



Transforming Skills into Sustainable Livelihoods

Sharek Youth Forum's Contribution to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in Palestine

Strengthening TVET in Palestine

Building Skills, Creating Opportunities, Transforming Futures

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has become one of the most important drivers of economic and social development, equipping young people with the practical skills needed to meet labour market demands, foster entrepreneurship, and build sustainable livelihoods. In Palestine, where young people continue to face significant barriers to employment, investing in vocational education is a strategic investment in a more productive, resilient, and inclusive economy.

Guided by this vision, Sharek Youth Forum has spent years developing an integrated institutional model for strengthening Palestine's TVET sector. By combining institutional capacity development, youth empowerment, and strategic partnerships, Sharek has contributed to advancing vocational education through long-standing collaboration with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, vocational training centres, the private sector, and development partners. These partnerships have enabled the Forum to support the development of a more responsive and integrated TVET ecosystem that is better aligned with labour market needs.

Sharek's contribution extends beyond the implementation of training programmes. The Forum designs and delivers integrated intervention models that connect vocational education with life skills, entrepreneurship, practical workplace experience, and continuous mentoring, ensuring that young people successfully transition from learning to employment or self-employment in a sustainable manner.





An Integrated Model for Youth Economic Empowerment

Sharek translated this vision into practice through Tamyaz, its flagship institutional model for youth economic empowerment within the TVET sector. Implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor and supported by the European Union, Tamyaz offers a comprehensive learning experience that goes beyond conventional vocational training by combining technical skills development with employability, entrepreneurship, work-based learning, and career preparation.

The programme is built on a simple yet powerful principle: technical skills alone are no longer enough. Success in today's labour market requires a holistic approach that combines vocational competencies with life skills, career guidance, practical experience, entrepreneurship, and continuous support. By integrating these elements into a single learning journey, Tamyaz prepares young people to make informed career decisions, secure employment, or establish successful businesses of their own.





Tamayyaz Learning Journey

To accompany young people from the beginning of their learning journey through to employment or entrepreneurship, Sharek developed a structured pathway built around internationally recognised curricula and complementary programme components.

Career Guidance– My Career My Future (MCMF)

Helping participants identify career pathways, understand labour market opportunities, and develop realistic professional goals.



Life & Employability Skills– Passport to Success (PTS)

Developing essential workplace competencies—including communication, teamwork, leadership, problem-solving, and workplace ethics—through an internationally recognized curriculum developed by the International Youth Foundation.



Entrepreneurship– Build Your Business (BYB)

Equipping aspiring entrepreneurs with practical skills in business planning, financial management, marketing, customer engagement, and business development to prepare them for launching sustainable enterprises—through an internationally recognized curriculum developed by Microsoft.



Community Engagement – I:SERVE

Encouraging leadership, active citizenship, and youth-led community initiatives that strengthen both personal development and social responsibility.



Work-Based Learning

Providing paid internships and practical workplace experience that enable trainees to apply their skills in real work environments.



Sustainable Livelihoods

Creating multiple pathways towards employment, self-employment, and long-term economic resilience.

Embedding Tamayyaz within Vocational Training Centres

Sharek's intervention extended beyond empowering young people to strengthening the institutional capacities of vocational training centres themselves, recognising that sustainable impact depends on stronger institutions as much as empowered individuals.

The programme began by investing in the capacities of vocational trainers through comprehensive Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes. Trainers were equipped with internationally recognised curricula, modern learner-centred methodologies, and interactive teaching techniques, enabling them to transfer knowledge to hundreds of trainees while improving the quality of vocational education and embedding modern teaching practices within their institutions.

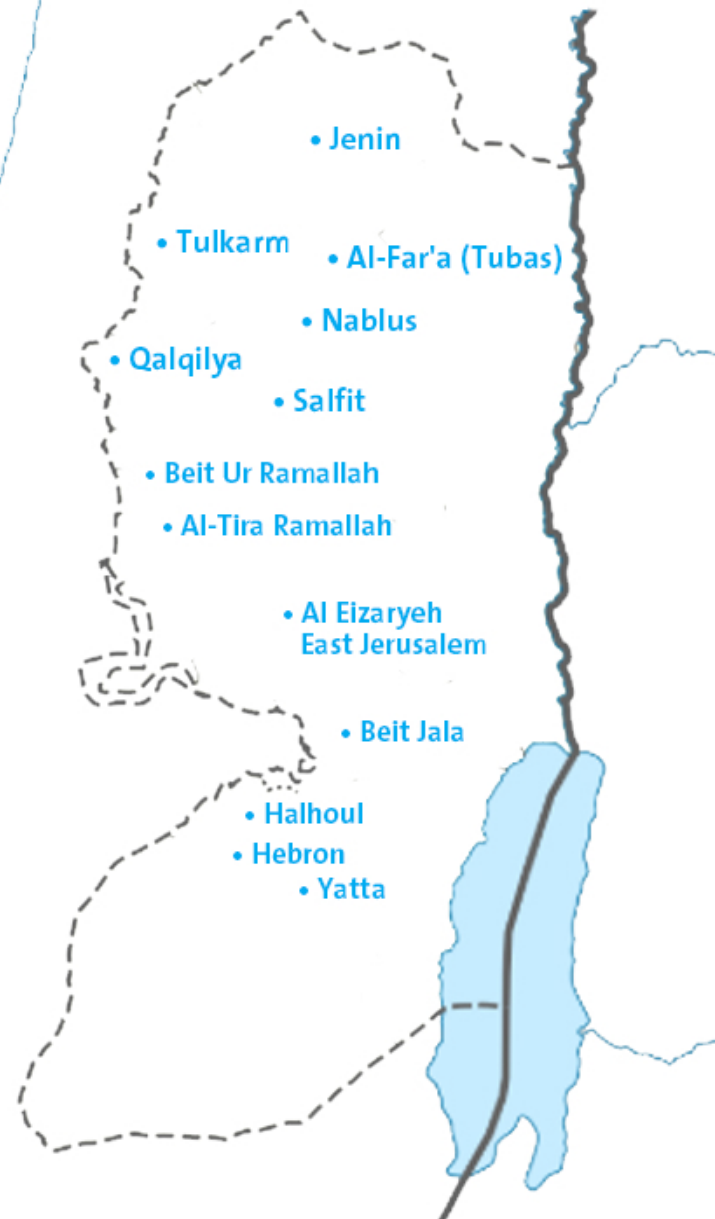
Building on this foundation, Sharek worked closely with vocational training centre management and trainers to implement an integrated learning model that combined technical instruction with life skills, entrepreneurship, practical learning activities, mentoring, and continuous follow-up. Regular field visits and close coordination with training centres ensured high-quality implementation, timely responses to emerging challenges, and continuous alignment with labour market needs.

By investing simultaneously in trainers, institutions, and trainees, Sharek strengthened the institutional capacity of vocational training centres and established a sustainable implementation model whose impact continues to benefit future generations of vocational learners.



A Nationwide Presence

Through its strategic partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, Sharek has built a nationwide implementation network spanning 16 vocational training centres across the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. This extensive geographic reach has enabled the Forum to engage young people from urban, rural, and marginalized communities while maintaining a unified implementation model that remains responsive to local labour market needs.



This nationwide presence has enabled Sharek to expand its impact, strengthen coordination among vocational training centres, and tailor interventions to the specific needs of local communities. It has also reinforced the Forum's position as a trusted national partner in advancing Technical and Vocational Education and Training across Palestine.



From Skills to Sustainable Livelihoods

Transforming Training into Real Economic Opportunities

The success of Technical and Vocational Education and Training is not measured solely by the number of young people trained, but by its ability to enable them to secure employment or establish sustainable businesses. Guided by this principle, Sharek Youth Forum has developed an integrated model that bridges vocational training with practical experience, entrepreneurship, and labour market integration, ensuring that acquired skills translate into tangible and lasting economic opportunities.

Through Tamayyaz, participants are supported in pursuing one of two complementary pathways upon completing their learning journey, depending on their aspirations and career goals:

- Employment, through paid work-based learning opportunities.
- Self-employment, through entrepreneurship and business development support.

Together, these pathways represent the natural continuation of the Tamayyaz empowerment journey, reflecting Sharek's belief that training should lead to measurable outcomes rather than end with course completion.



Entrepreneurship: Turning Ideas into Businesses

Entrepreneurship is a cornerstone of Sharek's youth economic empowerment model. Rather than focusing solely on business training, the Forum accompanies aspiring entrepreneurs throughout the entire business development process—from refining business ideas to successfully launching and growing their enterprises.

Through the internationally recognised Build Your Business (BYB) curriculum, developed by Microsoft, participants acquire practical knowledge and entrepreneurial competencies in business planning, financial management, marketing, customer relations, and business development, enabling them to establish businesses that are both market-driven and sustainable.

To ensure that support reaches the most promising initiatives, Sharek implements a transparent and competitive selection process. Participants develop comprehensive business plans, which are evaluated by a specialised committee against clearly defined criteria, including economic feasibility, sustainability, innovation, and market relevance.

Rather than providing cash grants, Sharek adopts an asset-based investment approach, whereby successful applicants receive tailored Business Kits containing the equipment and tools required to launch their businesses immediately. This approach maximises the long-term impact of the investment by directing resources towards productive assets that generate sustainable income.

90 business kits were awarded to 90 entrepreneurs

BYB Training
↓
Business Plan
↓
Evaluation Committee
↓
Business Kit
↓
Business Launch



Supporting Diverse Business Ventures

The programme has supported youth-led businesses across a wide range of vocational and technical fields, reflecting both participants' interests and local market opportunities.

Supported businesses include:

- Beauty and hairdressing services
- Tailoring and fashion design
- Electrical installation and maintenance
- Air conditioning and refrigeration
- Carpentry and furniture production
- Photography and media services
- Food production
- Handicrafts and creative industries

These businesses have enabled young entrepreneurs to generate sustainable income, strengthen local economies, and create new employment opportunities within their communities.



Success Stories

Behind every business is a story of determination, resilience, and opportunity. Tamayyaz has empowered many young entrepreneurs to transform vocational skills into successful businesses that now provide sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Maram Mabrouk – Tulkarm.... Creating Beauty in Challenging Times

When Maram Mabrouk from Tulkarm completed her vocational training, she was determined to turn her creativity into a business. Through Tamayyaz, she developed her entrepreneurial skills, refined her business idea, and received a business kit to launch her event decoration and design business. Launching a business in Tulkarm has not been easy. The ongoing political situation and the decline in social events have significantly affected demand for her services. Despite these challenges, Maram has remained committed to growing her business by expanding her digital presence and exploring new ways to reach clients. With continuous mentoring and business development support from the programme, Maram continues to adapt, demonstrating the resilience and determination that entrepreneurship requires.

"Every challenge has pushed me to think differently and keep moving forward. My business is not just a source of income—it's my future."





Fatima Nidaa Qadi – Hebron...

Stitching Together Opportunity

For Fatima Nidaa Qadi from Hebron, vocational training became the foundation for financial independence. After completing the entrepreneurship track under Tamayyaz, she successfully launched her tailoring business, receiving the equipment needed to begin working immediately. Today, her project has grown into a reliable source of income that extends beyond her own livelihood. Her husband, a carpenter, also benefits from the equipment by incorporating sewing techniques into his work, creating new opportunities for the family. Fatima's story demonstrates how investing in one young entrepreneur can generate a wider economic impact for an entire household.

"This project gave me the opportunity to build something of my own and support my family's future."

Mahdi Arabas – Qalqilya...

Skills That Create Opportunity

Like many young people in Qalqilya, Mahdi Arabas faced a difficult labour market with limited employment prospects. Through Tamayyaz, he transformed his vocational skills into a successful air conditioning maintenance business. Equipped with the tools provided through the programme, Mahdi quickly began receiving regular service requests from customers, allowing him to generate a steady income while building a strong reputation for quality work. His journey illustrates how vocational skills, combined with entrepreneurship support, can create sustainable employment opportunities even in challenging economic conditions.

"Vocational education gave me the skills, and Tamayyaz gave me the opportunity to put them into practice."

Imad Abu Bakr – Qalqilya

Powering New Beginnings

In Qalqilya, where employment opportunities have become increasingly limited, Imad Abu Bakr saw entrepreneurship as the best path forward. Following his participation in Tamayyaz, Imad received specialized equipment to establish his air conditioning installation and maintenance business. Since launching his enterprise, he has steadily built a client base, providing installation and maintenance services to households and businesses across his community. His business has created a sustainable source of income while demonstrating the growing demand for skilled vocational professionals in the local market.

"Having the right tools allowed me to start working immediately and build my own future."



Laila – Hebron... Turning Passion into a Profession

After graduating from the vocational training center in Hebron, Laila transformed her passion for fashion into a thriving tailoring and fashion design business. Supported through Tamayyaz, she strengthened her entrepreneurial skills, developed a business plan, and received the equipment necessary to establish her workshop. As her business grew, it also became a family endeavor, with her mother joining her to help meet customer demand. Today, Laila's business represents more than self-employment—it reflects the power of vocational education to create sustainable livelihoods while strengthening family resilience.

"I always dreamed of having my own workshop. Tamayyaz helped me turn that dream into reality."



Paid Internships: Bridging Training and Employment

Recognising that practical experience is essential for a successful transition into the labour market, Sharek Youth Forum developed a comprehensive paid internship pathway that enables trainees to apply their knowledge in real workplace environments while acquiring the professional experience sought by employers.

To support this effort, Sharek has established and continuously expanded a nationwide network of partnerships with more than 150 private sector companies and institutions across Palestine. These partnerships provide high-quality internship opportunities, strengthen the alignment between vocational training and labour market needs, and create broader pathways toward employment.

Internships are implemented across a diverse range of vocational and technical fields, allowing trainees to gain hands-on experience while enhancing their technical competencies, workplace confidence, and professional networks.

Internship placements have included sectors such as:

- Electrical installation and maintenance
- Automotive mechanics
- Hairdressing and beauty services
- Tailoring and fashion design
- Carpentry and furniture production
- Air conditioning and refrigeration
- Food production
- Graphic design and media production
- Other vocational and technical trades



**More than 300
Paid internships to
more than 300
vocational students**

Beyond Training: Building a Sustainable TVET Ecosystem

Strengthening the TVET Ecosystem Through Strategic Partnership

Sharek Youth Forum's contribution to Palestine's TVET sector extends well beyond programme implementation. Guided by a long-term vision for sustainable sector development, the Forum has worked to strengthen the institutional ecosystem that supports vocational education by fostering strategic partnerships, enhancing collaboration, and creating platforms for knowledge exchange among key stakeholders.

Building on its long-standing partnership with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, its collaboration with 16 vocational training centres across Palestine, and an expanding network of more than 150 private sector companies and institutions, Sharek has contributed to strengthening the linkages between vocational education, labour market needs, and youth economic empowerment. This collaborative approach has enhanced institutional coordination, promoted practical learning opportunities, and reinforced the role of vocational training as a driver of economic development.



The National Forum for Vocational Training Centres

As part of its commitment to institutional sustainability, Sharek established the National Forum for Vocational Training Centre Trainers and Directors, bringing together representatives from the Ministry of Labor, vocational training centres, private sector partners, and development organizations from across Palestine.

The Forum serves as a national platform for exchanging experiences, sharing successful practices, discussing emerging challenges and opportunities, and strengthening collaboration among vocational training institutions. By creating space for dialogue and collective learning, the Forum contributes to the continuous improvement of vocational education while supporting stronger coordination across the sector.

More importantly, it reflects Sharek's belief that sustainable change is achieved not only through investing in individuals, but also by strengthening the institutions that shape future generations of skilled professionals.

Craft Generation: A National Campaign to Promote Vocational Education

One of the Forum's most significant milestones was the official launch of the national Craft Generation campaign, inaugurated under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Enas Al-Attari, Minister of Labor, during the National Forum organized by Sharek Youth Forum in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and vocational training centres.



Building on the success of the earlier "Vocational is More Secure" campaign, Craft Generation adopts a broader vision focused on reshaping public perceptions of vocational education. It highlights the value of skilled professions, promotes vocational training centres and the diverse specializations they offer across all Palestinian governorates, and showcases inspiring success stories of vocational graduates who have transformed their skills into sustainable careers and businesses.

At its core, the campaign seeks to challenge long-standing stereotypes surrounding vocational education and encourage young people and their families to view TVET as a first-choice educational pathway that offers meaningful employment opportunities and long-term career prospects.

To maximize its outreach, the campaign was implemented through a comprehensive media and digital communication strategy, including professionally produced videos, photography, success stories, digital campaigns, awareness materials, and interactive online content. These materials were jointly disseminated through the communication platforms of Sharek Youth Forum, the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, and participating vocational training centres, significantly expanding the campaign's reach and reinforcing a unified national message in support of vocational education.

More than a communications campaign, Craft Generation represents a shared national commitment to elevating the status of vocational education and strengthening its contribution to Palestine's social and economic development.



Measuring Impact

Vocational Training Centers

16

Vocational Trainers Certified

35

Youth Trained

More than 1000

Paid Internships

More than 300

Private sector partners

More than 150

Business Kits Awarded

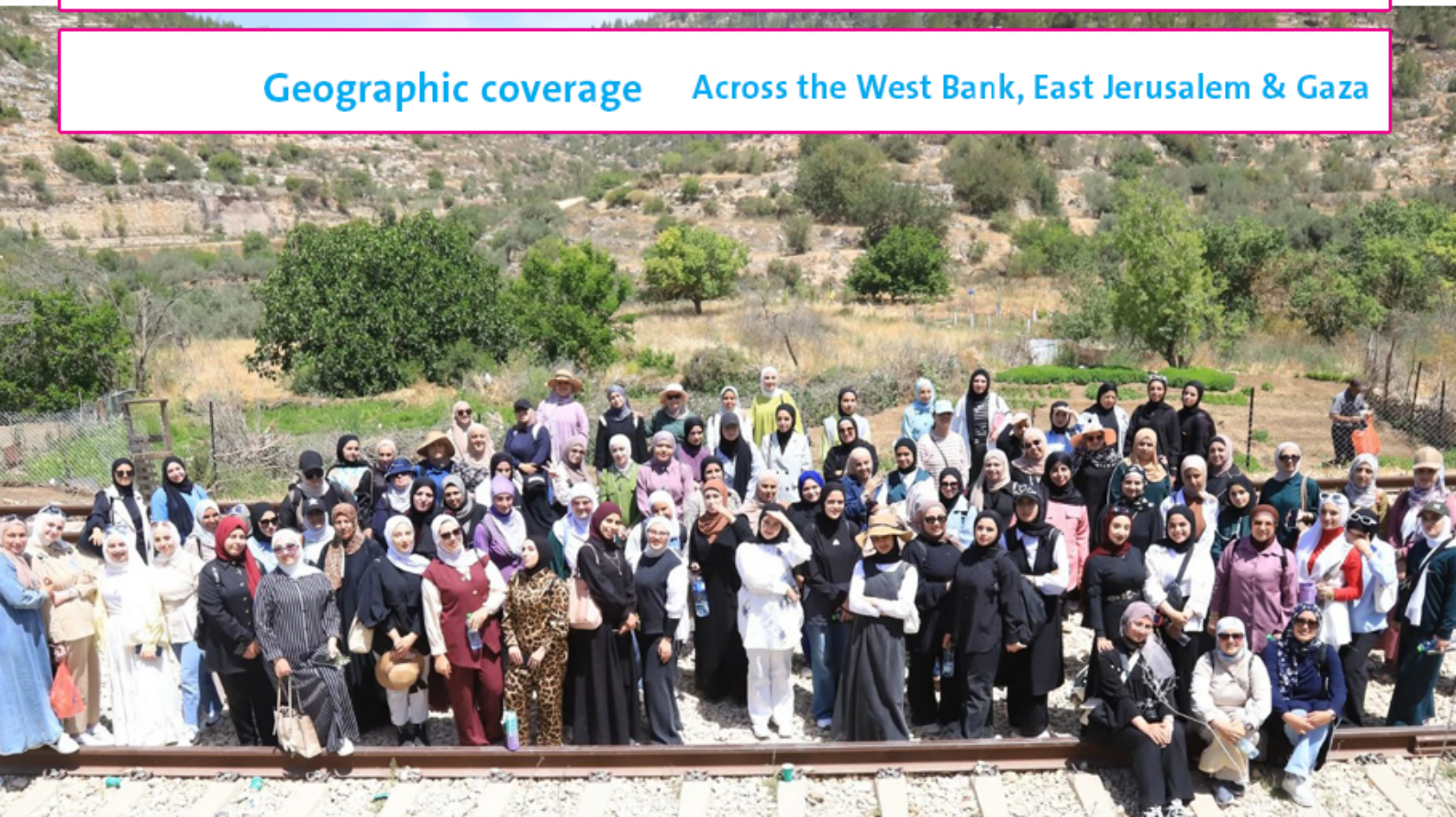
90

Youth led Small Businesses Established

90

Geographic coverage

Across the West Bank, East Jerusalem & Gaza





Looking Ahead

Investing in Technical and Vocational Education and Training is ultimately an investment in people, economic resilience, and Palestine's future.

Over the years, Sharek Youth Forum has developed an integrated and scalable model that connects vocational education with employability, entrepreneurship, private sector engagement, institutional capacity development, and community participation. Through strong partnerships with the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, vocational training centres, employers, and development partners, the Forum has demonstrated that sustainable impact is achieved when young people, institutions, and labour market actors grow together.

Building on this experience, Sharek remains committed to advancing Palestine's TVET sector by expanding innovative approaches, strengthening institutional capacities, promoting labour market responsiveness, and creating greater opportunities for young women and men to build productive and sustainable livelihoods.

Looking ahead, Sharek Youth Forum seeks to continue working alongside the Palestinian Ministry of Labor, vocational training centres, the private sector, civil society organizations, international donors, and development partners to strengthen Palestine's vocational education ecosystem and scale successful models that contribute to inclusive economic growth. With a proven track record, an extensive national network of partnerships, and deep institutional expertise in youth economic empowerment, Sharek stands ready to contribute to future initiatives that strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training, expand opportunities for Palestinian youth, and support a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready economy.

