

Cultural Initiatives Newsletter

September 2022
October 2022
November 2022

INSIDE

Cultural initiatives aim to utilize youth networks to develop and implement projects relating to culture and identity within an online hub connected to the volunteering electronic platform. In order to give youth a sense of strength and pride in the history and culture, as well as to utilize their energy and volunteer efforts to further national heritage initiatives, these initiatives aim to connect youth seeking to nurture and develop Palestinian culture and heritage - across the West Bank/Gaza - geographical and political divide.



Baladna Initiative - Gaza

Gaza is considered to be one of the most beautiful Palestinian cities because of its cultural and architectural heritage. As Gaza has many places to explore such as the Old City, mosques and churches, and historical mosaic art, this initiative aims to connect youth to their heritage and cultural history by visiting and learning about these sites, especially in light of the constant demolition of the city's monumental landmarks.

Objectives:

- Introducing youth to culturally significant architectural remains in Gaza.
- Deepening Gazan youth understands of architectural and artistic heritage.
- Connecting youth to nature by visiting natural sites towards creating bonds between the group.
- Researching, documenting, and shooting about the sites the youth visited in order to educate the greater Palestinian population.

JUSSOR Initiative - Gaza

Jusoor initiative seeks to localize Palestinian knowledge and revitalize the Palestinian cultural and heritage that can be passed from one generation to another and inherit the components of the Palestinian cultural identity. This initiative aims at creating a cultural connection between Palestinian generations.

We intend through JUSSOR to open cultural spaces for the Palestinian cultural action in order to maintain the Palestinian cultural roots and encourage creativity and leadership through culture.

As part of this initiative, a series of meetings, and art exhibitions were implemented to encouraging Palestinian youth at exchanging experiences and success stories with leading Palestinian Characters and models, open cultural and artistic communication between Palestinian generations, and refine more personal and social skills.

Overall Objective:

It aims to localize Palestinian knowledge and revive the Palestinian cultural and heritage.

Activities:

- A conversation with the artist Yasser Omar, a composer and music artist residing in the city of Rafah. He has an honorable experience in dissolving Palestinian songs, most notably his joint works with the artist Muhammad Assaf.

- A Dialogue with the poet Othman Hussein, a Palestinian poet residing in the city of Rafah, one of the most prominent pioneers of prose poem in the Arab world, and a founding member of the Palestinian Writers Union.

An art gallery featuring contributions from a group of artists that come in four corners:

- A corner by Khaled Hussein, containing three sculptures and two paintings

- A corner of the artist Nidal Abu Aoun containing artworks

- Corner for artists Hazem Al-Zumar and Hamada Al-Qubt

- A corner containing contributions from the exhibition (The Geography of Divine Magic) (Majdal Natil, Rahaf Al-Batniji and Majdal Natil)

Cultural Heritage Revival Initiative – West Bank

As heritage is an integral part of Palestinian history, this initiative aims to refamiliarize the younger generation with their roots in a new contemporary way while also preserving its traditional form. This is done by consolidating the national and cultural identities in a way that allows youth to creatively explore, analyze, and revive traditional customs such as Palestinian embroidery (Tatreez), folk stories and proverbs, and dishes and cuisines.

Objectives:

- Showcasing traditional Palestinian costume and its various styles, motifs, and colors.
- Showcasing Palestinian folk dishes.
- Employing the media and its influence in order to attract international attention to authentic Palestinian heritage.
- Creating a “Country Profile” that will transform the Palestinian public image.
- Uniting the new generation that suffers from the constant threat of cultural erasure and ethnic cleansing.

An Open Day (Olive Picking) – The Youth Village

With the participation of more than 80 Palestinian youth from various governorates, Sharek Youth Forum implemented a series of cultural heritage activities at the Youth Village as part of the youth leads project, which was carried out in partnership with the UNFPA and funded by the EU. During this activity, Palestinian youth, from different programs implemented by Sharek, also participated in this open day such as MUN activists, Beit Fajjar and Jericho youth local councils. With the use of Palestinian Hatta, folk music, olive picking, and bread on firewood, the activity portrayed the traditional Palestinian folk rites that the farmer on his field would participate in during the olive harvest season.

Besides, a delegation from the UNFPA, led by Dominic Allen, head of cooperation, also took part in this activity. The delegation visited the Youth Village to conduct a tour that began with a discussion with youth about their activities and involvement in the forum's voluntary work. The delegation then took part in all of the youths' voluntary activities, which included coloring the three zeros, picking olives, and planting new trees.

Objectives:

The activity was implemented with the goal of establishing an understanding of the region's social, cultural, political, historical, and religious aspects; observing life under occupation; and exchanging advocacy strategies and resources. With harvesting olive, coloring the three zeros, and planting trees, a Palestinian would resist for his land in order to prove his existence.

Visibility Links

[Baladna Initiative](#)

[Jusoor Initiative](#)

[Palestinian Identity and Heritage](#)

Open Day at the Youth Village (Olive Picking): [Link 1](#), [Link 2](#)

[Cultural Hiking](#)

Note: Please note that these links are included in the annual report under Visibility section.

Cultural Hiking – West Bank

Cultural hiking is an initiative that aims to enhance the presence of Palestinian youth in different geographical locations through a series of cultural hiking that consolidate Palestinian belonging and identity. The initiative entails a series of field visits to old Palestinian villages in order to introduce them to the history of monument of the visited locations.

Throughout this initiative, Sharek Youth Forum aims at empowering young people and fostering a cultural dialogue about nature, history, architecture, and the stories of the places.

The initiative included a series of awareness-raising hikings aimed at addressing the relationship between heritage and environment; accordingly, it highlights three main axes, namely heritage, civilization, and the environment.

The initiative implementation included a hiking trial at Palestinian village of Aboud and Deir Ghassaneh, as well as Church St.Barbara, the Roman Tombs and Shrine of al-Khawas.

Objectives:

- Highlighting the importance of protecting the environment as part of preserving Palestinian cultural heritage
- Shedding light on Palestinian history as an important part of the cultural heritage.
- Highlight the role of youth in protecting their culture and heritage.
- Raising awareness on the history of monuments in Palestine.