



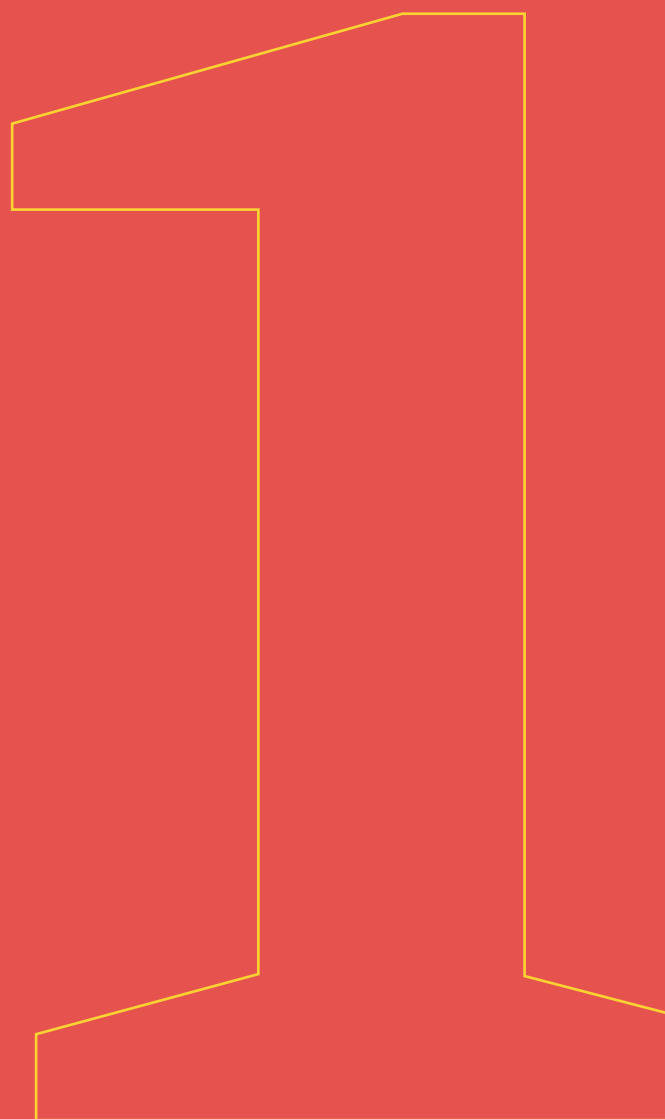
Baladna 2022

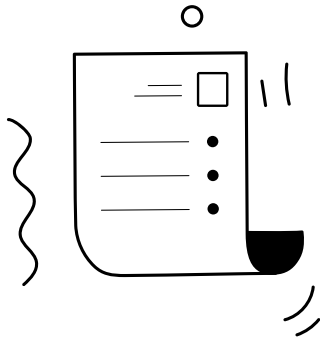
Annual Report

2022

Section 01

Frequent Questions





Who are we?

Baladna- The Arab Youth Association is an Arab, Palestinian, national and independent organization. Baladna engages actively in working with youth at the social, political, cultural, and educational levels both locally and internationally. Baladna seeks to develop youth leaders, strengthen the Arab-Palestinian identity on democratic basis, and contribute towards a progressive society. Baladna was established as a registered civil society organization in 2001 by a group of active Palestinian youth in the '48 areas.

Why Baladna?

We consider ourselves an integral part of a Palestinian democratic stream within society, seeking to develop and promote values, fundamentals, and structures that meet the aspirations and needs of the society, particularly the youth whether at the overall national level or the day-to-day lived realities.

The Association is active under very harsh conditions imposed by 'Israel' seeking to obliterate the collective memory of Arab-Palestinians who remained in their hometowns and villages following the 1948 Nakba. These conditions aim to erase their historical narrative about the nature of the 'conflict' in order to distort their identity and cut off their wider belonging to the Palestinian people and Arab spheres. These Israeli policies also seek to alienate the youth from their communities and towns, furthering individualistic trends and the pursuit of individual salvation. Additionally, they aim at dismantling and fragmenting the society into groups and individuals with no sense of belonging to the community.

In light of all of the above, destructive social phenomena prevail, obstructing the development of the society and its members, primarily the youth. Crime and violence are examples to these phenomena spreading throughout society, in addition to excessive discrimination against young people in obtaining their rights to education, work, housing, personal security, among others.

What are our goals?

Through its work with youth in the '48 areas, Baladna seeks to strengthen the Arab-Palestinian identity, to promote and enhance democratic and feminist values and practices. In parallel, Baladna works to confront Israeli plans and practices targeting youth, as well as confront internal destructive social phenomena that undermine the well-being, development, and rights of youth, with primary focus against violence and crime. Our objectives also include actions to strengthen the values of volunteerism, social and political participation and providing the tools, opportunities, and spaces needed for that.

How do we work?

Baladan-Association of Arab Youth seeks to achieve its objectives by employing different work methods, adapted to the different needs and the projects. These include, among others, the following:



Social media campaigns



Educational media content



Youth groups



Political tours



Interactive educational toolkits



Educational workshops



Public community projects



Conferences, seminars, and dialogue forums



Artistic and cultural activities

Where do we work and who is our target audience?

Palestinian youth, particular in the '48 areas, are our target audience. Through our difference project, our work expands to Arab cities and villages in the Galilee, Nazareth, triangle region, the coast, and the Naqab. Our work focuses on the age group of 14-30 years old, encompassing 4000 participants and beneficiaries annually. Baladna cooperates with partner youth organizations in the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza, and the Diaspora, coordinating with them to implement activities in their own regions. Baladna is also an active member in a number of international coalitions and projects that

are like-minded and share similar objectives and processes. Through these coalitions and project, Baladna organizes trainings, conferences, youth exchange programs with professionals, youth, and activists in various countries.

Who does the work?

The responsibility for the implementation, follow-up, development, and planning of our projects is shared between the board and staff. The Board of Directors, that elects a chairperson, focuses on managing the work of the organization at the strategic level, monitoring projects and ongoing duties.

The staff consists of the director who manages the activities of the organization and oversees the implementation of the projects. The director serves as a liaison between the staff and the board. In addition to the director, there are seven project coordinators. Each project coordinator - based on the specific needs of each project - manages a group of 5 - 40 field staff members consisting of volunteers, counsellors, and group. Additionally, the organization's staff include a coordinator for fundraising and international relations, as well as an external accountant.

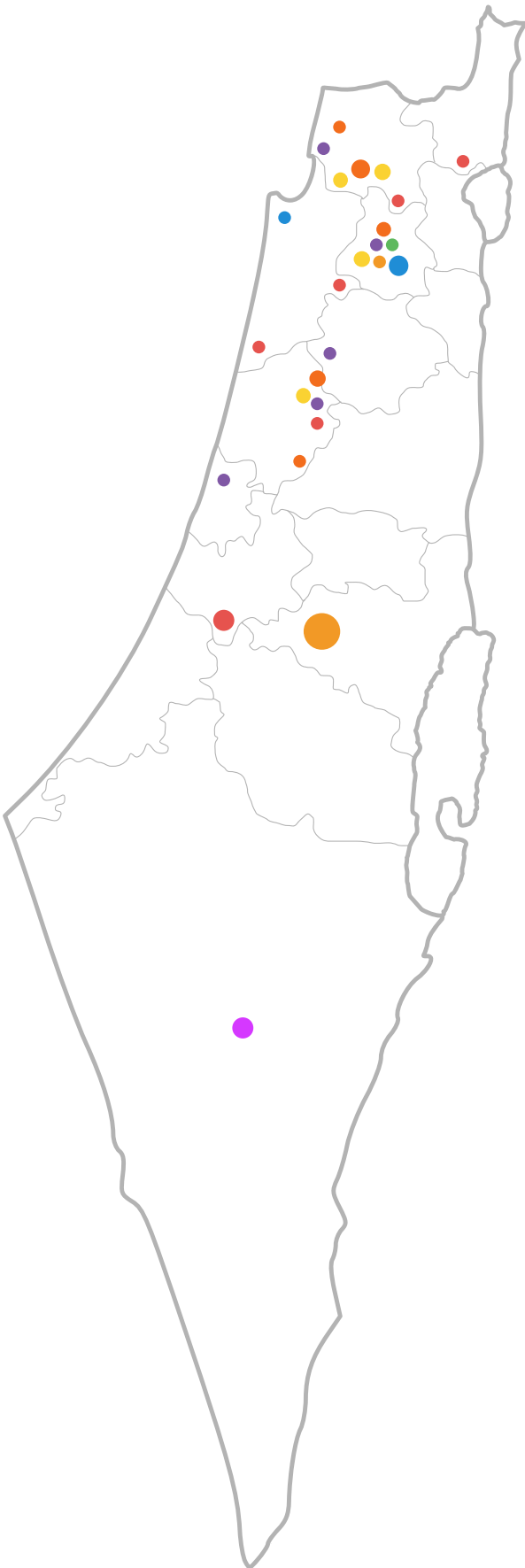
Our resources and how do we obtain support?

Baladna depends on donor funds from Europe and the U.S on the basis of partnership, cooperation and financial support. We receive core funding grants in addition to support for specific projects in line with the objectives and areas of work of the relevant funds.

Section 02

Map of Activities





Tijwal:

Majdal Yaba (Ramleh district), Qisarya (Haifa district), Qaradiya (Safad district), Sahl Al Batouf (Arabat Al Batouf), Baqa Al Gharbyyeh, Al Carmel, Jordan Valley, the Galilee.

Board Games Workshop:

Arara, Zemer, Kufr Qare', Al Reineh, Nazareth, Kaboul, Tamrah, Al Mazra'a, Eibileen

Tawasalou:

Silwan, Al Issawiyyeh, Old City of Jerusalem, Jabal Al Mukabber and others. 1948' villages and towns: A'ilout, Shafa Amr, Nazareth, Kufr Qare'

Hirak:

Nazareth, Kufr Kanna, Tamrah, Kaboul, Majd Al Kroum, Sikhnin, Kufr Qare', A'ra'ra, Baqa Al Gharbyyeh

Nazareth Youth Center:

Nazareth

Hip Hop school:

Nazareth, Haifa, Al Reineh, Ikssal.

Combatting violence:

Um Al Fahm, Jaffa, Nazareth, Acre, Taybeh

Al-Naqab Youth Group:

Bedouin villages and towns in the southern district

Section 03

Baladna in Numbers

03

4000

direct participants of young men and women

in addition to hundreds of followers and individuals interacting with Baladna's media content on social media platforms.

1. Hawiya

Tijwal

 **14**
tour guides

 **680**
participants in hikes and the summer camp

Games' workshops

 **5**
group facilitators

 **430**
participants in educational games' workshops

2. Tawasalou

 **10**
group facilitators

 **434**
participants in the virtual tours

 **580**
participants in youth exchange tours and the summer camp


3. Sumoud

 **30**
participants in the active group

 **60**
participants in the first public activity

4. Hirak

 **7**
Youth Leaders

 **50**
participants in a nation youth group

 **250**
participants in local youth groups

 **Hundreds of**
participants in local activities

5. Baladna group - Naqab

 **15**
participants in
the core group

 **250**
participants in
public activities

6. Nazareth club

 **50**
volunteers
and activists

 **750**
participants in the
different activities

 Scores of
visitors weekly

 **10**
trainees in
the Hip Hop
school

7. Combatting violence among youth


 **5**
researchers

 **100**
participants in the
conference announcing
the findings of the
research


 **70**
participants in
the research
interviews

 **300**
participants
in local
meetings

8. Working groups on youth issues

 **25**
25 activists, community organizers
and professional advisers

9. International trainings


 **33**
trainees
and visitors


Thousands

of followers and individuals engaging and
interacting on social media platforms.

 **68K** Follower
@BaladnaYouth

 **4900** Follower
@Baladna.Youth

 **3400** Follower
@Baladna_nazareth

Section 04

Programs and Activities



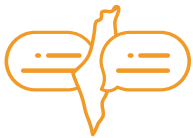
The Arab Youth Association-Baladna operates five different programs, through which Baladna seeks to achieve its strategic objectives for the years 2020-2024.

These programs are as follows:



1. Hawiya

a program that seeks to enable youth with spaces and tools to explore and discuss their identity and the forces driving the injustice they face as Palestinian Arab youth



2. Combating Palestinian Fragmentation and Building Cohesion

a program that seeks to strengthen an inclusive Palestinian identity, enhancing social cohesion and combatting stereotypical views prevailing among the various Palestinian communities.



3. Youth spaces

a program that aims to encourage volunteerism, social, and political engagement, and participation of youth, providing them with the necessary tools and opportunities to achieve that.



4. Youth issues

the program focuses on crucial and urgent youth realities. Through the generation of knowledge and research the program enables the development of work strategies, interventions, and educational tools, along with public and media campaigns at the national level.



5. International networking and training

a program that allows exchange of knowledge, tools, and experiences with youth around the world.

It is important to note that each one of the five programs contribute towards the realization of more than one of Baladna's objectives. Towards that end, Baladna employs several work methods so that together, the programs help achieve our overall objectives, interacting and mutually benefitting and serving each other.



Hawiya program

Enabling youth with spaces and tools to explore and discuss their identity and the forces driving the injustice they face as Palestinian Arab youth

1.1 Tijwal project

Through Tijwal (educational hiking) as a tool, we seek to establish a relationship based on knowledge and emotional attachment with the place - the land of Palestine. In the face of a context of deliberate misguidance and hegemony over knowledge and information rendering our villages into 'hotels' and heightening a state of alienation and fragmentation, we seek to strengthen the youth's sense of belonging to the surrounding space and community.



Accomplishments in 2022

- A team of 14 hiking guides gained knowledge and acquired research tools as well as the skills to organize and guide tours open to the public.
- Development of nine new hiking trails in Palestine based on booklets compiling information from historic resources and archives, field visits, and oral interviews. The hiking trails covered different towns or specific themes as follows:

Towns:

1. Majdal Yaba (Ramla district)
2. Qisarya (Haifa district)
3. Lod (Ramla district)
4. Faradya (Safad district)

Themes:

1. Al Batouf valley: Israeli water policies
 2. Baqa Al Gharbiyyeh: feudal system from the Ottoman rule until the end of the military rule in 1966.
 3. The Triangle area: Israeli environmental policies
 4. Al Carmel mountain: Israeli tree-planting and foresting policies and their repercussions
 5. The Galilee: the northern street and the history of the 1936 revolution.
 6. The Jordan Valley: annexation policies in the Jordan Valley area, Road 90, and the Dead Sea.
- Organization of 15 tours open to the public using the profile cards and the illustrated trails with a total of 600 participants.
 - Organization of a summer camp in Battir, south of Jerusalem bringing together a total of 80 male and female participants interested in political tours in Palestine. The participants came from the '48 areas, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. Dialogue and information workshops were organized during the summer camp hosting specialized guest speakers. The summer camp also included training on the skills and topics of the tours as well as a community organizing workshop that concluded with the establishment of three future work groups: production of maps, environment and new booklets and hiking trails.



Quotes from participants



Zahra Sai'd
Albeina

“Tijwal” project is one of the most beautiful and important youth projects in the country. I am very enthusiastic about this project. Let me explain: the relationship between humans and a place is constructed through knowledge about the place. It is clear that the relationship that links us to our homeland might seem distorted at times, particularly since the landscape is changing constantly. Some might feel that there is no place for us here as Palestinians within the public space, in the forests, the mountains, the beaches, and the natural reserves, where the Arabic language is mostly absent, in addition to the Israeli obsession of building memorial sites at every possible location. This alone makes us Palestinians feel that the place is rejecting us. However, through Tijwal, I found a wonderful opportunity to rebuild the relationship with the place, with our country and its magnificent typography, its valleys, mountains, sea, and the stories of its people. It was important also in the context of outreach, networking and building friendships among us as Palestinians.” .



Hussein Yassin
Araba

““Tijwal’ project helped me to know my country better. I participated in most of the tours because I felt the project designed the tours as a tool to rebuild the links and relations between the person and the land. Furthermore, the project is important because it brings together Palestinian youth from different areas in the country, consolidates relations among them through joint exploration of their homeland and breaks down borders that are imposed on us.”

1.2 Educational workshops

Through the educational board games workshops, Baladna seeks to present and discuss relevant and contemporary social and political issues and concepts in an interactive manner. The aim is to strengthen youth awareness and critical thinking capacities.



Accomplishments in 2022

- Training of five group facilitators with educational background and competency to run the interactive workshops with youth.
- Organizing educational games workshops which involve 16 groups in nice Arab towns, consisting of 430 high school male and female students. Each group took part in four educational games workshops, as well as discussions of feelings, information, and positions.

1.3 Political videos

Through short political videos, Baladna seeks to introduce political issues from a critical point of view of what prevails on the official and public levels. They aim to enhance youth knowledge and awareness of the proposed issues and strengthen their discussion and critical thinking capacities.



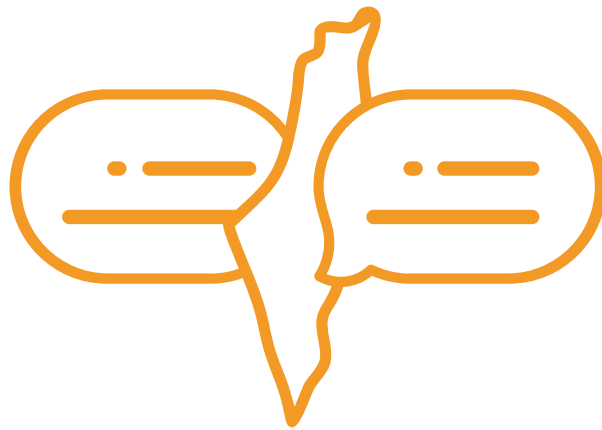
Accomplishments in 2022

- Three videos were produced this year. Two of the videos were of political nature focusing on discussing the terms taught in “Civil education” as part of the Israeli curriculum. The videos were presented by the young actress Shaden Qamboura, while the script was prepared by Iyad Barghouthi and directed by Mohammad Tmeish. The third video was produced in collaboration with the Arab Culture Association. It addressed the phenomenon of individual salvation and societal disintegration. The video was presented by Mutafa Qablawi (Journalist) and directed by Mohammad Tmeish. The three videos together received more than 100,000 views on Facebook.



To view the videos, please visit Baladna's YouTube channel. Baladna Youth





Combating Palestinian Fragmentation and Building Cohesion

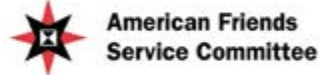
Strengthening an inclusive Palestinian identity, enhancing social cohesion and combatting stereotypical views prevailing among the various Palestinian communities.

2.1 “Tawasalou” project

in cooperation
with



in cooperation
with



Tawasalou project seeks to provide spaces for youth in '48 areas, the West Bank, and Jerusalem to strengthen a collective inclusive Palestinian identity and develop joint positions regarding the various political and social issues. To achieve this, the project organizes meetings bringing together youth from the three areas. The meetings include workshops that seek to bridge the information gaps among youth regarding the different live realities, discuss the prevailing stereotypical views and raise awareness about the contexts and results of the Palestinian fragmentation. In addition, the groups participate in field tours to experience first-hand the political and social lived realities.





Accomplishments in 2022

- Training of 10 group facilitators from '48 areas and Jerusalem with educational background and competency to run interactive workshops with youth.
- Organizing eight youth encounters targeting 492 high-school and university male and female students from the various areas, including Jerusalem neighborhoods, as well as villages and cities in '48 areas including: Ailout, Shafamr, Nazareth, Kufr Qare'.
- Launching of Turab e-platform, a virtual space for Palestinian youth. The platform includes a library with informative and educational contents regarding the Palestinian identity. It also includes virtual games as well as virtual tours of cities and villages in Palestine.
- Organizing 16 virtual tours for 434 high-school male and female students, using pre-recorded tours that are uploaded to the platform. The tours included the cities of Nablus, Hebron, and Bethlehem.
- Organizing a 3-day summer camp at Jabal Al Nijmeh-Ramallah with participation of 88 young men and women from the various cities of '48 areas, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. The program of the summer camp included a series of workshops, tours, and recreational activities. The participants played the interactive board games, developed by Baladna, including 'Gaza fish' game that seeks to raise awareness about the reality of the blockade imposed on Gaza. They also played "My home on the map", that seeks to raise awareness about the question of land and house-demolitions in '48 areas. A field tour was organized to the villages of Bir Nabala, Beit Hanina Al Tahta, and Qalandia north-west of Jerusalem with the aim of raising awareness regarding the flagrant policies of separation and isolation of Palestinian communities from each other as well as the Bedouin areas in the region. The tour included explanation of the main elements of these policies, namely the Separation Wall, the settlers' by-pass roads around Palestinian villages. The summer camp concluded with presentations by participants in which they summed up their experiences and the knowledge they gained through the trainings received during the summer camp.



Quotes from participants



Mohammad Abu Fanneh
Kufr Qare'

“The summer camp’s experience was unique and special. It is not everyday that we have the opportunity to meet and interact with our peers, youth our age, from the various Palestinian areas due to the reality of fragmentation and checkpoints. Through the summer camp we learned about the similar yet different contexts. We learned more about each other, we discovered the joint difficulties and challenges and discussed the bigger issue that unites and mobilizes us. The summer camp experience was one of the best experiences I had recently. It had a huge impact on me.”

Zahara’ Hammad
Jerusalem

“I enjoyed the summer camp. I found out that we, Palestinians from ’48 areas, the West Bank, and Jerusalem, are very similar, and that the checkpoints that the occupation has placed between us are an illusion and very fragile, they break down very easily and are merely an illusion.”

2.2 Sumoud project

This project seeks to provide spaces for joint youth action between youth from '48 areas and the 'Sumoud' youth group active in areas threatened by demolition and displacement south of Hebron (Masafer Yatta).



Accomplishments in 2022

- A group consisting of 30 youth (males and females) ages 18-30 from '48 areas and southern Hebron.
- A series of awareness-raising workshops and political and social dialogue to strengthen joint positions and the group's cohesion.
- An action plan of public/community activities to enhance communication and interaction among youth from the different areas, and strengthen the steadfastness and resilience of communities in the areas threatened by demolition and displacement.
- The first field activity included 60 activists (males and females) from both areas who worked on renovating the caves of the residents of Masafer Yatta, planting olive trees, and removing the debris of demolished houses, cleaning the areas around them.



Quotes from participants



Naseem Yahya
Iksal

“Sumoud’s” role in the community is about not forgetting the marginalized issues that people are not talking about because they are not ‘attractive’. It is about continuing to help each other as one people.”



Youth spaces

Encouraging youth volunteerism and social and political engagement, while providing the necessary tools and opportunities

3.1 'Hirak' project

Through 'Hirak' project, Baladna seeks to encourage high-school students to undertake an active role in their towns and villages. The project seeks to establish 10 local youth groups annually, focusing on the areas of Nazareth, Al Batouf, Shafamr, Shaghour, and Wadi A'ara regions. After gaining the necessary social, political, and organizational knowledge and tools, each group plans and implements local volunteering initiatives related to their life reality and challenges. The aim of the initiatives is to respond to the aspirations, needs, and interests of the youth on the one hand, while enhancing their sense of belonging and social engagement on the other. At its second level, the project establishes a national leadership group of youth who demonstrated leadership skills during the first year of their engagement in the project. The task of this leadership group is to work together on developing, implementing, and overseeing a national initiative as well as support newly established local groups.





Accomplishments in 2022

- Training of seven Youth leaders who are competent in working with the youth and organizing local volunteering initiatives.
- Establishment of ten youth groups in ten Arab towns (Tamra, Kabul, Majd Al Kroum, Sakhneen, Nazareth, Kufr Kanna, Um Al Fahem, Baqa Al Gharbiyya, Arara, Kufr Qare') consisting in total of 250 tenth-grade female and male students.
- Establishment of a national group of 50 young men and women from the Galilee, Nazareth, and the Triangle, who have completed the project in the previous year.
- 60 awareness-raising, educational, dialogue, and training workshops conducted by specialized facilitators regarding volunteer work, leadership, Palestinian identity and history, gender equality, democracy, planning and organizing community/public projects.
- Three national tours regarding the history and geography in Palestine.
- Three national youth meetings of youth from the different towns and villages to enhance communication, learning, and networking.
- Planning and implementation of ten youth initiatives in ten Arab towns, including: revival of public spaces, organization of awareness-raising summer camps, providing spaces for learning and reading, tours and information materials about the towns and their residents.



Quotes from participants



Yara Dakwar
Fassoutta

“I decided to volunteer with HIRAK project motivated by my desire to engage in community work aimed at changing the social and political realities. It was also based on my trust in youth activism and my wish to contribute to the capacities of youth. I believe there is a big need of youth for opportunities that focus on them and listen to their needs. HIRAK is such a project. It puts youth in the center of all activities and looks at social issues through their eyes. By engaging the young people in addressing their needs the project improves their reality and works towards a better future.”



Adan Rayyan
Kabul

“What is better than being free..! What could be better than benefitting your society, your community, yourself, and many other people. Today, as we start the sixth meeting, I can easily and frankly say these were the best meetings and sessions. Through them we got to know new friends, listened to different views, and expressed ourselves very freely. Each individual here is free, and each one expressed themselves without any restrictions, sharing their views about their towns and origins. HIRAK group brought us together and allowed us to know and learn many things. Because of HIRAK group, we became stronger at different levels. Each one of us gained many things, such as breaking the wall of fear of speaking up and expressing one’s opinion and breaking down the wall of fear from people. Some of us were able to overcome their introvert nature, because the group is not your ordinary group, there is a lot of embracing, love, respect, and cooperation within the group. HIRAK is not any group! During one of my preferred activities, we took a trip to the dispossessed village of Lifta. It was a perfect and great meeting in all sense of the word. We were there, coming from three different locations. It was a great experience, we walked a long walking trail. It was long and tiring, but because we were cooperating together and happy to be there, we did not feel tired. Through HIRAK we became stronger. In HIRAK we are always together not just as a group, but as friends.”

3.2 Naqab Youth project

The Naqab Youth project seeks to enable a Palestinian space for youth voluntary action in the south (Naqab district), given the scarcity of such frameworks in the area. The group aims to enhance the social and political awareness among youth in the region and strengthen the spirit and practice of voluntarism through the organization of recreational, cultural, social, and political activities.



Accomplishments in 2022

- Drafting a report summarizing a survey that the group conducted to assess the needs and interests of youth in the Naqab area. The survey included intensive meetings with a group of activists in the region, in addition to focus group meetings with high-school students and individual meetings with professionals working in the youth sector.
- Establishment of a youth group consisting of 15 university students and graduates from different Naqab towns and villages.
- Drafting of an annual program by the group based on the findings of the report that was prepared.

- Organization of three cultural activities during the last quarter of 2022 in the town of Houra, the unrecognized village of Al Zarnouq, and the city of Rahat. 250 children, youth, and families took part in these activities that included a comedy performance by artist Ayman Nahhas and a bazaar for local products. The activities included also the screening of the film “Shatilla children”, an art workshop using clay, as well as a music performance by artist Rana Khoury.



Quotes from participants



Saja Abu Shaqra
Houra

“I joined the Naqab Youth Group six months ago. I was very excited about the goals and concept of activities suggested by Baladna. It is not merely a group, it’s a platform for us, allowing us space to talk about ourselves as the young generation. We present ideas, organize activities that resemble us, and talk about our realities in various ways. Our activities extended from Houra - with a stand-up comedy performance and a bazaar to support the different businesses in the village - to Al Zarnouq - with the screening of a film that talks about our suffering as people. These activities and events are the things that give youth a space to express themselves.”

3.3 Nazareth Youth Center

In cooperation with a group of activists, the Nazareth Youth Center was launched in the Old City to serve as a community space for youth to further themselves and their community, in 2021. Through the Youth Center, young people in Nazareth have access to a range of programs and activities through which they can explore cultural, political, and social issues, deepen their critical consciousness, and develop their personal and collective agency. It also seeks to strengthen social cohesion in the city in general and revive the market to regain its status, in particular.



Accomplishments in 2022

- 50 youth activists and volunteers (males and females) from Nazareth joined the center. They manage the center four days a week as well as organize the activities of the center's three programs: arts and culture program, education program, and community program
- Enabling an open space for four days each week attracting scores of individuals and groups on a weekly basis who are using the coffee shop, the library, study desks, and meeting space for their social, professional, and activism meetings.
- Under the arts and culture program: screening of two films with social and political significance. The two events were attended by 60 youth (males and females), in addition to six art performances attended by 250 participants.

- **Launching of the Hip Hop School:** a national initiative hosted by Baladna's Nazareth Youth Center. The initiative aims at supporting emerging youth talents in the field of hip hop, in addition to strengthening hip hop music as a tool for political and social mobilization that is popular among youth. Through this school, ten talented youth participants are trained by a group of prominent artists and mentors to enhance their talents and provide them with the platform and space to bring their talents to light.
- **Under the education program:** three political seminars were organized and attended by 120 participants. These seminars addressed displacement policies in Jerusalem, the psycho-social health in a colonial context, and readings in solidarity with the Egyptian prisoner Alaa Abdel Fattah. Additionally, a week of events in commemoration of the Nakba was organized under this program, in collaboration with the Nazareth movement, Ad Dar society, and 'Bleibel' group. This week of events included an exhibition of photos of the Nakba, a seminar to present testimonies by first- and second-generation Nakba members in cooperation with "Zhakirat" society, as well as a tour in the dispossessed village of Saffourya. The activities attracted 100 individuals.
- **Under the community program:** three volunteering initiatives were organized attracting 150 youth volunteers from Nazareth. These initiatives were as follows: a Ramadan Iftar open to residents in the market neighborhood during the holy month of Ramadan in cooperation with the Old City Club; a bazaar to exchange books and school supplies at the start of the school year. This initiative included also cultural and artistic events, a summer camp, recreational and awareness-raising activities for children during the summer holidays. Through the program a tutoring project was also launched to provide free education lessons for elementary school students (25 per cycle) by outstanding high school students. Additionally, three free courses were organized in drawing/painting and graffiti involving 35 young people.



Quotes from participants

Wissam Kardoush

Nazareth

Wissam Kardoush, Nazareth (volunteer- focal point for the tutoring project at Baladna's Nazareth Youth Center): "I participated in several dialogue sessions, seminars, and performances at Baladna's Youth Center. I always came out happy and had learned new things at the personal and community level. I decided later to join the center because there is no alternative for youth to this space. Particularly the free tutoring project that is capable of providing school students with a supportive environment for individual learning is unique. We encourage education and learning among the students and later integration in the labor market."



Youth issues

The program focuses on crucial and urgent youth realities. Through the generation of knowledge and research, the program enables the development of work strategies, interventions, and educational tools, along with public and media campaigns at the national level.

4.1 Combatting violence among youth

in cooperation
with



The project focuses on understanding and combating the phenomenon of violence and crime among youth in the '48 areas. Through the production of research, development of strategies and action plans and implementation of pilot community interventions, Baladna seeks to enable youth professionals and stakeholders with the required knowledge and tools to enhance societal resilience and to ease the dire, violent reality.



Accomplishments in 2022

- Conducting a field research regarding the factors and contexts leading to the escalation of violence and crime rates among youth in '48 areas. The study adopted a qualitative research methodology, primarily long interviews (approximately 70 interviews conducted) in addition to focus group discussions, analysis of court texts and social media content. The research sample focused on five cities, namely: Jaffa, Taybeh, Um Al Fahm, Nazareth, and Acre.
- The research report was published in both Arabic and English languages.
- A conference to share the findings of the research organized in Nazareth and attended by 100 participants including activists, and professionals working in the youth sector.

- Conducting 25 local meetings in each of the five research locations, namely in Um al Fahm, Acre, Jaffa, Nazareth, Taybeh. The meetings, attended by 300 activists and professionals working with youth, aimed at presenting and discussing the findings of the research, as well as brainstorming on possible interventions based on the research finding.
- Conducting a series of brain-storming and planning sessions, bringing together the research team and other professionals to analyze the recommendations that came out of the local meetings.
- Preparation of a report of recommendations and action plans to address the crime and violent reality. The report suggests pilot projects that will be piloted in cooperation with the municipality of Umm Al-Fahm.

4.2 Voluntary work and public engagement

In light of the findings of the research published by Baladna in 2021 titled “Youth in the Palestinian society in Israel: Perceptions, Attitudes, and Needs in a Complex Reality”, Baladna took the initiative in 2022 to establish work groups to discuss the findings of the research and conclude proposed recommendations to act upon them.

In this regard, a committee was established regarding voluntary work amongst youth and public engagement, which is one of the research themes. The committee consisted of 8 organizational advisors and voluntary work focal points in Arab towns as well as other professionals.

The committee members discussed the challenges of attracting youth to engage in voluntary work, as well as needed steps to increase the attractiveness of volunteering and its impact to society. Following the discussions, a background paper was drafted. Work started on developing consultancy and mentoring services for the focal points for voluntary work in Arab towns. These services will be suggested by Baladna as a pilot in specific model towns next year.



International networking and training

A program that allows exchange of knowledge, tools,
and experiences with youth around the world.

Baladna is a member in many international coalitions and networks of shared values, objectives, and work methods, particularly those who are active in working with youth, in order to exchange and enrich experiences, tools, and knowledge. Additionally, Baladna seeks to use these spaces and platforms to mobilize support among youth from the different countries for the Palestinian cause and the reality of Palestinian youth. In 2022, Baladna took part in a number of activities, whether by hosting international groups or participating in activities abroad. These were as follows:

- Participation in a training on mobilization, advocacy, and campaign development against discriminatory policies and occupation practices as well as on human rights and international law. The training was organized by Amnesty International and was held in Istanbul, with participation of activists from Palestine, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria.
- Participation in the conference of Grassroots Global Justice Alliance held in Oakland, California.
- Participation in a training and a coordination meeting of organizations working with youth in the Mediterranean region. The meeting aimed at exchanging experiences, tools, and expertise, as well as discuss challenges in realizing justice and popular mobilization in different conflict contexts. The meeting was held in Barcelona.
- Participation in the conference organized by IM, the Swedish partner organization for development, in Amman. The conference was titled “Advocacy campaigns and civic space in the Arab region- rewriting advocacy narratives”. NGOs from Palestine, Jordan, and Lebanon participated in the conference.
- Hosting a delegation of the Palestine Student Solidarity Movement from Chicago.
- Organization of political tours for a delegation of solidarity professionals and activists, in cooperation with CCIWS. The 4-day tours covered the Naqab, Haifa’s dispossessed neighborhoods, and Qisaria. Through the tours, the delegation learned about the political and social context in ’48 areas, particularly in terms of realities for youth. They met with active stakeholders such as Adalah-The Legal Center for Human Rights.
- Organization of a political tour for SCI staff from Catalonia. The two-day tour introduced the participants to the social and political context in ’48 areas.

Section 05

Contributions



We extend our thanks and gratitude to all the friends, supporters, activists, volunteers, counsellors, professionals, and workers at the Arab Youth Association - Baladna for their sense of belonging, passion, sense of responsibility, and professionalism throughout a year full of work and accomplishments.

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Section 06

Partners and Donors





