

Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Regional Office Palestine (RLS) Partners and Projects in Palestine and Jordan 2016

(Feb 2016)

Palestine

AFKAR Institute for Educational & Cultural Development (AFKAR)

AFKAR for Educational & Cultural Development is a non-governmental organization founded to provide capacity building and empowerment to students, helping them meet ever-increasing challenges and needs in education and culture in Palestinian society.

Project: “Integrating National Debate Competition (NDC) as an Alternative Learning Methodology and Setting up Debate Clubs as an Educational Programme”

AFKAR promotes alternative educational methods in Palestinian schools across the West Bank, particularly in conservative public schools. Working in cooperation with a select number of schools, mixed gender groups of teachers and students are trained in debating, communication and critical thinking skills. Each term closes with a series of debating competitions. In 2016 AFKAR will work with seventeen schools across the West Bank and will also establish new debate clubs in six additional directorates.

For more information, please visit the organization's website and/or Facebook page:

www.ashtar-theatre.org.

www.facebook.com/ashtar.theatre

ASHTAR for Theatre Productions and Training (ASHTAR)

The ASHTAR Theatre was established in Jerusalem in 1991 as a non-profit organization providing drama training for students. Since then ASHTAR has steadily expanded the scope of its activities and specializes in working with forum theatre. ASHTAR today is based in Ramallah and is among the best established cultural organizations in Palestine.

Project: “Workers. But!”

Using the didactic approach of forum theatre developed in Brazil-a part of the Theatre of the Oppressed Movement, ASHTAR works to move the public beyond classic distinction of actors and audience, transforming plays from forms of entertainment to tools for social change. In 2016 Ashtar will produce a forum play on the topic of workers issues and rights and will tour the play across the West Bank. Another production called “Romeo and Juliet” will take place in Gaza which adapts the story to the Gazan context whereas issues of the continuous siege and its’ impact over the internal socio-economic and political life, as well as the matter of the pending reconciliation between the major political movements, are much of a concern.

For more information, please visit the organization's website and/or Facebook page:

www.ashtar-theatre.org.

[www.facebook.com/ashtar theatre](https://www.facebook.com/ashtartheatre)

Association of Women's Action for Training and Rehabilitation (AOWA)

The Association of Women's Action for Training and Rehabilitation (AOWA) is a developmental organization established in 1994 by a group of women from the Women Action Federation. AOWA works toward elevating the role of Palestinian women in society through training and skill development and in doing so changes traditional perceptions of women's roles.

Project: "Model of a Women's Cooperative - Third Phase"

In 2013 AOWA opened a women's cooperative in the Old City of Hebron where women run all production processes, designing, creating and selling educational wooden toys. In 2016 the cooperative is adding a new furniture line together with a color catalogue exhibiting all products for distribution.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.aowa.ps/en>

Birzeit University – Department of Architectural Engineering

The Department of Architectural Engineering at Birzeit University engages in innovative research projects which advance students skills through applied knowledge.

Project: "Gaza Reconstruction Plans"

The project is a collaborative effort bringing together the academic research of students and staff of several universities attempting to juxtapose contemporary and historic cultural evidence, affirming the uniqueness of Gaza whilst exploring persisting Israeli colonialism and its transformative nature vis-à-vis the construction of Palestinian memory and identity.

Birzeit University – Center for Development Studies (CDS)

The Center for Development Studies (CDS) at Birzeit University is a leading authority on Palestinian development. Established in 1997, the CDS aims to deepen engagement with the concept of development by applying current theoretical and conceptual frameworks.

Project: "The Impact of Neo-Liberal Development on Palestinian Reality: Urban Readings of Ramallah and Birzeit, Kafr Aqab and Anata"

In 2015 CDS began researching socio-urban changes in Ramallah and Kafr Aqab, and will widen the scope of research in 2016 to include two additional areas for detailed additional urban readings.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

home.birzeit.edu/cds

The Civil Associations Union for Development (CAUD)

CAUD is an umbrella organization composed of Palestinian unions, grassroots organizations, women's rights groups and NGO's working on development issues. CAUD coordinates their collective efforts toward initiating and advocating for progressive leftist programs in the sector.

Project: "Think Different to Make a Difference"

In 2014 CAUD ran a large advocacy campaign to promote awareness of gender roles and the principles of equality within Palestinian elementary school curriculums. In 2015 CAUD worked with grassroots organizations to campaign for the implementation of strategies to improve performance within Palestinian schools. In 2016 the trainees will train additional CBO's affiliated with CAUD to sustain advocacy on issues of concern together with school teachers.

Community Action Center – Al-Quds University (CAC-AQU)

The Community Action Center is a Palestinian non-profit community rights-based organization established in 1999. CAC is linked to Al Quds University and aims to empower disenfranchised residents of East Jerusalem to access their rights, working with them to negotiate the complex bureaucratic procedures that control the flow of these rights. The center also seeks to engage marginalized groups to empower them to fully participate in their community's development.

Project: "Campus Community Compact – from Dialogue to Development"

In 2016 CAC will develop community portfolios for areas north of Jerusalem and will continue their work to empower local communities to advocate for their right to self development, enhance dialogue and collaboration within local communities and empowering students to become agents of change within the communities surrounding Al Quds University.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.cac.alquds.edu/en>

The Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)

CFTA is a non-profit organization established in 1997 in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip. CFTA works to promote a progressive Palestinian cultural identity by advocating for human rights and the values of social equity and equality. CFTA has a special focus on youth in the Gaza Strip.

Project: "Youth Engagement in Gaza"

The southern Gaza Strip is the most deprived, most conservative and least developed of all Palestinian regions and as a result youth have limited opportunities to develop their capacities. In 2015 CFTA began a programme of interactive skills development; providing resources and training in film making and photography. In 2016 CFTA will continue updating youth skills in these areas and will run debate sessions on the future of Gaza, freedom of expression and youth rights.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

www.cfta-ps.org

DAAR (Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency)

DAAR is an architectural studio and art residency program based in Beit Sahour, Palestine. DAAR's work combines conceptual speculations with pragmatic spatial interventions, discourse, and collective learning. DAAR explores possibilities for the reuse and subversion of structures of domination; from evacuated military bases to refugee camps; from uncompleted governmental structures to the remains of destroyed villages.

Project: "Al-Mashaa', or the Return to the Common (Phase II)"

In 2015, DAAR began working with the RLS to discuss the relationship between education and an architectural firm representing ideas of the Al-Mashaa' or the common—as it applies in the context of Palestinian refugee camps. In 2016, DAAR will develop a book narrating the architecture of the school in exile and is developing an approach to re-experience the camp by focusing on its unexpected positive aspects.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.decolonizing.ps/>

Dalia Institute - Aid Watch Palestine

Dalia is a new initiative launched in early 2015 by a number of Palestinian and foreign activists to provide detailed information on aid mechanisms and policies in an accessible manner for the Palestinian people. Outreach activities focus on student groups, youth groups and civil society organizations, engaging them in efforts to see the international aid apparatus in a critical light; mobilizing volunteers and forging organizational partnerships to broaden the ownership of Aid Watch Palestine and increasing community participation to advocate for accountability in the aid sector.

Project: “The Right of Palestinians to Know about Aid to Palestinians”

Twelve workshops on the topics of community awareness and engagement will be conducted to deepen understanding on the question of aid policies and mechanisms in the Palestinian context. Aid Watch will also screen films and will conduct exhibitions in the West Bank and in Gaza, to further highlight and encourage the discussion on the subject.

For more information, please visit the organization's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/AidWatchPalestine?fref=ts>

Emancipatory Education- an Organized Serial Discussion

The RLS Regional Office Palestine has been developing a program titled “Emancipatory Education” since 2014. The organization conducted a mapping study to highlight the work of local organizations utilizing various tools and approaches and coordinated discussions with practitioners and specialists on the topic. The RLS will expand on this work in 2016, examining in depth the concept of emancipatory education, the approaches and relevance to the Palestinian context through a further series of discussions which conclude with the production of a hand book and an action plan.

Fuad Nassar Institute for Research and Publishing (FNI)

FNI is a progressive think tank engaged in research on the application and consequences of the donor-driven aid industry in Palestine.

Project: “Implementing and Increasing the Minimum Wage”

In 2016 FNI will build on its advocacy campaign to ensure the implementation of minimum wage law in Palestine, to increase the minimum wage and to implement equal wages for equal work.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

www.yasariyyat.ps

The Palestinian Forum for Israeli Studies (MADAR)

MADAR is a nonprofit civil society organization founded in 2000, starting out as an initiative of Palestinian intellectuals and academics. MADAR seeks to enhance local and regional understanding of Israeli political, cultural, military, and socioeconomic issues. MADAR works to educate Palestinians on these issues by publishing books, research papers and translations of texts from Hebrew and other languages into Arabic.

Project: “Knowing the Israeli Scene and Understanding its Complexity”

In 2016 MADAR will publish four volumes of the magazine “*Israeli Issues*” focusing on modern Zionism, the question of the diaspora, Israel’s relations with the states of former Soviet Union and Eastern Bloc countries. MADAR will also conduct a number of public seminars on the relevant topics.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

www.madarcenter.org

<https://www.facebook.com/Madar-the-Palestinian-Forum-for-Israeli-Studies->

The Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (PCPD)

PCPD is an independent progressive civil society organization working on political, social and participatory democracy. PCPD aims to contribute to the achievement of just peace and independence based on the Palestinian Declaration of Independence of 1988 and international legitimacy. PCPD also works to empower the democratic practices of all its community groups with a special focus on youth and women.

Project: “Book Printing: The Communist Movement in Palestine 1919 - 2011”

This project produces a book describing the history of the Communist movement in Palestine, aiming to highlight the work of Palestinian communists to the public in general and to youth in particular, in order to counter populist Islamist discourses dominating public discourse since the early nineties.

Press House Palestine

Press House-Palestine is an independent, non-profit institution concerned with media issues and freedom of expression. Press House was founded in Gaza in January 2013 through an initiative of a group of journalists concerned with both the status of Palestinian journalism and the promotion of democracy. Press House aims to contribute enhanced freedom of expression and to improving the quality of Palestinian media.

Project: “Promoting Objective Media in Gaza”

In 2016 Press House contributes to promoting media objectivity in the Gaza Strip by building the capacities of men and women media graduates. 30 fresh graduates will be trained on utilising the media to serve the Palestinian cause coherently and objectively. The participants will also be trained on the use of media in lobbying and advocacy.

www.info@palbas.org

Printing of Arabic Rosa Luxemburg Book and Launching Seminars

In April 2016 the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Regional Office Palestine (RLS) will present two public readings in Jerusalem and Ramallah on the thinker Rosa Luxemburg. Topics include the philosophy of Rosa Luxemburg, her perceptions on revolution and her debates with Vladimir Lenin. Another seminar will be held with leftist intellectuals and multipliers to cultivate deeper insights on Rosa’s philosophy.

Shoruq Organization

Shoruq was founded by Palestinian refugees working for Palestinian refugees in 2012. It is based in the Dheisheh Refugee Camp where 13,000 refugees live on less than one square kilometer of land. The Israeli military occupation, poverty and severe overcrowding deprive many Palestinian refugees of their basic rights. Shoruq works to raise awareness of the refugee community's rights, enabling them to demand the implementation of these rights.

Project: "Palestinian Education: Raising Youth Voices"

This project aims at equipping Palestinian refugee youth with the ability to speak critically on controversial educational policy issues. To do so, the project will start with developing critical thinking, debate and problem solving skills for 15 Palestinian refugee youth of mixed genders and will use media tools to highlight problems and solutions for the Palestinian educational system.

www.shoruq.org

Social and Economic Policies Monitor (Al-Marsad)

In 2011 a group of activists in the field of economic and social rights came up with the idea of establishing a monitoring mechanism, "Al-Marsad" to observe and examine economic and social policies adopted locally and regionally and to investigate their direct impact on the poor in particular and society in general.

Project: "Social Protection in the Occupied Palestinian Territories"

In 2015 Al-Marsad investigated the status of the social protection system in the occupied Palestinian territories and conducted a thoroughly comparative study with models from Jordan. In 2016 Al-Marsad furthers this work by identifying the best possible ways to ensure that the system is inclusive of marginalised groups including the unemployed and those within informal economic sectors.

For more information, please visit the organization's website and/or Facebook page:

www.almarsad.ps

<http://www.facebook.com/al.marsad.1>

Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC)

UAWC was founded in 1986 by a group of volunteers and agronomists. Its mission is to empower small farmers, both men and women and to strengthen their abilities to develop their lands by generating an agricultural and developmental framework at the public level.

Project: "Progressive Youth Cooperative"

In 2016 the UAWC will continue to work on the Palestinian right to food sovereignty by establishing a progressive youth cooperative of mixed genders producing medical herbs.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

www.uawc-pal.org

Jordan

Arab Education Forum (AEF)

AEF is a civil initiative begun in 1998 by educational activists. AEF is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization active in the Arab World in the field of community and youth work. The mission of AEF is to contribute to an Arab cultural regeneration starting with the premise that people are builders of understanding, knowledge, cultural expressions, and social groups.

Project: "Storytelling Training and Apprenticeship (Mujawara) for Social Transformation"

In 2015 the AEF began a residency project for Arab story tellers to provide an in-depth learning opportunity for participants while producing joint performances to discuss educational issues. In 2016 AEF will further develop their residency programme for story tellers to include the production of an EBook and audio visual book to include progressively reshaped traditional stories.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.almoultaqa.com>

Aramram

Aramram is a Jordanian web-based television network that has been active for the past six years, covering stories from across Jordan. Aramram's editorial mandate stresses; inclusiveness, critical thought, social justice, pluralism, non-discrimination, participation, transparency, and open debate.

Project: "Stories from the Street to the Street: Film"

In 2015 Aramram produced original and user generated stories, materials, and video features to strengthen public debate on social justice issues in Jordan. In 2016 Aramram will produce a documentary film about wealth distribution and social justice in Jordan based on the findings of 2015 project.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.aramram.com/>

Al-Balad Theater

The Al-Balad Theater is a civil society organization established in 2005 to strengthen the cultural movement in Jordan through interaction and cooperation with all performing art groups, NGOs, and individuals, both public and private.

Project: "Reclaiming our Streets: Baladak Street Art Festival"

In 2015 Al-Balad Theater began a partnership with the RLS to provide public platforms for people to engage with alternative forms of resistance to social, political & traditional challenges. In 2016 Al Balad Theatre will work continue to provide such a platform and will develop a graffiti network bringing together graffiti artists from different countries.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.al-balad.org/>

Cultural Gathering of Jordanian Youth (Tasharouk)

Tasharouk is a non-profit civil society organization established in Jordan in 2010 to empower youth to participate in the cultural, political, and social spheres of Jordanian society.

Project: "Promotion of Youth Participation in Political & Social Activities"

In 2016 Tasharouk will work to increase youth participation using mobile microphone and interactive theater to promote citizenship and to engage with social and political issues based on the principles and values of social democracy.

For more information, please visit the organization's Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/871548559530904/>

Identity Center

Identity Center was founded in 2009 as an independent civil society organization working to encourage development across the Middle East. Identity Center works to empower people to participate in political, economic, and social development and ultimately to shape and control their identities and destinies.

Project: "Social Justice Academy"

Based on the lessons learned from the pilot phase of the project, Identity will start a social justice academy to increase awareness of the concept of social justice across Jordan by establishing youth groups in six of Jordan's governorates.

For more information, please visit the organization's website:

<http://www.identity-center.org/>