

## 2025 Yearly Report



Cultivating Hope

Harvesting Peace

Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center continues to Plant seeds of Resilience and build bridges of understanding and peacebuilding in Palestine.

## Explore our Journey

### Preliminary Word:

In a landscape scarred by economic strangulation, suffocating movement restrictions, and the raw, bone-deep trauma of prolonged conflict, Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center serves as more than an institution; it is a sanctuary where the broken pieces of hope are painstakingly gathered and rebuilt. We move far beyond the abstract rhetoric of "peace" to reach into the lived agony of our community, repairing the "broken bonds of community" by blending the ancient, soulful wisdom of Sulha mediation with the psychosocial healing circles for children and youth. By prioritizing economic empowerment that restores not just livelihoods but a sense of human worth, we answer the quiet, desperate calls of families struggling under the weight of poverty and isolation.

Our work is a manifestation of our believe in community change, it is far from a mere dream; we go where the need is immense—into the homes, and schools in marginalized communities—to prove that no one is forgotten. This tireless dedication is rewarded by the smiles of children, dedication of youth and women and the impact we feel every day: in the firm handshake of conflicting parties who have traded vengeance for forgiveness, in the steady voices of women, children and youth who have transformed their scars into leadership, and in the defiant voices in those who refuse to stay in the margin of the society. Our quest is not for a hollow silence, but for a Just Peace—a peace that transcends political quagmires, but, through equity, human rights, and the full recognition of Palestinian rights for statehood. We invite the world to stop looking at us as a tragedy to be observed and to start standing with us as "Living Stones," planting the seeds of a future where justice is finally harvested and dignity is the air we all breathe.

### Background of our Context:

The year 2025 has been a testament to the enduring spirit of the Palestinian people, and in the face of ongoing challenges. The aftermath of October 7, 2023, reshaped life across Palestine, with movement restrictions, economic collapse, traumatic loss, and rising violence intensifying across the West Bank, placing extraordinary pressure on families—especially women, children, and youth—and leading to widespread stress and uncertainty, small disputes escalating quickly, children carrying fear into classrooms, youth cycling through anger and frustration, fractured family bonds and social disconnection, an increase in Domestic Violence, and economic collapse among families and widowed women.

In response, Wi'am Center has continued to plant seeds of peace, nurture resilience, and build bridges of understanding; our work is not just about programs, but about people—about the children finding joy in a summer camp, the youth finding a space to build their capacities and engage in community life, women finding her voice in a support group, and the community finding strengthened unity. These activities represent our holistic response to a challenging year and serve as a roadmap of how we have moved from words to transformative action across the West Bank.

The following sections detail the specific pathways through which we have translated our commitment into concrete results. These activities represent our holistic response to a challenging year—a roadmap of how we have moved from words to transformative action across the West Bank.

At the heart of our mission:

I. Mediation and Conflict Transformation (Sulha):

At the heart of our mission lies Sulha, the traditional Arab Practice of mediation. We blend this wisdom with modern conflict transformation techniques and restorative justice principles. In a year of heightened tension, our reconciliation ministry focused on transforming conflict into trust and cohesion. What we encountered:

- Widespread stress and uncertainty
- Small disputes escalating quickly
- Children carrying fear into classrooms
- Youth cycling through anger and frustration
- Fractured family bonds and social disconnection



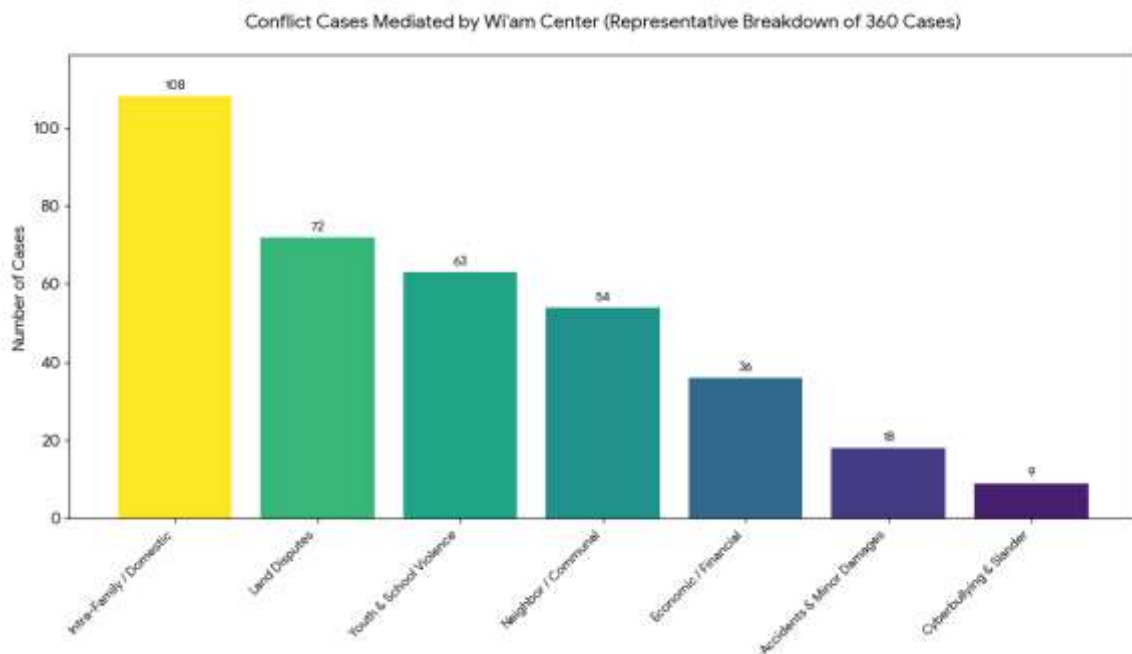
What we achieved:

- #360 conflicts resolved each a story of courage, forgiveness, and second chances
- #300 meetings and mediations consistent steps toward repairing community bonds
- Thousands indirectly influenced as reconciliation spreads stability across neighborhoods
- Every session is a step towards rebuilding the broken bonds of community and restoring peace and friendly relationships
- #10% of the cases still need further follow-up and effort to reach happy ending



### Mediation Cases by Type:

We worked across homes, families, schools, and community spaces to address family, social, and economic disputes—meeting people where they are, restoring dignity through dialogue, and binding agreements.



### Staff Capacity and Wellness

Wi'am priorities the professional and emotional growth of its team through specialized workshops designed to improve service delivery and internal cohesion. A healthy team creates healthy communities. We organized the following workshops:

- Trauma-Informed Care: Life-Line Method training; staff explored the “life-line methods”, transforming personal setbacks into professional tools for guiding others through healing.



- Effective Communication/advocacy: Active Listening and NVC, emphasizing empathy, and gaging audience needs

- Psychosocial Support: Spiritual well-being and burnout prevention

- Creative Stress Relief: Art therapy and storytelling to refresh creative thinking and build team trust.



### **Networking and Advocacy.**

Building bridges across sectors to amplify impact and drive change.

Wi'am center acts as a viral bridge between various social actors, sectors, strengthening the community through these key networking pillars and advocacy:

- Academic Mentorship: Wi'am bridged the gap between theory and practice by hosting 12 University social work students for field experience, providing them with field experience and a deep understanding of the professional responsibilities required to serve the community effectively.

### **Youth Empowerment:**

In a situation of socio-political and economic turmoil, Wi'am center is keen to amplify the voices and youth, and their proactive engagement in community change. Young people are not the leaders of tomorrow; they are leaders today. Through the year, our programs provide the tools, safe space, and leadership platforms necessary for youth to shape a future rooted in dignity and courage.

Our programs for the year 2025 reached more than 120 young people focused more on cultivating leadership enhance critical thinking and empower youth to engage multiplication activities, critical thinking, civic engagement and social initiatives.



### **Key Programs:**

**Peace Café:** We established a dynamic and inclusive safe space that hosted 70 young people on a weekly basis, representing diverse backgrounds and communities. The Peace Café serves as a platform for dialogue, providing youth with the opportunity to discuss current issues, engage in debates on social topics with key stakeholders, participate in inter-generational meetings, plan social initiatives, and contribute to peacebuilding activities.

**Volunteerism:** Youth actively participated in service projects designed to foster a sense of belonging and responsibility. Initiatives included environmental activities, such as the creation and maintenance of the Victory Garden, promoting community engagement and stewardship.

**Youth-Led Initiatives:** Twenty young mediators successfully resolved 15 peer conflicts, while twelve youth organized and facilitated inclusive activities for children, including psychosocial support programs for children with special needs at institutions like Cresh

**Youth as Multipliers:** Thirty trained youth assumed the role of peer trainers, reaching over 60 peers and 60 children through leadership, dialogue, and community-responsibility sessions, thereby amplifying the impact of youth engagement across the community.

**Green Action Activities:** Youth teams designed and implemented small-scale climate resilience projects, including home gardens, clean-up campaigns, and water-saving initiatives, fostering environmental awareness and sustainability practices.

**Storytelling and Media Workshops:** Young people received training in digital storytelling, photography, and social media, equipping them to document their initiatives and advocate for social change through creative media platforms.

**Workshop for youth:**

**Mediation and Leadership Training:** We hosted intensive Training-of-Trainers sessions for 60 young people from Bethlehem and Hebron, focusing on advocacy, peacebuilding, conflict transformation, and community organizing. Participants developed advanced skills to mediate conflicts and lead community initiatives effectively.



**Workshops for Youth:** A series of workshops was conducted for 60 young people, designed to strengthen well-being, identity, and resilience:

- **The Inner Voice vs. the World: “Who Am I?”** Monthly sessions helped youth explore their identity, strengthen self-awareness, and maintain psychological well-being amid external pressures.

**Psychological Discharge Sessions:** Bi-weekly sessions facilitated by specialists used expressive arts, mindfulness, and reflective exercises to help youth manage stress, process trauma, and build emotional resilience.



- **Spiritual and Emotional Resilience:** Guest-led discussions provided opportunities for young people to explore spiritual

wellness, identify protective factors, and enhance coping mechanisms during times of community hardship.

- **Digital and Legal Literacy:** Youth received training on cybersecurity, anti-blackmail strategies, and practical methods for recognizing and reporting online harassment.



- **Digital Safety and Leadership:** Wi'am organized workshops for 50 youth and scout leaders on navigating digital risks, turning online challenges into opportunities for leadership, and fostering safe online practices.
- **Social Media Impact:** Youth learned about the societal effects of social media, ethical digital engagement, and strategies for using online platforms to amplify social change.



### **Additional Workshops and Skills Development:**

- **Entrepreneurship and Project Management:** Youth developed skills in project planning, budgeting, and entrepreneurial thinking to design small community initiatives.

- **Creative Arts for Advocacy:** Workshops in theater, photography, and filmmaking enabled youth to use creative expression as a tool for social awareness and advocacy.
- **Peer Mentoring and Facilitation:** Training equipped youth to mentor peers, facilitate discussions, and lead community-based sessions independently.



## **Women's Programs**

### **Championing Women as Leaders and Agents of Change**

At Wi'am, we empower women not only as beneficiaries but also as leaders and catalysts for social transformation. Our approach integrates capacity building, advocacy, and community engagement to promote gender equality, protection, meaningful participation, and the prevention of gender-based violence, ensuring women are active agents in shaping safe, inclusive, and resilient communities.



### **Leadership and Capacity Building:**

- Trained 85 women and girls across Bethlehem, Hebron, and surrounding villages in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), advocacy, legal rights, civic participation, leadership, and economic empowerment. These sessions strengthened their ability to actively participate in decision-making processes, engage in community initiatives, and serve as role models for other women and girls. Participants also gained practical skills in negotiation, public speaking, and conflict mediation, equipping them to lead change at both local and community levels.

### **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Response:**

- Provided safe spaces and structured support groups for 90 women and girls, helping to break social isolation, normalize help seeking, and rebuild trust essential steps for healing and empowerment. These spaces also fostered peer to-peer support networks, enabling

women to share experiences, strategies for resilience, and safety planning.

- Facilitated psychosocial counseling sessions for 70 women and girls, offering trauma informed care to process grief, anger, and stress resulting from violence, economic pressures, and social exclusion. Sessions emphasized coping strategies, emotional resilience, and empowerment, ensuring participants could reclaim agency over their lives.
- Operated an Emergency Helpline supporting 75 women over 11 months, providing immediate crisis intervention, advocacy, and referrals. Case breakdowns included 70% physical/psychological abuse, 11% sexual abuse, and 19% cyberbullying. The helpline also served as a preventive tool, enabling early intervention to reduce further harm.

### **Advocacy and Awareness:**

- Actively participated in the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, reaching over 1,000 community members indirectly through awareness campaigns that promoted women's rights, gender equality, and prevention of violence. Campaigns employed workshops, media engagement, and public dialogues to amplify the message.



- Organized regular male-female joint dialogues on a monthly basis to challenge discriminatory social norms and structural barriers that restrict women's participation in public, political, and community life. These dialogues strengthened alliances, encouraged shared responsibility, and promoted inclusive decision-making.
- Engaged in the Women's Coalition, a network of 13 local women's organizations, to advocate collectively for women's rights, address shared social and political challenges, and lead community-led initiatives such as International Women's Day campaigns. The coalition also fosters preventive strategies against GBV through policy advocacy, community education, and public mobilization.



**She Builds Peace (SBP) Campaign: Advancing Women, Peace, and Security (WPS):**

- **Empowering Women as Peacebuilders:** Equipped women in Bethlehem with targeted skills in peacebuilding, conflict mediation, and negotiation, enabling them to act as active agents of change within their communities.
- **Strengthening Community Engagement:** Significantly increased women's participation in community conflict resolution and local mediation initiatives, fostering inclusive decision-making and collaborative problem solving.

- **Policy Influence and WPS Advocacy:** Engaged local policymakers and stakeholders to promote the meaningful inclusion of women in peace processes, governance structures, and community-level decision-making, in line with the principles of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.
- **Visibility and Recognition:** Amplified the voices of women peacebuilders through public forums, advocacy campaigns, and community dialogues, demonstrating the critical role of women in sustainable peace and social cohesion.

### Advancing Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) – Leadership, Participation, and Protection

At Wi'am, we empower women not only as beneficiaries but as leaders, peacebuilders, and catalysts for social transformation. Our comprehensive approach integrates capacity building, advocacy, protection, and community engagement, ensuring women's meaningful participation in public life, promoting gender equality, and preventing gender-based violence.

#### *She Builds Peace (SBP) Campaign*

- **Empowering Women as Peacebuilders:** Equipped women in Bethlehem with targeted skills in peacebuilding, conflict mediation, and negotiation, enabling them to actively contribute to community resilience and conflict transformation.
- **Strengthening Community Engagement:** Significantly increased women's roles in local mediation and community conflict resolution initiatives, fostering inclusive and collaborative approaches to social challenges.
- **Policy Influence and Advocacy:** Engaged local policymakers to enhance women's inclusion in peace processes and governance structures, in line with the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.
- **Visibility and Recognition:** Amplified women peacebuilders' voices through public forums, advocacy campaigns, and community dialogues, showcasing their critical role in advancing sustainable peace.

#### *Leadership and Capacity Building*

- Trained 85 women and girls across Bethlehem, Hebron, and surrounding villages in UNSCR 1325, advocacy, legal rights, civic participation, leadership, and economic empowerment. Training

included practical skills in negotiation, public speaking, and community organizing to strengthen women's influence in decision-making at both local and regional levels.



### *Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Response and Protection*

- Provided safe spaces and structured support groups for 90 women and girls, breaking social isolation, fostering trust, and encouraging help-seeking behaviors.
- Facilitated psychosocial counseling sessions for 70 women and girls, offering trauma-informed care to process grief, stress, and anger arising from violence, economic pressure, and social exclusion.
- Operated an Emergency Helpline, supporting 75 women over 11 months, addressing cases of physical/psychological abuse (70%), sexual abuse (11%), and cyberbullying (19%). The helpline also served as an early-prevention mechanism, mitigating further harm.



### *Advocacy, Awareness, and Male-Female Alliances*

- Actively participated in the 16 Days of Activism against GBV, indirectly reaching over 1,000 community members with awareness campaigns promoting women's rights and the prevention of violence.
- Organized monthly male-female dialogues to challenge discriminatory social norms and structural barriers limiting women's public and political participation.
- Engaged in the Women's Coalition, a network of 13 local women's organizations, to collectively advocate for women's rights, address shared social and political challenges, and lead campaigns such as International Women's Day.

### *Forums and Policy Dialogue*

- **High-Profile WPS Forum:** Hosted a landmark forum with 40 women peacebuilders, activists, and representatives from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, key stakeholders, and male allies to mark 25 years of UNSCR 1325, amplifying women's voices and highlighting their essential role in fostering inclusive, resilient communities.

- **Strategic Policy Dialogues:** Organized four high-level sessions with decision-makers, local government officials, and relevant ministries, addressing:
  - - **Discriminatory Laws and Practices:** Identifying legal and policy barriers and exploring amendments to strengthen women's rights.



- **Barriers to Participation:** Examining obstacles to women's engagement in leadership and decision-making processes.
- **Strengthening Institutional Responses to GBV:** Developing actionable recommendations to enhance governmental and community mechanisms for preventing and responding to violence against women



#### Conferences and Public Engagements

- **25th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 Conference (Bethlehem):** Hosted 60 activists and women's groups to reflect on women's participation in public and political life and explore pathways for greater civic engagement.
- **National High Committee to Combat Violence Against Women (Ramallah):** Reviewed progress on the Third National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, emphasizing protection, referral procedures, and collective accountability amid escalating social and occupation-related violence.



- **National Forum on Women’s Leadership (Ramallah):** Explored strategies to enhance women’s leadership, resilience, and access to justice, including briefings on UN Human Rights outcomes and the launch of the National Steering Committee for women and girls’ protection.



## *International Engagements*

- Zoughbi Zoughbi the director of Wi'am: Participated in the **Arab-Asian Peace Dialogue (Amman)**



- Lucy Talgieh participated in **Act for Palestine (Barcelona), “Our Strategies, Our Peace” (Portugal)**



- Imad Nassar the program Manager Participated in **“Centering Women, Peace and Security in the Humanitarian-Development-**

**Peace Nexus” (Vienna),** focusing on localizing the WPS agenda within the Triple Nexus framework and advancing women’s meaningful participation in peacebuilding globally.



### **Wi’am Women’s Club**

#### **Weekly Gatherings for Women and Girls:**

- The Women’s Club provides a consistent and welcoming safe space for 70 women and girls from Bethlehem, Hebron, and surrounding villages. These gatherings are designed to foster social connection, personal growth, and collective empowerment. Activities include sharing and processing suppressed emotions, participating in recreational and health awareness sessions, attending cultural and heritage outings, and engaging in handicraft and creative workshops.



- Monthly discussion sessions are held to address challenges women face in daily life, including social pressures, gender-based violence, economic hardships, and opportunities for civic engagement. These sessions allow participants to reflect, learn coping strategies, and exchange practical solutions.
- **Fostering Solidarity:** By creating an environment of trust and mutual support, the gatherings cultivate sisterhood and collective resilience. Women mentor and inspire each other, building lasting networks that extend beyond the Club. This solidarity has proven essential in boosting confidence, agency, and social participation.



### **Capacity Building and Skills Development:**

- Women and girls are offered training in leadership, advocacy, legal rights, and financial literacy. This equips them with tools to engage in community initiatives, take leadership roles, and contribute to decision-making processes locally and regionally.
- Handicraft and creative arts workshops, including embroidery, sewing, and cultural crafts, not only serve as recreational activities but also build professional skills, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation.

### **Job Creation and Economic Empowerment:**

- Wi'am Women's Club supports 20 women artisans through direct, unconditional cash support for their handicraft work. Products are displayed and sold at the center, with all proceeds returned to the women, providing sustainable income while maintaining dignity and independence.

- The Club actively promotes economic resilience by linking women’s creative work to market opportunities, community fairs, and local exhibitions, helping participants develop small businesses and vocational confidence.



### **Cultural Heritage and Community Leadership:**

- In collaboration with the Dalal Center for Culture and Arts, the Women’s Club hosted a **Cultural Heritage Exhibition in Bethlehem**, highlighting the spiritual, historical, and artistic significance of churches and heritage sites in the Holy Land.
- The exhibition not only celebrates cultural identity but also demonstrates women’s leadership in preserving and promoting community heritage, connecting cultural preservation with empowerment, civic participation, and social cohesion.

- Through heritage-focused activities, women gain confidence in public engagement, advocacy, and organizing community initiatives, strengthening their roles as local leaders and peacebuilders.



### **Social, Emotional, and Psychological Support:**

- The Women’s Club integrates psychosocial support within all activities. Women participate in guided sessions to manage stress, process trauma, and build emotional resilience. This holistic approach addresses mental health, encourages self-care, and creates an environment where women feel safe to express themselves freely.
- Peer mentorship is actively promoted, enabling experienced members to support newcomers, create mentorship chains, and reinforce collective empowerment across generations.



### **Community Impact:**

- The Club fosters a strong sense of civic responsibility, encouraging participants to engage in social advocacy, community service, and local peacebuilding initiatives.
- By combining education, skill-building, psychosocial support, and economic empowerment, the Women’s Club strengthens women’s protection, participation, and leadership capacities, embodying Wi’am’s mission of advancing gender equality and sustainable community development.

### **Strengthening the Women Counseling Unit (WCU) through Expert Activists**

Wi’am has successfully harnessed the experience and expertise of past trainees—particularly women activists previously trained in **UNSCR 1325** and leadership programs—to significantly strengthen the **Women Counseling Unit (WCU)**. Rather than seeing these **20 mobilizers** solely as beneficiaries, the initiative positioned them as **active partners** in Wi’am’s operational framework. By reintegrating experienced leaders, Wi’am bridged the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring that skills translate into tangible community impact.

These women now serve as **cornerstones of Wi'am's holistic approach**, actively contributing to:

- **Psychosocial Support (PSS) & Counseling:** Providing peer to peer guidance that complements professional services, offering empathy, understanding, and practical support to women in need.
- **Advocacy & Mentoring:** Acting as frontline advocates for women's rights and serving as mentors for survivors of **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)**.
- **Capacity Building:** Transferring their knowledge and leadership skills to newer cohorts of women, creating a **sustainable cycle of learning** and empowerment.

### **Creating Role Models and Shifting Narratives**

A critical outcome of this initiative is the establishment of **visible, tangible role models** within the community. By elevating these women to leadership positions within the Counseling Unit, Wi'am offers other women **clear examples of resilience, agency, and impact**. Their engagement in peacebuilding and decision-making processes **challenges cultural barriers** and redefines the role of women in public life. Through competence, visibility, and advocacy, these leaders are **shifting the narrative from women as "victims" to women as agents of peace and societal healing**.

*"Being part of the Women Counseling Unit has not only strengthened my skills but has shown the community that women can lead, heal, and transform society. Each story we support, each skill we transfer, multiplies hope and resilience across Bethlehem."* – **Female Activist, Wi'am WCU**

By combining leadership, counseling, and advocacy, the strengthened WCU demonstrates **how empowerment, mentorship, and experiential knowledge** can drive sustainable change for women and the wider community.

### **Children's Activities Healing, Play, and Resilience**

Wi'am Center implements a holistic, child-centered program supporting **150 marginalized children aged 6–15**, creating safe and welcoming spaces where healing, play, and emotional expression are prioritized. The program integrates psychosocial support, creative activities, and

community engagement to strengthen resilience, rebuild trust, and nurture well-being.



### *Healing and Creative Activities*

- Children participate in expressive arts, drama therapy, music healing, movement, sensory play, and cooperative games, providing both verbal and non-verbal tools for emotional expression in a supportive, non-judgmental environment.
- Structured sessions allow children to explore and process feelings such as fear, hope, sadness, cooperation, and joy, fostering self-confidence, improved emotional regulation, and renewed connection with peers and community.



- Key achievements include:
  - **150 children reached annually** (girls and boys)
  - **12 safe-space activity days per year** (monthly small-group sessions)
  - **150 hours of structured psychosocial and collective healing activities**
  - **6 core healing themes:** creative arts, clay/sensory play, cooperative games, movement, music/story/drama, and healing circles
  - **90 children** provided with a safe outlet to express emotions, build trust, and strengthen social skill



### *Peer Mediation in Schools*

- Through the “**Students Resolving Peer Conflicts in Schools**” initiative, **50 students and 6 teachers** were trained in conflict resolution skills, including active listening, dialogue, and negotiation.
- This initiative fosters peaceful communication, reduces school conflicts, and strengthens collaborative
- e problem solving among peers.



### ***Psychosocial and Counseling Support***

- Wi'am Center established a dedicated **Psychosocial and Counseling Room** to provide individualized support for children experiencing trauma or emotional distress.
- Therapeutic interventions were delivered to **25 children**, resulting in measurable improvements in emotional well-being, behavior, and social interactions.
- **Qualified staff support:** 15 trained facilitators, social workers, and volunteers ensure child protection, emotional safety, and age-appropriate, child-centered care across all activities.

### ***Community Relationships and Partnerships***

Wi'am Center maintains meaningful engagement with families, local institutions, and community leaders to strengthen trust and expand support networks for children.

- **Honoring Community and Spiritual Leadership:**
- Visited **Fr. Raphael Tayem** to congratulate him on his appointment as head of the Catholic Church in Bethlehem, celebrating his pastoral and social leadership.
- Organized a **community gathering** honoring the long service of **Fr. Peter Debrul** and **Fr. Jacob Abu-Sa'da**, recognizing their enduring contributions to social and community development.
- **Institutional Partnerships:** Collaborated with the **Iftah Paul VI Foundation** to align educational programs, identify tailored training opportunities, and enhance the quality and relevance of children's activities.



### *Impact and Vision*

Wi'am's children centered initiatives not only address trauma and psychosocial needs but also foster **resilience, creativity, and social cohesion**, ensuring children grow up equipped with the emotional, social, and cognitive tools to thrive despite challenging circumstances. Through a combination of safe spaces, structured activities, counseling, and community engagement, the program strengthens children's protection, participation, and holistic development.

### **Wi'am Citizen Diplomacy: Weaving a Tapestry of Connection**

At Wi'am, we believe that peace is not built in isolation; it is witnessed, shared, and carried forward in solidarity. Our doors and community are open to global visitors who come not as distant observers, but as learners, partners, and allies. Throughout the year, we welcomed international delegations into the heart of our work and our homeland, transforming their visits into immersive experiences of encounter, understanding, and reflection. These journeys go beyond tourism they are pilgrimages with the "Living Stones": the people, their resilience, and the land itself.

### ***Building Bridges Across Faiths and Cultures***

- Wi'am has hosted delegations from diverse faiths and backgrounds, including ecumenical partners such as the **Presbyterian Church (USA)** and the **Methodist Church**, as well as advocacy groups, NGOs, and international peacebuilders.
- These programs aim not only to inform but also to transform perspectives, fostering a deeper understanding of Palestinian life, culture, and the realities of occupation, while promoting solidarity and global citizenship.
- Living Reality: Immersion in Everyday Life: Visitors experience daily Palestinian life through guided tours, dialogue, and shared experiences. They witness the resilience required for everyday routines, such as commuting amid checkpoints, navigating education and work, and coping with the challenges of displacement.
- Encounters include:
  - Olive farmers whose groves mark the frontlines of land struggles
  - Students traveling through checkpoints to reach schools and universities
  - Refugees sharing stories of longing for lost homelands
  - Families embodying both the grief of loss and the courage of hope
- These engagements provide firsthand insight into the social, cultural, and political fabric of Palestinian life, deepening empathy and global awareness.

### ***Land, Heritage, and Rootedness***

- Visitors journey through a living geography that interweaves history, spirituality, and daily life. Beyond ancient religious sites, we explore historic landmarks, walk hillsides, and connect biblical narratives with the landscape's wild thyme, olive trees, and enduring natural beauty.
- These walks are not merely sightseeing they illustrate the deep connection between people, place, and identity, showing how heritage shapes resilience, community, and the sense of belonging.

## ***The Warmth of Shared Tables***

- Palestinian hospitality is central to our citizen diplomacy approach. Guests share meals prepared by women's groups, transforming dining into a cultural, social, and economic experience.
- These shared tables foster dialogue, understanding, and connection while directly supporting women-led job-creation initiatives, allowing visitors to contribute meaningfully to community empowerment.

## ***Impact and Vision***

Through citizen diplomacy, Wi'am transforms visitors into informed allies, amplifying the voices and stories of Palestinians while fostering intercultural understanding. By combining immersive experiences, cultural engagement, and solidarity-based action, the program cultivates empathy, strengthens international networks, and builds bridges for long-term peace and justice.

## **Humanitarian Assistance and Livelihoods**

Wi'am remains committed to addressing the urgent needs of impoverished communities with dignity, practical support, and long-term impact. Through a combination of emergency relief, livelihood initiatives, and community development, Wi'am ensures that vulnerable families are supported while strengthening resilience and self-reliance.

### **Emergency Relief**

Provided food packages, medical supplies, and essential items to vulnerable families, reaching 300 households over the course of the year. Support was delivered with sensitivity and respect, ensuring families received immediate relief while maintaining their dignity and autonomy.

### **Job Creation and Economic Empowerment**

#### **1. Victory Gardens – Empowering 30 Women**

Wi'am established Victory Gardens to provide 30 women and their families with access to fresh, nutritious food while creating sustainable income and food security. Participants planted easy-to-grow vegetables such as beans, potatoes, and leafy greens using smart planting techniques, ensuring continuous monthly harvests.



This initiative not only combats poverty but also strengthens community resilience, self-sufficiency, and women's leadership in household and community food systems. Participants carried out repairs, climate-resilient landscaping, and energy-efficient upgrades, creating a sustainable, safe, and functional hub for hundreds of residents.

## **2. Cash-for-Work – Strengthening Community Infrastructure**

Provided 20 unemployed individuals with immediate financial stability while improving the local community center.

This dual-impact model restored dignity through fair wages while enhancing community resources, demonstrating how livelihood programs can generate both economic and social benefits.

### **Home Renovations Restoring Dignity**

Wi'am renovated the home of an empoverage family in Bethlehem, transforming unsafe and substandard living conditions into a safe and dignified environment. The project included structural repairs, electrical and plumbing upgrades, and installation of essential furnishings, including a fully equipped kitchen and comfortable living spaces.



Volunteers, donors, and community members contributed to the initiative, ensuring the project addressed both physical needs and emotional well-being.

The renovated home provides the family with safety, comfort, and renewed hope, exemplifying how collective action can uplift marginalized communities and restore dignity.

## **Impact**

Wi'am's humanitarian and livelihood initiatives combine emergency support, economic empowerment, and community development, addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term resilience, self-reliance, and social cohesion in marginalized communities.

## **Advocacy – Promoting Rights, Participation, and Social Change**

Wi'am's advocacy initiatives combine policy engagement, community mobilization, and legal awareness to promote **women's protection, empowerment, and meaningful participation**, while fostering a culture of social justice and resilience.

### ***Policy and Gender Advocacy***

- Wi'am collaborates closely with the **Ministry of Women's Affairs**, local civic organizations, and women activists to co-develop the **Third National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325**, focusing on protection, participation, and empowerment of women and girls.
- The work emphasizes **structural reforms, institutional accountability, and inclusive decision-making**, ensuring that women's voices are central to shaping policies that influence their lives.
- Through targeted workshops, consultations, and strategy sessions, Wi'am strengthens **collective advocacy capacity**, enabling communities to hold institutions accountable and advance gender-sensitive legislation and programs.
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## *Global Solidarity and Human Rights Initiatives*

- Wi'am organizes public solidarity actions and awareness campaigns, including **"Run the Wall"** and **International Women's Day sit-ins**, advocating for freedom of movement, justice, and human rights.
- These initiatives create **visible platforms for community engagement**, amplify the voices of marginalized groups, and foster connections between local struggles and international solidarity networks.
- By linking grassroots advocacy to global human rights agendas, Wi'am promotes a **shared responsibility for justice and social change**.



## *Spiritual and Cultural Reflection*

- Wi'am facilitates **circles and reflection sessions** that combine faith-informed perspectives with social activism, helping participants explore ethical leadership, resilience, and nonviolent social change.
- These spaces encourage **inclusive dialogue, personal empowerment, and moral grounding**, allowing both women and youth to develop strategies for community transformation rooted in cultural and spiritual values.

## *Legal Advocacy and Youth Engagement*

- Youth participants engage in **legal literacy initiatives**, including a series of workshops conducted by specialists on **Decree-Law No. 21 (2019)**, which raises the legal marriage age to eliminate child marriage.

- These workshops foster **awareness of rights, critical thinking, and civic engagement**, equipping young people with the tools to advocate for gender justice, influence peers, and participate meaningfully in legal and social reform processes.

### *Impact and Vision*

Wi'am's advocacy framework bridges **policy, community, and individual action**, ensuring that women, youth, and marginalized communities can **claim their rights, influence decision-making, and participate in shaping inclusive social change**. By integrating gender advocacy, human rights promotion, spiritual reflection, and legal awareness, Wi'am builds **resilient, informed, and empowered communities** capable of advancing justice and equality.