



# The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program



Protecting heritage,  
supporting resilience





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## Taawon

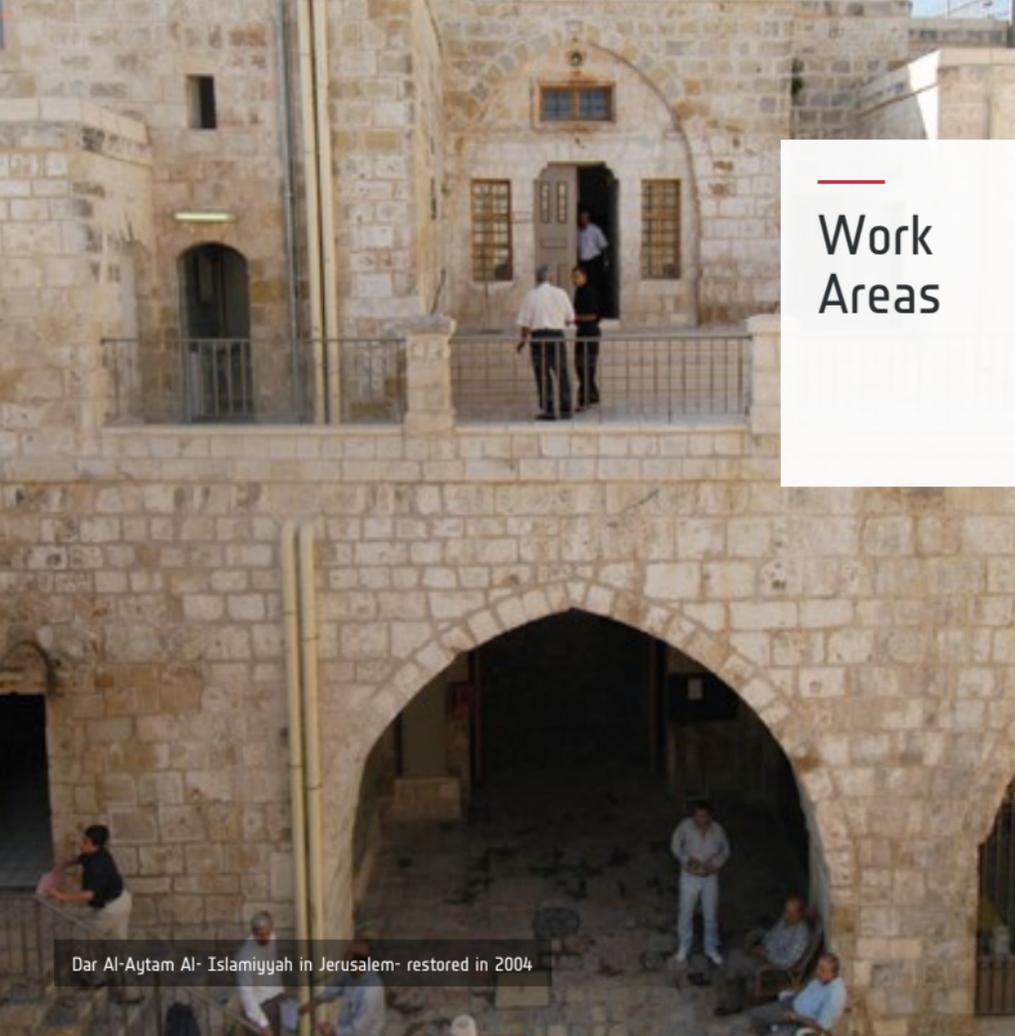
Taawon (Welfare Association) is a leading Palestinian non-profit organization, working in Palestine and the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. In Arabic, Taawon translates to working together to do good, an idea that lies at the core of the organization's culture, and governs its everyday operations. Taawon touches the lives of more than one million Palestinians annually. Since its establishment in 1983, Taawon has invested 642 million USD in seven major programs: education, community development, youth and women's empowerment, orphan support, culture, restoration of old cities, and its flagship project, The Palestinian Museum.



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## The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program (OCJRP)

OCJRP was established in 1994 to safeguard and rehabilitate the Old City of Jerusalem and support the steadfastness of its community. Since then, the program has grown to cover more cities and include additional activities leading to a comprehensive approach towards the revitalization of historic centers in and around Jerusalem that encompasses restoration, awareness building, training and documentation.



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## Work Areas

We work in the Old City of Jerusalem and the surrounding neighborhoods, as well as in Nablus and Arrabah. We plan to start working in the northern West Bank cities of Jenin and Tulkarem starting in 2017/2018.



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## Awards

OCJRP was the recipient of the 2004 Agha Khan Award for Architecture. In 2016, OCJRP won the Excellence and Innovation in Construction award from the Palestinian Contractors Union for restoring and repurposing the Shihabi House, turning it into the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music.



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## The Nature of our Work

We offer smart solutions to complex problems. We contribute to creating an ecosystem where Palestinians can flourish, and, in turn, can continue to contribute to Palestine's sustainable development. We do that through the leveraging of funds for the implementation of projects that arise from the needs of our partner communities in the historic urban centers of Palestine. We safeguard our national culture and identity while also supporting the Palestinian people's steadfastness and upgrade

their living conditions, allowing them to gain access to better services and more knowledge. We allow them to focus their energy on growth and advancement as we provide them with stable, safe and friendly spaces and houses to live and work in.



## Restoration

We restore buildings, preserving the historic urban fabric of Jerusalem, Nablus and other cities. We restore houses, multifamily complexes and public buildings, repurposing them to host cultural, social, and economic activities through the adaptive reuse of historic structure. Restoration also creates additional economic benefits through the generation of opportunities for workers and contractors and the use of locally manufactured materials.

### **Our accomplishments in this area include**

- Restoration of 820 family houses inside historic centers
- The provision of 275,000 working days for local workers, and generating a total income of around 47 million USD
- The rehabilitation of 72 buildings for the uses of community based organizations, which now serve a constituency of more than 100,000 individuals



The Islamic Museum- Al-Haram Al- Sharif – restored in 2005



Entrance of Suq Al-Qattanin, Jerusalem, restored 2005



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## Community Engagement

We have built strong partnerships with local grassroots organizations with which we design joint cultural and awareness raising activities that nurture appreciation of our cultural heritage and advance social cohesion.

### **Our accomplishments in this area include**

- More than 1,500 participants
- Around 105 workshops and activities
- Eight audiovisual productions



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## Capacity Building

OCJRP organizes various types of training courses and programs that target individuals engaged with restoration practices. We offer on-the-job training for fresh graduates, practical training for craftsmen and a series of workshops that offer macro and micro focus on restoration works. Through our short courses we offer training on carefully selected issues, while our long courses provide practitioners with an introduction to a complete list of topics related to building restoration. We have also

built a partnership with ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) through which we are developing our training curriculum and recruiting trainers.

### **Our accomplishments in this area include**

- On-The-Job Trainings provided for 55 local professionals
- Hosting 60 training courses that served over 500 course participants

A detailed GIS map of the Old City of Jerusalem, showing a complex network of streets and buildings. Several areas are highlighted in yellow, indicating specific monuments or points of interest. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent white box containing text.

## Documentation and information

Our work on documentation includes the building of detailed GIS maps for both the Old City of Jerusalem and Nablus. This map served as the basis for the revitalization masterplans that guide our interventions in both locations. Moreover, we have published a number of books and booklets about the cultural heritage of Jerusalem and Nablus.

### **Our accomplishments in this area include**

- Creation of two Databases
- Completion of two masterplans
- Production of 8 publications



## Abu Eid Family House

Myasar Ghazy abu Eid smiles as she walks through the renovated rooms of her once deteriorating old house in Jerusalem. This is the house where she lived for 53 years and raised eight boys and two girls. Myasar is still in deep pain after the death of her

21-year-old son Musa, who was killed by Israeli police while he was walking home from work listening to music on his cassette player. But the renewal of Myasar's home keeps his memory alive and ensures a future for her grandchildren.

“ My memories  
and our happiness  
are better  
preserved now.

Myasar Ghazy abu Eid



## Taawon

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