

بذور للإنماء الصحي والاجتماعي

Juzoor for Health & Social Development



# Annual Report

## 2018



## About Juzoor for Health & Social Development

Juzoor is a Palestinian non-Governmental organization working at the national level, dedicated to improving and promoting health as a basic human right. Juzoor (“roots” in Arabic) was established in 1996 by a group of Palestinian experts and pioneers in various fields, particularly the field of community health.

Founded in 1996, Juzoor is a Palestinian non-governmental organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of Palestinian individuals, families, and communities. The name Juzoor (‘roots’ in Arabic) is evidence of our commitment to addressing the underlying socioeconomic determinants of health and wellness. Our holistic approach to health promotion and disease prevention reflects our belief that health (physical, emotional, mental, and social) is a basic human right for all people.

Juzoor works on multiple levels with community-based organizations, service providers, governmental bodies, international organizations, and the community at large (particularly women, children and youth). We operate in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza.

### **Vision**

*A Palestinian society where all individuals enjoy well-being and health”*

### **Mission**

*To promote well-being and health as a right for all members of the Palestinian society by influencing health and social policies and creating innovative, sustainable development models*

### **Values**

**Objectivity** and non-bias in serving the community

**Respect** for dignity and human rights

**Commitment** to, and honoring of Palestinian development priorities

**Excellence** and creativity

**Evidence-based**, results-based methodologies

**Partnership** with the community and institutions

**Independence**, progressive ideology, and social justice

To achieve its mission, Juzoor works on three programmatic areas:

### **1. Continuous Professional Development**

Continuous professional development is an important strategy for quality improvement in the health and social sectors. Juzoor's CPD Unit contributes to improving the performance of health and social service providers.

### **2. Community Development**

Juzoor tackles critical emerging public health issues through the Community Development Program. This program seeks to empower individuals and groups with the skills needed to effect change within their communities. It encompasses prevention as well as intervention from the individual to community level by addressing the social determinants of health, including poverty, gender equity, political dependence, socio-economic equality, and education.

### **3. POLICY and ADVOCACY**

Advocacy for Policy Development is Juzoor's program that aims to influence and contribute to the development of health and social policies, in line with the needs of the Palestinian community.

## Message from the Chair of the Board

It is with great pleasure that I present to you Juzoor's 2018 Annual Report. Founded in 1996, Juzoor remains at the forefront of efforts to improve the lives of all Palestinians and continues to make progress towards health and social development. Two key elements have helped us implement a successful health and social development strategy. The first is our active integration of core values into program initiatives; by ensuring that each initiative reflects our vision and mission, Juzoor remains unique in its holistic, rights-based approach to health. The second is our effective engagement with a range of stakeholders, from community health workers and health providers to Ministry of Health officials and national legislators. The breadth and depth of our work allows us to ensure that national policies reflect the needs of communities.



We have demonstrated time and again that the most successful health and social development efforts are those that actively prioritize, promote, and protect rights and empower people to make informed choices. Our three core programmatic pillars of Community Empowerment, Continuous Professional Development, and Policy Dialogue and Advocacy address health rights, empowerment, and equity through innovative, community-focused, and collaborative approaches. In all our endeavors, we strive to pave the way for health system strengthening and community empowerment, setting the pace for others rather than accepting the status quo.

We are deeply grateful for the support of our funders and partners, whose partnerships are vital to our ability to maintain high quality programs. Finally, our accomplishments were also made possible by the invaluable input and hard work of our dedicated staff and remarkable Board of Directors.

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**Saro Nakashian Chair of the Board**

## Letter from the Executive Director

It is with utmost pride that I present to you Juzoor's annual activities report for 2018. In the midst of political, social, and economic uncertainty, Juzoor continues to spearhead community health and social development initiatives that make a real difference in the lives of Palestinians. As this report demonstrates, Juzoor's health workforce strengthening and community empowerment programs provide much-needed access to healthcare and social development. Our organization is renowned for its unwavering dedication to the well-being of Palestinians, collaborative team dynamics, and high standards of integrity. As a consequence of these attributes, Juzoor remains a leading actor in addressing today's health and social challenges, most notably by offering technical support to other agencies involved in the provision of health services across Palestine.



Throughout 2018, Juzoor remained at the forefront of national and local health sector reform, providing technical support to the emerging health workforce and empowering communities to advocate for their right to health. Through its Community Empowerment program, Juzoor has bolstered women's awareness of their rights to reproductive health and protection from gender-based violence. Similarly, Juzoor has provided youth in vulnerable communities with a platform to voice their perception of Palestinian identity and to participate freely with one another in national dialogue. Juzoor's flagship Continuous Professional Development program continues to provide a number of internationally accredited training programs to improve the professional level of health staff and providers

***I am confident that with continuous and steadfast support from our staff, affiliates and partners, we at Juzoor will continue to drive social and health development in Palestine.***

**Dr. Salwa Najjab Executive Director**

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## PROGRAMS

### CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



#### OUR REACH in 2018

- **623 health care providers trained in American Heart Association Courses (AHA)** under our license as an accredited American Heart Association International Training Center
- **106 doctors and nurses trained** in Helping Babies Breathe (HBB)
- **21 doctors and midwives trained** in Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO)
- **20 surgeons trained in Basic Surgical Skills (BSS)** in cooperation with the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh
- **1441 community members trained** on Hands Only- CPR
- **20 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) doctors and nurses trained** in Basic Assessment & Support in Intensive Care
- **20 emergency room providers trained** in Trauma Team Training (TTT)
- **39 Neonate ICU doctors and nurses trained** in Neonatal Resuscitation (**NRP**)
- **39 Healthcare providers trained** in Ethical Dimensions in Medical and Health Practice
- **6 nurses** from Augusta Victoria and Al Makassed Hospitals were trained in kidney dialysis at the American University of Beirut

- **4 nurses** from Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR) were trained in cardiac surgery and heart machine operation to support the newly opened heart center at BASR
- **1 Internal Medicine Curriculum** for residents developed and endorsed by the Ministry of Health

## OVERVIEW



A cadre of health professionals trained in the latest evidence-based methods and practices is a key component of a well- functioning health system, one that is adaptable to meet the needs of the population. In line with Juzoor's belief that an effective health system is one that can adapt to meet the needs of the population, the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Unit was established in 2003 as a strategic instrument to improve health and social services in Palestine. The CPD contributes to performance improvement of health providers through standardizing skills according to evidence-based guidelines and practices, improving access to high-quality care, and facilitating interactions and dialogue between Palestinian health providers. Over the last decade, Juzoor has focused on implementing a number of activities in the CPD to upgrade the knowledge base and to improve the technical skills and performance of providers in various service settings throughout Palestine. Juzoor's philosophy is that human resource development is a crucial element in not only developing skills, knowledge, and attitudes, but also in helping to create an enabling environment whereby organizations can perform effectively, efficiently, and in a sustainable manner.

Our programs are based on the latest evidence-based information, delivered with the highest quality, incorporate innovative and dynamic methodologies, and follow a specific lifecycle (see below). All of our



courses draw upon adult learning principles and emphasize practical knowledge, skills-based simulations and drills, group learning exercises, and self-study and preparation (including some online course work).

The Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Program addresses Juzoor's strategic goal of "contributing to supporting and upgrading the health and social status of the Palestinians." Thus, the aim of the CPD Program is to develop the performance of health and social service providers by:

- Enhancing capacity of health and social service providers in their respective fields through offering evidence-based programs that standardize skills and knowledge
- Developing curricula, manuals, job aids and endorsed protocols for training in various health and social subjects
- Developing strategic coalitions and relations with relevant individuals and institutions
- Introducing and sustaining internationally accredited training programs. In 2012, Juzoor became the first American Heart Association accredited training center in Palestine; Juzoor also provides the American Academy of Family Physicians' Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) training.

Through the implementation of a number of professional development activities, Juzoor aims to upgrade the knowledge base and improve the technical skills and performance of health care and service providers in various settings both in Palestine and the region. The organization's philosophy is founded on the principle that a cadre of health professionals who are trained in the latest evidence-based methods and practices are a key component to a well-functioning health system that is adaptable to meet the needs of the population. Given this, continuous professional development is an important strategic instrument for improving health and social services. CPD contributes to performance improvement of health providers through standardizing skills according to evidence-based guidelines and practices. It also facilitates access to high-quality care, improves the quality of interactions between providers, and facilitates dialogue.

Juzoor develops and invests in national teams of trainers in various specialties to deliver training programs according to the latest scientific updates and best practices. Juzoor-affiliated instructors come from diverse backgrounds, representing major stakeholders in the health sector (Ministry of Health, UNRWA, NGOs and private practice), health and teaching institutions (universities, medical schools, nursing colleges and hospitals implementing residency training programs) from all across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In addition, Juzoor forms strategic alliances on a national basis with bodies such as the Palestinian OB/GYN and Pediatric Societies, the Medical Syndicate and the Palestinian Medical Students' Union, to ensure the sustainability of CPD activities. Finally, we maintain contact with our instructors, and current and former trainees through a database, which allows us to organize periodic follow-up activities and distribute updates, and new evidence-based information as it becomes available.

In all CPD activities, Juzoor targets providers from various sectors including the Ministry of Health, UNRWA, NGOs and private practitioners.

### **Strengthening emergency systems**

The health care system in Palestine is strained to the breaking point with population health needs outpacing system resources. Emergency departments draw a large, young patient population with high levels of critical illnesses and mortality, and are under-resourced, minimally organized, and often staffed by providers with no specialized training in emergency care. This combination of large volumes, high acuity, and low quality makes a compelling case for investing in emergency care, with several examples showing that dramatic improvements in health outcomes can be achieved – and measured – with targeted interventions.

With support from its partners, during 2018, Juzoor implemented a series of training and capacity building interventions to support the emergency system in Palestine, including:

**Improving triage and trauma care in emergency rooms:** With support from the World Bank Group and Yale University, Juzoor conducted an assessment of the Ministry of Health (MOH) emergency departments in the West Bank and Gaza to determine areas of needed support and interventions. The assessment was based on an instrument that primarily collected hospital administrative data and patient data from medical records and patient observation. Data collected and analyzed served to design an intervention that focused on improving emergency triage at major emergency care centers in Palestine and to implement checklists for medical and trauma. Juzoor implemented a series of meetings, training activities, and monitoring and support visits to ensure that the intervention is implemented and integrated within the emergency departments.

#### ***Triage Training in the West Bank and Gaza***

The purpose of the training was to provide emergency department doctors and nurses with the knowledge and skills to effectively triage patients

in the emergency room using the WHO triage tools including the Medical Emergency Checklist and Trauma Care Checklist.



*At Mohtasib Hospital, every doctor and nurse was trained on the triage checklists. The doctors and nurses were able to implement the checklists in the ER especially when a high number of patients entered the ER in January from accidents due to cold weather.*

In an effort to grow the blessing of the P

Al Watani Hospital started implementing the triage checklists and hung the triage posters in the ER department. They designated a “hot line” and “cold line” for red/yellow cases and green cases, respectively, to triage patients depending on their priority for care and according to triaging criteria. This was a success in minimizing waiting time and being able to see all patients that came into the ER.

ians; Juzoor, with the support and the faculty of emergency medicine,

discuss the development of a national, standardized curriculum for the emergency medicine residency program. In 2018 Juzoor hosted Dr. Abdel Nouredin, an emergency physician who works at the St. Mary Medical Center and Richland Memorial Hospital in Chicago, USA. He is a fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians and has received several international awards from various universities including Al Ain University for Science and Technology in UAE where he worked on the development of the emergency medicine curriculum for the residency program. Dr. Nouredin Met ER Staff at the Palestinian Medical Complex and he was familiarized with the emergency medicine residency program. With support from Juzoor, Dr. Nouredin held an **Ultrasound Training at the Palestinian Medical Complex** for both ER and surgical residents and interns. The training described the proper approach and protocol to use ultrasound in any clinical exam in the emergency room and gave participants to practice using the ultrasound device.

***Emergency Medicine Faculty at Juzoor meets to discuss the review and update of the emergency medicine curriculum***

Dr. Nouredin shared his work on building an emergency medicine residency program at Tawam Hospital in the UAE to be used as a module for updating the existing emergency medicine curriculum.

Additionally, during the year, Juzoor continued to offer its standard, quality courses in the following areas:

**Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) Course**

Juzoor held one ALSO course in Gaza Strip for a total of **21 health-care providers** supported by the Taawon grant. ALSO is an evidence-based educational program designed to assist healthcare professionals in developing and maintaining the knowledge and procedural skills needed to manage emergencies that can arise in obstetrical care. The ALSO training curriculum address issues such as complications of pregnancy, labor and delivery, postpartum hemorrhage, safety in maternity care, and maternal resuscitation. In 2004 Juzoor obtained an exclusive license from the American Academy of

Family Physicians (AAFP) to offer this course in the West Bank and Gaza, making Palestine the second country in the Arab world to implement ALSO trainings.

**ALSO  
International  
Conference:**



*Photo: Juzoor ALSO faculty at the International ALSO meeting in Seattle,*

*WA, USA*

As part of Juzoor's outreach and advocacy, Juzoor's arranged for two ALSO instructors from the West Bank to attend the ALSO International conference in Seattle, USA to receive the updates on the ALSO curriculum and maintain the international faculty licenses. Juzoor's Director and ALSO Advisory Faculty, Dr. Salwa Najjab, as well as ALSO instructor Dr. Ahmed Alsarahna, attended the conference.

### **Basic Surgical Skills Course (BSSC)**



Funded by the Islamic Bank, Juzoor the held Basic Surgical Skills (BSS) Course which is endorsed by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and is jointly implemented with Juzoor, Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH), Palestinian Surgeons' Society, and the Palestinian Medical Council, for a total of **20** Surgeons from MOH and NGO hospitals.

The Basic Surgical Skills (BSS) Course is designed to introduce surgical

trainees to safe surgical practices utilizing demonstrations and hands-on skills-stations that emphasize proper surgical techniques. It sets the standard for safe, basic surgical techniques common to all forms of surgery including safe abdominal incision and excision of lesions, the suturing of skin, bowel and blood vessels, and tying of knots, handling sutures and surgical instruments. The practical stations involve the use of surgical instruments on animal tissue models.

### **Helping Babies Breathe (HBB) Course**

Juzoor, in cooperation with the Palestinian Pediatric Society, sponsored by LDS Charities through the BYU Jerusalem Center, and under Taawon project, held 2 HBB courses in Ramallah, and Gaza Strip for a total of **106 health-care providers**

HBB is an evidence-based educational program for neonatal resuscitation in resource-limited settings. HBB is an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Saving Newborn Lives, the National Institute of Child Health and Development, and the Laerdal Foundation.

A key concept of HBB is The Golden Minute: within one minute of birth, a baby should be breathing well or should be ventilated with a bag and mask. The Golden Minute identifies the steps that a birth attendant must take immediately to evaluate the newborn and stimulate breathing. Participants in this course become proficient in skills for handling newborn resuscitation and learn to integrate resuscitation into a wider plan of essential care for all newborns.

### **Neonatal Resuscitation in Pediatrics (NRP) Course**

Juzoor for Health & Social development in cooperation with the Palestinian Pediatric Society, sponsored by LDS Charities through the BYU Jerusalem Center held 2 NRP courses for a total of **39 Doctors & Nurses** from MOH, NGOs, & UNRWA.

The Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP) is a standardized course of the American Heart Association designed to improve providers' knowledge and skills in resuscitation of the newborn.

### **Trauma Team Training (TTT)**

Juzoor held Trauma Team Training (TTT) is endorsed by McGill University - Canada and is jointly implemented with Juzoor, and the Palestinian Medical Council, for a total of **20 Healthcare Providers** from MOH and NGO hospitals.

Trauma and Disaster Team Response is a low-cost course designed to teach a multidisciplinary team approach to trauma evaluation and resuscitation.

Through an inter-professional approach, this course aims to improve teamwork skills and clinical





practice relevant to trauma management. It highlights efficient use of resources and improvements of care provided to the injured patient. The course includes didactic component skills workshops and team building exercises simulation and case studies.

The general course objective is to create effective and competent trauma teams in emergency departments of resource-poor centers. After this training, each team should be able to call on individuals to perform specific skills and manage the injured patient.

### **Basic Assessment & Support in Intensive Care**

Juzoor held Critical Care Course for a total of **20** Healthcare Providers from MOH and NGO hospitals. The aim of the BASIC course is to teach participants to rapidly assess seriously ill patients and provide initial treatment and organ support. Topics the course covers include airway management, acute respiratory failure, mechanical ventilation, and management of shock, severe sepsis.

### **The first American Heart Association Training Center in Palestine**

In April 2012, Juzoor obtained the American Heart Association (AHA) license, making Juzoor the first ever International Training Center (ITC) in Palestine able to offer AHA accredited courses in Basic, Advanced and Pediatric Advanced Life Support, Pediatric Emergency Assessment Recognition and Stabilization( PEARS) and Heartsaver First Aid CPR. In many countries, these courses are required as basic pre-requisite for practice in healthcare settings and for professional licensure/re-licensure and are integrated into quality licensing standards for institutions (ex: Joint Commission Accreditation).

In 2018 Juzoor trained a total of **623 health providers** in AHA courses and **1441 lay people** participated in heart saver awareness sessions in Palestine

As part of its strategic approach Juzoor aims to build the capacity of individuals and institutions in providing quality emergency care by investing in training faculty and sites. It is in the process of certifying two training sites at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. By growing the network of qualified health providers and trainers Juzoor contributes to the strengthening of the health care system in Palestine.

In 2018 Juzoor grew its cadre of certified **AHA instructors to 70**; who were able to conduct **49 courses** in Palestine

To maintain its status as an AHA Training Center Juzoor strives for excellence in the training courses it provides in addition to the compliance with AHA standards and regulations; ensuring that each trainee acquires the competencies and skills necessary for certification. At the end of each training course, participants undergo a skills and knowledge exam that measures their ability to successfully master the skills and competencies intended by the course.

### **AHA training courses offered by Juzoor:**

AHA emergency courses are evidence-based courses with a standardized skills-based approach that focuses on essential life-saving measures. These courses are integrated into Continuing Professional Development (CPD) systems in countries around the world as important continuing education tools for health providers. All AHA courses are hands-on trainings and involve practical skills training on mannequins.

***Heartsaver First Aid CPR (HSFA):*** Heartsaver First Aid CPR is a comprehensive first aid training course that provides hands-on practice in managing medical emergencies and injuries as well as environmental emergencies for lay people. CPR skills, safe use of AED, and management of choking are demonstrated and practiced in skills stations.

***Basic Life Support (BLS):*** The Basic Life Support training of the American Heart Association (AHA) has been offered by Juzoor as an integral part of hospital and pre-hospital based emergency trainings for health staff. It is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills of a wide variety of healthcare professionals in recognizing several life-threatening emergencies. It provides training in CPR, correct usage of an AED, and how to respond to choking in a safe, timely and effective manner. BLS is a hands-on course which utilizes mannequins and DVD teaching methodology.

***Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS):*** ACLS focuses on advanced life support techniques for adult victims of cardiac or other cardiopulmonary emergencies. This course is offered for doctors and nurses working in emergency rooms as well as ICUs and CCUs.

***Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS):*** The PALS Course is for healthcare providers who respond to emergencies in infants and children. Participants include personnel in emergency response, emergency medicine, intensive care and critical care units such as physicians, nurses, paramedics. Juzoor believes this course is important to improve children's access to life-saving, specialized emergency care, a need particularly relevant in Palestine given the population demographics.

***Pediatric Emergency Assessment Recognition and Stabilization (PEARS):*** The PEARS Course aims to improve outcomes for pediatric patients by teaching students to assess, recognize, and manage respiratory emergencies, shock, and cardiopulmonary arrest until the child or infant is transferred to an advanced life support provider.

***Hands-Only CPR Awareness:*** Almost 70% of cardiac arrests occur at home and only 45% of cardiac arrest victims receive CPR from bystanders. The AHA offers a variety of programs that Instructors can offer communities and schools to teach them about the importance of learning CPR and acting quickly in an emergency.

From January to December 2018, Juzoor was approached by several organizations to organize AHA courses for the following target groups: Employees, medical and nutrition Students, nurses and doctors.

**In total, 485 health care providers were trained in AHA courses from January – December 2018 and 1441 lay people participated in hands-**

### **only CPR awareness sessions**

Courses were held for the Palestinian Medical Complex, Canadian Representative Office, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Taawon, Palestinian International Institute (PII), IREX, Islamic Bank, Islamic University of Gaza. Non- health care providers included community members from different areas in Middle, South, & North Districts, and Gaza Strip as well.

In December 2018 during the MENA region annual AHA meeting, Juzoor's AHA Faculty participated for the third year in the steering committee.

Juzoor's BLS & ACLS faculty were also endorsed for the third year as territory faculty for BLS and ACLS in Palestine

for the MENA region.

Enabling Juzoor to endorse and monitor new sites and centers.



Photo Above: Juzoor AHA faculty at the AHA MENA Conference, December 2018

## **Partnership with East Jerusalem Hospitals**

Juzoor has a long-standing and strong partnership with East Jerusalem Hospitals (EJHs). (EJHs) are long-established institutions for Palestinians living in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza and constitute an essential part of the Palestinian health care system as the main providers of tertiary care. They consist of five non-profit charity hospitals and one rehabilitation center and vary in complexity of care and specializations offered. Since 2000 WHO has been involved in supporting the hospitals to embark on a quality improvement process that led to a

certification granted by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) for most administrative and medical services. The goal is to lead all six East Jerusalem hospitals to international accreditation. 3 have achieved accreditation and the others are pursuing it. Juzoor supports East Jerusalem Hospitals in line with Joint commission international accreditation standards for Emergency room and OR staff in providing quality emergency services by providing training for health staff on Basic Life Support and Advanced Cardiac Life Support. Both of these courses are AHA accredited

East Jerusalem Hospital Health Providers participating in short courses	
Name of course	# Trained
- Basic Life Support (BLS)	55
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)	36
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)	6
- Neonatal Resuscitation	13
- Helping Babies Breathe	20
- Basic Surgical Skills	3
- Kidney Dialysis	6
- Basic Assessment and Support in Intensive Care	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>348</b>

To further solidify the partnership, Juzoor signed memoranda of understanding with Al Makassed and Augusta Victoria hospitals outlining mutual areas of interest and support that include short and long term training and technical support, with Juzoor providing AHA courses to staff as well as scholarship opportunities for specialization in reputable training centers in the region and globally.

## A focus on Gaza

Juzoor has consistently maintained its work in Gaza and has strived to scale up and expand its presence there. Through maintaining an office and a team of capable staff and consultants, as well as a good network of partner NGOs, Juzoor has been able to provide quality interventions to support the fragile health system in Gaza. The focus of our work in Gaza ranged from providing emergency system support and training to improving infection prevention practices, providing specialization scholarship opportunities to physicians, and assessing postnatal care services.

Juzoor contributed to alleviating the emergency situation in Gaza in context of mass demonstrations taking place at the Eastern border of the Gaza Strip as part of the 'Great March of Return' by arranging for two trained graduated doctors (1 male and 1 female), who participated in the BLS/ACLS training conducted by Juzoor for community health professionals, to join Caritas' mobile medical team. These teams were located near the camps and received patients in the field. Juzoor connected volunteers with partners in order to provide support at field medical points to handle the large number of casualties. "STOP the Bleed" and post-operative wound care booklets were translated and distributed to providers. The booklets include bleeding control basics such as how to ensure personal safety, how to stop the bleed by applying pressure, and when and how to use a tourniquet.

In 2018 Juzoor initiated the quality improvement collaborative approach in infection prevention and control (IPC) for primary and secondary health care partner in Gaza to introduce infection prevention standards, concepts of quality and safety in health care, the importance of hand hygiene as a basis for infection prevention, standard precautions, and identify the needs and gaps through a quality collaborative approach. Follow-up meetings and site visits were conducted on a regular basis and technical material and resources were distributed to partner organizations.

The same quality improvement collaborative approach was implemented for patient safety in safe surgery for hospitals including Ahli Arab Hospital, St. John's Eye Hospital and Dar Essalam Hospital. Juzoor conducted workshops and meetings to highlight the needs of safe surgery and coached partners by introducing the World Health Organization (WHO) safe surgery concepts and the implementation of the WHO surgical safety checklist in the operating room. Follow-up meetings and site visits were conducted on a regular basis and safe surgery resources were distributed to partner organizations.

### Participants in short courses from Gaza

Name of course	# Trained
- Heart Saver	56
- Basic Life Support (BLS)	167
- Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)	107
- Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS)	12
- (PALS) Instructor Course	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>348</b>



To date, Juzoor has prepared a BLS, ALCS and PALS faculty (a team of instructors) cooperating with the ministry of health and universities to identify capacities and most recently accredited Hayat center at the Islamic university as a site for AHA trainings affiliated to Juzoor.

Working with local partners is key to the success of Juzoor in Gaza, these include the Ministry of Health, Medical Relief Society, Al Ahli Hospital, Al Quds University, Juzoor has and Medecins Du Monde.

Caring for the health of mothers is also a part of our mission in Gaza. In 2018 Juzoor completed an assessment of the postnatal care program implemented by UNICEF. The assessment was done with support from the Ministry of Health. Following up on its work on Maternal Health, Juzoor has begun implementing the “You Are Life” project to improve maternal and infant health in marginalized districts in Palestine.

## **Scholarship Program – Subspecialty Training for Palestinian Doctors and Nurses**

Juzoor for Health and Social Development (Juzoor), funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development through Taawon and the Palestine International Institute (PII) is facilitating the medical specialty and subspecialty and Nursing Training for Palestinian Doctors and Nurses in various countries including the UK, Lebanon, Jordan and Canada through joint partnerships with the Foundation for Al Quds University Medical School (FQMS), and the American University of Beirut (AUB). The program offers opportunities for training in vital areas where there is a shortage in specialists in aiming to support the development of human resources in the health sector and ensure the availability of trained, qualified medical specialists in Palestinian health institutions.

Training in the UK is in partnership with Al-Quds Foundation for Medical Schools in Palestine (FQMS) and follows the framework of the Royal Colleges Medical Training Initiative (MTI) for international medical graduates. The MTI scheme allows for training in the UK in many (but not all) subspecialties for a maximum period of 2 years, whereby the Colleges provide a certificate of sponsorships for approved candidates. Training in Lebanon follows the framework of the American University of Beirut (AUB) and the training in Jordan is supported by PII following the requirements of Jordanian medical institutions.

The scholarship program supports participants by covering fees, travel cost, including entry visas, accommodation fees, and a monthly stipend.

Areas of sub-specialties identified thus far as needed in Palestine include, but are not limited to: Adult Oncology, Pediatric Hematology, Nephrology (pediatric and adult), Interventional Radiology, and Intensive care, both pediatric and adult

### **Scholarships granted in 2018:**

UK Scholarships: 5 physicians were supported to obtain sub-specialty training in orthopedic surgery, laparoscopic abdominal surgery, pediatric cardiology, oncology gynecology, and hematopathology at UK hospitals including King's College Hospital, Southampton General Hospital, University College London Hospitals, and Southmead Hospital. Two doctors are still currently abroad finishing their sub-specialty training in oncology gynecology and interventional radiology, and 4 doctors have been granted scholarships and are pending placement.

Jordan Scholarships: 8 doctors and 4 nurses were supported to obtain short-term (1-2 months) specialty training and 8 doctors obtain long-term (1-4 years) specialty training at Jordan hospitals. Nine doctors are currently finishing their specialty training in Jordan hospitals, 16 doctors and 10 nurses have been granted scholarships and are pending placement at Jordan hospitals. Additionally, as part of its partnership with Bethlehem Arab Society for Rehabilitation (BASR), Juzoor supported 4 operation room nurses attend a three-month specializing in cardiovascular surgery and heart-lung machine to support the newly opened Heart Center at BASR.

Nazareth English Hospital: 2 doctors are currently finishing their specialty training at the Nazareth English Hospital in Nazareth in radiology and internal medicine, and 2 more doctors have been granted a scholarship to train there as well in radiology.

**Makassed Scholarships:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with Makassed Hospital in Jerusalem in which Juzoor agreed to support 6 doctors from Makassed hospital obtain long-term subspecialty training at Jordan and Makassed hospitals. One doctor is currently finishing subspecialty training in Rheumatology at the Jordan University Hospital and two doctors are currently finishing their subspecialty training in Cardiology and Rheumatology at Makassed Hospital.

**Lebanon Scholarships:** Supported 1 physician to obtain a five-year scholarship to the American University of Beirut (AUB) to specialize in diagnostic radiology. Juzoor also collaborated with the AUB to provide a specialized kidney dialysis course for 6 nurses from Al Makassed and Augusta Victoria hospitals. The 6 nurses completed the course in December 2018 and returned to their place of work to implement the new competencies they acquired and share them with their colleagues.

### **Ethical Dimensions in Medical and Health Practice**

As part of its effort to build the capacity of the health cadre in non-technical domains, Juzoor held a workshop of “Ethics Rounds” covering ethical dimensions in medical and health practice for the Pediatrics Residency Program in the West Bank and for the Pediatrics and Surgery residents in Gaza. A total of 39 residents attended the workshop which was conducted by Dr. Douglas Brown, the ethics educator at the Department of Surgery at the Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine and chairman of the ethics committee at the university hospital. The workshop clarified the significance and meaning of key ethical concepts and offered a conceptual framework useful for ethical analysis of medico-moral problems in a variety of professional contexts; the participants also got the opportunity to articulate their current medico- moral attitudes, and explore reasoned arguments that challenge their existing assumptions and ethical stances. Tools used for decision making in ethical cases were translated into Arabic and adapted for the Palestinian context and shared with participants. This course is offered annually as part of Juzoor’s overall training plan.



## 2- COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM



*Photo: Members of the Juzoor community empowerment team*

### OUR REACH in 2018

- 300 parents, counselors and students were trained in Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
  - 45 teachers were trained in the positive discipline model focusing on positive behavior
  - 45 parents were trained in the positive discipline model focusing on positive behavior
  - 11 Women CBOs received training and capacity building in food production and financial management
  - 1000 school children reached by the healthy lifestyle program
  - 196 health care providers were trained on diabetes prevention, screening, and management
  - 8815 people were screened for diabetes'
- 
- 6823 people benefited directly from diabetes awareness campaigns and events in universities, schools, banks, and clinics
  - 2000 people participated in a national marathon to raise awareness on the prevention of diabetes
  - 60 Women from East Jerusalem communities were trained in leadership, reproductive health, problem-solving and communication
  - 294 youth were trained in nutrition, sexual and reproductive health rights, first aid and CPR.

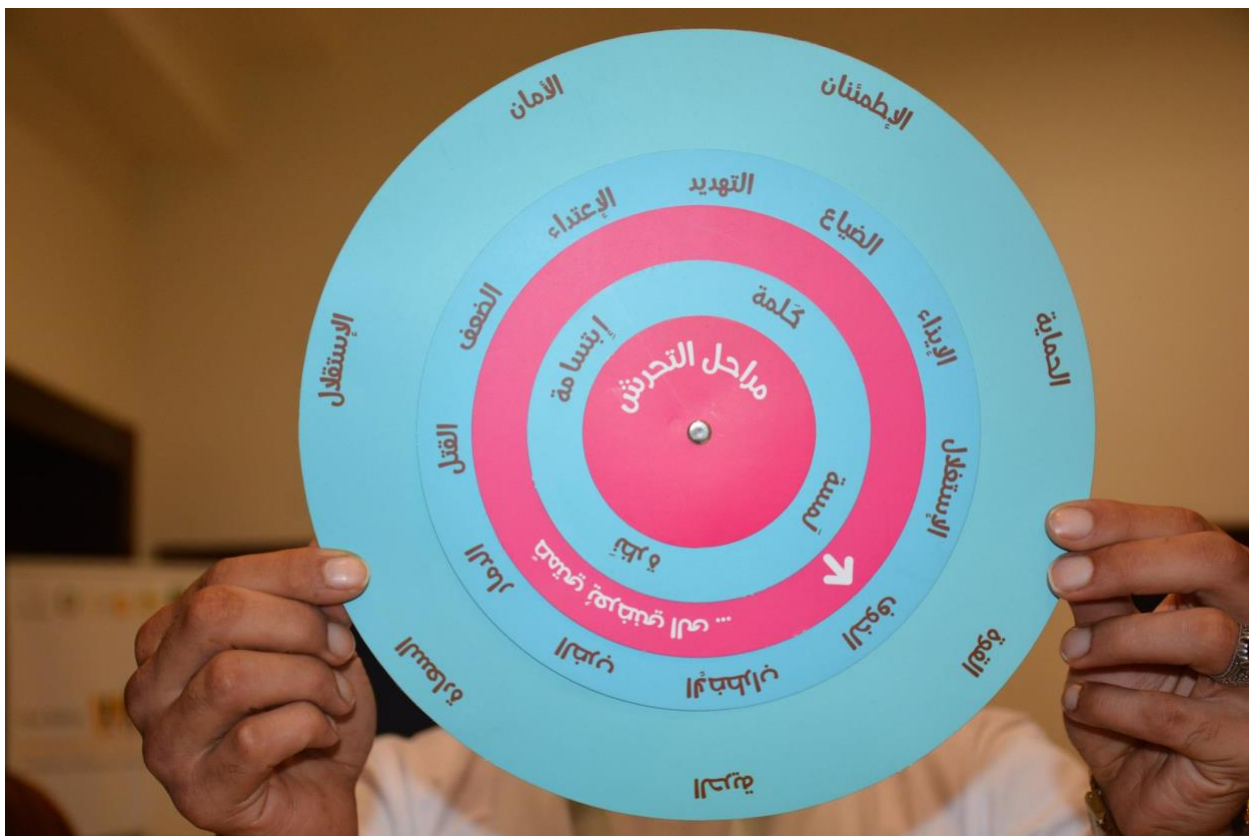
## OVERVIEW

Juzoor's Community Empowerment Program responds to the strategic aim of "contributing to supporting and upgrading the health and social status of the Palestinian people" through working on the following:

- Promoting healthy lifestyles to enhance quality of life and prevent non-communicable diseases
- Enhancing family protection by focusing on violence prevention, care, and referral
- Empowering Palestinian society, especially youth to advocate for health and social rights

The Community Empowerment Program stresses the importance of youth and women’s empowerment, supports marginalized communities, and protects families against gender-based violence through the promotion of sexual and reproductive health rights. Juzoor works directly with community members to develop solid community-based models that empower women, engage youth, and promote healthy nutrition.

## Protecting Adolescents from Gender-based Violence Through the Promotion of their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights



Through this program, Juzoor aims to increase responsiveness and willingness of duty-bearers to enforce provisions of laws in relation to corporal punishment /physical and sexual abuse and Child Protection. The interventions address the systemic nature of violence (corporal punishment/physical and humiliating



behaviors, physical and sexual abuse) against children by using the tools available within the country to engender change in parental, caregiver, teacher, and decision-makers' acceptance of such violations, ensuring that such violations are reported, documented, and addressed, and violators are held accountable, and by supporting positive discipline approaches within society.

Juzoor focused on training and building the capacity of children, teachers, and members of the child protection referral and network systems to properly identify, treat and prevent sexual violence and other forms of violence against children.

Juzoor's team was able to train 15 groups of 20-25 each group on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. The target groups varied from counselors, parents, students and protection committees in each of the targeted areas. Juzoor also trained 3 teams of 16 participants of positive discipline for everyday parents and 3 teams of positive discipline for everyday teachers.

In partnership with UNFPA, Juzoor organized the Palestinian National conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights where more than 500 individuals attended from various sectors including key stakeholders (More on the conference in the Policy and Advocacy Program section below.)

#### **Promoting healthy lifestyles and the prevention of non-communicable disease**



In the heart of the community program lies the effort to promote healthier lifestyles for all Palestinians in order to prevent non-communicable disease including diabetes and heart disease. Juzoor works with community organizations and members to raise awareness and provide tools for health promotion and ways in which to improve nutrition and increase exercise. Initiatives under this program include:

***Improving Food and Nutrition Security through Innovative School Canteen Model in Marginalized Rural Communities in the West Bank***



Improving Food and Nutrition Security through Innovative School Canteen Model in marginalized rural communities in the West Bank is a 3-year project funded by the Netherlands aiming at empowering marginalized communities in neglected areas of the West Bank (Area C and marginalized areas of selected locations (Halhoul, Biet Fajar, Bidia, Toubas, and Jeftlek). The project targets five women organizations with capacity building and training to enhance their the technical, financial, managerial, and organizational capacities, as well as to train them in food production, processing, hygiene, and food preparation. The women organization were upgraded and maintained with all the needed infrastructure and equipment to ensure sustainability and success.

Boys and girls from 20 schools within the same area were also targeted in the upgrading and maintenance for their school canteens and waiting areas.

***A total of around 10,000 school children were reached by this program***

Teachers were also targeted through mentoring courses focusing on nutrition, healthy lifestyle and hygiene, with other fields such as positive parenting, gender-based violence, and sexual reproductive health rights. Mothers of children and women themselves at the women organization received trainings in nutrition, health, hygiene; positive parenting and several awareness sessions were conducted throughout the project.

The school children, the teachers and the parents themselves have all expressed their interest in the project and their readiness to be part of activities. Juzoor received phone calls asking to include other governmental schools as part of the project for the coming year. We have also received few faxes from other women organization in the South, North and Center of the West Bank to work with them and help them upgrade the school canteen they are working in.

Continuous follow up from our field coordinators with the women in the organizations have strengthened the women, empowered their self-esteem and made them exchange ideas, opinions and challenges. “Whatsapp” groups were created for the women to exchange ideas and share some of the images of their daily work with school children.

All women associates are now equipped with all the items needed to continue their work and succeed, long after the project is over. For instance, several of the women organization are now expanding their work and business to other localities and organization within their areas, which means the project succeeded in making their work more sustainable.

Bank of Palestine decided to give women in the five women organizations we are working with a day of training about financial empowerment and banking.

Other schools have contacted Juzoor asking for joint activities with their school body involving the school children focusing on nutrition and healthy lifestyle modification; 4 school directors contacted Juzoor asking for help in the upgrading and maintenance of their school canteens for the coming academic year.

### ***Diabetes Prevention Program***

This year Juzoor put the focus on preventing diabetes through working on the national level with multiple stakeholders including the Palestinian Ministry of Health, UNRWA, Dan Church Aid, and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Through a three-year project funded by The World Diabetes Foundation aiming to implement the Diabetes Comprehensive Care Model in the North of the West Bank (Qalqilya, Tulkarem, and Nablus). The goal of the project was to implement a national community- based approach to diabetes care and prevention, adopting a holistic approach to building communities’ capacity to address NCDs especially Diabetes.

9 health centers were upgraded to be centers of excellence in the North and to act as referral centers, including 6 intermediate clinics (primary care) that became Diabetes Comprehensive Care Models. Through the centers, health care providers were trained to Provide diabetes care, management and screening for complications and were able to screen 8815 persons and raise awareness of preventive measures for diabetes and NCDs within the community. Private and public sector organizations, universities, schools, women CBOs, patients at UNRWA and MOH clinics were all targeted. Medical equipment related to diabetes screening and management was procured and delivered to the targeted clinics and are functioning to serve diabetic patients.

Additionally, Juzoor organized a national marathon in Ramallah with over 2000 participants aiming to raise awareness about diabetes screening and adopting a healthy lifestyle. Participants came from public organizations, UNRWA, MOH, women CBOs, universities, and schools.

Juzoor runs a yearly campaign in partnership with Bank of Palestine aiming to increase the awareness within the Palestinian society about lifestyle modification, diabetes, and NCDs, in one of a kind partnership between the private sector and NGOs.

### ***Lifestyle Modification and Prevention of Diabetes campaign***



The campaign this year took place over a week in the different locations in the West Bank (Nablus, Hebron, and Ramallah) and Gaza Strip. Several billboards were put around the country raising awareness about lifestyle modification from nutrition to physical activity to prevent diabetes.

Nutrition students from Birzet university department of nutrition volunteered along with Juzoor staff in the awareness-raising campaign and people were randomly screened for their risk of developing diabetes and educational materials and pamphlets were distributed to people.

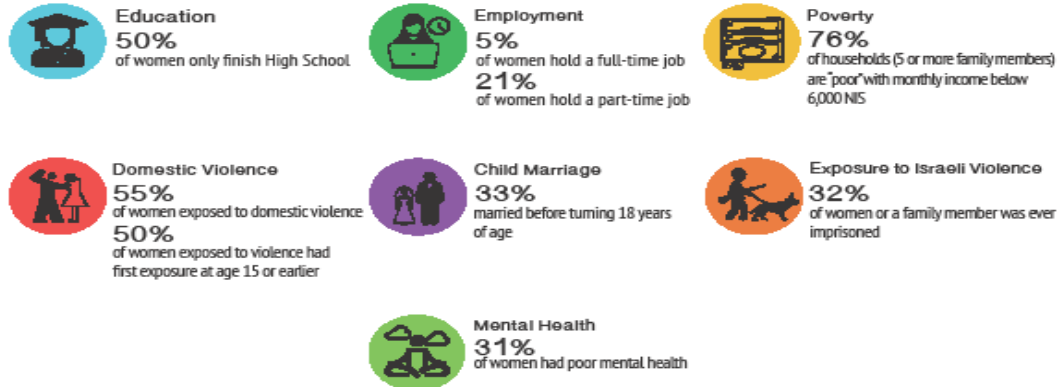


## Empowering Women in Marginalized East Jerusalem communities

### Women Empowerment in Marginalized East Jerusalem Communities

Study sample: 953 adult women (18-59) living in Old city, Tur, Jabal Mukabber, Issawiyya, Ram, and Shufat camp (2017)  
Study tool: Women empowerment was measured using WHO tool for Women's Empowerment and Leadership

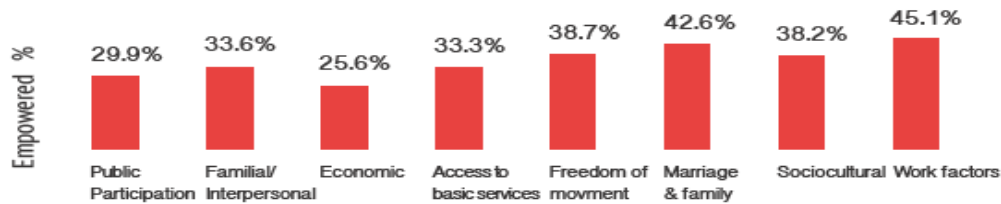
#### Background



#### Empowerment

In patriarchal contexts, tight controls are exerted on women in every sphere of their lives

18% of women felt empowered (having at least 5 of the below dimensions of empowerment)





A main strategy for Juzoor is to empower marginalized women to participate and develop leadership in the economic, social, and community life of East Jerusalem. Since there was no data on women empowerment in Palestine in general and in Jerusalem in particular; we carried out a cross-sectional study among 953 women (18-68 years) living in 6 marginalized communities in Jerusalem: Old City, Tur, Jabal Mukabber, Issawiyya, Ram, and Shufat camp to examine the determinants of women's empowerment and priority needs. Using World Health Organization (WHO) tool for Women's empowerment and leadership, we examined eight dimensions of empowerment reflecting public participation, familial/interpersonal, economic, access to basic services (health services and legal services), freedom of movement, and gender roles (marriage and family, sociocultural, and work factors).

The Study Findings showed that only 18% of women in our study were empowered. Women in marginalized communities in Jerusalem need empowerment in different dimensions, especially in economic and public participation. Based on our study, women's access to and control over resources and access to health and legal services and family decision-making is highly constrained. Age, education, employment, and residency were associated with empowerment. Shufat camp, Tur, and Old city had the smallest proportion of empowered women. Based on study findings, women are aware of their priority needs for empowerment.

Through this program, 120 women were trained to gain skills, confidence, and means to become strong leaders in their communities, the training was conducted in 6 locations, (Eisaweyyeh, Shufat Camp, Jabal Mukabber, Old City, Armenian Quarter, and Al-Ram), the work was done through women CBOS, and included topics related to reproductive health, focusing on early marriage, mental health leadership, communication skills, problem solving & advocacy, gender-based violence, Gender stereotypes; women's rights, lifestyle modifications, digital literacy training and community initiatives.

Young men from East Jerusalem were included as well and were given a training through five sessions on: Problem solving, communication skills, gender-based violence, health and, nutrition.

The women CBOs were linked Microfinance Institutions to clarify and explain the role of these financial supporters in women empowerment. At the end of the training, the CBOs proceeded with implementing community-based initiatives. The initiatives included: Raising awareness on early marriage and the education of teenage girls, working on a healthy lifestyle that included a good diet and an exercise routine, started teaching course for women on making healthy natural cosmetics, facial sessions, and haircuts, learning handmade crafts, and a "Clean Environment" initiative which included cleaning the public garden, planting it, painting walls and doors in the community.

### **Empowering Women in East Jerusalem and protecting them from GBV through strengthening protection mechanisms and referral systems**

Juzoor had started a one-year project, aiming to work with CBOs and women in East Jerusalem area. The Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem suffer socio-economic hardship as a result of Israel's systematic lack of investment in Palestinian communities and restrictions on East Jerusalem development. Women in East Jerusalem are particularly vulnerable to gender discrimination, insecurity, and marginalization due to increasing political tension and volatility combined with worsening economic and social situation.

According to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), 76% of the residents of East Jerusalem and 83.4% of the children live below the poverty line, based on poverty data of the National Insurance Institute. This compares to an average poverty rate of 21.7% and 30% among children in Israel. Despite acute poverty rates, social services available to Palestinian East Jerusalem population are restricted and continue to suffer from low budgetary allocation by the Jerusalem municipality.

The primary issue that this project seeks to address is the high rate of gender-based violence (GBV) against women in East Jerusalem. Violence against women and girls remains a serious issue, posing a significant challenge to the attainment of women's economic, social, civil and political rights. It is related to multiple levels of vulnerability, and in many communities in East Jerusalem, its consequences on women and girls' physical and psychosocial health are exacerbated by restricted access to justice, quality health services, specialized institutions and, support systems.

Also, traditional patriarchal norms and values combined with the occupation and its consequences have led to high levels of GBV in all its forms, including sexual violence, intimate partner violence, and child marriage. Participatory research, conducted by Juzoor in 2017 and examining determinants of women's empowerment and priority needs among close to 1,000 East Jerusalemite women, confirm that 55% of women have been exposed to domestic violence, with exposure to physical violence from a close relative increasing five-fold among separated, divorced or widowed women. For half of the women exposed to physical and/or sexual violence, the first exposure was at age 15 or younger. In addition to that many women in poor neighborhoods in East Jerusalem mentioned that male unemployment often leads to incidents of drug addiction, which in turn increases domestic violence against women and girls. The United Nations reports that while incidences of GBV tend to be higher in communities such as East Jerusalem (impacted by political violence, geographical fragmentation, and forced displacement), availability and access to multi-sectoral services such as case management, health, legal aid and psychosocial support are severely restricted.

The project aims to contribute to the empowerment of women and girls in marginalized communities in East Jerusalem by protecting their right to live free of GBV.

The first step of the project, completed in 2018, was the activation of the East Jerusalem Protection Network to function as a referral network for women victims, or at risk of, of GBV. Chaired by Palestinian Family Planning and Protection Association (PFPPA) in East Jerusalem, the committee started discussions on the process of development and implementation of referral protocols. Members of the network included the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, Women's Study Center, Burj Al-Iqaaq Society, Community Work Center, Old City Youth Center, Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, Caritas, Palestinian Counseling Center, Young Women Christian's Association, Sawa organization, Charitable Societies Union, Medical Relief Society, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Social Development (MoSD), Jerusalem governorate, Mehwar Shelter, and Juzoor.

Working in partnership with CBOs, women's rights organizations, and relevant government structures, Juzoor will strengthen the capacity of East Jerusalem Protection Network to function as an effective referral network. The Protection Network will be supported to institutionalize the

procedures of the National Referral System ('Takamol'). The project will support the East Jerusalem Protection Network to develop and implement referral protocols.

In 2019, the project will focus on building the capacity of the community in combating GBV, developing and updating GBV referral and management protocols, as well as mobilize the local community against GBV.

### **Improve Maternal and Infant Health in Marginalized Districts in Palestine “you are Life”**

In full consultation with the Ministry of Health (MOH) and UNRWA, Juzoor launched this project aiming to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity by decreasing the numbers of high-risk and unwanted pregnancies and reducing obstetric complications and case fatality rate in women in three clusters (Toubas and Jericho Governorates (Jordan Valley) in the West Bank and among Internally Displaced People [IDP] in North Gaza). The project concept is based on collaboration and networking among health stakeholders to mobilize skills, resources, and innovations, drawing upon best practices.



The project will contribute to quality MHC, and will introduce best practices, well-tested quality improvement approaches, and innovative technology-based methods.

This year, Juzoor initiated a baseline assessment to make information available on critical gaps in quality, access, and use of maternal services as well as challenges for improving the quality of MCH care. Based on the assessment results, a tailored intervention will be implemented to strengthen health facilities in the targeted locations. The project will demonstrate a comprehensive approach to improving MCH by promoting community mobilization around maternal, neonatal, and infant health issues. Using Behavior, Communication, Change (BCC) approaches and stimulating community self-help, it will enable community leaders, women's groups, and interested parties to be active partners in promoting their own health. This project is funded by MSD, a pharmaceutical company that aims to make a difference in the lives of people globally through our innovative medicines, vaccines, and animal health products; based in New Jersey, USA.



### 3- POLICY DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Advocacy for Policy Development is Juzoor's program that aims to influence and contribute to the development of health and social policies, in line with the needs of the Palestinian community.

As a national development organization, Juzoor works consistently and closely with the relevant institutions in Palestine (primarily the Ministry of Health, which leads the national strategy for development in the Palestinian health sector and the Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Women's Affairs). Over the past several years, Juzoor has also worked closely with UNRWA health program, the main provider of health and social services to a large segment of the Palestinian society in refugee camps and other areas where Palestinian refugees live. Juzoor prioritizes health and social policies and advocates policy development in these sectors via:

- Development of white papers on specific policies
- Participation in regional and international conferences and advocacy campaigns
- Preparation of research and development of reliable sources of information
- Involvement in policy dialogue

Juzoor is a member, co-founder and hosting organization of two national and regional health forums:

- **Palestinian Health Policy Forum**



***Photo: Members of the Palestinian Health Policy Forum***

Juzoor helped create the Palestinian Health Policy Forum and has been hosting the Forum since its inception in 2005. Juzoor believes that Health is a basic human right, and not only a biological state focusing on disease and patients, but a social, economic, and political issue that is directly connected to national development and affected by multiple factors, it is a crucial indicator of national prosperity and the degree to which a society is participating in public discourse and the commitment of national and civil

society institutions to human rights. On that basis, a group of health and development stakeholders established the Palestinian Health Policy Forum. The purpose of the forum is to strengthen and support national health policy in a manner consistent with human rights, social justice, so as to influence decision-makers to adopt policies and strategies suitable for the Palestinian development context and respond to the needs and aspirations of people ensuring universal access to quality health care.

The vision of the ***PHPF is to contribute to the creation a Palestinian health system that is able to respond to the health needs of the Palestinian people and to the challenges of the current context in an equitable manner.*** Further, to focus on the importance of public participation in planning, implementation, and evaluation of strategies; to adopt an evidence-based approach to choosing interventions and health programs, including the provision of quality health care in a manner that is sustainable and contributes to the improvement of the health situation of the Palestinian community in coordination with other development sectors.

The founders of the PHPF have found an opportunity to contribute to the reform of the health sector and to revitalize public debate related to health policies and programs in a way that is consistent with Palestinian national interest.

- **Middle East and North Africa Health Policy Forum**



Dr. Salwa Najjab, the Executive Director of Juzoor, is a Board member of the MENA Health Policy Forum (MENA HPF) established in 2008 as an independent, non-profit organization, with membership drawn from health policy researchers and experts from the MENA countries. Its mission is to contribute to the development of effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable policies that improve health and that mitigate adverse consequences of ill health, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged. The Forum is currently the only independent non-governmental health policy network in existence in the MENA region.

***Photo: Dr. Salwa Najjab, the Executive Director of Juzoor and Mr. Walid Nammour, CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital at the MENA Health Policy Forum meeting in Dubai, 2018.***



# Advocacy and Conferences

As part of its mission, Juzoor continues to advocate for and promote health for all the Palestinian people through conducting national conferences, introducing new concepts, shedding the light on critical issues, and transferring new technology. In 2018, Juzoor held the following conferences:

## **National Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health in Schools, with the theme “Youth at Crossroads**

For two consecutive days starting on Monday, May 7, 2018, Juzoor for Health and Social Development and the United Nations Population Fund held a National Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health in Schools, with the theme “Youth at Crossroads,” which carried the slogan, “one million youth in Palestine need safe transition to adulthood” to pass the adolescence stage safely.” The conference took place at the Elite Hall in Ramallah and was attended by high-level representatives, government and international sectors. In partnership with Save the Children International and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the conference was sponsored by the Minister of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE), Dr. Sabri Saidam, the Consulate General of Italy in Jerusalem, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, and the Arab Coalition for Adolescent Health.

It is worth noting that the idea of the conference stems from the strong commitment and leading role of the MoEHE on Reproductive and Sexual Health at all levels. The Ministry believes in the importance of reproductive and sexual health programs that influence and shape the personality of students - which will help them discover themselves by formulating their orientations and beliefs. In addition, this approach will help protect adolescents from the mounting economic and social dangers, especially those caused by the Israeli occupation which continues to hamper human development and stability in Palestine. This conference is a culmination of several programs implemented throughout many years by Palestinian and international civil society organizations, which aim at protecting adolescents’ health and empower their roles in society.

During these two days, the conference highlighted the importance of integrating reproductive and sexual health programs for adolescents in Palestinian schools. It also emphasized the importance of continuing the dialogue





between leaders in the education, health sectors and other sectors, in order to implement comprehensive programs that would allow education systems to include curricular and non-curricular activities, which aim to introduce reproductive and sexual health for adolescents. The conference also provided opportunities for the participants to learn about successful local and international models, initiatives and lessons learned that can be adopted. Also, it encouraged using social media tools to share informational messages to provide a dynamic and interactive space to raise awareness of reproductive health among youth & adolescents. Such suggestions were proposed to be implemented in cooperation between national partners, under the supervision of the Ministry of Education.

In a recorded speech, the President of the Arab Coalition for Adolescent Health, Dr. Fadia Al- Buhairan from Saudi Arabia, expressed her happiness in conducting this conference in Palestine and her interest in supporting Palestinian efforts in this crucial matter. Mr. Scott Anderson, Director of UNRWA Operations focused on the dangers and challenges that children and adolescents face in refugee camps. He also emphasized UNRWA's efforts to build a protection framework derived from family protection programs in Palestinian refugee camps.

H.E. Dr. Sabri Saidam reiterated the important role of the MoEHE in leading the educational path in Palestine to a future that thrives in a modern world of accelerating change. He also stressed the dangers of uncontrolled access to social media platforms, especially among adolescents, and encouraged the use of safe technological practices to make use of its positive impact.

The conference also focused on the best practices of social media platforms and the importance to raise awareness about its challenges. It also focused on the importance of partnership and cooperation between various developmental sectors and international & local civil society organizations to coordinate efforts and work towards enhancing reproductive and sexual health in Palestine.

It is also worth noting that the conference presented important studies from different Arab countries like Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Egypt which helped enrich the theme of the conference by sharing and exchanging various experiences from other countries.

In the last session of the conference, key recommendations and conclusions were presented which addressed the importance of integrating reproductive and sexual health in Palestinian educational curricula. Also, a committee was formed to follow up on the recommendations and come up with concrete interventions. The committee includes members from national and international organizations in addition to experts in the field of reproductive and sexual health and rights.

## The 6<sup>th</sup> Conference on Nutrition entitled: Childhood Obesity & Overweight: A Time for Action



Juzoor organized the 6th conference on Nutrition “**Childhood Obesity & Overweight: A Time for Action**”. The conference was held in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Institute of Human Nutrition – Columbia University, Augusta Victoria Hospital, Nutrition Department – Ministry of Health, in cooperation with The National Committee on Nutrition, Pediatric Society and UNRWA.

The core aim of the Sixth National Conference was to provide an opportunity for the delegates to meet, interact and exchange new ideas in evidence-based interventions to combat childhood and adolescent obesity. During the conference, participants:

1. Discussed the current situation in Palestine including the nutritional status of children and adolescents.
2. Reviewed current Palestinian nutrition and NCDs programs in terms of impact, challenges, and lessons learned.
3. Shared and discussed emerging research, best practices, community-based efforts and effective national, regional, and global and policy strategies to prevent childhood overweight and obesity.
4. Presented evidence and practice-based strategies that focus on reducing inequities in high-risk, low-income communities.
5. Mobilized resources to implement drafted policies to combat obesity. Enhance the coordination and cooperation of various actors and to assess how to scale up nutrition programs and jointly tackle childhood obesity.

The conference brought together diverse stakeholders to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships and cross-sector collaborations, and to address socio-ecological factor and provided a platform to discuss the double burden of nutrition and identify important challenges to be considered when planning a national strategy to prevent childhood obesity in Palestine.

**Photo: The Minister of Health and the leading Panel at the opening of the 6<sup>th</sup> nutrition conference**



## Empowering Women in East Jerusalem



وزارة شؤون المرأة  
دولة فلسطين

إذور للانماء الصحي والاجتماعي  
Juzoor for Health & Social Development

تحت رعاية معالي وزيرة شؤون المرأة د. هيفاء الاغا  
مؤسسة جذور للانماء الصحي والاجتماعي و صندوق الأمم المتحدة للسكان ينظمون ورشة عمل بعنوان  
نعمل من أجل القدس

**"تمكين المرأة الفلسطينية في القدس"**

Under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Haifa Al-Agha, Minister of Women's Affairs,  
Juzoor for health and social development and the United Nations  
Population Fund (UNFPA) cordially workshop titled  
"Call for Action for East Jerusalem"

**Empowering Palestinian Women in East Jerusalem**

November 7th, 2018

A workshop was organized with the support of UNFPA and the Ministry of Women's Affairs to share the results of the cross-sectional study Juzoor conducted among 953 women (18-68 years) living in 6 marginalized communities in Jerusalem: Old City, Tur, Jabal Mukabber, Issawiyya, Ram, and Shufat camp to examine the determinants of women's empowerment and priority needs. Using World Health Organization (WHO) tool for Women's empowerment and leadership, we examined eight dimensions of empowerment reflecting public participation, familial/interpersonal, economic, access to basic services (health services and legal services), freedom of movement, and gender roles (marriage and family, sociocultural, and work factors).



## Building networks and alliances

Believing in the value of working in partnerships and building alliances to ensure sustainability and longevity, Juzoor expanded its network of partners this year by working with multiple leading organizations in the Palestinian health and social development sectors. More specifically, Juzoor signed memoranda of understanding and grant agreements with Al Makassed Hospital, Augusta Victoria Hospital, WAAFA, the American University of Beirut,





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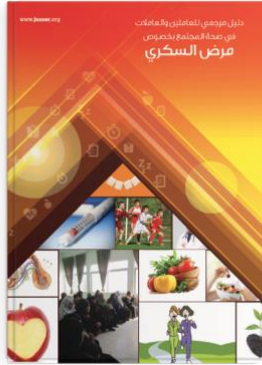
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*Health for you, me and for all*

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بذور للإنماء الصحي والاجتماعي

Juzoor for Health & Social Development

