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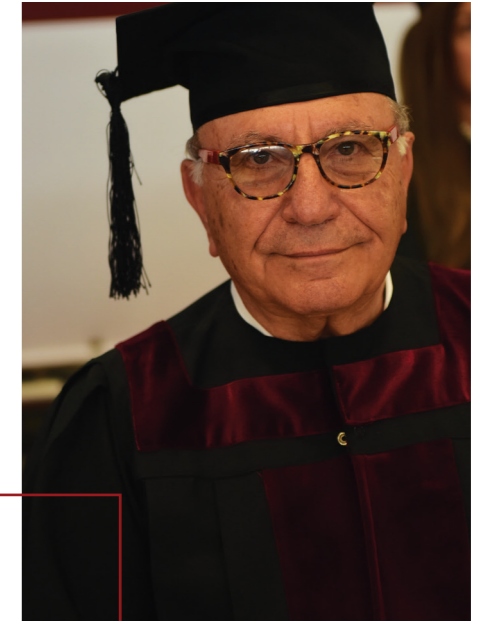
**Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb (Founder and
President, ex officio)**

Dear Friends,

Dar al-Kalima is a Palestinian success story. Accredited in 2006 as a community college, it emerged in 2013 as a university college, and in 2021 became Dar al-Kalima University with five colleges. The university accreditation necessitated that we upgrade our structure accordingly. Thus, instead of one college, we now have five: Visual and Performing Arts; Design; Cultural Management; and Graduate Studies, in addition to the community college. Four of the five colleges were assigned a dean recruited from our own staff. We also increased the number of vice-presidents from two to five, adding three new members to the vice-president circle: Dr. Ehab Bseiso as VP for Communications and International Relations and Dr. Varsen Aghabekian (on a part-time basis) as VP for Strategy. Mrs. Jane Abu-Mohor was promoted from financial manager to VP for Administration and Finance. We have been active in recruiting PhD staff to faculty and this recruitment policy will continue during 2022.

Who would ever have thought that within 15 years, a vision as small as a mustard seed would grow to see Dar al Kalima become the first and only university in Palestine to focus on arts, design and culture? In our strategic plan for 2025, the Board set ambitious goals for our university with a strong emphasis on quality, entrepreneurship, and innovation. To that end, I am delighted to see the establishment of the Rami Zahi Khouri Entrepreneurial Hub and the first cohort of students in training. Our mission is to educate the next generation of creative leaders in Palestine who can make a difference to the lives of our community.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of DAK University leadership, academic and administrative staff. As a Board we are committed to ensuring that DAK will continue to be a success story and a shining star on the hills of Bethlehem.



Mr. Zahi Khouri
Chair of the Board

The year of 2021 will be remembered as the date that Dar al-Kalima transitioned from a college to a university. The university accreditation was awarded in August 2021, just a few weeks before the start of the new scholastic year. This milestone was celebrated on October 24 in the presence of the Minister of Higher Education, who underlined that the accreditation was the result of over 14 years of dedication and hard work. It took seven years for Dar al-Kalima to transition from a community college in 2006 to a university college in 2013, and another seven years to transition from a university college into a university. Dar al-Kalima is thus the first and so far, the only university in Palestine with a focus on arts and culture.

Last year was also a period of transition. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to introduce virtual education and online classes during 2020, but thanks to a high rate of vaccinated staff (99%) and students (86%), we were able to transition back to in-person classes in September 2021. COVID restrictions and the general difficulties of traveling between

governorates increased the trend for students to study close to their home and in their own governorate as a means to reduce commuting time. Today, two-thirds of our student body are from the Bethlehem governorate (68%), with 13% from Hebron and Jerusalem respectively. The percentage of students from the northern part of the West Bank makes up only 4%. We also saw an increase in the percentage of female students from 54% to 60%. The coronavirus pandemic and the deteriorating economic situation in Palestine in general has created difficulties for students to pay tuition fees and more students are applying for scholarships. Last year, around 20% of our students succeeded in obtaining a scholarship. Another important trend was that the percentage of students enrolled in the bachelor program increased to three-quarters of the student body in contrast to diploma students who now make up just 24%.

Construction work continued to progress and we were able to finish the new gallery space that now houses the DAK University art collection. The gallery renovation was sponsored by the Sam Mazza Foundation in

California. We also completed all the infrastructure for the new state-of-the-art educational kitchen that will be equipped in the coming months to be ready for the fall semester. This construction project was funded mainly by our support organization in Germany.

A major milestone was the establishment of the Rami Zahi Khouri Innovation & Entrepreneurship Hub. DAK University strives to become an entrepreneurial university that drives innovation and entrepreneurship by fostering highly skilled, employable, and socially responsible graduates. Our goal is to be a platform for promoting a spirit of entrepreneurship among faculty and students to facilitate the creation of successful projects, and the implementation of best practices related to the empowerment of youth into social entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership. Several non-profit organizations and educational institutions are engaged in entrepreneurship/social entrepreneurship efforts and studies, but DAK is unique in its primary focus on the arts. The arts represent a powerful medium not only in terms of employability and outreach, but in creating spaces that can easily be replicated, sustained, and expanded. To safeguard our ongoing success, DAK University has established an advisory board of seven highly experienced Palestinian and international entrepreneurs.

Another important milestone was the registration of Dar al-Kalima Benevolent Society in April 2021. Activities will commence in September 2022.

Overall, 2021 was a positive year for DAK University and an improvement on 2020 thanks to the new accreditation, a new organizational structure, the new Hub, and new staff. Our financial position today is better secured than in previous years. Although there will undoubtedly be challenges going forward, our institution is on solid ground and prepared for whatever the future may bring. Our achievements would not have been possible without the support of our Board, the dedication of our staff, and the strong commitment of our partners. We thank the Lord for this last year, and we ask His blessings for this and the years to come.



Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb
Founder and President
May 2022

Introduction

The year 2021 was one of great developments and achievements. The main development was the accreditation of Dar al-Kalima University in August 2021 as a fully functioning university with five colleges: Fine Arts College, Design College, Cultural Management College, Graduate Studies, and Scientific Research and Technical Community College. This is a huge step and one that opens the possibility to provide graduate programs (Masters and PhDs) alongside bachelor and diploma degrees.

During the first half of 2021 we functioned as DAK University College and worked throughout that period to secure the accreditation. In the second half of the year, we worked to bring programs, plans, and all academic and administrative regulations in line with the new conditions of becoming a university. The COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 continued to influence activities throughout 2021, both academic activities and extracurricular ones. During the accreditation process, teaching continued primarily online in winter 2021, with exceptions for practical courses which were taught face-to-face in May and June when the COVID-19 conditions

subsided. Graduates were able to exhibit their final graduation projects, hold their graduation seminars, invite family and friends, and we were able to welcome outside evaluators. It was the first time in the history of the institution that parents and close friends were allowed to come and attend the final evaluation of their graduating son or daughter, a new tradition that we are adopting for future years.

All courses concluded on time and graduation took place in July, combining the class of 2021 and class of 2020 together in one commencement ceremony that also celebrated the success of the 2020 pandemic year graduates for whom we could not hold a ceremony.

The following are the highlights of each College:

Fine Arts College

The Fine Arts College was established in September 2021. The BA programs within it include Contemporary Art, Film Production, and Performing Arts.

The pre-College activities of the program are reported as part of the College report. In the fall term 2021, academic courses were offered as planned and teaching was face-to-face. Administratively, new college and program committees were created. Meetings take place periodically between the faculty and dean to discuss academic and administrative issues related to the College.

Contemporary Art Program

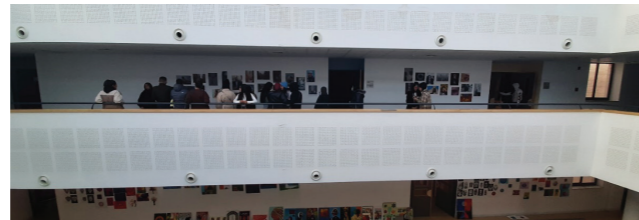
Field Visits

Every semester, students participate in field visits with the main aim of introducing students to the cultural art scene and labor market.

The most important visits during 2021 were: During fall 2021 (October 23), students from the Contemporary Art program, the Cultural and Sustainable Tourism program, and the Palestinian Tour Guide program visited the Palestinian Museum in Birzeit to view the exhibition “A People by the Sea, Narratives from the Palestinian Coast”. They also visited the Qattan Foundation and had a tour of the exhibition “Palestine from Above”. They also visited al-Zawyeh Gallery for the solo exhibition “Past Tense” by artist Jack Persekian.

Exhibitions

At the end of fall 2021, students at the Fine Arts College and Design College installed an impressive joint exhibition. Joint activities between students from different colleges and programs is encouraged and will benefit students in their future fields of specialization as it promotes teamwork across disciplines.



Projects

1. VAFF- Establishment of a Conservation & Restoration Program

Throughout 2021, a substantial project for visual art took place and was hugely significant for the art scene in Palestine in general. The project VAFF- Establishment of a Conservation and Restoration Program was funded by Sweden through the A. M. Qattan Foundation. The project activities ended on November 12, 2021. The outcomes were as follows:

- A market needs assessment study for conservation and the restoration of art works in Palestine.
- Curriculum development for conservation and painting restoration, which is now part of the BA in Contemporary Art program. The curriculum includes eight courses.
- The course file and educational materials for four courses that were offered during fall 2020,

winter 2021 and summer 2021. The classes for the courses were recorded as they were mainly conducted online by international professors who could not come to DAK University in person because of the pandemic.

- Good relationships and connections with international professional restorers, in particular the seven restorers who helped DAK in identifying the essential courses, provided consultation on renovation of the labs and the necessary equipment and materials, and who taught two of the courses offered. The expert restorers are willing to come to Bethlehem during 2022 and teach restoration techniques face-to-face.
- A good relationship and a signed MOU with Bethlehem University, especially the College of Science - Chemistry Department.
- Rehabilitation of DAK University workshops to accommodate the restoration labs.

- Procurement of equipment, machines and materials for the conservation and restoration of paintings. The container of procured materials was held in the Israeli port for more than six months and arrived in Bethlehem on January 16, 2022.
- Procurement of furniture for the restoration labs.
- Archiving, photographing and documenting the art collection of DAK University.
- Publication of a book to document the art collection of DAK University written by art historian and critic Rula Khoury.
- A good network with local institutions engaged in art and restoration, including the Beit Jala Orthodox Church; the Khader Orthodox Church; the Mar Saba Monastery; Dar Sabbagh; the Palestinian Museum; and the A.M. Qattan Foundation.

This network of institutions was an important element in the project and enabled DAK University (the Contemporary Art program) to cooperate with experts to develop a project targeting the conservation and restoration of a Banksy mural in Bethlehem. Support was received from City University of London as part of its Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions during 2021, the international team (DAK University partners) could not travel to Bethlehem to realize the project and therefore it did not materialize..

It is worth mentioning that during 2022, DAK University Fine Arts College will continue to coordinate with expert restorers. Three practical courses are to be offered during spring, summer and fall of 2022.

2. Embrace your Community, Empower the Palestinian Village

This project is funded by the Samia A. Halaby Foundation (SHF). During 2021, the Contemporary

Art program supported two projects by two graduates and followed their development. As a result of the great success of the two initiatives, the Foundation will support more projects as a third cycle during the 2021- 2022 academic year.

The graduates and their projects were:

- Hanadi Azmi: The interactive booklet of creativity – My Little Museum «متحفي الصغير»
- Balquees Othman: The Wheel of Freedom - عجل الحرية

The SHF featured the two projects on its website: www.samiahalabyfoundation.org

Extra-Curricular Activities

Virtual Exchange with Students of the Lucerne Art School

During April and May 2021, students from the Contemporary Art and Graphic Design programs at

DAK University joined students from the Art School in Lucerne in a virtual meeting. There were several meetings and discussions, with each group having its own activities. The result was an exhibition entitled “Moving Within Borders: A Swiss-Palestinian Perspective” at St. Peter’s Chapel in Lucerne from June 7-20, 2021.



Photo from the brochure of the exhibition Moving Within Borders: A Swiss- Palestinian Perspective

Film Production Program

Film Festivals

The Palestine Cinema Days Festival

Students of the Film Production Program participate in this festival on a yearly basis. Students attend screenings, have masterclasses with international film makers, and participate in the Sunbird film competition. This year, Film Production graduate Loay Awwad won the Sunbird Award for his film *Siri-Miri* in the short narrative film category.

Other students and graduates of the program participated during the 2021 festival, including: Ibrahim Handal, Akram Wara and Hayat Lubban.

The Mediterranean Film Festival 2021

In December of 2021, Dar al-Kalima University participated in the Mediterranean Film Festival

2021 and screened two films: *Sishmar* from Malta on December 1, 2021 and *Malavoglia* from Italy on December 6, 2021.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Hosting and Screening a Film by Raed Dozdar

On November 23, we hosted director Raed Dozdar to screen his documentary film *Lama Brothers* and to discuss with students about the first filmmakers in the Arab world, who were originally from Bethlehem.

Performing Art Program- Music

Concerts

Two concerts were conducted by students of this program as part of the student activity hour.

MOUs

An MOU was signed with Jafra Music Productions to develop a new one-year specialized diploma in Music Technology.

Symposium

Researcher Nawras Karzm spoke on music therapy and highlighted the use of music as a tool for psycho-neurological therapy. The symposium also dealt with some practical and applied models related to music therapy, including the latest research findings in this field.

Faculty Concert

Two faculty members (Wisam Murad and Ramzi Shomali) participated in the opening of the December Conference on Art and Citizenship. They performed a piece entitled *Memories of Bethlehem* composed by the Bethlehemite

composer Fernando Nasri Dweiri in 1952, four years after the 1948 Nakba. Dweiri, who currently lives in Switzerland, said: “So I wanted so much to remember my Bethlehem, where I spent my happy days and all the ones I missed when one afternoon I sat on the piano and played the simple melody the leitmotif to always remember Bethlehem as it was “Memories of Bethlehem”. So at least I have a piece that reminds me how beautiful were the days I spent in Bethlehem.” A second composition entitled *From the Soul* by faculty Wisam Murad was also played.

Design College

The mission of the Design College is to cultivate and sustain an environment at Dar Al Kalima University that increases the diversity of knowledge, deepens design imagination and creativity, and advances a sense of affiliation among students and faculty, along with the extended Palestinian community.

The Design College, the largest faculty of Dar Al-Kalima University, comprises three programs as follows:

Interior Design Program

This program qualifies students in the field of interior design, which is a form of expressive art that aims to provide solutions to human problems in three-dimensional space and shape. The program combines creative elements such as color, texture and shape with the more functional elements of planning and lighting space. The program qualifies a new professional generation of artists and designers who

possess the knowledge and skills necessary to work in interior design, a sector that is constantly evolving in terms of growing demand for unique and modern designs in all walks of life. Forms of interior design include housing design, commercial design, hospitality design, healthcare space design, etc.

In 2021, this program constituted the largest program within the Design faculty. There are seven lecturers in the Interior Design program with Masters or PhD degrees alongside lecturers administered by other university departments. There were 133 students enrolled in this program, including 39 new students and 29 fourth year graduates who made up 38% of all university graduates in 2021. The graduate is qualified to work directly with architectural firms or to open their own interior design business.

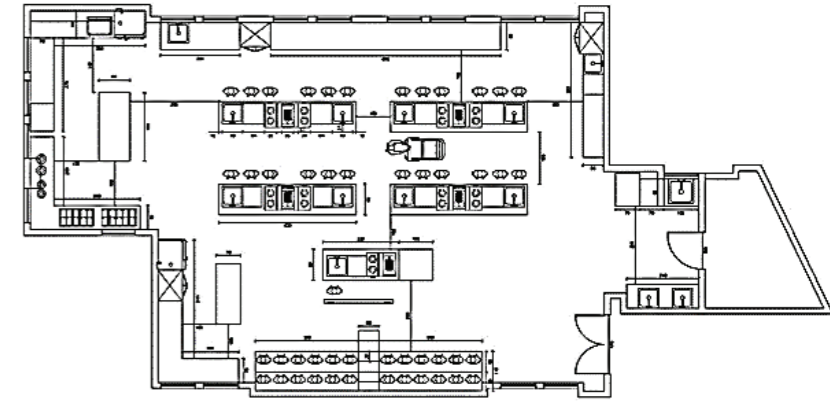
Interior Design Students Highlights in 2021

Competition announced January 2021 under the title "Educational Kitchen Design"

As part of the Interior Design program, we conducted a competition for students to design an educational kitchen within an existing dining hall. The competition was announced, coordinated, and supervised by Arch. Ehab Al Afandi and Arch. Lisa Muallem.

In a festive atmosphere of creativity, an interior design jury discussed the student graduation projects (30 projects), which comprised a variety of designs and fields of interest. The jury consisted of instructors from the field of architecture and interior design: Dr. Shireen Al Qadi; Dr. Yara Al Seifi; Arch. Lana Al Rabadi; Arch. Diala Andonia; Arch. Jawad Sleibi; and Arch. Firas Tweimeh.

Furniture Dimension Plan



Scale: 1:100

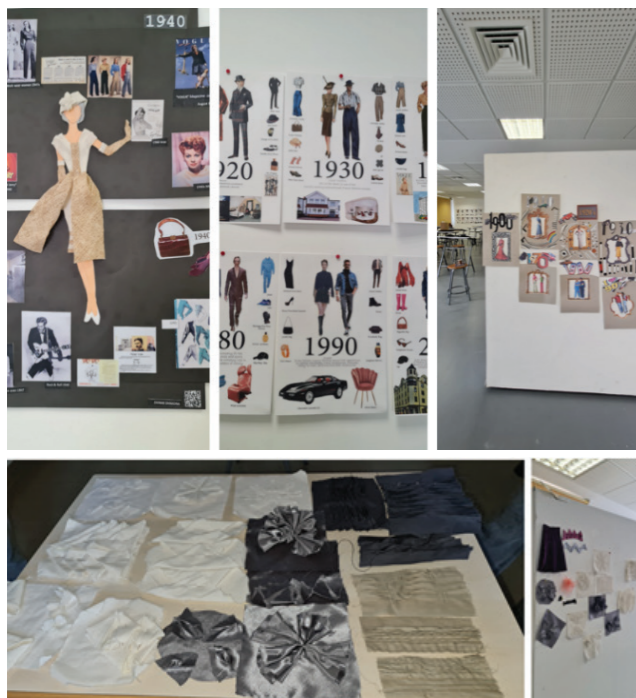


Design of a fashion piece from sketch to actual wearable pieces (Course: Introduction to Fashion Design)

Experimenting with materials and the concept of sustainability and recycling waste (Course: Introduction to Textiles)



Experimenting with colors and natural dyes (Course: Introduction to Textiles)



Research and visual representation of information and ideas (Course: Introduction to Fashion Design)

*Experimenting with textile manipulation
(Course: Introduction to Textiles)*



Field Trips and Activities

1. A field trip to Ramallah visited the A. M. Qattan Foundation, Birzeit Museum and the Living Cultures studios. As part of the sustainable and innovative design taught by Arch. Lisa Muallem, students visit sustainable buildings, and study different design and construction strategies. Students enrolled in furniture design and those enrolled in the Bachelor of Design were instructed by Arch. Diala Andonia who participated in this trip.
2. A field trip to Ramallah to view modern residential buildings and construction sites was designed and supervised by Eng. Deema Sarawi and Eng. Alaa Shweiki. The trip was part of the Design Studio 2 with residential design instructed by Arch. Walaa Ayad. The buildings visited included the Wael Ghanayem villa in Al Tireh; a jewelery store in Al Medan Square; the Wased Mutie factory in Betunia; and the Dee and Vitrina in La Casa Mall.
3. Field trips took place to several residential buildings under construction in Beit Sahour, Beit Jala and Battir. The aim was to design the interiors of some floors of residential buildings as part of Design Studio 2 instructed by Prof. Dr. Nael Salman. The buildings visited were:



- The Nader Bannoura building in Beit Sahour
 - The Ramzi Barham building in Beit Jala
 - The building of Eng. Raed Samara in Battir
 - The villa of lawyer Munther Butmeh in Battir.
 - As part of the kitchens and bathrooms design class, several trips were organized by Arch. Lisa Muallem to suppliers such as those specialized in ceramic and porcelain tiles, kitchen and bathroom fixtures, and granite and CNC stone cutting.
 - As part of the materials and resources class, students obtained first-hand experience during trips organized by Prof. Dr. Nael Salman to many local suppliers such as those specializing in wood supplies and carpentry, carpet and curtains, marble, concrete and glass.
4. Field trip to EXPO – Hebron organized by Dr. Rabab Shweiki.

Graduation Projects

In 2021, the first class of 29 students to graduate from the Interior Design program conducted their graduation presentations in the presence of their friends and families. Three juries joined the process, starting a tradition at the Interior Design program that will continue into the future.

The jury committees discussed the 30 student graduation projects, which covered various fields of interest. The jury was comprised of:

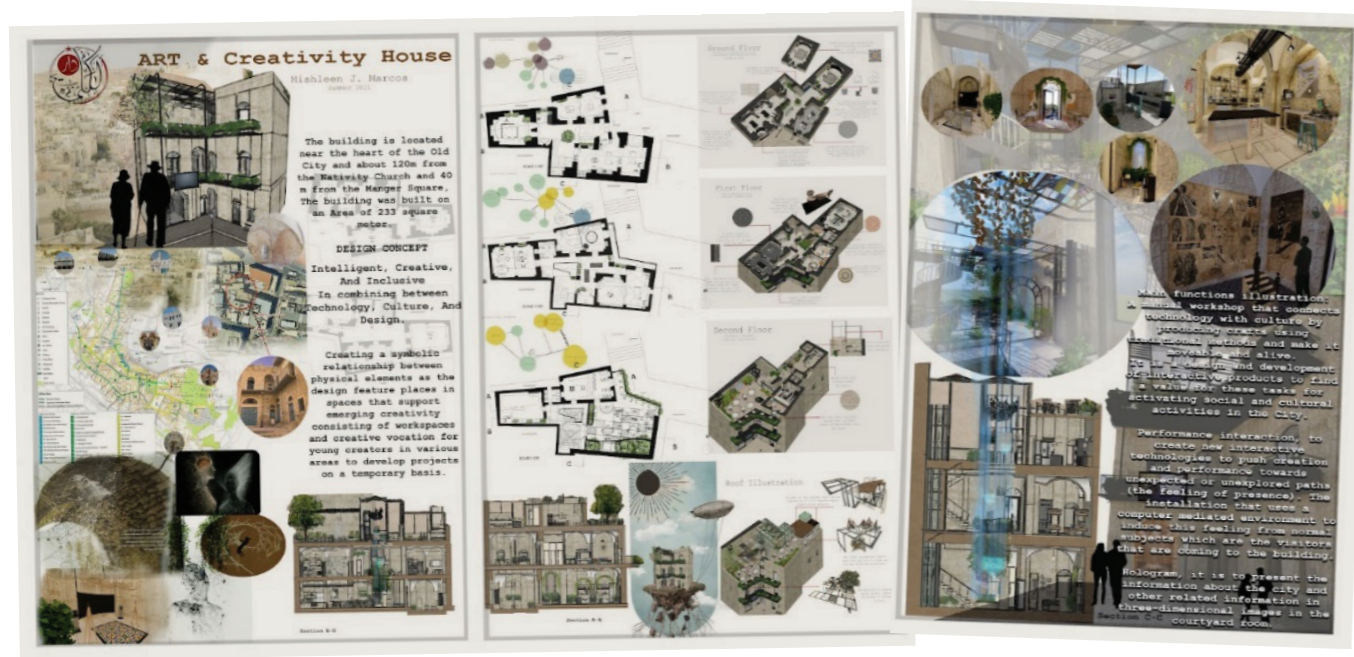


- Instructors from the field of architecture and interior design: Dr. Shireen Al Qadi; Dr. Yara Al Seifi; Arch. Lana Al Rabadi; and Arch. Diala Andonia.
- Practitioners from the field of interior design: Arch. Jawad Sleibi; Arch. Firas Tweimeh; and Arch. Habib Mourra.



The interior design projects included residential projects such as studios for young couples within the old city context and interior architecture affected by the Corona crisis. Other projects were commercial such as a Palestinian fashion house, Bethlehem taxi terminal, business incubator, craft center development and a Palestinian craft center. Other projects concentrated on hospitality such as the Karma hotel and Turkish bath, SOS Village and a safe house. Another project concentrated on sustainability for a retail store and an exhibition of recycled finishing materials. Below are samples of these projects:

Art and Creativity House designed by Mishleen Marcos



Dantel Fashion House designed by Qusai Hroub



Cultural Center designed by Malek Issa



Palestinian Fashion House by Dalia Abbasi



Graphic Design Program

The Graphic Design program includes the foundations and principles of graphic design, advertising, marketing, printing and multimedia. The student specializes in one of the following tracks:

- **Typography:** focusing on design techniques for printing. The student learns about printing technology, printing problems, maintenance, quality control, and other important steps in the world of design and typography.
- **Multimedia:** designing digital multimedia such as websites, smart phone application design, video games, 2D and 3D animation.
- **Packaging Design:** introducing the student to packaging materials, methods and techniques, with a focus on the foundations of packaging design and its role in marketing products.

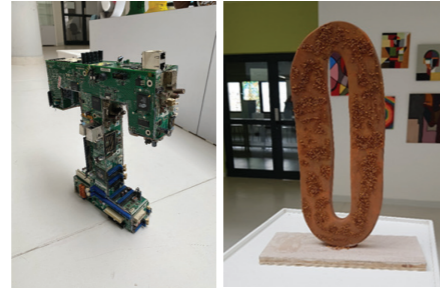
The program includes many activities and a field training course with the aim of networking with the private sector to ensure the easy integration of graduates into the labor market after graduation. The graduate is qualified to work in design offices, advertising companies, printing houses, publishing houses, and in the packaging department of any food or pharmaceutical company. The graduate can also work as a freelance designer, especially in the field of multimedia.

In 2021, there were 72 students enrolled in this program representing 14.3% of all students and 32.4% of Design College students. New student admissions in 2021 were 26 students, representing 16% of university students.

Student Highlights in 2021:

Typography Exhibition

At the end of the fall 2021 semester, an exhibition was held of the final project for the Typography course with 19 artworks from students. Attached are some photos from the project.



Field Trips and Activities

The Graphic Design program, represented by its program coordinator Jabra Mitwasi and instructors Mustafa Bader and Alfred Azar, conducted an educational trip for graphic design students in December 2021 to strengthen partnerships with the private sector and encourage networking between students and local market enterprises. The objective was to introduce the students to market needs and to present these enterprises with the qualifications and capabilities of the students. A visit was made to the Sky Advertising Company and Al-Ayyam Printing Company. A visit to the Yasser Arafat Museum took place to promote national culture and to explore the Museum's design components from various media angles.

Visits to other enterprises

During February 2021, Graphic Design students led by program head Mrs. Faten Mitwasi visited several local printing houses.



Field Training

During the fall semester 2021, as part of partnerships developed with the private sector, four students participated in field training in four local companies as follows:

Student	Company	Location	Dates	Total/ hours
Hanin Hawwash	Dimension Studios	Ramallah	28/9 – 1/12/2021	224
Rami Kleibo	Colors area	Ramallah	17/10-30/11/2021	177
Ramiz Lolus	Dozan printing press	Bethlehem	2/10-27/12/2021	161
Sandy Atrash	Jerashi printing press	Bethlehem	9/10-19/12/2021	164

Awards Received by Faculty and Students of the Graphic Design Program

On October 2, 2021, Jabra Mitwasi, coordinator of the Graphic Design Program in the Faculty of Design was awarded third place in a design competition organized by the Falling Walls Foundation in cooperation with Birzeit University for the Falling Walls Lab, Palestine. In addition, Graphic Design graduate Aya Rabah designed the logo for the Quality Charter of Handicraft Industries for PSI.

Participation in Conferences and Workshops

- **St. Peter's Chapel in Lucerne:** During April and May 2021, students from the Contemporary Art and Graphic Design programs at DAK met virtually with students from the Art School in Lucerne. There were several meetings, discussions, and each group had its own activities. The result was an exhibition titled "Moving Within Borders: A Swiss-Palestinian Perspective" at St. Peter's Chapel in Lucerne from June 7-20, 2021.
- **Tailoring and Sewing Patterns, Bethlehem workshop:** DAK participated in this workshop via the Faculty of Design and Design program coordinator Diala Andonia.

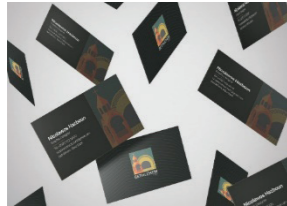
Graduation Projects

1.The visual identity of Bethlehem City *Designed by Nicolaos N.I. Hazboun*

- Brief description: Cities around the world are creating their brand with the aim of promoting economic growth and global awareness to increase tourism.
- In this project, Nicolaos chose to create a brand for Bethlehem that distinguishes it from other cities. The city is known for its geographical and historical location, and its religious importance.
- Creating a brand and planning marketing campaigns will enable the city to become a favorite destination in the near future for domestic and foreign tourists.



Special branding for Bethlehem gives the city another dimension from an aesthetic point of view. The project goal was to form a visual identity for Bethlehem that reflects the religious, cultural, and historical values of the city in an appropriate and modern way in order to reach the local and international community.

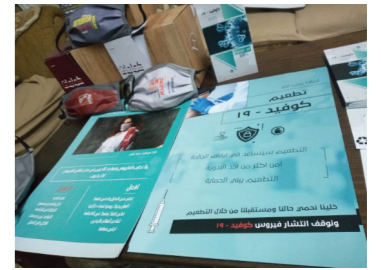


2. Awareness campaign for preventive procedures against Covid-19, especially for Dar Al Kalima University Students

Designed by Tamara Hawwash

Tamara noticed that students at DAK did not generally abide by the preventive procedures against Covid-19 and decided to study this phenomenon. In her primary research, Tamara found that most students were unaware of the dangers and how serious the infection might be to students and their surroundings. According to the Ministry of Health, the highest prevalence of infection was among 21 to 29 year-olds at that time. The project was to:

- Conduct an awareness campaign for college students.
- Develop an exclusive design for masks to encourage students to wear them.
- Create a new package to carry more than one mask at the same time.



3. Advocating for Palestinian women's rights through graffiti

Designed by Ramiz Lolos

This research is based on the global and societal reality faced by women due to deprivation of their rights and verbal, sexual, and psychological violence. Ramiz discovered that he could contribute to solving the problem through expressive drawings on walls that conveyed a message, and via statistics on the

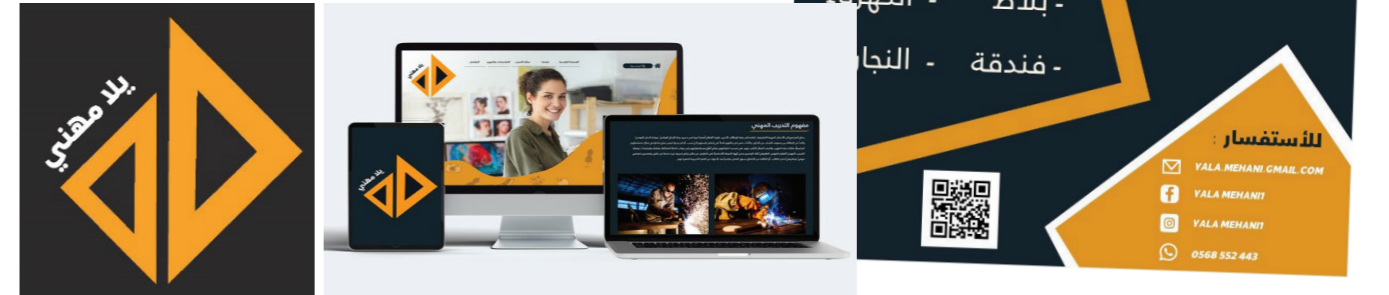
violence against women globally and in Arab and Palestinian society. The graffiti took Ramiz five continuous days and nights to finish. In his drawing, he represented women's smiles, strength, patience, love, and the beauty of her soul in spite all that she undergoes due to deprivation of her rights.



4. The role of parents in directing high school children towards vocational education

Designed by Rua Manasrah

The study showed that students tend to seek vocational education despite several obstacles, among them the lack of availability of vocational guidance, the nature of the profession of parents, the failure to promote professional orientation in the Palestinian curriculum, and society's negative view of vocational education. Suggested solutions were to conduct an awareness campaign via different mediums with proper branding.



The Design Program

The Design program allows students to become familiar with the foundations and principles of design in general. The student can then specialize in the following tracks:

- **Product design:** This track includes the design of furniture, lighting, jewelry, craft products and other industrial products.
- **Packaging design:** This track includes the design rules for packaging, its role in marketing products and its impact on the environment.
- **Fashion design:** This track includes the design of fabrics, clothing, jewelry, accessories, and shoes, etc.
- **Multimedia and animation:** This track include the design of digital multimedia, websites, web pages, video games and animation.

During the third and fourth year, students are trained in private sector facilities, including factories and companies, to facilitate direct student involvement in the labor market.

In 2021, 17 students were enrolled in this program, making up 3% of all university students. There were 11 new student representing 7% of all university admissions.

Field Trips and Activities



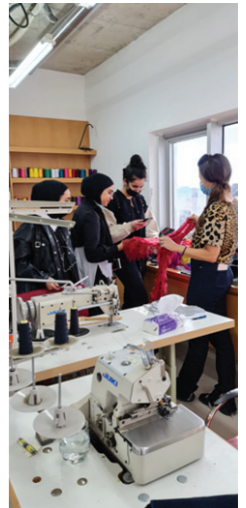
1. Educational trip to Ramallah: The aim was to introduce students to the world of cultural platforms and organizations in collaboration with the A. M. Qattan Foundation in Ramallah. One of their projects introduces their cultural space/activities to university students and the Foundation covered the travel expenses for the Design and Interior Design students. The tour included:

- The Qattan Foundation in Ramallah
- An exhibition titled “Palestine from Above”
- The Laila Al-Miqdadi Library
- The Palestinian Museum, Birzeit

2. A visit to the Living Cultures Gallery in Ramallah: Living Cultures is a privately owned gallery that displays a variety of works from designers throughout the country (fashion, furniture, products). Students were introduced to many inspiring designers and local works.



3. Visit to a local tailor and sewing workshop as part of the course Introduction to Fashion Design. This introduces students to sewing machines and different sewing techniques.



Special Lectures and Guest Lecturers

The United Nations 1947 Partition Plan

On December 2, 2021, Prof. Nael Salman gave a special lecture on the UN Partition Plan of 1947 that divided Palestine into two states: a Jewish and Arab state. The lecture explained the reasons behind the failure of the Plan, the historical events, and the geopolitical changes in Palestine. The presentation was followed by a discussion.

Guest lecture by Sudqi Alsalayma, CEO of AHL Logics with other engineers

The presentation focused on the definition of design as an emerging career in Palestine and the design process used by the company to create patented designs and products.



Participation in Conferences and Workshops

Tailoring and Sewing Patterns, Bethlehem workshop: DAK participated in this workshop with Faculty of Design/ Design program coordinator Diala Andonia.

Cultural Management College

The Cultural Management College was established in September 2021. It offers BA programs in Sports Management and Cultural and Sustainable Tourism.

The pre-College activities of the program are reported as part of the College report. In the fall term of 2021, academic courses were offered as planned with face-to-face teaching. New college and program administrative committees were created, and meetings take place periodically between the faculty and dean to discuss academic and administrative issues related to the College.

Sports Management Program

The BA in Sports Management was launched at the beginning of September 2020. Eight students (four male and four female) were enrolled during the winter term 2021. and a female football team was established and started training, but team activities

were cancelled due to Covid-19. In addition, classes and exams were offered face-to-face and electronically. additional students joined the second-year students and new students enrolled for their first year during the fall term of 2021.

Cultural and Sustainable Tourism Program

In the fall of 2021, there were 22 students in the first and second year. Five of the second-year students are graduates of the Palestinian Tour Guide Diploma program who are pursuing the BA degree to further their knowledge in the tourism field.

Conferences

The highlight of 2021 was the participation of second year students in the Art and Citizenship Conference as part of the practical part of their course in Events Management. Their contribution was entitled "Shabab Talk," with a format like

that of TEDx. The students were trained by three graduates and one faculty member, with the assistance of a faculty member who is a graduate of the Drama and Theater program, to speak to an audience about their success stories as a result of their studies and work at DAK University. The event was entirely organized by the students with the supervision of the faculty member in charge of the course.

Graduate Studies and Scientific Research College

The College is in the process of accrediting new MA programs:

- MA in Management of Cultural Institutions and Events (Cultural Institutions Management, Events Management)
- MA in Arts (Music, Contemporary Art, Documentary Film)

Technical Community College

The Technical Community College was established in September 2021 to offer the following diploma programs: Culinary Art and Management, Jewelry Design, Documentary Film, Palestinian Tour Guide, Photography, Contemporary Fine Arts, Art Education, Glass and Ceramics.

It also has two specialized diploma programs: Culinary Art and Advanced Hospitality.

The semester started as planned on September 6 with 84 students in all programs. In the fall term 2021, academic courses were offered as planned and teaching was face-to-face. New administrative college and program committees were created and meetings take place periodically between the faculty and dean to discuss academic and administrative issues related to the College. The transition period from college to university was challenging as

the accreditation was granted in August and the transition started in September. However, the team managed all administrative and technical issues as required.

Culinary Art Management (CAM)

1. January-August 2021

In the winter semester 2021 there were 22 first year students in the CAM program, made up of 12 men and 10 women. Among the second-year students, there were four women, eight men and one continuing education student, all of whom graduated in July of 2021.

Culinary Tourism (CT)

In March 2021 the head chef of the CAM program conducted a three-hour cooking session for the Bright Stars of Bethlehem program in the USA. Twelve participants learned to cook traditional Palestinian dishes.

Construction of a New Teaching Kitchen

The CAM program participated with students from the Interior Design program in the competition to select the best layout for a new educational kitchen. A plan was selected and the construction work started in September. The dining hall was converted to a new educational kitchen with five cooking stations.

Hospitality Services

The CAM program provided hospitality services for different clients. Despite the pandemic, many events took place at DAK University.

2. September – December 2021

CAM Hospitality Services

- CAM program/kitchen continued to offer hospitality throughout the fall term for faculty and events.
- On October 28 the German representative for the Palestinian territories visited DAK University and met with students and teachers. The Technical

Community College took part in this activity and the kitchen provided hospitality.

Graduation Projects

- Jewelry Art program graduation projects. Farah Sbaih defending her project 2/7/2021



- Jewelry Art program graduation projects. Omar Hmeidat defending his project 2/7/2021



Projects

1. In 2021 it was the final year for the **Learn, Train, Design and Work, funded by the World Bank through QIF**. The project activities ended in August 2021.. The outcomes were as follows:
 - An academic curriculum based on an integrated learning system for the Jewelry Art diploma program. The curriculum included more field training at private sector premises. The original curriculum comprised only one course of field training, which was equal to two credit hours. The new adjusted curriculum includes five field training courses with a total of thirteen credit hours.
 - The preparation, collection, and printing of course files for thirteen courses. These are printed as a curriculum for faculty and students to follow.
 - Strengthening of the relationship between DAK and the private sector. Official MOUs were signed

with The Palestinian Union for Precious Metals, Qawasmi Jewelry Co., Hagop Shohmelian Jewelry Company, Bandak Jewelry Factory, Zein Tamimi (Abu Rmeleh) Workshop, and Al-Sayyed Jewelry Company. Contacts have been made with several other companies but no MOUs have been signed with them yet.

- Strengthening of the relationship with the German “Goldschmiedeschule mit Uhrmacherschule” (College for Jewelry and Watch Making) in Pforzheim, which has supported the process of curriculum development, especially as they are experts in dual learning systems. During 2019/2020, several student and faculty exchange trips took place. During 2021 and the Covid-19 pandemic, several virtual meetings were held to consult about best practices in online teaching.
- The procurement of six laptops and student tool kits to facilitate online teaching.

- The procurement of machinery for the DAK jewelry workshop.
 - The procurement of 15 computers and one design software to upgrade the DAK design lab.
 - The procurement of books and subscriptions to design and jewelry magazines.
 - The training of eight DAK staff and faculty members in various fields, mainly the integrated learning system, design and marketing.
 - The establishment of the Jewelry Design Competition for students and its launch in summer 2021. The winner was Raneem Harhoud whose design was produced and entered in the First National Jewelry Virtual Exhibition.
 - The First National Jewelry Virtual exhibition highlighted the jewelry produced by 15 companies, 11 freelance jewelers, and eight graduate students. <https://bsff.daralkalima.edu.ps/exhibition/>
- According to the Graduate Tracking System of December 2021 (tracking 2021 graduates of the Jewelry program), four of the seven graduates are now working in the jewelry sector.
 - The production of a documentary film about the project and its outcome.
- 2. The Obader project** funded by Care International. The Jewelry Art program followed this project closely after initiation of the agreement with CARE. In April 2021 the project was transferred to the gift shop and became the responsibility of Nancy Salsa.

The project included:

1. The development of six annexes to the Quality Charter for Handicraft Industries in close cooperation with the PSI. These annexes comprise glass, ceramics, pottery, silver, accessories and embroidery. Three key staff members were directly involved in this task: Faten Nastas, Alfred Azar and Jabra Mitwasi.

2. Graphic Design graduate Aya Rabah designed the logo for the Quality Charter.
3. Manal Awad documented the handicraft industries with photos that were used later in a publication.
4. Drawing up of internal bylaws for the artisan hub Paltisana.
5. Development of the business plan and budget for the first year.

New Accredited Programs and Upcoming Programs for Accreditation

- The Photography program – an associate diploma- was offered in the fall of 2021 for the first time after receiving accreditation in the summer.
- A new associate degree diploma program in Community Dance was submitted to the Ministry of Higher Education for accreditation for fall 2022.

Palestinian Tour Guide Program

1. DAK University and Bethlehem University (BU) are working together on a joint program in guiding to be offered in September 2022.
2. Three meetings were held with BU in September, October and November to work on the joint PTG program.
3. On November 29 the President of DAK University and Dean of the Technical College attended a meeting held by the GLZ at BU to examine potential for improving the tourism sector under the current circumstances, the needs of educational institutions, and possibilities for cooperation and funding.
4. On November 18, the dean attended a conference held by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities entitled Promoting Bethlehem as a Tourism Destination.

Meetings/Workshops/Conferences/Field Visits

1. In June 2021, Jewelry students visited the Qawasmi Jewelry Co. and the Directorate of Stamping and Precious Metals Control in Hebron.
2. In September an evaluation meeting took place with the QIF who funded two projects: Jewelry and CAM.
3. In October the head of the department of gold stamping and a deputy from the Ministry of Economy visited DAK University. The team attended a workshop in the Jewelry program and talked to the students and teacher. Future training opportunities were discussed.
4. In November the QIF team visited DAK University to ensure that the Jewelry and CAM outputs are sustainable, and to assist with the completing of projects.
5. In December, students and faculty attended the Art and Citizenship conference held by DAK University.

Library

There were several developments and achievements for the library in 2021, especially in light of DAK's accreditation as a university. This provided a huge impetus for the library to achieve university level and develop further.

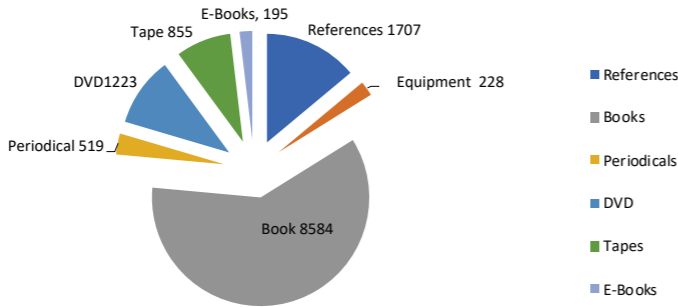
This year, a new library system was purchased to keep pace with modern international library systems. The main achievements of 2021 are as follows:

Item name	Number
Number of new subscribers	162
Number of total subscribers	3872
Number of new books purchased	486
Number of electronic books purchased	194
Number of new references	1
Number of new encyclopedias	1
Total number of acquisitions	13083

Type of Acquisitions

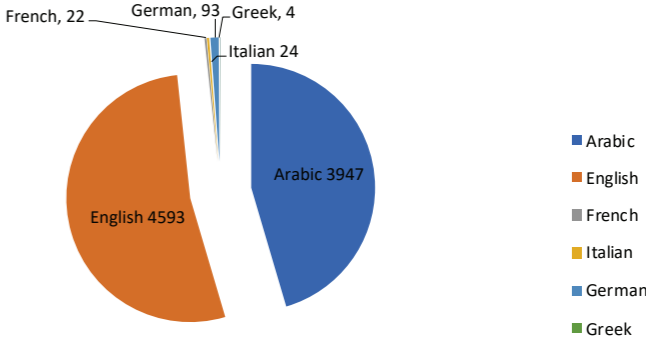
Number	Code	Type	Number of Titles	Number of Copies
1	C	References	380	1707
2	M	Books	8300	8584
3	S	Periodicals	26	519
4	D	DVD	979	1223
5	R	Tapes	232	855
6		E-Books	193	195
		Total	10110	13083

Number of Acquisitions



Number of Titles by Language

Number	Language	Number of Titles	Number of Copies
1	Arabic	3947	4644
2	English	4593	5974
3	French	22	22
4	German	93	93
5	Greek	4	4
6	Italian	24	24



Library 2021 Main Accomplishments

1. Upgrading the digitized library system to enable a shift entirely to electronic services.
2. Subscriptions to seven new specialized periodicals that relate to the programs at DAK University.
3. Purchase of a new valuable set of books.
4. Purchase of new e-books.
5. All films are now available on the library website.
6. All faculty reserved materials and books are available electronically at all hours.
7. Publication of an article in *Isdarat al-Itihad al-ʿrabi lil-Maktabat wa al-Maʿlumat (lʿlam)* about the library.
8. Addition of links to the library website of international libraries that share their full contents. This will have a positive effect on academic standards for DAK University students.

Library Projects for 2022

During 2022, the library will undertake projects that contribute to the development of information services for students and faculty members. These projects are summarized as follows:

1. Work on increasing the electronic library holdings.
2. Provide as many books as possible in full text.
3. Subscription to several specialized magazines.

Registration

Enrolled in 2021		
Program		%
Bachelor	Film Production	68%
	Sport Management	
	Film Production	
	Design	
	Graphic Design	
	Interior Design	
	Cultural & Sustainable Tourism	
	Performing Arts	
	Contemporary Arts	

Diploma	Music Performance	27%
	Palestinian Tour Guides	
	Documentary Film Production	
	Photography	
	Contemporary Fine Arts	
	Jewelry Arts	
	Culinary Arts & Management	
Continues Education	Culinary Arts – CE	5%
	Sport	
	Continuous Education	
	Culinary CE	
	Arts Restoration	
	Film Production – CE	
	Jewelry Arts - CE	

Origin Governorate of Students	
Governorate	%
Bethlehem	66.1%
Hebron	14.9%
Jerusalem	12.0%
Ramallah	3.2%
Nablus	1.2%
Tulkarem	0.6%
Jenin	0.4%
Gaza	0.4%
Palestinians from the 1948 territories	0.4%
Qalqilya	0.4%
Jericho	0.2%
Amman	0.2%

Graduates of 2021		
Program		%
Bachelor	Interior Design	38%
	Contemporary Arts	4%
	Graphic Design	4%
	Performing Arts	4%
	Film Production	3%
Diploma	Culinary Arts & Management	12%
	Palestinian Tour Guides	13%
	Contemporary Fine Arts	3%
	Jewelry Design	9%
	Music Performance	9%
	Documentary Film Production	1%
	Culinary Arts - CE	1%

Admissions of 2021		
Program		%
Bachelor	Interior Design	24%
	Graphic Design	16%
	Cultural & Sustainable Tourism	8%
	Film Production	7%
	Design	7%
	Performing Arts	5%
	Contemporary Arts	4%
	Sport Management	2%
Diploma	Culinary Arts & Management	12%
	Jewelry Design	5%
	Photography	4%
	Music Performance	1%
	Palestinian Tour Guides	1%
	Film Production - CE	1%
	Jewelry Arts - CE	1%
	Restoration	1%
CE	Culinary Arts & Management	1%

Graduates of 2021/2022		
Program		%
Bachelor	Film Production	36.1%
	Graphic Design	
	Performing Arts	
	Graphic Design	
	Contemporary Arts	
Diploma	Palestinian Tour Guides	63.9%
	Documentary Film Production	
	Jewelry Design	
	Music Performance	
	Art Education	
	Contemporary Fine Arts	



4 THE ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAM

In cooperation with DVV International and supported by BMZ, Dar Al-Kalima University implemented several activities to improve the capacity of Adult Learning and Education (ALE) providers to deliver quality services based on the needs of 10 targeted communities.

Activities implemented in 2021

1. Capacity building of new and existing partners in WB and Jerusalem

A one-day workshop was held in Ramallah on November 24, 2021 to discuss internal management systems. The partners were trained and committed to a set of procedures and regulations that will enhance operations in these centers.

2. Development of digital ALE in Palestine and draft Palestinian digital ALE portal

Three workshops were held via Zoom for participants and representatives from the centers and the Palestinian Ministry of Education on September 23, October 21, and November 4, 2021.

The topics covered in the workshops included introducing material for each center (goals, vision), sharing the courses and initiatives of each center, reporting news and success stories, and announcements and marketing.

In the final workshop, a draft concept for digital ALE was presented to participants for feedback before a final version was submitted within the deadline. The concept for the digital platform includes the

requirements of the website/platform, its rationale, proposed activities, a financial plan, and terms of reference. This concept will be considered in the next phase of the project in 2022.

3. Feasibility study for GlobALE higher degree in Adult Education

Following a bidding process, a consultant was selected to conduct a detailed study of the educational and financial aspects of a curriculum. The feasibility study was included with the application for accreditation to the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education in 2022.

4. Roundtables and discussions with national and local stakeholders

Two roundtable meetings were coordinated with representatives from fields related to Adult Education. The meetings took place via Zoom on November 9 and December 4, 2021. These fruitful discussions contributed to finalizing a professional feasibility study.

5. Contextualization and piloting of a digital ALE module (a new module being developed by DVV International HQ)

DAK assigned a consultant selected through a bidding process to review the existing curriculum and adapt it to the digital context. The consultant conducted two



face-to-face full day training sessions in Ramallah on December 6-7, 2021, and two training days via Zoom on December 13-14, 2021. The trainees learnt how to use new digital sources to develop infographics,

how to plan their training, write stories, and record them for publishing (podcast). Part of the training covered video editing. The consultant developed a training guide, which will be further improved and upgraded in 2022.



6. Institutionalization of Curriculum InstitutionALE - Capacity building of new and existing partners

Organizational capacity development tools (based on the existing KPI tools and the new Curriculum InstitutionALE) were developed in a participatory process for application when conducting assessments of partners. In total there were seven key performance indicators (KPIs) to review and update. The participants met at the DVV office in Ramallah on May 31 to review the first three KPIs: General Management; Need and Market Analysis; and Selection of Beneficiaries. Each KPI included several indicators, means of verification and guidelines for evaluation.

The workshop was held via Zoom on June 6 and 9 for the remaining KPIs to be discussed and updated, and a final version prepared. The four KPIs targeted were: Selection of Qualified Trainers; Networking and Referrals; Field Tour Guide; and Financing.

In addition, two guides for learner and trainer focus groups were updated and edited to facilitate needs assessment in the centers.

These new resources were used to conduct an assessment of organizational capacity development for the partner centers. For this purpose, two-day field visits for each center took place in June and July 2021 for interviews and conversations with stakeholders, a review of files in the centers, and routine observation of daily activities. The list of indicators proved useful for effective assessment.



5 STORIES FROM PALESTINE PROJECT



Dar Al-Kalima University is implementing the “Stories from Palestine” project in partnership with DVV International – Palestine, and in cooperation with eight community centers for the education of youth and adults in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The project will last for three years (starting from the beginning of November 2020 until the end of October 2023). The core goal of the project is to make use of the substantial intersection between the fields of culture and education to engage Palestinian

adult education centers in cultural and artistic work. The project provides the resources needed to build methodologies for cultural education that can improve living conditions and achieve local development with the core values of justice and freedom.



Project Objectives

The overall project objective is to enhance the participation of Palestinian civil society in the preservation and promotion of Palestinian culture.

The specific objective is to enhance the contribution of adult education centers in marginalized rural areas that are less exposed to forms of artistic and cultural



expression in education and cultural action.

Project Implementation Stages

The “Stories of Palestine” project aspires to achieve its goals through three stages of detailed activities:



The first stage: build the capacities of eight community centers for adult education to provide cultural education and manage artistic and cultural activities that promote local cultural heritage, engage multiple sectors of society and enhance respect for cultural diversity.

The second stage: increase participation by target communities in cultural and artistic expression by expanding opportunities for education and high-level cultural actions.

The third stage: raise public awareness about Palestinian cultural heritage and narrative and promote Palestinian culture and heritage in festivals held in Palestine and abroad.

Activities Implemented in 2021

The following activities were implemented during 2021:

1. Curriculum Development

This activity was conducted in two phases:

a. Preparation: the project team collected and reviewed national and global content, established a team of master trainers, planned workshop content, and prepared follow-up and other logistical steps.

b. Execution: conducted the first workshop to study content and work on the design of the modules; assigned roles and timeframes within the team of master trainers; developed module content; conducted a second workshop; and finalized plans for the training of local trainers.

2. Capacity Building

This activity, which focused on providing capacity building for the management of targeted community-based Adult Education Centers (AECs) was conducted in two parts: **a. Preparation:** developed capacity building plans with the project team and master trainers' team and assigned training tasks in coordination with 30 beneficiaries. **b. Execution:** conducted the first training workshops in Bethlehem and Gaza, followed by coaching based on the capacity building plans.

3. Training of Local Adult Educators

The DAK team was involved in preparing teams and conducting baseline studies in eight targeted communities; calling for interested trainers and artists; conducting preparatory assessments with selected participants; and preparing training plans and follow up measures. Training sessions were held in eight communities in cooperation with the eight targeted adult education centers. The modules used were developed based on feedback from participants and trainers/artists were selected to lead and facilitate cultural education activities.



6 RELIGION AND STATE – MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM

Although the Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact the world, including Palestine, in the most challenging ways, 2021 was a dynamic year for the Religion and State project. Several critical activities were implemented that had a significant impact on the target groups and contributed to positive change. A summary of these activities is as follows:

Capacity Building National Workshops

Young people, the main target group of the project, engaged in five workshops that focused on enhancing their understanding of issues related to citizenship, pluralism, social cohesion, and gender equality. The workshops aimed to build capacities in creating

and sustaining inclusive community initiatives, volunteerism, and utilizing the arts in active citizenship. Christian youth, who made up almost 40% of the workshop participants, were able to meet other young people from different political, educational, socio-economic, religious and geographical backgrounds, including refugees and religious minorities. Such interaction helps in understanding the nature of individual contexts, how to utilize the skills acquired in becoming more active citizens, and greater focus on working towards Sustainable Development Goal #16 (Promote Just, Peaceful and Inclusive Societies). The majority of young women participating in these activities were crucial to the overall framework of gender equality: 64.2% of the 81 participants were women.

The following workshops were held:

- Two national capacity building workshops made up the first part of a two-phase activity held in two project countries, Palestine and Jordan, during June 2021. The training included 24 young people in equal numbers from Palestine and Jordan: 14 women and 10 men between the ages of 19 to 35 years. The national workshop was divided into two segments to maintain a smaller size group in each setting over the two-period training. The workshops were held in person and strict adherence to health instructions was observed. The training focused on equipping participants with the knowledge, skills, competencies and attitude to build and launch community initiatives that address citizenship, pluralism, gender equality, inclusiveness and volunteerism. Training focused on the tools needed to conduct a needs assessment; on developing the vision, mission and values of the initiative; determining the target group; utilizing social media and other forums for outreach; and the design and implementation of activities and resources.
- A follow-up workshop to continue the theme of community initiatives was organized as part of the first regional conference held in August 19-22 in Jordan. It included 16 participants (nine women and seven men) who were equally divided from the project countries. The one-day workshop focused on training the youth on how to present and pitch their fully developed community initiatives, with the ultimate target of competing at the end of the conference for the Recognition Awards for Research and Social Innovation.
- Two additional in-person capacity building workshops were organized in Jordan and Lebanon during December with a total of 41 participants (29 women and 12 men) aged from 19 to 35 years. These national workshops were held in conjunction with the Art and Citizenship

Conference as the surge of the coronavirus Omicron variant threatened in-person gatherings. Both national workshops had the same title and theme as the conference due to the importance of this topic and the overall impact of the arts on concepts such as citizenship. The workshops were held in a hybrid fashion with part of the workshops aired online in coordination with the conference sessions to enable a greater number and diversity of participants to be involved.

- The first workshop was held in Amman, Jordan, on December 15, with 25 participants (17 women and 8 men). The workshop introduced participants to the concept of active citizenship and the role of the arts in both nurturing civic values and as a creative tool for peaceful dialogue. The majority were Jordanian citizens, but a significant proportion of the participants were refugees from other Arab countries. Having young refugees participate in the forum was valuable as it opened up critical discussion

about an important issue of how the arts can support refugees in countries where they are not citizens. A male Sudanese refugee participant commented that this workshop was unique as he had acquired deeper understanding of the role of the arts in self- and community development. It also helped him to learn how to communicate and express himself.

- The second workshop was held in Beirut, Lebanon, on December 16, with 16 participants (12 women and 4 men) who were academics, artists, activists, creative enterprise founders, and art organization presidents. All sessions were held in a hybrid format with on-site and online participants and attendees. Several issues were addressed in this workshop: how can art and citizenship relation be defined and practiced? How can local and diaspora artistic initiatives and interventions have a greater impact given the current challenges – economic crisis, political unrest, migration, and social injustice? What are

the needs of individuals, groups, and associations who are reinventing traditional notions of artistic creation and who contribute to the development of their society through the transformative power of their artistic capacities or through proactive social engagement? And what are the ways to move forward and contribute to building inclusive/active citizenship in Lebanon and Southwestern Asia?



Regional Youth Chapters

An important activity during 2021 was to re-affirm and support the work of youth chapters as part of a regional network via a webinar held on March 19, with a total of 39 youth participants almost equally distributed by gender: 19 young women and 20 young men.

Recognition Awards for Research and Social Innovation

Young people competed for the Recognition Awards for Research and Social Innovation during the August regional conference in Jordan. Four community initiatives were represented by 16 young people: nine young women and seven young men from different countries who competed for the awards. These initiatives were as follows:

- In Palestine the initiative focused on empowering vulnerable women through capacity building in recycling textiles into new designs.
- In Jordan the initiative challenged the cyber bullying of children and women.
- In Lebanon, the initiative addressed physical and mental health through art and drama.
- In Egypt the initiative paid tribute to the social activist Faraj Fouda by building a digital library of his publications in his memory.

Both Lebanese and Palestinian competitors were voted as the winners of the first and second prize, with Jordanian innovators receiving the third prize.

Regional Conferences

A major accomplishment during this reporting period was the two regional conferences that took place in Jordan and Palestine with participants from all the project countries. This was a significant step since the

Covid-19 pandemic created tremendous challenges in implementing in-person conferences almost from the outset of this phase. The organization of these conferences was the result of systematic and intensive coordination with many of our partners in the different project countries, ensuring timely responsiveness, and closely monitoring the health situation in all countries. The hybrid format facilitated the holding of these conferences as some speakers and participants were unable to attend in person and joined online.

The impact of the two conferences was immensely positive. Many speakers and participants expressed appreciation of the opportunity provided after so long to be part of a regional exchange of ideas and scholarly work.

The number of academics, scholars, activists, young people and journalists who requested to partake as speakers and/or as participants was much higher than for previous conferences. In total, there were 182 participants (76 women and 106 men) and

50 scholars, academics, experts and activists (20 women and 30 men) as speakers.

The first conference, Active Citizenship Towards Pluralistic Societies in the Arab World and North Africa, was held in Amman, Jordan, in August 19-22, 2021. A total of 41 participants registered for this conference, with 22 women and 19 men from Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, Egypt and Qatar. Sixteen young people participated in this event. A total of 14 speakers comprising seven women and seven men presented papers and represented a variety of contexts, disciplines, backgrounds and religions. The conference included a meeting with Prince Hassan bin Talal, who was greatly impressed with the conference, and who gave his full support to the idea and concept of this initiative. The conference was held jointly with the Royal Institute for Interfaith Studies. A session was held on Interreligious Dialogue Inter-Regional Curriculum in which experts shared their input and conclusions on the curriculum and course held during the early summer. A training session on how to pitch

community initiatives was held for representatives of the youth chapters of the different project countries. This was followed by presentations before a jury to assess the efficacy of these initiatives and decide on the winners as part of the Recognition Awards for Research and Social Innovation.

The second conference entitled Art and Citizenship was held in Bethlehem, Palestine, on December 15-16, 2021. The conference was organized in response to recommendations by the first conference participants about the critical role played by the arts in nurturing active citizenship and the need to maintain the momentum by continuing discussions as soon as possible. A total of 141 participants attended over the two-day period, with 54 women and 87 men. There were 36 speakers: 13 women and 23 men. As well as the academics, artists and activists, students organized a session called “Youth Talk” to represent their views on citizenship while specializing in the arts. The conference was held in a hybrid format with both in-person attendance and online to allow for the

participation of speakers from Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and the Diaspora, including Canada. Some segments of the workshops held in Jordan and Lebanon were shared with the conference participants to enrich the discussion and provide the impetus to continue to work on this topic collectively.



Research on Christian Communities

Critical material is being generated on the status and contribution of Christian communities in the project countries. Research commenced in September 2020 with the creation of a team of researchers and the research is expected to be completed by April 2022.

Enhanced Visibility of the Project

There was enhanced interest in 2021 from media outlets in the project countries covering the activities of the project and of the Christian Academic Forum for Citizenship in the Arab World (CAFCAW). Two media reports were produced for the August conference in Jordan and were published by 11 news agencies in Jordan and Palestine. Three of the largest newspapers in Jordan and Palestine published articles on the conference, namely *al-Dustour* and *al-Ghad al-Urduni* in Jordan, and *al-Quds* in Palestine. The main Jordanian TV station broadcast a

TV report on the conference during its nightly news hour. Additionally, eight interviews took place with conference participants and were posted on social media outlets.

For the second conference held in Bethlehem in December 2021, two media reports were produced and published by eight news agencies in Palestine. Five TV reports were broadcast by TV and media agencies in addition to three interviews on national radio stations. The two biggest newspapers in Palestine published articles on the conference and seven interviews with conference participants were posted online on social media.

Visits to the CAFCAW website (www.cafcaw.org) continued to grow. In 2021, there were 43,865 visits in total from different countries, including the project countries, in addition to the EU (especially Germany).

The number of followers of the project's Facebook pages also grew in 2021. The Arabic page has 921

followers and the CAFCAW Facebook page in English has 1091 followers.

Four short video interviews were produced with inspiring women from the Middle East region during March 2021 to mark International Women's Day. The women were members of the CAFCAW steering committee, project staff, and a prominent journalist and head of a media agency in Palestine.

Multiple short clips and interviews were produced with youth, women, speakers and other participants from the different activities of the project, including the capacity building workshops and conferences. The clips and interviews documented different aspects of the activities and included the participants' feedback and impressions. The material was posted on CAFCAW's Facebook page in Arabic and DAK's Facebook page.

Publications

A webinar on CAFCAW's publication *Towards Inclusive Societies: Middle Eastern Perspectives* was organized on March 12, 2021. Three of the authors, one woman and two men who contributed to the publication, addressed issues that are critical to creating inclusive societies, including citizenship and pluralism. A total of 15 experts and activists in civil society and religious studies (eight women and seven men) participated in the webinar.

A key publication during 2021 was that of the DAK founder and President, and a member of the CAFCAW steering committee, Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb. He is one of the authors of an important regional document: *We Choose Abundant Life – Christians in the Middle East: Towards Renewed Theological, Social, and Political Choices*. A launch ceremony took place in Beirut, Lebanon. The document, written in both Arabic and English, was produced by an ecumenical group of theologians and experts in human and geopolitical

sciences of both sexes. It seeks to examine the current situation of Christians in the Middle East, create a dialogue about the presence and witness of the Christian community, especially its youth, and offer choices and policies to deepen their engagement. A total of 1000 copies (500 in Arabic and 500 in English) were produced and distributed.



7 PROMOTING INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHRISTIAN SEMI- NARIANS AND IMAMS IN FORMATION

The main goal of this project was to contribute to achieving more inclusive theologies in the Middle East that ensure human dignity, active citizenship, social coherence, and tolerance. The approach employed education and interreligious dialogue and exchange, between Christian and Muslim religious educators of seminaries and Shari'a colleges to address religious intolerance and strengthen the resilience of the peoples of the region to combat extremism through the development of inclusive theologies. The key achievements of this project for this reporting period were the following:

Mapping research of the challenges facing interreligious education and a review of existing models in the region was completed. It included a detailed account of primary and secondary data collected in three countries: Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon, followed by data analysis to determine the approach and methodology on which a three-credit-hour curriculum was designed and developed.

A total of 49 academics, university professors, scholars and experts were key participants in the research through face-to-face interviews and online

questionnaires (during the Covid-19 pandemic). The participants represented Christian seminaries, Muslim Shari'a schools and academic institutions in the three countries targeted.

A taskforce of 25 academics and scholars developed the three-credit-hour curriculum. The 25-person taskforce included seventeen men and eight women: eight from Lebanon, eight from Jordan, seven from Palestine, one from the UAE, and one from Qatar. Some members of the taskforce taught classes once the curriculum had been completed.

The final draft of the curriculum, entitled the Interreligious Dialogue Inter-Regional Curriculum, was completed in April 2021. The curriculum comprises six modules in addition to an introduction and conclusion.

An intensive three-credit-hour summer course was successfully implemented to test the curriculum between May 25 to July 14, 2021, at DAK in Palestine.

A total of eleven students registered for the course: six young women and five young men. Part of the course's success was attributed to the fact that even though it was implemented physically in Bethlehem and facilitated primarily by a Palestinian woman professor, several professors and lecturers took part in the teaching and facilitation from Lebanon, Jordan and Qatar.

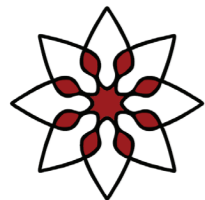
The research and curricula have been translated into English for a wider audience of beneficiaries to make use of it. It is available on DAK's official website for those interested in interreligious dialogue to make use of the material. The curriculum can be found at:

www.daralkalima.edu.ps/en/page/1632312729

Two webinars were held in November 2020 and March 2021. The first gathered 25 academics, scholars, experts and administrators, and there were 15 participants in the second webinar. Female representation was 44% and 40% respectively. Webinars were conducted instead of workshops due

to the severe restrictions imposed on travel and in-person gatherings as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first webinar focused on sharing the results and data analysis of the mapping research. Feedback and commitments were solicited to develop the curriculum and to teach it in classes upon completion. The second webinar focused on presenting the syllabus of the third draft of the curriculum, including both an outline of the course content and recommended teaching/learning methods. Samples of best practices and successful activities were also included.





PALTISANA
Palestinian Artisans

The Paltisana program is an incubator for artisans from Palestine established at Dar Al-Kalima University in 2020 as part of the Obader project, implemented by CARE International in cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy.

A total of 41 members joined the Paltisana program in 2021. The program provides a dedicated place for

artisans to meet and discuss their issues and needs. It also provides services vital to develop artisanal products in terms of design, production, packaging, promotion and marketing.

The main highlights of the Paltisana program during 2021 are the following:

Paltisana artisans participated in several national events, including the Bethlehem Capital of Arab Culture 2020 in Manger Square with the Palestinian Ministry of Culture, and also the Christmas Market Bazaar in conjunction with Bethlehem Municipality. In addition, the program launched an art competition with the Hebron Businessmen Forum. The winner will showcase their piece of art at the Atelier of DAK University, the gathering place for artisans.



Also, three courses were organized for Paltisana artisans during 2021: stone, embroidery and copper. This is an important step in supporting artisans with enhanced designs and techniques. The program is planning new courses to be held in 2022 and beyond.

Finally, new artisan products were produced, some of which are already displayed on the new Paltisana website: www.paltisana.org.



9 DAR AL-KALIMA BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Executive Summary

A major transformation took place in 2021 when the Diyar Academy for Children and Youth became an independent nonprofit organization registered at the Palestinian Ministry of Interior under the name Dar al-Kalima Benevolent Society (DAK Society). The DAK Society was established to cultivate and build on the previous programs and activities of the Diyar Academy, and to foster new growth opportunities and targets. May Hadweh was hired in August 2021 as the new director.

The DAK Benevolent Society's overall objective is to enhance and enrich the educational sector in Palestine through strategic interventions that will improve the existing educational infrastructure. Activities include:

(1) capacity building programs, (2) educational exchanges and networking among Palestinian and international organizations, (3) awareness-raising and advocacy activities.

Despite the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic closures and bans on social activities and gatherings, the DAK Society was able to resume its programs and activities in June 2021. It provided capacity building programs to 1125 children, youth and women (F: 612, M: 513) and reached an audience of 2300 people in Bethlehem and across the West Bank through theater performances. The DAK Society also reached more than 9000 people via its social media platforms. Disaggregation of DAK Society beneficiaries was as follows:

Program	Female	Male	Total
Sports	458	432	890
Drama	119	60	179
Arts	35	21	56
Total	612	513	1125

Highlights and Major Accomplishments

1. Enhanced the skills of 1125 children, youth and women in sports, drama and arts.
2. DAK Society activities reached 2300 people: Christmas play reached 2100 people and Community Dance performance reached 200 people.
3. At least 9000 people were informed about DAK Society programs and activities via our social media platforms.
4. Cooperation and networking were established with local enterprises.
5. Partnerships were initiated with local governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Programs

The Dar al-Kalima Benevolent Society has three major programs: Sports, Drama and Arts. All activities implemented throughout 2021 fell within these programs and aimed to realize program objectives.

1. Sports

The Sports program is a diverse capacity building program that targets children, youth and women. During 2021, a total of **890 people** (F: 458, M: 432) acquired new skills and enhanced their capacities in soccer, swimming, volleyball, gymnastics and Zumba.



Soccer Training for Children



Gymnastics

The total number of beneficiaries of the Sports program as follows:

Sports Program	Female	Male	Total
Swimming (Children)	292	418	710
Swimming (Women)	77	0	77
Gymnastics	17	1	18
Zumba	8	0	8
Volley	20	0	20
Soccer	18	13	31
Diyar Women First Team	26	0	26
Total	458	432	890

Diyar Women Soccer Club

The Diyar Women Soccer Club adopts a participatory approach to empower women and girls through sports. It aims to raise awareness and advocate for gender equality and integration in sports on the local, national and international levels.

The Diyar Soccer Club includes the **Diyar First Women Soccer Team**. As the name implies, our Diyar women’s soccer team comprises 26 well-qualified and highly motivated female players who won the 2021 President Cup in the Palestinian Female National League for the third year in a row.

In addition, we have the **Diyar Youngsters Team**, which consists of 18 motivated and ambitious girls. The girls receive weekly training to enhance their skills and techniques in soccer to be able to advance them to the first team.



Diyar First Women's Soccer Team winning the President's Cup

Strategic Planning Workshop

A two-day strategic planning and team-building workshop was held in Jericho on Sept 9-10, 2021. A total of 20 female players participated in this event and collectively conducted strategic planning in which they reflected on the previous year’s performance, challenges and successes, as well as setting goals and plans for 2022.

2. Drama

The Drama program offers capacity building activities that contribute to enhancing self-confidence, self-actualization, and the physical abilities of Palestinian children and youth. A total of 179 participants (F: 119, M: 60) took part in ballet, karate, theater and dance, as disaggregated below:

Drama Program	Female	Male	Total
Ballet	40	0	40
Karate	3	33	36
Diyar Theatre	48	19	67
Community Theatre	8	3	11
Community Dance	6	0	6
Dabkeh Dance	8	5	13
Drama	6	0	6
Total	119	60	179

The Diyar Theatre

The Diyar Theatre has 67 active and committed children and youth members (F: 48, M: 19) who join in theater capacity building activities. The Diyar Theatre participated in several cultural activities in the Bethlehem governorate during 2021 and performed dabkeh dancing, including during the celebrations for Bethlehem as the Capital of Arab Culture.

In addition, Diyar Theatre implemented the following activities:

Santa's Academy – A Christmas Play: The Diyar Theatre produced a Christmas play entitled Santa's Academy. The play was performed 16 times in Bethlehem and across the West Bank, reaching to Jericho and Ramallah with a total audience of 2100 people, and 5000 views on DAK Society's social media platforms.

Community Dance Project: The Community Dance Project enhanced the capacities and skills of 36 young people (F: 28, M: 8) in community dance, community theater, drama and dabkeh dance through a year-long intensive training program.

The program helped to raise awareness about community dance by conducting an open performance in the auditorium of the Dar al-Kalima University, which was attended by 200 people. The program activities also reached a total of 4000 people via DAK Society social media platforms.



Santa's Academy Play

3. Art

Art and painting classes at DAK Society provide a space for Palestinian children and youth to learn basic painting techniques, and to express themselves in an artistic and creative way. A total of 23 people (F: 10, M: 13) benefited from art classes in 2021.



Painting class

Christmas Camp: The Christmas Camp took place from Dec 27, 2021 to January 5, 2022 and targeted 33 children (22 girls and 11 boys). It aimed to provide a recreational and learning space for children to celebrate the Christmas season by participating in activities such as community dance, soccer, dabkeh, ballet, painting and crafts, including creating Christmas ornaments.



Spiritual Activity at the Christmas Camp

10 AJYAL PROGRAM

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences, including the challenge of social distancing to protect the elderly who were considered more vulnerable to the virus, we succeeded for the second consecutive year in working to serve and support the members of the Ajyal program.

In addition to various online activities, we took advantage of every opportunity to hold face-to-face meetings with small groups of program members while adhering to international health protocols. These activities can be summarized as follows:

1. Fourteen lifelong learning opportunities offered to seniors: eight on health topics related to concerns and challenges during the pandemic via an online platform, and six spiritual and psycho-social topics discussed face-to-face.



2. Eight social gatherings: four outdoor gatherings in local parks including lunches and bingo, plus four breakfasts with bingo.



3. One capacity building workshop for the current committee members of the Ajyal program to enhance their leadership and service skills, in addition to training two new members of Ajyal's committee to support vulnerable seniors in Bethlehem.
4. Two clubs were reactivated: the book club met six times (four outdoor gatherings and two indoor meetings) and the Ergosoma club conducted three online meetings.

5. A television program was produced showing how seniors in Bethlehem coped with Covid-19. The episode featured four seniors who spoke about their daily struggles during the pandemic and other aspects of life, including their biggest concern of social distancing which isolated them from their family and grandchildren. This episode was aired on a local television channel and on YouTube. The program included an interview with Dr. Tawfik Salman, a well-known Palestinian psychiatrist. In addition, eight short videos were produced on the same topic featuring Ajyal members in their homes. This project was funded by The International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID).



6. An online webinar on dementia and Alzheimer's disease was organized to raise awareness of dementia challenges in Palestine. The key speakers were Dr. Ashraf al-Husainy, a specialist in internal medicine and geriatrics, and Dr. Tawfik Salman, a consultant psychiatrist and neurologist. A dedicated team certified as Dementia Care Training Specialists at Trinity Oaks Campus, Salisbury, North Carolina, also contributed. The webinar was broadcast via Zoom and the Meeting



Google application, with the participation of 45 people and professionals from nine local institutions that provide care for the elderly.

7. A trip to Haifa was organized for 41 seniors. It was a memorable trip as many had not left their immediate vicinity since the beginning of the pandemic.



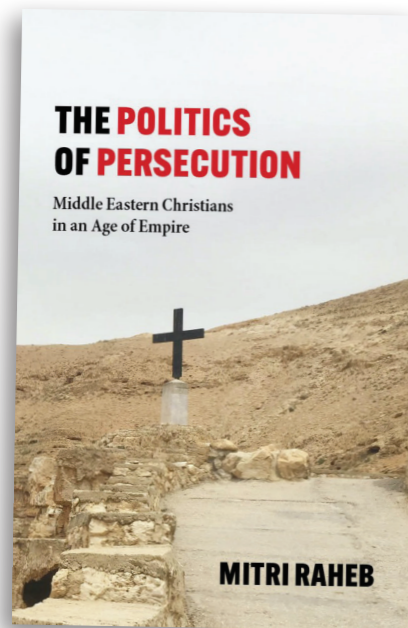
8. A Christmas concert and dinner was held on December 11 at the auditorium of Dar Al-Kalima University. A total of 82 Ajyal program seniors attended the event, which included four drama sketches by the artist Khaled Al-Masou and his team, as well as Christmas carols by singer Lina Sleiby. A major highlight of the event was the unexpected visit of the Arab Idol, Yacoub Shaheen. After the event, Christmas dinner was served and gifts were distributed.



9. Miscellaneous activities:

- Ajyal program manager Raeda Mansour participated in the annual international Lutheran parish nurse trip to the USA. She attended the Northern Illinois District meeting where she presented the latest updates on the Ajyal program and the new challenges created by the pandemic. She also spoke at the Parish Nurse Conference at Christ the Rock Lutheran Church in Rockford and at the King of Glory Church.
- Monthly Zoom meetings took place with four specialists in dementia, mainly from Trinity Oaks Campus in North Carolina. The meetings discussed planning and building a program for training on dementia for caregivers in Palestine in March 2022 at the Dar Al-Kalima University campus.

11 DIYAR PUBLISHER



Politics of Persecution Book

Persecution of Christians in the Middle East has been a recurring theme since the middle of the nineteenth century. The topic has experienced a resurgence in the last few years, especially during the Trump era. Middle Eastern Christians are often portrayed as a homogeneous, helpless group ever at the mercy of their Muslim enemies, a situation that only Western powers can remedy. The Politics of Persecution revisits this narrative with a critical eye.

Mitri Raheb charts the plight of Christians in the Middle East from the invasion of Napoleon Bonaparte in 1799 to the so-called Arab Spring. The book analyzes the diverse socioeconomic and



Diyar Publisher

political factors that led to the diminishing role and numbers of Christians in Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan during the eras of Ottoman, French, and British Empires, through the eras of independence, Pan-Arabism, and Pan-Islamism, and into the current era of American empire. With an incisive exposé of the politics that lie behind alleged concerns for these persecuted Christians—and how the concept of persecution has been a tool of public diplomacy and international politics—Raheb reveals that Middle Eastern Christians have been repeatedly sacrificed on the altar of Western national interests. The West has been part of the problem for Middle Eastern Christianity and not part of the solution, from the massacre on Mount Lebanon to the rise of ISIS.

The Politics of Persecution, written by a well-known Palestinian Christian theologian, provides an insider perspective on this contested region. Middle Eastern Christians survived successive empires by developing great elasticity in adjusting to changing contexts; they learned how to survive atrocities and how to resist creatively while maintaining a dynamic identity. In this light, Raheb casts the history of Middle Eastern Christians not so much as one of persecution but as one of resilience.

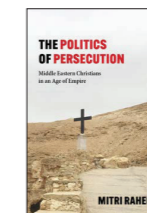
The Politics of Persecution

By Mitri Raheb

Middle Eastern Christians

in an Age of Empire

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“Mitri Raheb’s *The Politics of Persecution* offers a trove of information and analysis for any Christians fascinated by the Holy Land and its neighbors. But beyond this, it will be of great interest to general readers of all kinds, basically for anyone interested in the emergence of the Modern Middle East.”

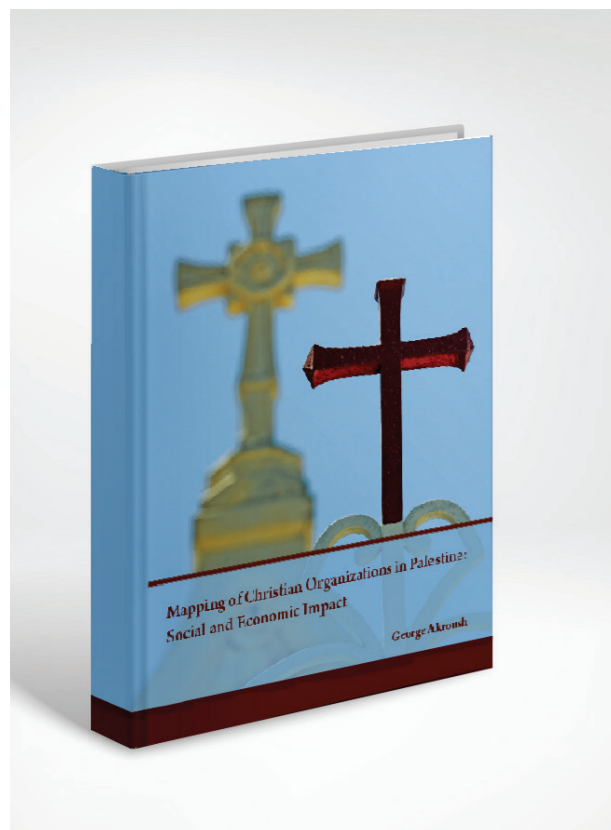
—Philip Jenkins, Distinguished Professor of History, Baylor University

“Dr. Mitri Raheb is a pastor, university president, community developer, author, and as this volume demonstrates, he is also a compelling scholar. This book provides a historical analysis of the Palestinian church in response to the relentless political and ecclesiastical agendas in the Middle East. As he convincingly argues, the story of the church in Palestine is a compelling testimony of resilience.”

—M. Craig Barnes, President, Princeton Theological Seminary

~~\$24.99~~ \$19.99 • 9781481314404 • 215 pages • Cloth • 5.5 x 8.5

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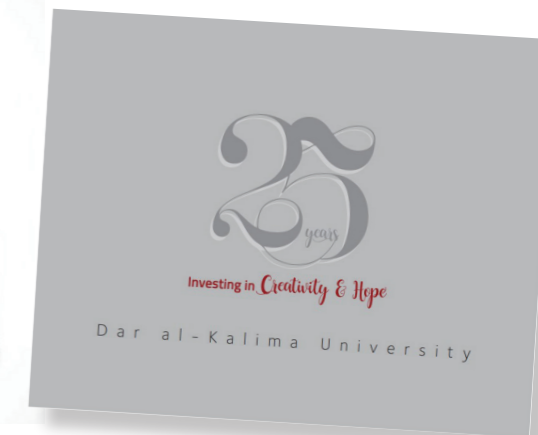


Mapping of Christian Organizations in Palestine: Social and Economic Impact

This study is a testimony to the vital role played by Christian churches and church-related organizations in Palestinian society, especially in the areas of education, health, development, and culture. This role is not new but dates back to the early church that was born in no other place than Jerusalem. The study reflects the continuing service and diakonia demonstrated by Christian-related organizations and the impact on the larger Palestinian community. It shows that although Christians in Palestine constitute a very small percentage of the society, their socio-economic role should not be underestimated. This role is crucial in providing high-quality and affordable services to both Christians and Muslims and is an important cornerstone of peace and state-building.



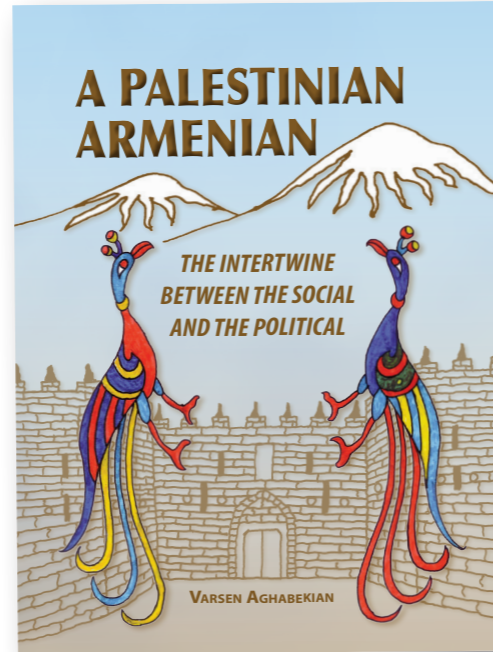
25 years-Investing in Creativity and Hope – The Journey from Dar Annadwa to Dar al-Kalima University



Palestinian Armenian

This book stands out as an imperative endeavor by a Palestinian Armenian, who dug into the history of the cultural anthropology and the longevity of Armenian presence in the Holy Land. A research based on primary sources and oral history, the combination of which makes it a remarkable book to read. This research reflects chronologically the role of the Armenian presence especially in the 20th century, flavoured with historic anecdotes that make the historiography pleasant to the reader. The Armenian presence since the 5th century is an epic story by itself, which the author brilliantly spiced it with modern techniques and skills and portrayed chronologically the evolution and developments of the Armenian community in the holy land, and their landmarks left already. I endorse this rather rare book wholeheartedly and believe it is a must read for it reflects the ethnic diversity and pluralism in Palestine.

Professor Manuel Hassassian
Ambassador of the State of Palestine to Denmark



The author has embarked on an autobiographical journey reinforced by pioneering anthropological findings about the Armenian Community in the Holy Land. Her research fills a gap in paucity of the relatively overlooked history of the Armenian lay community and their contribution in the Holy Land particularly in Jerusalem . An eloquent testimony and example of the full integration of the Armenians in the Palestinian society without forgetting their origin. The book is a valuable source for future historians of Jerusalem with a breadth and depth of the research to be commended. The mix between the personal and the general brings life to the narrative and strengthens the understanding of the context. A book to be celebrated.

George Hintlian
Historian and expert on Jerusalem





We Choose Abundant Life

*Christians in the Middle East:
Towards Renewed Theological,
Social, and Political Choices*

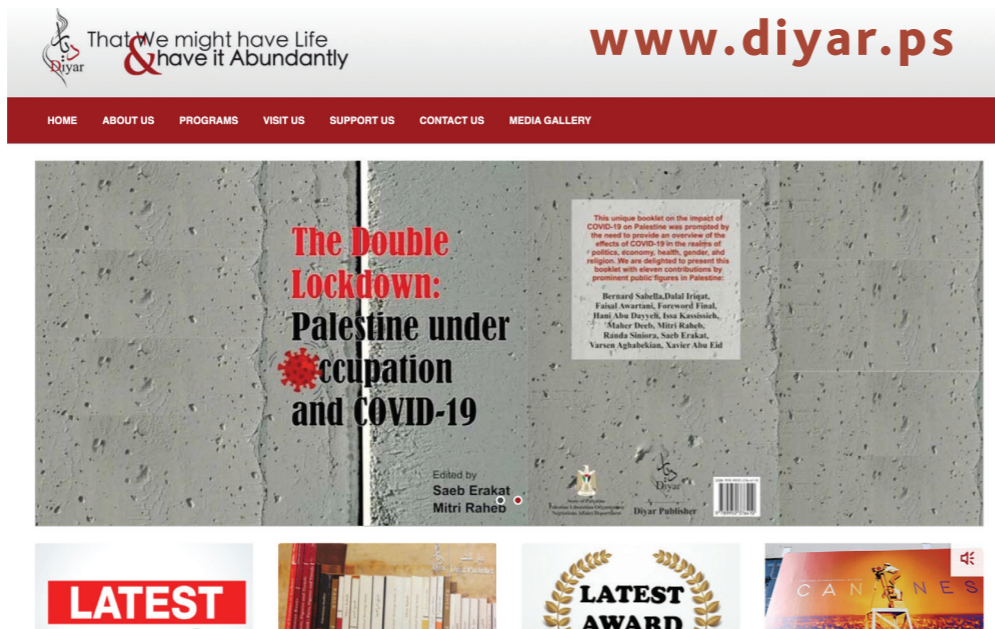
Beyond the Collection: Bringing Together Art, Tradition and Religion



12 WEBSITES

Our websites are one of the powerful tools that contribute to spreading the message of Dar al-Kalima University in Palestine, Lebanon and throughout the world.

1. Diyar - www.diyar.ps

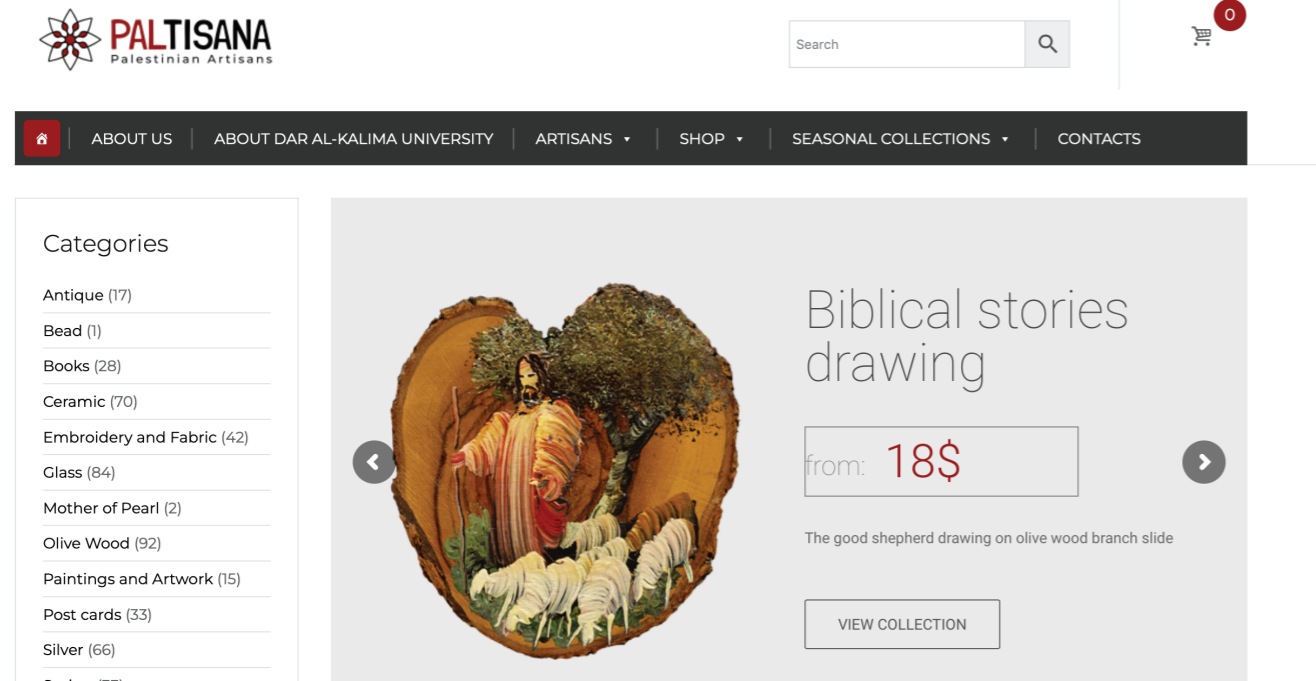


2. Dar alkalima University - www.daralkalima.edu.ps



www.daralkalima.edu.ps

3. Paltisana – www.paltisana.org



www.paltisana.org

4. Nabad – www.nabad.art



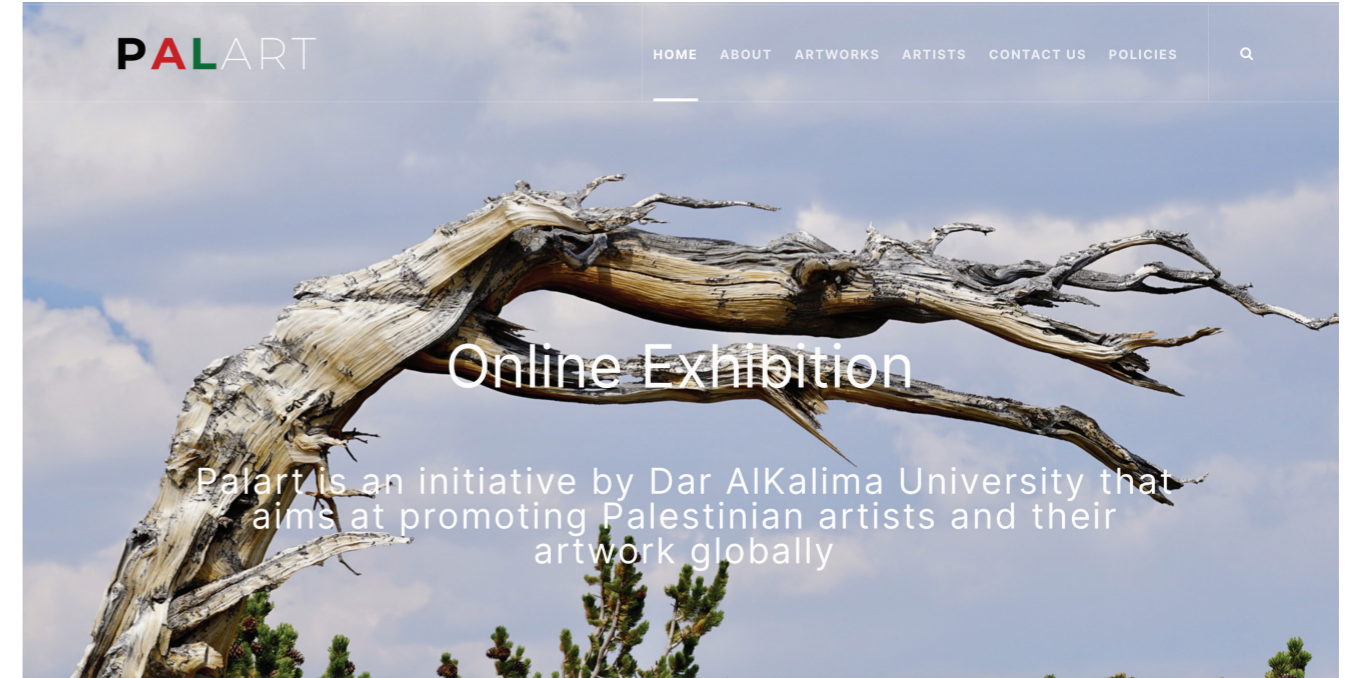
www.nabad.art

5. Arleb – www.arleb.org



www.arleb.org

6. Palart – www.palart.ps



www.palart.ps

Special Thanks to...

*Our friends, supporters and donors
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those who contributed directly or
indirectly to our ministries.*

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- Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service
- Bright Stars of Bethlehem
- ACT / Church of Sweden
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- DVV International
- Swedish Friendship Association
- Holy Land Christians Society
- KAICIID
- Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung e.V.
- Pilgrims of Ibillin
- Pontifical Mission Jerusalem (C.N.E.W.A.)
- Quality Improvement Fund (QIF) – MOHE
- The Sternenstaub Foundation
- United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ
- United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)
- Women World Day of Prayer