who are engaged in education is 87 percent. However, the rate of children between 6 and 17 with disabilities who are not engaged in any form of education is 46 percent – an alarming rate that shall not be overlooked.

All of these are essential statistics on the Palestinian population which require investment to generate data



Five-year-old Ahmad helps his family to harvest wheat in the northern Gaza Strip. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

households with consumption poverty was 645,000 in 2017, equivalent to 31 percent of children (14 percent in the West Bank and 53 percent in the Gaza Strip).¹ This means that Palestine has a long way to go to eliminate poverty and meet the SDG target.

SDG3 on health includes a target to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age. In Palestine, the rate of children under age

at a level of confidence and quality for them to be used for policy and decision-making. Realizing the importance of national ownership to achieve sustainable development, the Palestinian government has committed to engaging everyone in the seizing of opportunities ahead. Palestine's National Policy Agenda, "Putting Citizens First," is consistently aligned to the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

One key data-generation exercise is the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), which provides detailed information on children, women, and households. Data collection for the sixth round of the MICS survey will occur across Palestine between December 2019 and January 2020. Data will be gathered from over 10,000 households throughout the country. This sample size was calculated to ensure statistical validity and representation across all governorates in Palestine.

The MICS has been a global tool for the last 20 years, and since the 1990s, close to 300 surveys have been carried out in more than 100 countries. MICS now facilitates collection of up to 200 indicators and has become a key source of data on child mortality, child protection, early childhood education, and child health and nutrition. In addition to its role as a data-collection tool for monitoring the progress towards national goals to promote child welfare, MICS provides valuable data for the SDGs.

In the context of the State of Palestine, with the protracted crisis and risks such as seasonal flooding, using data to understand vulnerability at the local level is also essential. PCBS is analyzing existing data using modern

tools such as mapping and geographic information systems to understand the situation and the needs of communities at the governorate, district, and locality levels. For example, PCBS has just issued a series of analytical maps based upon the census, including Educational Attendance Rates by district; and Number of Children with Disability Not Enrolled in Education by district.

Our children today will be the data producers and users of tomorrow, so we must equip them to explore data and statistics for the future good of all Palestinians. Whether we like it or not, the world is changing, and data is being generated all around us. We are faced with new technologies and movements that include artificial intelligence and machine learning which can harness the data we all generate from social media, telephones, and the internet. To harness this data revolution, on the occasion of this year's World Statistics Day on October 20, PCBS in partnership with the Arab American University launched the "Data Science Initiative," which is the first of its kind in Palestine. The initiative is an open invitation to all stakeholders and includes four main projects: the Data Matters Festival – "A One-Day Journey to Core Data Science Skills"; Think Data



Data Matters Festival at the Ramallah Cultural Palace on October 20, 2019. PCBS and the Arab American University signed an agreement to implement the Data Science Initiative.

Science Program, Data Science for Executives and Leaders; Data Science for Schools – "Schools without Walls"; and Data Science Society of Palestine. The Schools without Walls project seeks to embed data science skills in the curricula of schools and universities to equip students with data intuition and motivation to engage in data science. More details on the initiative is available at <http://www.datascience.ps/>.

Within the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics there is a special focus on raising the awareness and statistical literacy of data users, including students and children. To achieve this, PCBS and the Ministry of Education have undertaken to host a National Schools Statistical Competition for past two years. This competition gives all 9th- and 10th-grade students across Gaza and the West Bank the opportunity to compete to demonstrate their literacy in the use and understanding of statistics. The competition is based on the PCBS website for students (<http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/students>) which provides statistical data on various topics in an attractive and interactive way. PCBS

has also created a special interactive portal for school children within its main website which, in a child-friendly manner, seeks to raise awareness on the use of statistics. The portal is accessible at <http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/students/index.php>.

These initiatives are the stepping-stones that lead to improving the lives of our children by preparing them for their future in a changing world, and to supporting the next generation of Palestinians to understand the needs, vulnerabilities, and systems that we can draw upon to improve our children's vital statistics.

Dr. Ola Awad is the president of PCBS and the former president of the International Association for Official Statistics (IAOS) 2017–2019. She has over 20 years' experience working on various topics, including modernization of statistics, sustainable development, gender equality, youth, labor market, Palestinian economy, good governance, statistical literacy, and management and communication. She holds a doctorate in business administration from the University of Liverpool–UK.

Using water from a tank near her family tent, Hannan, 5 years old, washes her hands in the Al-Maleh area in the northern Jordan Valley. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

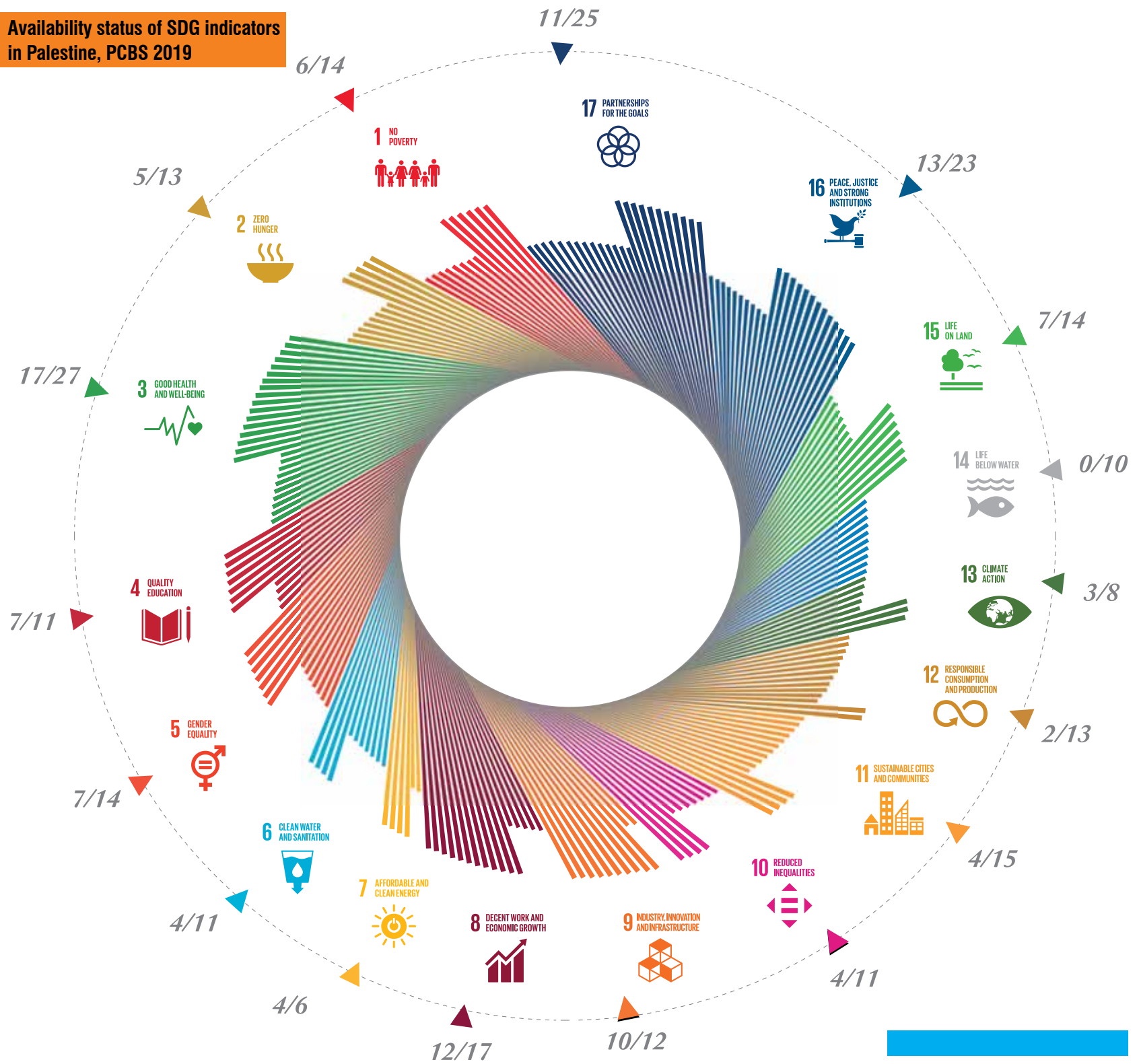


ⁱ The Household Expenditure and Consumption Survey, 2017 (PECS).

ⁱⁱ The Palestinian Demographic and Health Survey, 1995.

ⁱⁱⁱ The Palestinian Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2014 (MICS).

Availability status of SDG indicators in Palestine, PCBS 2019



What We Learned on the Masar Ibrahim al-Khalil Trail



By Genevieve Boutin,
Yazan Abu Sa'da,
and Bara' Owes

For 30 days in the fall of 2019, children and teachers from schools all over the West Bank were invited to walk with civil-society representatives, Palestinian public servants, United Nations staff, and members of the European Union and other diplomatic missions. Each day we commemorated one of the rights of the child enshrined in the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The event was organized to mark the 30th anniversary of the CRC, the world's most widely ratified human rights treaty. But, to be honest, it became clear that this event should take place every year.

Walking the trail was a new experience for many of the participants. In today's world, children have fewer and fewer opportunities to simply be outdoors and enjoy the landscape. Children are kept busy with school and extra-curricular activities, and too often immobilized by their smart phones and other gadgets.



Palestinian girl participating in the Masar Ibrahim trail, celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

In Palestine, this global trend is accentuated by the multiple movement restrictions that are imposed on the population. It is never easy to simply decide to travel to another part of Palestine, let alone walk across fields and towns that straddle different administrative and security zones, and where checkpoints or encounters with security forces can occur at any time. For boys such as Bara' who attend schools where the presence of military

forces is commonplace, just getting safely to school is a challenge.

During these hours spent walking, we learned a number of fascinating facts about the complex layers of Palestine's history. We also learned about the crops that are still grown in some localities and the traditional ways to tend the land – whether in caring for olive trees, growing sweet green peppers, or continuing the traditional production of tobacco.

UN, EU, and local NGOs along with Palestinian students participate in the hike along the Masar Ibrahim trail, celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.





Palestinian students walking the Wadi al-Qelt segment of the Masar Ibrahim Trail, celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.

As we spoke about children's rights, we discovered that some – like the right to education, the right to food, and the right to a family – were very well understood by children of all ages and backgrounds. Surprisingly, children rarely mentioned the right to water in the first instance. And it usually took more time for children to think of other rights, including the rights of children from minority groups, the rights of children living with disabilities, and the right to freedom and safety.

At the same time, it seemed that instinctively all the children we spoke to understood that rights are indivisible and interrelated. We were never able to focus only on one right during our talks along the trail because children such as Yazan knew very well that we cannot separate the achievement of one right from that of all the others. Nor can we separate the achievement of rights for one child from the achievement of every right for every child.

From the discussions that took place along the trail, it appeared that there is still a lot of work to do to reach the

point where children in Palestine see themselves as rights holders who know their rights and who are ready to hold adults and institutions accountable for promoting and protecting these rights. Knowing one's rights is a first step, but the full realization of the spirit of the CRC, especially within a context of continued conflict and life under occupation, is a long walk that will require continued nurturing and effort. Even if we had forgotten the value of less structured time for children, our experience with them served as a vivid reminder. Girls and boys often said that what they enjoyed most was walking with their friends. They were happy to have a chance to meet the people from international organizations and diplomatic missions who came to walk with them. Even the youngest displayed the much-celebrated Palestinian hospitality, which we also found in the people we met along the way. Many children said that they would like more chances to spend time learning outdoors.

Throughout this wonderful journey, we never forgot the sad reality that we were unable to walk in the same way across Gaza, where children have even fewer opportunities to enjoy the beautiful landscapes of their country.

Finally, my UNICEF colleagues and myself were reminded of perhaps the biggest lesson of all: In order to truly deliver on our promise to reach every single child and ensure the realization of every child's rights, we have to create meaningful opportunities for children to express their aspirations and their views of the challenges and opportunities ahead, and be ready to

support their vision of the future. This takes time, space, and much more genuine listening.

Genevieve Boutin is UNICEF's Special Representative in the State of Palestine.

Yazan Abu Sa'da, a 16-year-old from Beit Sahour near Bethlehem, was a participant in the walk.

Bara' Owes, a 15-year-old from Sawyet al-Liban Village near Nablus, was a participant in the walk.

Celebrating the achievement of Yazan, 5 years old, during his participation in the family-day walk in Battir, as part of the Masar Ibrahim Trail, celebrating 30 years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Photo ©UNICEF-SoP/2019.



Dr. Hatem Khamash

Dr. Hatem Khamash is a Palestinian medical doctor whose work experience spans more than two decades. In addition to his role as a consultant and adviser for many organizations and programs that deal with neonatal and pediatric care, his biggest achievement is his outstanding work in the development of the Neonatology Department at Makassed Islamic Charitable Society Hospital. He currently serves as the head of the Neonatal Department – the main and most modern neonatal referral unit in Palestine – where he has worked since 1993. He is listed as a major contributor to the research done on organizing neonatal services in Palestine through the mapping of neonatal services, a project of the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Palestinian National Institute of Public Health, through which a referral protocol for perinatal and neonatal transfer was developed and approved by the MoH. In addition, he is a senior adviser at Juzoor for Health and Social Development and contributes to its training programs. He is also an instructor and

course director of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program and the Pediatric Advanced Life Support course provided by the American Heart Association and conducted by Juzoor. Dr. Khamash is also an adviser to the Palestinian Ministry of Health in pediatrics and neonatal care.

Dr. Khamash was born in 1960 in Jerusalem. He completed his undergraduate studies in 1984 at the University of Jordan's School of Medicine.

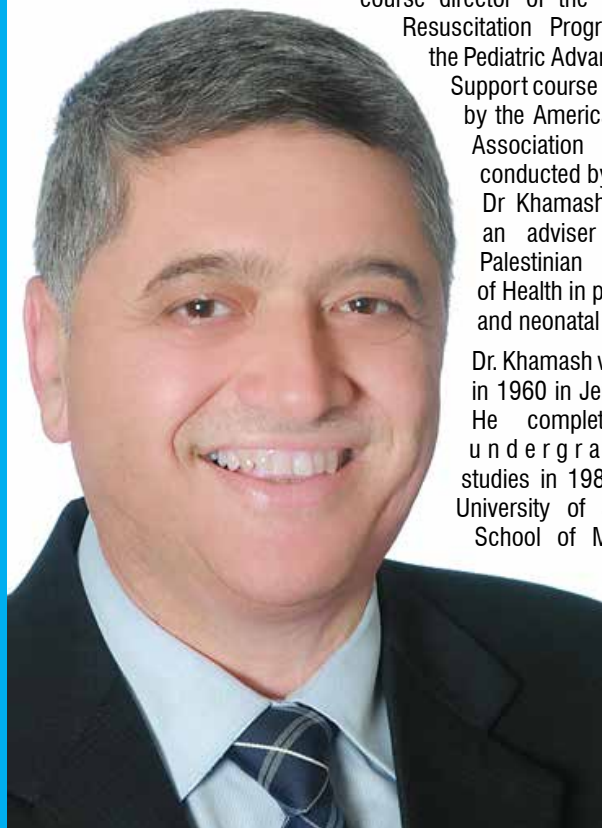
He then continued his studies at the University of Jordan hospital from 1985 to 1987, to specialize in pediatrics, after which he did his training in pediatrics and neonatology in the pediatric, perinatal, and neonatal program at the University of Toronto from 1987 to 1993. His tremendous efforts earned him a fellowship from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1992, and he obtained a certificate in pediatrics and neonatology. Having spent 15 years studying, working, and living abroad, his love for his land, his people, and his home country was the driving force that compelled him to return home to give back to his people, living in Jerusalem and working throughout Palestine. Dr. Khamash has always felt a passionate loyalty towards his people. He and other colleagues organized a housing society for physicians that built the first housing project for professionals in Jerusalem. It was an enormously challenging task that took more than 20 years to accomplish, but the end result has helped forty families to settle in Jerusalem.

Currently, Dr. Khamash is a member of many national and international pediatrics and neonatal groups, including the Palestine Pediatric Society, the Canadian Pediatric

Society, and the European Society of Pediatric Research. In addition, he is a member of the Arab Board of Pediatrics and head of the Arab Sub-Board in Neonatology. He has also been a diplomat of the American Board of Pediatrics and Sub-Board of Neonatology since 1993.

Dr. Khamash has a deep passion for education and teaching. As an associate professor of pediatrics in the School of Medicine at Al-Quds University, he is well-known and recognized for his training of undergraduates and postgraduates in pediatrics and neonatology. Moreover, he initiated the first fellowship training program in neonatology in Palestine at Makassed Hospital. The program is recognized by the Palestine Medical Council and the Arab Medical Council.

Dr. Khamash has published and participated in the publication of several papers on pediatrics and neonatology and has presented them in numerous national and international scientific conferences. With the help of the Ministry of Health, UNICEF, and Juzoor, Dr. Khamash supervised the production of the national neonatal protocol.



JERUSALEM

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 23

10:00–17:00 Sunbula Annual Holiday Bazaar, offering the opportunity to shop directly from Sunbula's partner craft producers from across Palestine. W.F. Albright Institute for Archeological Research.

BETHLEHEM

BOOK LAUNCHES

Friday 1

10:00–12:00 *Suddenly Alone* book discussion and presentation with Isabelle Autissier, a French sailor and the first female to have completed a tour around the world. She will present her views on societal issues such as the protection of environment. Organized by Institut Français de Jerusalem-Chateaubriand Gaza Ramallah. Palestine Wildlife Society, Beit Sahour.

CONCERTS

Friday 1

18:00–19:00 Concert performed by Juan Paradell Solé, a distinguished Lifetime First Organist of Basilica Papale di Santa Maria Maggiore of Rome and professor at the "L. Refice" Music Conservatory in Frosinone. The concert is organized as part of the Terra Sancta Organ Festival. St. Catherine Church.

Monday 11

13:30–14:30 FYMO (Filasteen Young Musicians Orchestra) concert under the baton of conductor Remy Ballot, organized by Barenboim Said Music Centre – Ramallah. Bethlehem University.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

10:00–19:00 Souk al-Makhrour is a weekly farm-to-basket shopping market that offers Palestinian and Arabic traditional and authentic products and fresh organic fruits and vegetables, along with live music, cultural exchanges, art, nature exploration, and amazing local dishes that take into consideration vegans, vegetarians, and gluten-free options. Al-Makhrour Valley, Beit Jala.

Friday 8 – Saturday 9

11:00–23:30 Exist Festival 2019 celebrates alternative audio cultures around the world that show solidarity with the Palestinian people, aiming to strengthen the link between Palestinian musical and audio gatherings with their international counterpart. For more information, please visit www.exist-festival.ps.

Monday 25

12:00 The Annual Christmas Press Conference, organized by Bethlehem Municipality, spreads the Christmas message from Bethlehem to the world. Bethlehem Municipality.

Saturday 30

18:00–20:00 Bethlehem Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Organized by Bethlehem Municipality under the Patronage of H.E. Prime Minister Dr. Mohammed Ishtayah. Manger Square.

SYMPOSIA

Friday 1 – Saturday 2

9:00–18:00 The Ninth Palestinian International Chemistry Conference, organized by the Palestinian Chemical Society in coordination with Palestine Academy for Science and Technology and Bethlehem University, provides a platform for academics and researchers from various Palestinian and international universities to present research in various fields of chemistry. Bethlehem University.

Monday 25 – Tuesday 26

8:00–18:00 The Second International Conference on Civil Engineering (ICCE-P), organized by the Engineers Association-Jerusalem Center. Bethlehem Convention Palace.

BIRZEIT

SYMPOSIA

Tuesday 5

9:00–15:00 Digital Security Education Conference, organized by the Arab Center for Social Media Advancement, Birzeit University, and the Media Development Center in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Education. Birzeit University.

HEBRON

SYMPOSIA

Sunday 24

9:00–18:00 The Fifth National Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET 2019), organized by Palestine Polytechnic University. College of Applied Professions - Palestine Polytechnic University.

RAMALLAH

BOOK LAUNCHES

Monday 11

18:00 Book launch of *The Miserable Watchdog*, by Sonia Khader, about the owner of an international fashion house who ascended the ladder of glory but decides to pursue her dreams in exchange for releasing her deeply rooted memories in denial and rejection. A.M. Qattan Foundation.

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Monday 4, 11, 18, 25

15:30–16:30 *The Story Maker* – storytelling by Lara Nassar for children from 2 to 5 years old, organized by Children and Youth Public Library and Ramallah Municipality. Children and Youth Public Library-Ottoman Court Building.

Saturday 9

10:00–17:00 Homemade Palestine Autumn Market 2019 is a local artisans' market organized by Mashjar Jothour, Handmade Palestine, La Vie, and Little Olea. La Vie Café.

CONCERTS

Saturday 9

18:00–19:00 FYMO (Filasteen Young Musicians Orchestra) concert under the baton of conductor Remy Ballot, organized by Barenboim Said Music Centre – Ramallah. Medical Relief Society.

Friday 29

18:00–23:30 Boombox 3 is a Palestinian hip-hop festival organized by DJAM Palestine, PAM Fest, Buzz, Boombox.ps, Events.ps. Grand Park Hotel.

EXHIBITIONS

Wednesday 13

14:00–15:00 Guest Curator's Tour, organized by the Palestinian Museum, with Dr. Tina Sherwell, to explore a collection of unique historical and contemporary works. The exhibition explores how representations of landscape have evolved from the 1930s to the present via a selection of works by 36 artists from Palestine and its diaspora. The works include paintings, photography, installations, video and film, natural media, and sculpture. The Palestinian Museum.

Saturday 16

10:00–13:00 *Four Seasons: Introduction to Scientific Botanical Drawing (Autumn)* is a workshop guided by artist Elizabeth Tesdell to observe a selection of plants and understand their unique forms and distinguishing features. The workshop will be followed by the production of scientific drawings of plants in the museum gardens based on the participants' visual and sensory observation. The Palestinian Museum.

Sunday 17

16:30–18:30 *Public Display – The Tale of Sheikh Sa'ed Village* showcases the works produced by participants in the Sheikh Sa'ed Workshop which include a short film, a comic book, a booklet containing the final text, and a collection of artistic postcards. Organized by the Palestinian Museum with writer Ahlam Bsharat and artists Haneen Nazzal and Hiba Saleem. The Palestinian Museum.

FILM SCREENINGS

Wednesday 6

18:00 *Little Eagles*, produced in 2016 and directed by Mohamed Rashad, is a 77-minute Egyptian documentary film that tells the story of Mohamed, the son of a modest worker, who lives in Alexandria and dreams of moving to Cairo to become a filmmaker. His search inevitably leads him to new questions that link the past with the fraught present, one in which his generation is attempting to find their way. A.M. Qattan Foundation.

Wednesday 13

18:00 *The Measure of a Man*, produced in 2015 and directed by Stéphane Brizé, is a 91-minute French film that cleverly and brutally dissects contemporary corporate culture, showing an uncompromising look at the extent to which someone is willing to compromise ideals in the name of a much-needed paycheck. A.M. Qattan Foundation Building/Theatre.

Wednesday 20

18:00 *Kirikou and the Sorceress*, produced in 1998 and directed by Michel Ocelot and Raymond Buret, is a 71-minute film that tells the story of an unusual boy born in an African village upon which a terrible spell has been cast and who tries to rid the village of the curse. A.M. Qattan Foundation Building/Theatre.

Wednesday 27

18:00 *Shoes*, produced in 1916 and directed by Lois Weber, is a 60-minute American film about a young working girl who is the sole wage earner for her family and whose earnings are not enough for her family's needs. In constant pain and with no solution in sight, the disheartened girl considers the uninvited advances of a cad with clearly dishonorable intentions. A.M. Qattan Foundation/Theatre.

LECTURES

Sunday 3

18:00–19:00 Discussion with Andrew Ross, author of *Stone Men*, which illustrates how the stones of historic Palestine and Palestinian labor have been used to build the state of Israel, even while the industry is central to Palestinians' own efforts to erect bulwarks against the occupation. Khalil Sakakini Cultural Center.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 2

18:30–21:30 Night at the Museum is a night that starts with a screening of Larissa Sansour and Soren Lind's 2016 film *In the Future*, followed by stargazing the Palestinian Spacemap and depicting observations in the form of poems and illustrations. Organized by the Palestinian Museum in cooperation with NOVA for Astronomy and Space Science. The Palestinian Museum.

Thursday 8 – Saturday 10

11:00 Science Days Palestine 2019 Festival under the theme of *Relational Nature and the Web of Life*; inspired by naturalist, explorer, and geographer Alexander von Humboldt's exploratory works. The festival's theme focuses on children's passion to explore nature, how humanity and nature form a harmonious universe in which we live, and our responsibility to protect this harmony. Organized by the A.M. Qattan Foundation through the Science Studio, a project of the Educational Research and Development Programme of the Foundation in partnership with the Goethe-Institut in Ramallah, the French Cultural Centre, Al Nayzak Organization for Supportive Education and Scientific Innovation, and the Ramallah Municipality. A.M. Qattan Foundation.

Saturday 2 – Wednesday 6

10:00–14:00 In Transition: Illustration and Its Expressive Potential is a workshop for those over 17 years old with artist Alyana Cazalet, offering participants who have the ability to draw the opportunity to explore different visual communication fields, including reportage, book illustration, and graphic storytelling through a series of daily creative projects. The Palestinian Museum.

Friday 22

Documenting Mushroom Hunting in Palestine is a workshop at The Palestinian Museum with photographer/videographer Hareth Yousef that encompasses taking participants on two guided mushroom-hunting trips in the hills surrounding Birzeit (Ein Qinya and Kobar), during which they will film and document the various species they encounter as well as the tricks and tools employed in collecting mushrooms. The Palestinian Museum. For participation, please register at: www.palmmuseum.org.

Friday 29

13:00–16:30 Counter Montages: Theoretical and Practical Workshop on the moving image, organized by The Palestinian Museum, with artist Javier Toscano, to explore different strategies of interpretation that dislocate, reassign, adjust, or simply overflow the semantic codes that stabilize the usual readings of the images that inhabit our environment, in order to reconfigure principles of identity and structural understandings that manage to affect the socio-political plane at a variety of levels. The workshop runs till December 7, 2019. The Palestinian Museum.

SYMPOSIA

Tuesday 12

8:00–18:00 Palestinian Training Forum 2019 is organized by the Palestinian Trainers Association, offering a wide platform for professional training in dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experience. Palestinian Red Crescent Society.

THEATER

Tuesday 21

18:00 *Al-Hoota Cave*, by Amer Hlehel, is a theatrical performance based on a true story about a 15-year-old boy named Basil who joins ISIS, fights in their name, and shares with them the secrets of Al-Hoota Cave. A.M. Qattan Foundation Building/Theatre.

UPCOMING DECEMBER EVENTS

JERUSALEM

LECTURES

Wednesday, December 4

13:00–18:30 “Who Are the People Working for Justice in Israel?” is a session that will allow you to listen to and learn from members of the community in Jerusalem working for a just peace in Israel. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Tantur Ecumenical Institute. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org.

TOURS

Wednesday, December 4

8:30–11:00 A special tour of Al-Asqa Mosque, focusing on its historical, archaeological, and religious significance. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Gathering at Al-Aqsa Mosque. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org.

BETHLEHEM

LECTURES

Monday, December 2

8:30–12:00 Moderated Panel on Current Political Realities in Palestine and Inside Israel is a question-and-answer discussion with representatives from the United Nations, the Palestinian Authority, an Israeli Member of the Knesset, and Al-Haq on the current political realities and international law. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Bethlehem Hotel. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org.

Thursday, December 5

8:30–13:00 “Palestine and Nonviolence” is a session in which Sabeel members will provide information about the KUMI Initiative and offer workshops on nonviolent resistance. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Bethlehem Hotel. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org.

14:00–1:00 “Christian Zionism,” is a lecture and workshop organized by Bethlehem Bible College in cooperation with Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Bethlehem Bible College. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday, December 2

14:00–19:00 A meeting with the Palestinian community of Beit Sahour, hosted by Kairos Palestine, is an opportunity to hear about and learn what life is like for them, and visit their worship spaces. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Bethlehem Hotel. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org.

Tuesday, December 3

8:30–18:00 “Interfaith Relations between Muslim and Christian Communities” is a look into Muslim and Christian interfaith relations and a discussion on religious extremism, hosted by Al-Liqa. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Bethlehem Hotel. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org.

Friday, December 6

13:45–20:00 An afternoon at Dar al-Kalima to learn about the institution from Rev. Mitri Raheb, participate in workshops with the students, and learn about Palestinian art as cultural resistance. Organized by Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center. Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts & Culture. For participation, please register at: registration@sabeel.org

CULTURAL CENTERS

Jerusalem



Al Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Art
Al-Jawalde St.#8, New Gate, P.O.Box 14644, Jerusalem 91146
Tel: 02-6283457, Fax: 02-6272312
Email: info@almamalfoundation.org, www.almamalfoundation.org
Al Mamal Foundation for Contemporary Art



Palestinian Heritage Museum

Abu Obaida St., P.O.Box 19377, Jerusalem.
Tel: +972 2 6272531, Fax: +972 2 6272341
Email: info@dta-museum.org
website: www.dta-museum.org



معهد إدوارد سعيد الوطني للموسيقى
UNIVERSITY OF BIRZEIT
The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music

The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music (ESNCM)

Jerusalem 11 Azzahra St, Shihabi Building
Tel: +972(0)2-626-3230, Fax: +972 (0)2-627-1711
PO Box 66676, Jerusalem, 91666
Email: info@ncm.birzeit.edu, http://ncm.birzeit.edu
https://www.facebook.com/esncm/

Birzeit University,
Old Girl's Hostel, Birzeit, Tel 02-281-9155/6
Ramallah Tel: 02-2959070-1, Fax: 02-2959071
Beit Sahour Tel & Fax: 02-2748704
Tchaikovsky Musical School Tel & Fax: 022778606
Nablus Tel & Fax: 09-2387773
Gaza Tel & Fax: 08-2628903



Photo courtesy of ESNCM



Yabous Cultural Centre

10 Al Zahra St, P.O.Box 54874
Jerusalem, Palestine
Tel: 009722 6261045, Fax: 009722 6261372
Email: officemanager@yabous.org, Website: Yabous.org



Dar Al-Sabagh Centre for Diaspora Studies and Research

مركز حفظ التراث الثقافي
CENTRE FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION
Star Street, Bethlehem, Tel and Fax: +970-2-2742225,
Email: daralsabagh@cohp.ps daralsabagh
Dar Al Sabagh Diaspora Studies and Research Centre

Bethlehem



Palestine Museum of Natural History

Mar Andrea, Antoriya Street, Bethlehem
Tel: 979-22773553 info@palestinienature.org
www.palestinienature.org/visit

Facebook: Palestine Museum of Natural History

Ramallah



A.M. Qattan Foundation

27 An-Nahda Women Association Street, Al-Tira,
Ramallah – Palestine, P.O. Box 2276, Postal Code 90606
Telephone: +970 2 296 0544/+970 2 296 3280, Fax: +970 2 296 0544
Email: info@qattanfoundation.org, www.qattanfoundation.org



Popular Art Centre

Al-Ain Street, Box 3627, El-Bireh, Palestine
Tel: +970 2 240389, Fax: +97 0 2 2402851, Mob: +97 0 598947907
Email: info@popularartcentre.org, www.popularartcentre.org

Facebook: facebook.com/PopularArtCentre
Twitter: http://twitter.com/PAC_ArtCentre
Instagram: http://instagram.com/pacartcentre



Sareyyet Ramallah- First Ramallah Group

Al-Tireh Street, P.O.Box: 2017, Ramallah- West Bank, Palestine
Tel: + 970 2 295 27 06 / + 970 2 295 26 90
Jawwal: + 970 597 777 096, Fax: + 970 2 298 05 83

E-mail: sareyyet@sareyyet.ps / art@sareyyet.ps, www.sareyyet.ps
Facebook: SareyyetRamallah



The Palestinian Circus School

Al Manzel Street, Birzeit
Telefax: +970-2-2812000, Mobile: +972-59 2812001
Email: Info@palcircus.ps, www.palcircus.ps
Facebook: The Palestinian Circus School



The Palestinian Museum

Museum Street, PO Box 48, Birzeit, Palestine
Tel: +970 2 294 1948, Fax: +970 2 294 1936, Email: info@palmuseum.org

Facebook: The Palestinian Museum
Twitter: @palmuseum
Instagram: palmuseum



ACCOMMODATIONS

Jerusalem



Ambassador Hotel

By Ambassador Collection
Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem, 91196
Tel: 541 2222, Fax: 582 8202
reservation@jerusalemambassador.com



Ambassador Boutique

By Ambassador Collection
5 Ibn Abu Taleb, Jerusalem
Tel: +972 2 632 5000, Fax: +972 2 632 5029
Email: boutique@ambassadorcollection.com



Austrian Hospice of the Holy Family

Via Dolorosa 37, P.O. Box 19600, Jerusalem 91194
Tel: +972 2 6265800, Fax: +972 2 6265816
Email: office@austrianhospice.com, Website: www.austrianhospice.com



Casa Nova - Jerusalem Hospice Guesthouse

Casanova Street, New Gate
P.O. Box 1321 Jerusalem 9101301 Israel
Tel: 02 627 1441, 02 626 2974, Fax: 02 626 4370
Email: casanovaj@custodia.org, https://casanovaj.custodia.org/



Christmas Boutique Hotel

Ali Ben Abi Taleb Street, Jerusalem
Tel: 02-6282588, Fax: 02-6264417
christmashotel@bezeqint.net



Gloria Hotel

Latin Patriarch St. 33, Jerusalem
Tel: 628 2431, Fax: 628 2401
gloriahl@netvision.net

(104 rooms; nr, res)



Jerusalem Hotel

15 Antara Ben Shadad St. Jerusalem
Tel: 628 3282, Fax: 6283282, raed@jrshotel.com, www.jrshotel.com

Jerusalem Hotel



Knights Palace Hotel

Freres Street, New Gate, Jerusalem
Tel: 628 2537, Fax: 627 5390
kp@ectoom.co.il

(50 rooms; nr, res)



Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center

3 Paratroopers Road, P.O. Box 20531, Jerusalem, 91204
Tel: 627 9111, Fax: 627 1995, www.notredamecenter.org

Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center



Ritz Hotel Jerusalem ★★ ★

8 Ibn Khaldoun Street, P.O. Box 19186, Jerusalem
Tel: +972 (0)2 626 9900, Fax: +972 (0)2 626 9910
Email: reservations@jerusalemritz.com, www.jerusalemritz.com,

www.facebook.com/RitzHotelJerusalem



Seven Arches Hotel ★★ ★★ ★

Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, 91190
Tel: 626 7777, Fax: 627 1319
svnarch@bezeqint.net, www.7arches.com



St. George Hotel

6 Amr Ibn Al A'as Street - Jerusalem
P.O. BOX 69272 Jerusalem 91544
Tel: +972 2 627 7232, Fax: +972 2 627 7233
E-mail: info@stgeorgehoteljerusalem.com



Tantur Hills Hotel

Hebron Road 303 (before Rachel's Tomb)
P.O. Box 19250, Jerusalem 9119201
Tel: +972 2 5658800 Fax: +972 2 5658801
reservations@tanturhills.com, www.tanturhills.com



Ramallah



Caesar Hotel

Al Masyoun, Ramallah
Tel: 022979400 Fax: 022979401
info@caesar-hotel.ps, www.caesar-hotel.ps



Carmel Hotel ★★ ★★ ★

Al-Masyoun, Ramallah, Palestine
Tel: 2972222 Fax: 2966966,
www.carmelhotel.ps

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Gemzo Suites Fully Furnished Executive Apartments

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gemzo@palnet.com, www.gemzosuites.net

Gemzo Suites



Lavender Boutique Hotel

Al-Nuzha Street 24, Ramallah
Tel 297 7073
reservation@lavenderboutiquehotel.com, www.lavenderboutiquehotel.com



Millennium Hotel Palestine Ramallah

P.O. Box 1771, Palestine, Ramallah, Al Masyoun
Tel: +970 2 2985888 Fax: +970 2 2985333
reservations.mhra@millenniumhotels.com, www.millenniumhotels.com



Taybeh Golden Hotel

Main Street 100, Taybeh (Ramallah District)
Tel 289-9440
info@taybehgoldenhotel.com, www.taybehgoldenhotel.com

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bethlehem



Ambassador City

By Ambassador Collection
Star Street, Bethlehem
Tel: +972 2 275 6400, Fax: +972 2 276 3736
Email: city@ambassadorcollection.com



Jacir Palace Hotel

Jerusalem-Hebron Road, P.O. Box 1167, Bethlehem - Palestine
Tel: 0097222766777, Fax: 0097222766770
reservation@jacirpalace.ps, www.jacirpalace.ps
Facebook: jacirpalacehotel, Twitter: JacirPalace



Nativity Bells Hotel

City Center - Manger Street
Tel: 00 972 2 2748880, 2748808, Fax: 00 972 2 2748870
Email: nativitybells@palnet.com, www.nativitybells.com
https://www.facebook.com/NativityBellsHotel/



Ibda'a Cultural Center Guesthouse

Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Bab al-Mohayem, Bethlehem
Tel: +970 02 277 6444, info@ibdaa48.org www.ibdaa48.org
f Ibda'a Cultural Center

Nablus



Al Yasmeen Hotel

Nablus
Tel: 09 233 3555 Fax: 09 233 3666
Info@alyasmeen.com,
www.alyasmeen.com

Jericho



Jericho Resorts ★★★★★

Bisan Street, Near Hisham Palace, 162 Jericho,
Tel: 232 1255, Fax: 232 2189
reservation@jerichoresorts.com, www.jerichoresorts.com
f Jericho Resort Village



Oasis Hotel – Jericho

Jerusalem Street, Tel: 022311200, Fax: 022311222
Email: info@oasis-jericho.ps, website: http://www.oasis-jericho.ps
f www.facebook.com/Oasis.Jericho, Snapchat: oasis hotel

Rawabi



Rawabi Hotel Rental Apartments

Rawabi 686, Palestine
Mobile: 059 420 4378
rent@rawabi.ps



RESTAURANTS

Jerusalem



360°

Casanova Street, New Gate
P.O. Box 1321 Jerusalem 9101301 Israel
Tel: 02 627 1441, 02 626 2974, Fax: 02 626 4370
Email: casanovaj@custodia.org, https://casanovaj.custodia.org/



Al Diwan Restaurant Ambassador Hotel

Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem, 91196, Tel: 541 2222, Fax: 582 8202
reservation@jerusalemambassador.com, www.jerusalemambassador.com
f /amb.jerusalem Middle Eastern Cuisine



Borderline Restaurant Café

Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem 97200
Tel 532 8342, contact@shahwan.org
Italian Cuisine



Cheese & Wine Rooftop Restaurant

(Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Center)
Tel: 627 9177, rooftop@notredamecenter.org, www.notredamecenter.org
f Notre Dame Rooftop/Cheese & Wine Restaurant



Jerusalem Hotel Restaurant (Kan Zaman)

15 Antara Ben Shadad St., Jerusalem
Tel: 628 3282, Fax: 6283282, raed@jrshotel.com, www.jrshotel.com
f Jerusalem Hotel Mediterranean Cuisine



La Collina Bistro and Restaurant

Tantur Hills Hotel, Hebron Road 303
Tel: +972 2 5658800 Fax: +972 2 5658801
Email: reservations@tanturhills.com, www.tanturhills.com
On Waze: Tantur Hills Hotel Opening Hours: 17:30 - 23:00



Meejana Lounge (at St. George Hotel)

6 Amr Ibn Al-As Street – Jerusalem
P.O. BOX 69272 Jerusalem 91544
Tel: +972 2 627 7232, Fax: +972 2 627 7233
E-mail: info@stgeorgehoteljerusalem.com



Pasha's

Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem 97200
Tel 582 5162, 532 8342, contact@shahwan.org
Oriental Food



RESTAURANTS

Bethlehem



Al-Jisser Pub

Al Madares Street, Beit Sahour
Mobile: 0597492175

f Al-Jisser, i aljisser



Bab idDeir Gallery & Kitchen

D'eik Quarter, Manger Street, Bethlehem
Tel: 02 276 9222

f Bab idDeir Gallery & Kitchen

Opening hours:
Tuesday-Sunday
(9:00 AM - Midnight)



Fawda Restaurant Chef's Table

A modern take on Palestinian cuisine

Hosh Al-Syrian Guesthouse, off Star Street, Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2747529, Email: reservations@hoshalsyrian.com

Bookings required at least a day in advance



Q Lounge

Nativity Street (opposite Arab Bank), Bethlehem

Tel: 02-2771481, Email: salibaasfour@gmail.com

f Q Lounge 1, i qlounge1

Closed only on Tuesdays
11:00 AM till 1:00 AM



Shams Al-Aseel

Enjoy Palestine's nature and cuisine

Al Makhrour Valley, Beit Jala, Tel: 059-461-6011 / 052-744-2003

f www.fb.com/shams.alaseel.palestine



Singer Café

Old City Street, Beit Sahour

Tel: 02-2771171, Email: Info@singercafe.com

f Singer Café

Ramallah



Azure Restaurant Our home is yours

Mediterranean and Steaks

Tel and fax numbers +972-2-2957850, Email: Azure.rest@gmail.com

f www.facebook.com/Azure.restaurant



Martini Bar

AlMasyoun, Ramallah

Tel: 2979400

f Martini Bar, i Martinibar_ramallah



Pronto Restocafe Italian Restaurant Est. 1997

Dr. Issa Zadeh Street, Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: 02-298-7312 or 0599-795-978, prontocafeeramallah@gmail.com

f Pronto Restocafe, i prontoramallah

RESTAURANTS

Rawabi



Zeit ou Zaater

Rukab St., Ramallah

(02) 295 4455, Email: zeitouzaater@gmail.com

f zeitouzaater



Zest

Issa Zadeh Street, Ramallah, Palestine

Tel: 02 295 3555, E-mail: info@zest.ps

f ZESTRestaurantOfficial, i zestrestaurantofficial



Artoos

The Art of Gelato

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine

Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Lilac

Pizza, Pasta, & Pastries

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine

Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Qburger

Burger

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine

Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Shrak

Shawerma & Falafel

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine

Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



Siroter

French Café & Bakery

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine

Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/



عالم السريع

Quick Sandwiches Shop

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine

Tel: 02 282 5599

https://www.facebook.com/QCenterRawabiOfficial/

Nablus



Zeit ou Zaater

Tel: 09 233 3555 Fax: 09 233 3666

Info@alyasmeen.com, www.alyasmeen.com

f zeitouzaater

ATTRACTIONS

Jerusalem



Levantine Gallery

Affordable originals, top quality prints and Arabic calligraphy

16 Christian Quarter Road, Old City Jerusalem
Tel: +972-2-970 7790 Mob: +972-52- 675 4276
Follow us on Facebook or Instagram!

Ramallah



Birzeit Brewing Co. Shepherds Beer

Brewing Beer of Palestine with passion for friends

Municipality street, Old town, Birzeit
Tel: +972 2 2819111, Mobile: +972 56 2776665
Email: info@bbdc.ps, Website: www.shepherds.ps
 Shepherds Beer Have you booked your tour!



Poster

Making Palestinian Art Accessible to Everyone. Get yours now!

7A President Square, Al-Balo', Albireh
Tel: 02 2426486, Mob: 0592847732
zanani@zawyeh.net, www.zawyeh.net



Taybeh Brewery

Proudly Brewing & Bottling Premium Palestinian Beer since 1994

Near the rotary, Taybeh Village, Ramallah District
Tel: 02-289-8668, taybeh@palest.com, www.taybehbeer.com
 <https://www.facebook.com/taybehbeer/>
Opening Hours: Monday- Saturday 8 AM-3:30 PM



Taybeh Winery

Making Boutique Palestinian Wines since 2013

Main Street, Taybeh Village, Ramallah District
Tel: 02-289-9440, info@taybehwinery.com, www.taybehwinery.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Taybehwinery/>
Opening Hours: Daily 9 AM-5 PM



Zawyeh Gallery

Current exhibition: Bashar Khalaf | Solo exhibition |
12.10.2019 - 12.12.2019

7A President Square, Al-Balo', Albireh
Tel: 02 2426486, Mob: 0597994997
zanani@zawyeh.net, www.zawyeh.net

Jericho



Telepherique & Sultan Tourist Center

Enjoy the panoramic view of Jericho

Elisha's Spring, P.O.Box 12, Jericho
Tel: + 972 (2) 2321590; Fax: + 972 (2) 2321598
info@jericho-cablecar.com, www.jericho-cablecar.com
 JerichoCableCar

ATTRACTIONS

Rawabi



Fun Factory Rawabi

Spacious indoor amusement park that introduces fun, comfort, and happiness for all ages.

Q Center, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 059 594 9026, <https://www.facebook.com/funfactoryrawabi/>



Rawabi Extreme

Exciting outdoor games in the beautiful nature of Palestine.

WaDina, Rawabi 666, Palestine
Tel: 059 420 4377, <https://www.facebook.com/RawabiExtreme>



Museums



Sa'adeh Science & Technology House- Alnayzak

We bring joy and science together! and it's for everyone!

Location: Al Haq Street in The Old City of Birzeit
Tel: +970 2 281 9523 +970 2 281 9040
Email: sciencehouse@alnayzak.org, www.sciencehouse.ps

Al Nayzak - Science and Technology House
التيزك - بيت العلوم والتكنولوجيا

TRAVEL AGENCIES

Jerusalem



Daher Travel, Ltd.

14 Azzahra St., P.O. Box 19055, Jerusalem
Tel: +972 2 6283235, Fax: +972 2 627 1574
Email: Daher@netvision.net.il



George Garabedian & Co. L.T.D.

Tourist & Travel Bureau
24 Saladin St., Jerusalem
Ticketing: +972-2-6288354, Incoming: +972-2-6283398
ggo@ggo-jer.com, www.ggo-jer.com



SAMARA

Tourist & Travel Agency
1 Greek Orthodox Pat. Rd., P.O. Box 14058, Jerusalem 9114001
Tel: +972-2-6276133, Telefax: +972-2-6271956
info@samaratours.com, www.samaratours.com

Ramallah



Golden Globe Tours

Ersal St, Ersal Center, Amaar Tower, 5th floor
Box 4181, El Bireh, Ramallah-Palestine
Tel: +972 2 2421878, Fax: +972 2 2421879, Mbl: +972 56 2550031
Email: info@gg-tours.ps, Web: www.gg-tours.ps



TOUR OPERATORS

Jerusalem



Fratenum Tours Ltd.

P.O. Box 21727, Jerusalem 9121701
Tel: +972 2 6767117 or +972 2 6767227, Fax: +972 2 6767266
Email: fratenum@bezeqint.net, Web: www.fratenumtours.com

Bethlehem

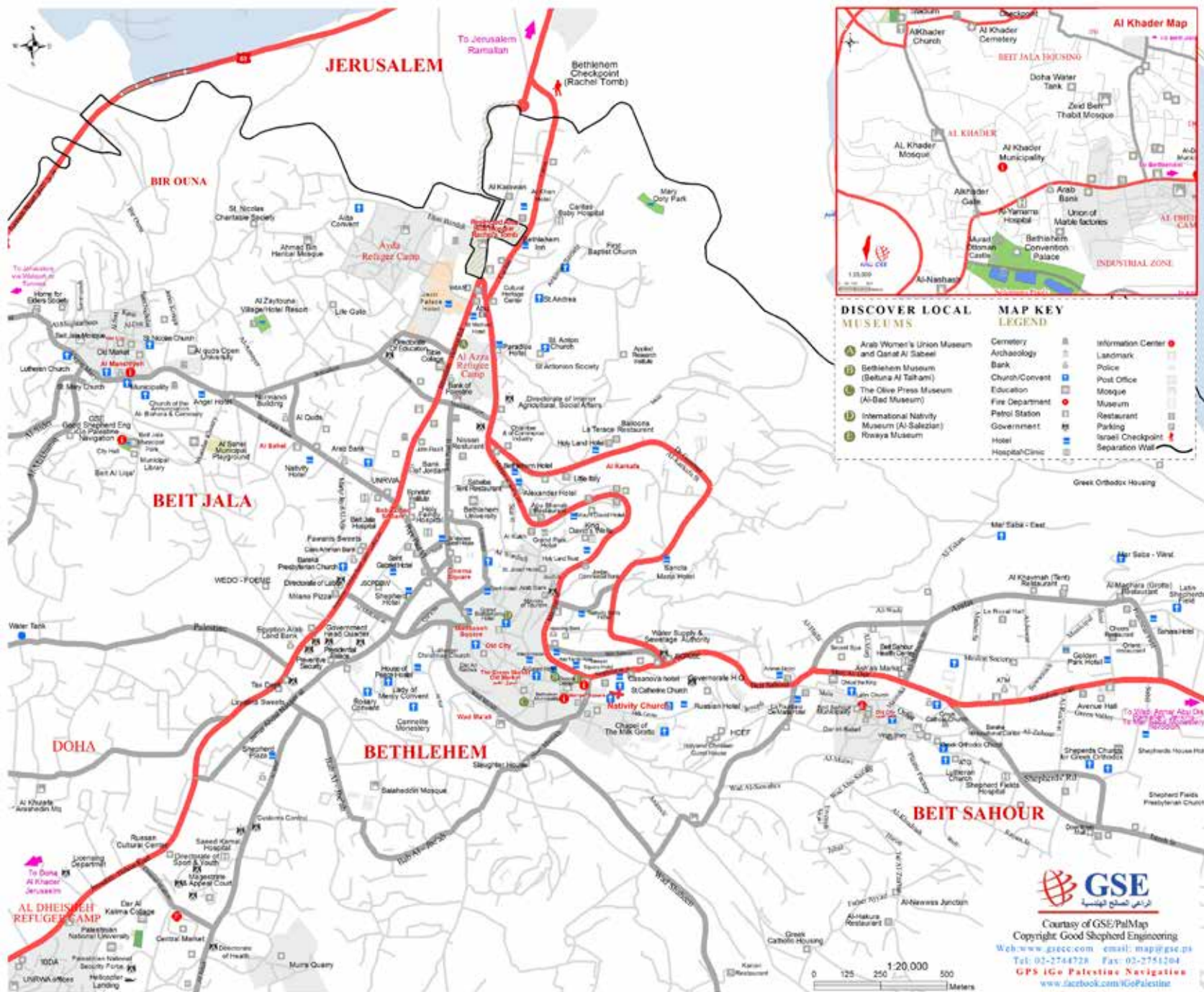


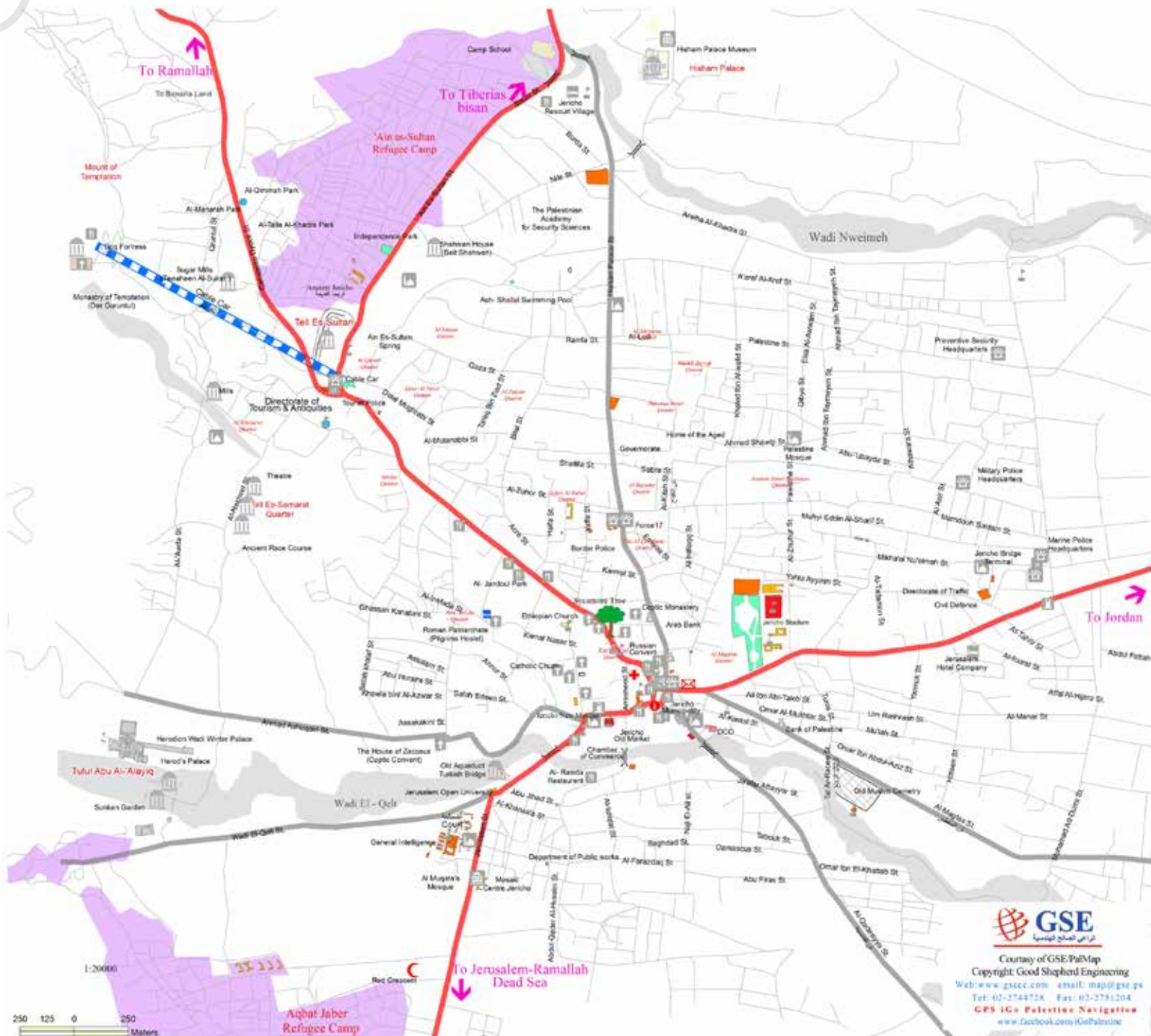
Laila Tours & Travel

Grand Park Hotel, Second Floor, Manger Street – Holy Land
Phone: +970 2 2777997/+970 2 2764886, Fax: +970 2 2777996
Mobile: +972 528412911, Email: team@lailatours.com
www.lailatours.com, [f](https://www.facebook.com/LailaTours) Laila Tours & Travel



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GSE
 كراي جي نصاب انجنيئرنگ
 Courtesy of GSE PalMap
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 Web: www.gsccc.com email: map@gse.ps
 Tel: 02-274472K Fax: 02-2741204
 GPS iGo Palestine Navigation
 www.facebook.com/iGoPalestine



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Filistin Ashabab

November issue #155




We make the change

info@filistinashabab.com

www.filistinashabab.com

<https://www.facebook.com/Filistinashabab>

 <p>1 DEFINITION OF A CHILD</p>	 <p>2 NO DISCRIMINATION</p>	 <p>3 BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD</p>	 <p>4 MAKING RIGHTS REAL</p>	 <p>5 FAMILY GUIDANCE AS CHILDREN DEVELOP</p>	 <p>6 LIFE, SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT</p>	 <p>7 NAME AND NATIONALITY</p>
 <p>8 IDENTITY</p>	 <p>9 KEEPING FAMILIES TOGETHER</p>	 <p>10 CONTACT WITH PARENTS ACROSS COUNTRIES</p>	 <p>11 PROTECTION FROM KIDNAPPING</p>	 <p>12 RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS</p>	 <p>13 SHARING THOUGHTS FREELY</p>	 <p>14 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND RELIGION</p>
 <p>15 SETTING UP OR JOINING GROUPS</p>	 <p>16 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY</p>	 <p>17 ACCESS TO INFORMATION</p>	 <p>18 RESPONSIBILITY OF PARENTS</p>	 <p>19 PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE</p>	 <p>20 CHILDREN WITHOUT FAMILIES</p>	 <p>21 CHILDREN WHO ARE ADOPTED</p>
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 <p>29 AIMS OF EDUCATION</p>	 <p>30 MINORITY CULTURE, LANGUAGE AND RELIGION</p>	 <p>31 REST, PLAY, CULTURE, ARTS</p>	 <p>32 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL WORK</p>	 <p>33 PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL DRUGS</p>	 <p>34 PROTECTION FROM SEXUAL ABUSE</p>	 <p>35 PREVENTION OF SALE AND TRAFFICKING</p>
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HOW THE CONVENTION WORKS

CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

