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Our dream

Dalia Association is Palestine's community foundation that realizes our rights as Palestinians to control our resources for our own durable development. Our mission is to mobilize and properly utilize resources necessary to empower a vibrant, independent and accountable civil society, through community controlled grantmaking. Our approach focuses on the ecological, local economy, social and cultural dimensions. We aim to strengthen community philanthropy in Palestine and the Diaspora, because we believe that everyone in our community has something to give, by contributing our talents, resources, and energies for a thriving Palestine.

How do we do it?

- Making grants to support inspirational and relevant civil society initiatives, especially grassroots efforts that seek to supplement local resources.
- Link resources by introducing people with expertise, ideas, contacts, equipment, and other assets to community activists who can use them to serve their communities. This helps decrease our dependence on outside resources.
- Hold convenings (In Arabic, Mujaawarah): to raise awareness around issues that affect the Palestinian civil society, such as the use of local resources to achieve our own durable development, creative thinking for social change, non-cash resources markets, among many other round table discussions, workshops, and field visits.
- Encourage giving by locals, companies, and Diaspora Palestinians. We revive local traditions of philanthropy and volunteerism, known as Al Ouna.
- Advocate for systemic change in the international aid system so that it respects Palestinian rights and responds to local priorities.

Our programs

Our programs are community controlled; meaning that the community decides through a voting process how each grant is spent. The community identifies its priorities and needs by holding public meetings where initiatives are discussed to address these needs and urgencies. They develop solutions and present them in another public meeting. The community then votes for the best initiatives that benefit them as an entire community including men, women, children, youth, and people with disabilities. After the voting day, a local monitoring and evaluation committee is established, to ensure accountability and transparency to the community, and the proper implementation of the initiatives. During and after implementation, we provide capacity building trainings and workshops that differ according to the priorities addressed by the communities. We also link them to our vast network of resources.



The Village Decides Program (VD)

This program focuses on the entire village, including all members, such as men, women, children, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Women Supporting Women Program (WSW)

The WSW program brings together women to mobilize local resources for local or regional projects of their choice. This program is entirely run by women, and extends funding solely to women's organizations or individuals with an aim to benefit their local community.

IBDA' Youth Program

We established the IBDA' youth -controlled grant-making program in 2016, to create an enabling environment for the participation of youth in the Palestinian economy. The program focuses on enhancing opportunities for youth to become leaders in their communities.

Our Funds

Jerusalem Fund

The Palestinians in Jerusalem suffer from the Israeli Occupation on a daily basis. Israel has worked extensively on decreasing the city's Palestinian population. Various methods have been adopted to achieve this objective at the expense of Palestinians. These include the isolation of Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank, discriminatory policies on constructions, residency, land appropriation, and access to water, healthcare, and education, among many others. This fund aims to support Palestinian community priorities in Jerusalem, such as education, home demolitions, unemployment and other issues depending on the constantly changing priorities in the city and its vicinity.

Gaza Fund

Gazans have lived under the Israeli blockade for over 10 years. The Gaza fund aims to support Palestinian community priorities and help them address the many issues they face on a daily basis. Consecutive attacks on the strip have resulted in tremendous damage to the infrastructure, creating a major human crisis. The last attack of 2014 resulted in the displacement of 65,000 families, making them homeless. The Gazans live in extreme poverty and struggle to access proper healthcare and safe drinking water. Farmers are unable to produce food, because of the damage to green houses and tree orchards. These are but a few problems faced by the people of Gaza. This fund aims to support Palestinian community priorities in the Strip.

The Education Fund

The Education fund, in partnership with Esnad Student Support, aims to send students to get a higher education. In return, these students give back to their local communities by tutoring schoolchildren in different subjects, such as math, Arabic, English and sciences, in order to enhance their academic performance.

Community Funds

Because we seek independence from traditional aid, many communities we have previously worked with, decide to establish their own village funds or women funds to allocate their resources towards their own needs and priorities.

Dukkan- Our second hand shop

Dukkan is Dalia's effort to make effective use of the resources available in our country, and to decrease waste going to landfills, thus decreasing pollution. The shop also increases access of needed goods at a budget price, so that everyone in our community can purchase what they need. This generates income for the Dalia Association, and increases the number of our community-controlled grants, so that more people in our community can benefit from these grants, therefore decreasing our dependence on external resources. The initiative embodies the concept of community philanthropy; as there are no donors and beneficiaries, rather everyone is a donor.

Engaging the Diaspora and Friends

In partnership with To Be There, we established the Diaspora-Solidarity Volunteer Program in order to engage the Palestinian Diaspora and our friends in solidarity in voluntary activities. In the 10-day program, participants will learn about the political reality for Palestinians living under Occupation since 1948. In addition, volunteer workdays are organized in various local communities and villages.

For those participants interested in extending their visit beyond the program, Dalia Association matches the volunteers' skills and knowledge with a community, where they will serve in a specified capacity based on the identified needs and priorities of the community.

