

Expected results

- 170 housing units within the Arab neighborhoods and historical buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem and the surrounding area and the Old City of Nablus are comprehensively restored.
- 15 historical buildings in the Old Cities of Jerusalem and Nablus are functionally adapted for institutional use.
- Rapid limited intervention with 200 housing units in the Old City of Jerusalem and the surrounding area.
- 3 intensive courses, 3 workshops and 12 short specialized courses are prepared in the field of cultural heritage preservation, management and documentation.
- Over 60,000 working days are provided in Jerusalem and Nablus.
- A survey database for historical and religious buildings (GIS) is developed and updated.
- A study is prepared on the situation of some Palestinian old cities and their needs are assessed.

Target groups

- Residents of the Old City of Jerusalem and the surrounding area and residents of the Old City of Nablus.
- Institutions working in the field of community service and education.
- Craftsmen and artisans working in restoration.

Duration

3 years (2011-2013)

Budget

US\$ 12 million



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A Continued Commitment to Sustainable Development
and Humanitarian Assistance in Palestine



**Old City of Jerusalem
Revitalization Program
(IPAHJ)**

Over the ages, Jerusalem has always been a city on a crossroad of multiple civilizations, suffering from successive wars and conflicts and natural and man-made disasters. The Old City of Jerusalem and its Ottoman walls have been listed by UNESCO among the World Heritage in Danger since 1981 and to date. A major challenge facing the revitalization of the Old City is how to strike the right balance between responding to the pressing economic and social needs of the population and visitors and the increasing population growth (currently, over 38,000 people are living on an area less than one square kilometer) on one hand, and the need to preserve the architectural heritage and the cultural identity of the Holy City on the other. Hence, there is a need to preserve the heritage and raise community awareness of its importance and the importance of its preservation and documentation.

Jerusalem has received special attention by Welfare Association (WA), with a major program designated for revitalizing the Old City, preserving its unique architectural heritage, protecting its identity, sustaining its landmarks, supporting the resilience of its population and responding to their urgent needs. This program has been designed according to a comprehensive development plan that corresponds to the needs and demands of the different sectors and segments.



The Armenian Museum – Old City of Jerusalem

The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program has been running an office in Jerusalem since 1995 as a technical and executive body affiliated to WA. The Program team has completed restoration of more than 457 housing projects (houses and neighborhoods) and the rehabilitation and adaptation of 60 historical buildings to be used by social, educational and cultural organizations in the Old City. The Program's efforts have been rewarded by winning the prestigious Aga Khan Award for Architecture in 2004 for its ninth round (2002-2004). Main funds were provided by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Islamic Bank, Arab Funds, the European Union (EU) and The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) among others.

Program's goal	Preserve the architectural heritage of historical cities in Palestine, especially the Old City of Jerusalem
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate residential buildings and Arab neighborhoods and adapt the historical buildings functionally for institutional use in the Old Cities of Jerusalem and Nablus • Improve the living conditions of the residents of historical cities (Jerusalem and Nablus) by improving the physical, constructional and environmental situation of the architectural fabric and upgrade the infrastructure of historical buildings according to international laws and standards for heritage preservation. • Build capacity and competences in heritage preservation through training programs for professionals, contractors and laborers and improve the economic situation of the residents of the Old Cities by creating job opportunities for youth • Document historical buildings and architectural landmarks according to international standards by developing a database, publishing books and brochures, and raising community awareness on the importance of preserving the architectural heritage
Areas of operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old City of Jerusalem and the surrounding areas. • The Old City of Nablus.