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# 1 FOREWORD OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

This annual report covers the period from January 2022 to August 2023, the period between the end of the COVID pandemic, when the university had been forced to work online, and October 7<sup>th</sup> when all educational programs had to be delivered virtually once again. The 18 months covered by this report demonstrate the resilience of our people who, even in the darkest moments, find ways to keep going, keep creating, and keep inventing. Within less than seventeen years, Dar al-Kalima University has come to occupy a unique place among the 50 existing Palestinian universities as the first and only university in all of Palestine to focus on art, culture, and design. As a personal collector of Palestinian art, I am aware that art in Palestine extends beyond aesthetics to serve as an act of assertion – the assertion of a historical narrative in the face of repeated denial. Against all odds, Palestine was and remains a fertile oasis of creativity and expression. This is exactly the story of Dar al-Kalima University.

But it is more than that. Dar al-Kalima aspires to become the hub for the creative industries. For that reason, it was an honor for me to support the creation of the Rami Zahi Khouri Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub, and to be introduced



to a cohort of young, emerging artists whose creativity captured my admiration. 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.

**Zahi W. Khouri**  
Chair of the Board



## 2 FOREWORD OF THE PRESIDENT

Dar al-Kalima is a success story from Palestine. Accredited in 2006 as a community college, it emerged in 2013 as a university college, and in 2021 became Dar al-Kalima University, the first and only university in the entire Middle East dedicated to art, culture, and design. Dar al-Kalima is more than merely an institution of higher education. This annual report reveals that Dar al-Kalima is a unique place where art is exhibited, fashion shows are organized, projects are initiated and implemented, intercultural exchange on a global level takes place, and research projects are published.

Dar al-Kalima University continues to be the only Palestinian university in the West Bank with a campus in Gaza. This campus was an oasis of creativity where art classes, exhibitions, and musical concerts took place; Gaza is full of artistic talent waiting to be discovered and cultivated. In 2023 we recruited Rana al-Batrawi, a young Palestinian female artist, to join our team as the new director of our Gaza program. The launch of our first two master programs in 2022/3 was an important milestone in our history: a Master of Art degree and Master of Management of Cultural Institutions. We also started construction on two state-

of-the-art facilities: the Rami Zahi Khouri Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub and the Hospitality Educational Center. This success story would not have been possible without a strong board, dedicated staff, faithful friends, and abundant blessings from above.

**Prof. Dr. Mitri Raheb**  
Founder and President





### 3 DAR AL-KALIMA UNIVERSITY



*The following are highlights of the activities conducted by each College:*

## Fine Arts College

### Contemporary Arts

Launched in September 2013, the Contemporary Arts program offers students training in contemporary arts with three specializations: 1) Artist; 2) Art Education; 3) Conservation and Restoration of Paintings. In addition to courses for regular students, the program offers continuous education (CE). Program highlights include the following:

#### Conservation and Restoration of Mural Paintings

An intensive course on the conservation and restoration of mural paintings took place on March 13-24, 2023. It was led by Susanna Sarmati, a world-famous Italian restorer who was part of the team that restored the murals and mosaic in the Nativity Church. Ten students registered for the course, three regular students and seven CE. One of the CE students came from Jordan to attend the course and another came from Cana (near Nazareth). Throughout this course,

the University partnered with the Orthodox Church in Beit Jala to work on the conservation of two murals in the Virgin Mary Church.

- **(IN)Divisible Exhibition**

This exhibition showcasing works by 46 artists from the Arnauts Collective, and curated by Professor George Rivera from the University of Colorado at Boulder, was hosted during September 2022 at the Smith Courtyard. On September 9, Prof. Rivera gave a lecture about the concept of Social Sculpturing to DAK University students, including MA students.

- **Street Art**

This activity took place in cooperation with students and faculty from Silkeborg Højskole on September 19, 2022. The day started with an introductory session led by faculty from Denmark and DAK University, including Ms. Faten Nastas Mitwasi, Mr. Johny Andonia and Ms. Rose Kando. It was followed by developing sketches and

stencils for spraying on DAK and the walls opposite the central market.

- **Central Market Wall Public Art Painting**

This activity was carried out by students from the College of Fine Art during October 2022. It was part of a project to revive community public art with Bethlehem Municipality, and supported by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

### **Conservation and Restoration of Five Portable Icons and the Poor Box**

This activity took place at Virgin Mary Church in Beit Jala between November 2022 and March 2023. A team of five students volunteered to carry out conservation and restoration work under the direct supervision of the Dean of the Fine Arts College, Ms. Faten Nastas-Mitwasi, after they prepared condition reports as part of a course on the Theory and History of Conservation.

### **Sumoud, Disability Under Siege**

The project was launched in November 2022 by faculty member Ms. Samar Ghattas with support from the A.M. Qattan Foundation and funding from Birmingham University, UK. The project targeted DAK students and alumni with disabilities and aimed to empower the target group through art. The project focused on issues and challenges related to disabilities, networking with local institutions and organizations, encouraging art production, and contributing to better integration of people with disabilities in society as active cultural producers. An exhibition of final works was hosted between May 11 and 18, 2023.





## Digitizing Treasures: From St Nicholas to Open Access

This research project documented icons from St Nicholas Church in Beit Jala to create an open access database of images and information from the collection, to be made available through the Planet Bethlehem Archive and hosted by Sussex University. The project started in March 2023 and is supported by the Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL). DAK faculty member Jabra Mitwasi was responsible for the photographic documentation (photography, editing and processing photos), while Faten Mitwasi prepared the data for publication on Planet Bethlehem Archive and co-wrote with Dr. Sary Zananiri a short introduction to the collection. This project is managed by historian Dr. Jacob Norris and filmmaker Leila Sansour.



## Embrace Your Community, Empower the Palestinian Village Program

In 2019 the Contemporary Arts Program, together with the Samia Halaby Foundation (SHF), launched support for student and alumni projects that seek to make an impact in their communities and villages. During the 2021/2022 academic year, support was given to three projects: My Museum by Hanadi Azmi; Freedom Wheel by Balqees Othman; and Art Workshop in School by Monther Mtour.

## Film Production

Film Production is a bachelor's degree program accredited in 2013 to offer students training in five aspects of film making: Directing, Editing, Cinematography, Sound, and Script Writing. The following are highlights from the program:

## On Our Land

This project was executed in 2022 as a collaboration between DAK University, Coventry University, South Hebron Hills Joint Service Council, youth researchers, and the Palestinian Museum. This important collaboration is at the heart of DAK University's mission and work to preserve and protect Palestinian cultural heritage through the arts. The collaboration built on the experience garnered at DAK University in creating artistic projects that document and preserve culture, as well as disseminating vital information about life, history, and culture in various communities in Palestine.

The project focused on producing five films on the South Hebron Hills area and community. Since 2017, youth researchers from the South Hebron Hills have recorded 100+ hours of oral histories, which are currently stored by Coventry



University. These intergenerational interviews are a treasure trove of stories of survival, agricultural ingenuity, music, craft, and community wisdom from all 33 villages in the South Hebron Hills. Many of these villages fall within an area that has been designated as an active firing zone (918) by Israel. As the Palestinians living in this area are dispossessed, displaced, and dispersed, the intangible cultural heritage of Bedouin and farming practices embedded in the relationships between people and place is at risk of disappearing. All this material is archived at the Palestinian Museum.

### Refugee Film Festival Winners

Two graduates from DAK University received awards at the Refugee Film Festival 2022. Alaa Daya won first prize for her film *Search* and Thaer al-Azza took the People's Choice award for his film *I Am the Land in a Body*.

### Participation in Reel Palestine Film Festival

Four films by four DAK graduates were selected and screened at the Reel Palestine Film Festival, including: *el-Halabiyeh* by Rana Abu Shkhaideem, *I am the Land in a Body* by Thaer al-Azzeh, *Bantustan* by Mohammad Mansour, and *By the Sea* by Wisam al-Jafari. Mohammad Mansour also gave a virtual talk after the screening of the films. Reel Palestine is an annual film festival in the UAE that presents Palestinian stories in the artistic format of independent and alternative cinema. From January 27 to February 5, 2023, films were screened at Cinema Akil, an independent cinema platform and GCC's first art-house cinema.

### Participation in Carthage Film Festival, Doha Film Festival, and Palestine Cinema Days Film Festival

A graduate film project entitled *Born a Celebrity* by Luay Awwad was selected for screening by the three film festivals in 2023.



### Cinefabrique-Lyon Exchange Project

This project started in the 2019/2020 academic year, was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, and resumed in 2022. The project is coordinated by Cinefabrique in Lyon, France, and DAK University, with support from the French Consulate in Jerusalem. The goal is to support film students to develop scripts for 10 films, produce the films, and upgrade DAK equipment. Intensive training and production activities took place during June and July 2022 as film program students participated in training by experts from Cinefabrique during the pre-production, production, and postproduction phases. During the 2022/2023 academic year, color correction and sound editing took place at Cinefabrique facilities, and two films were finalized ready for distribution by mid-June 2023. The film by Ibrahim Handal titled *Short Film about Kids* has already been accepted at FID Campus Workshops in Marseille, France, and was screened and dis-

cussed on July 4, 2023. FID Campus is a training program for international students from art schools and partner universities.

### **The Institut National Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle in Brussels, Belgium (INSAS) Exchange Project**

The INSAS exchange program was originally launched in 2019 but was halted temporarily due to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the 2022/2023 academic year, the exchange project resumed and two INSAS students were hosted at DAK between November 13 and December 14, 2022. During their stay they made a film about Nadia Hasan Mustafa, a woman who established a museum in Battir village. Later, two DAK students visited Brussels from April 9 to 30, 2023, to work on a film that is still under production.

## **Performing Arts**

The Performing Arts program is a bachelor's degree program that was accredited in 2016. Since then, it has been offered annually to train students in different fields of performing arts. It has two tracks, namely music performance and theater performance.

The program highlights include the following:

### **Student Recitals, Workshops, and Plays**

- Baroque Music Academy: The Performing Arts program cooperated with the Amwaj Choir School in hosting some activities for the EMAP 2<sup>nd</sup> Baroque Music Academy at DAK premises between August 12 and 19, 2022. DAK hosted the main performances as well as a workshop on an introduction to sound recording for classical music.

- An intensive workshop on sound recording for live orchestral/instrumental music was organized and delivered for DAK students and staff on August 18, 2022 by sound engineers and students from the Paris Conservatoire CNSMDP. Ten Film Production and Music Performance students and staff attended. All participants appreciated the theme and quality of information delivered, in addition to the practical sessions of recording live performances using different techniques.
- Chamber Music Series: Short performances of chamber music with local guest musicians were presented for students and staff during student activity hour on September 22, 2022 (clarinet by student Lourd Hadweh and piano by faculty Ramzi Shomali) and November 17, 2022 (flute by student Dalia al-Mukarker and piano by faculty Ramzi Shomali).



- A concert performed on November 4, 2022, by the Italian Youth Artipelago Choir from Castelnuovo di Porto and the Amwaj Choir from Palestine was accompanied by musicians from the Italian Baroque Orchestra.

This concert was part of the celebrations for the 2022 edition of the Week of the Italian Language in the World. The event also commemorated the five-year twinning of Bethlehem with the Italian town of Castelnuovo di Porto. The concert was attended by the Italian Consul from the Consulate General of Italy in Jerusalem as well as by many friends from Bethlehem and Hebron.

- A recital by music program students took place for students and staff on December 15, 2022. Students played repertoires from Arabic to Western music, solo and in ensemble formation, from classical to popular traditions.
- Mr. Khalid Massou worked with music students of the Theatre and Dance course on a play titled *The Journey of Hanthala from Inattention to Alertness*. The play was written by Syrian author Saadallah Wannous. At the end of the course, students performed

the 30-minute play for DAK students and faculty.

### Formation of a Musical Band

A band established as part of the program included the following faculty members from the music department: Mr. Wissam Murad, Mr. Hassan al-Sheikh, Mr. Ayham Ayesh, and Mr. Suleiman Ibrahim. The band performed at the 2023 Dar Al-Kalima University graduation ceremony.

### Faculty Activities

#### *Mr. Ramzi Shomali – Piano*

Within the framework of the Ensemble Music Academies of Palestine (EMAP), faculty member Ramzi Shomali participated in workshops, conferences, rehearsals, and concerts under the title Baroque in Bethlehem at Dar Al Kalima University and the Bethlehem Peace Center from August 13 to 19, 2022. In addition, Mr. Shomali

participated in solo concerts in Italy and Germany. In November 30, 2022, he played at the *Il Senso Della Musica* (Sense of the Music) conference concert at his alma mater Conservatorio di Vicenza in Italy. This was followed by a performance at the *Klassik zu Gast bei Coppeneur* (Classic Music Series in Coppeneur) concert series at a chocolate factory near Bonn, Germany, on December 4, 2022. Throughout these events, Mr. Shomali introduced and discussed Arab and Palestinian melodies as well as Christmas music referencing Bethlehem where Jesus was born.

#### *Dr. Mutasem Adileh*

Dr. Mutasem Adileh participated in the Oriental Music Festival in Egypt during October 2022, where he presented a paper titled *The Impact of World Opera on Arab Music Theater: Sayed Darwish as an Example*. In addition, Dr. Adileh continued his work with Jafra Productions as part of an MOU signed in 2021 to develop a di-

ploma in Music and Technology. This diploma was accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education.





## Architecture and Design College

The mission of the Architecture and 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 Architecture and Design College comprises four programs as follows:



## The Interior Design Program

This is the largest program within the design faculty and qualifies students to work in the field of interior design, which is a form of expressive art aimed at providing solutions to human problems in three-dimensional space and shape. The program combines creative elements of interior planning with selection of materials and furniture, color, textures, and combines shape with more functional elements such as space lighting.





The program aims to qualify a new professional generation of artists and designers with the knowledge and skills necessary to work in interior design, especially as this sector is constantly evolving in terms of growing demand for modern interior designs in all walks of life, particularly by young families. Interior design includes housing design, commercial design, hospitality design, healthcare space design, etc. Graduates from this program are qualified to work directly with interior design or architectural firms, and may also wish to open their own interior design business.

## The Graphic Design Program

This program includes the foundations and principles of graphic design, advertising, marketing, printing, and multimedia. Students specialize in one of the following tracks: Printing, Multimedia or Packaging. The program includes many activities and a field training course designed to network with the private sector and ensure easy integration of graduates into the labor market. Graduates are qualified to work in design offices, advertising companies, printing houses, publishing houses, and in the packaging department of any food or pharmaceutical company. Graduates may also work as a freelance designer, especially in the field of multimedia.



## The Design Program

This program familiarizes students with the general foundations and principles of design before specializing in the following tracks: Product Design, Packaging Design, Fashion Design, or Multimedia and Animation. During



the third and fourth year, students are trained in private sector facilities, including factories and companies, to promote student engagement in the labor market.



## The Architecture Program

The Architecture Program at DAK University is planned to begin in the 2023/2024 academic year.

## College Highlights

### The Interior Design Program

#### Graduation Projects

A jury committee of faculty members from the fields of architecture and interior design evaluated 21 student graduation projects at the end of the 2023 spring semester. The following are samples of the graduation projects:

- **Project 1**  
Redesigning homes for the elderly. The project proposed a new conceptual and technical model that should be considered when designing homes for senior citizens.
- **Project 2**  
A specialized interior design company.
- **Project 3**  
An artists' hub.



## Field Visits

- A visit to the construction industries exhibition in Hebron city.
- A visit to Abu Eid Hotel (a construction site) in Beit Jala to look at finishing work such as tiling, gypsum work, lighting, fire systems, and a mechanical HVAC system.
- Several field trips to building material companies and retail shops in the Bethlehem governorate.
- Several field visits to buildings under construction in Beit Jala and Beit Sahour to meet with owners, take measurements, and design the interior of these buildings as part of community engagement.

## Guest Speakers

Eng. Bassem Twaimeh gave a special lecture in interior design lighting to fourth year students as part of a course in kitchen and bathroom design.

## Faculty Participation in Conferences, University Visits, and Publications

1. Ms. Lisa Muallem was a speaker at the *Green Building Conference: Steps Towards Sustainability* conference organized in Ramallah by the Palestine Green Building Council (PalGBC) on June 5-6, 2022. Her paper was titled *The Effect of Thermal Insulation on Indoor Space Thermal Performance and Energy Consumption in a Mediterranean Climate*.
2. Dr. Rabab al-Shuweiky attended the Federation of Arab Engineers conference in Egypt with a paper on *Smart Cities and Old Towns in Palestine* on September 17-18, 2022.

3. Dr. Rabab al-Shuweiky participated in the online conference *Arab Architecture Week No. 3* during October 9-15, 2022. Her paper was titled *The Architecture of Old Towns in Palestine*.
4. Dr. Rabab al-Shuweiky published an article on October 13, 2022, with the Association of Arab Architects titled *Hebron City and its Development Through History*.
5. Architect Elias Dieck attended the 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on *Consultative Engineering Works/ Palestine* with a paper titled *Stone Walls as a Sustainable Technique: Between Traditional and Modern Buildings in Palestine* on November 9-10, 2022.
6. Ms. Mishleen Marcos and Ms. Anna Maria Skafi attended Dubai Design Week 2022 in November 7-12, 2022, and visited Ajman University.
7. Dr. George Abu Uldinein attended the conference *Manifestations of Jerusalem in Literature, History, Religion, and Politics/ Palestine* on March 21, 2023.
8. Dr. Nael Salman participated in the Arab-Arab Dialogue Forum conducted in Beirut in May 1-3, 2023 under the title *Arab Community of Risks and Human Solidarity*. The Forum discussed the challenges of education in Arab society.

## The Graphic Design Program

### Best Screenplay Award in Palestine Film Competition

Graphic Design program students collaborated with their peers from the Film Production program during February 2022, and received prestigious recognition of a special award for the best screenplay during the Palestine's Cartoon Competition. The screenplay portrayed the remarkable journey of Kareema Abboud, the pioneering Palestinian female photographer, and her notable contribution to the world of photography during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Participation in the First Palestine Packaging Competition

Graphic design student Areej Alyan participated in the first Palestine Packaging Award held in March 2023. Areej's participation consisted of an eco-

friendly package for nature and gardening lovers that contained in one box all the integrated tools and components for starting a small garden.

### Internship at Melon Animation & Production, Istanbul, Turkey

Graphic design student Guevara-Jack Saleh was granted a remote internship at Melon Animation & Production Company, based in Istanbul, Turkey, during spring 2023. During his internship, Mr. Guevara was trained in 3D modeling and animation using software like Autodesk Maya and Brush.

### Participation in Conferences & Committees

- Faculty member Mr. Jabra Mitwasi participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Typography and Visual Communication

held in Thessaloniki, Greece, by the University of Nicosia in July 2022.

- Faculty member Mr. Alfred Azar was appointed as a member of the National Committee of Postage Stamps in 2023.
- Faculty member Mr. Mustafa Bader participated as an external jury member for student graduation projects on Animation and VFX at Palestine Ahliya University in June 2023.

### Graphic Design Program Field Training

During the spring semester 2023, 16 students participated in field training at several local companies and institutions in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Ramallah as part of the partnerships developed with the private sector,

Field training is a key part of engagement with the private sector. During the training, students

experience hands-on practice in different areas of graphic design like printing, making layouts, creating packages, designing ads, working with animation, and using multimedia. This allows them to understand what it is like to work in the graphic design industry, how the market works, and opens up opportunities to gain employment. Students also get a chance to share their creative work with other designers in the market. This learning opportunity improves skills and expertise in the changing world of graphic design.

### End-of-Year Exhibition by Graphic Design Students

In June 2023, second and third year students in the Graphic Design program participated in an end-of-year exhibition in which they exhibited their work alongside that of students from other programs. The work covered different aspects

of graphic design, including editorial design, brand design, packaging design, typography, advertising design, 3D, video games design, and UX/UI.

### Graduation Projects Exhibition

Students from the Interior and Graphic Design programs showcased their graduation projects at an annual exhibition on graduation day, August 4, 2023. The exhibition's opening ceremony was conducted in the presence of the Minister of Higher Education and Research, Dr. Mahmoud Abu Muweiss, and DAK University President, Dr. Mitri Raheb.

### Graphic Design Graduation Projects

Graphic Design students presented their final graduation projects at DAK on June 15, 2023. Each project was based on research conducted by the students during the previous semester and primarily comprised solutions to problems facing the community, particularly the commercial and industrial sectors.

The following are samples of graduation projects:

- **Project 1:**  
**Raising Awareness About Graphic Design and Its Importance in this Age** *(by Carla Gideon).*

Carla noticed that Palestinian society is not fully aware of the importance of graphic design as a profession despite its role in different fields. She conducted research to assess awareness of the graphic design profession among high school students to determine the most efficient solutions. Carla produced an animated promotional video about DAK's Graphic Design program and other print media to raise awareness among the target audience and as part of career orientation.

- **Project 2:**  
**The Role of Graphic Design in Exposing Children to Palestinian Heritage** *(by Fatima Hamamrah).*

Palestinian heritage is a significant issue related to identity and resilience, and prompted Fatima to seek an answer to the question of how to maintain the connection of the young generations to their roots and identity. Her solution was to develop a full set of print media, including children's books, coloring books, and board games.

- **Project 3:**  
**Product Packaging for Emerging Palestinian Women's Projects and Its Impact on Consumer Behavior** *(by Hadeel Ghanem).*

It has been a challenge for small businesses in Palestine to break through in the local market for many reasons. Graduating graphic design student Hadeel noted this challenge and discovered that the majority of those businesses lacked effective brand identity. She chose Manar al-Araj products as a model, a local cosmetics manufacturer owned by a Palestinian woman entrepreneur. After studying the target audience, Hadeel designed a new brand identity including the logo, color palettes, typography, and layout. She then applied that brand identity to new packaging on cardboard boxes, labels, and an eco-friendly wooden gift box.



- **Project 4:**

**Facilitating the Booking of Sports Playgrounds**

*(by Hamza Radi).*

As an active soccer player, Hamza tried to find a solution to the challenge facing many sports players in Palestine of where to play since the number of sports playgrounds is limited. After conducting research, surveys, and making contact with the relevant official authorities, Hamza designed an application called Friends Time to facilitate access to sports playgrounds. The application contains many features, including creating a player profile, booking a playground, and forming a team made up of other players using the application.

- **Project 5:**

**Using Augmented Reality Stories as a Means to Increase Benefits to Children from Educational Stories Content**

*(by Malek Awwad).*

Malek sought a means to expand the educational and informational benefits to children of reading stories. After research, he concluded that integration of immersive technology can increase engagement by children with those stories. Through collaboration with children's story writer Najwa Zreik, Malek designed a children's book linked to augmented reality where children have access, through smart devices, to additional media like audio narration and other visual elements.

- **Project 6:**

**Facilitating Integration by New Students at DAK University through Augmented Reality**

*(by Muhammad Thweib).*

When he first joined DAK University, Muhammad understood how hard it could be for new students to integrate into the new world of the university, with its facilities, laws, and regulations. His research identified an information gap felt by freshmen and he designed an application for smart phones using new techniques like augmented reality as a means to guide students through DAK campus and provide them with the information needed to start their academic life easily.

- **Project 7:**

**Using Graphic Design to Raise Awareness about People with Down Syndrome by Designing a Story for Children**

*(by Nadine Al-Lahham).*

Explaining differences to children about other children poses a challenge. Nadine dedicated her project to the issue of Down syndrome and how to sensitize non-Down syndrome children to this condition. She designed print media including children's books, coloring books, games, and flyers targeting children to raise their awareness about children with Down syndrome.

## Design Program

### Establishment of the Fashion Design and Sewing Lab

A new fashion design lab was established at Dar Al-Kalima University, equipped with sewing machines, cutting tables, mannequins, chairs, and a professional iron pod, in addition to basic sewing threads and tools. Fashion garments from sketch to actual wearable pieces are produced at the lab. Creative fashion design models and production were based on theoretical and practical lectures given by the faculty to Fashion Design program students.

### Student Fashion Design Show 2023

A fashion design show took place to showcase new design ideas. The theme selected for the 2022/2023 academic year was the design and creation of official costumes for the Palestinian

transportation system (air, sea, and land) upon the creation of the State of Palestine.

### Participation in the TEX-MED ALLIANCES Workshop

The Fashion Design Program actively participated in the TEX-MED ALLIANCES workshop and meetings held at Bethlehem Hotel on October 22, 2022. The workshop aimed to help textile and clothing MSMEs expand internationally inside/outside the Mediterranean area, which would foster job creation and technological upgrades.

### Guest Lecturer Hani Murad

Guest lecturer and fashion design specialist Mr. Hani Murad visited DAK University and gave a lecture to students on new aspects of fashion design and on fashion design as an emerging career in Palestine.

## Cultural Management College

The Cultural Management College has three programs: Cultural and Sustainable Tourism, Sports Management, and Arts Management. The main highlights during the reporting period were as follows:



## Culture and Sustainable Tourism Program

### Field Trips

- During the fall semester 2022, field trips were organized for guiding courses that showcase touristic, archaeological, historical, and religious sites in Hebron, Bethlehem, Jericho, and Ramallah.
- During the winter semester 2023, several field trips were conducted for students to sites related to courses in guiding, and social and environmental tourism. The purpose of the field trips was to explore different areas including historical, archaeological, religious, and environmental sites and trails such as Faqu'a village in Jenin, Wadi Quf in Hebron, Aboud village near Ramallah, and the Ecological Society in Beit Sahour. Other visits included sites in Jericho, Hebron, and Bethlehem.

## Photography Exhibition and Gallery Talk

Students of the Culture and Sustainable Tourism program organized a photography exhibition about sustainable Palestinian tourist destinations on May 22, 2023. The exhibition sought to shed light on overlooked tourist sites in Palestine, introduce students to cultural and sustainable tourism, and encourage them to visit those sites and contribute to their sustainability. High school students from several local schools were invited to a gallery talk organized through the exhibition and in which DAK students shared information, photos, and videos about each site. The sites highlighted in the exhibition were Faqu'a and Arraba villages in Jenin governorate, the Wadi Qana area and Dair Istiya between the south of Nablus and Qalqilya governorates, Aboud village and Wadi al-Limon in Ramallah governorate, and Samu' and al-Shuyukh towns in Hebron governorate. The event was supervised by Ms. Suha Canavati as part of the course on cultural and events management.

## Graduation Seminars

Three graduating students from the program presented their graduation seminars to supervisors during the spring 2023 semester, and in the presence of family, friends and other faculty members. The following are the titles of their graduation seminars:

1. *Sustainable Tourism in the Desert Areas of East Bethlehem* by Ms. Nairuz Hamad.
2. *I Found Palestine: Travel Literature* by Ms. Dima Hassan.
3. *Virtual Reality for Preserving Heritage Memory* by Mr. Ramiz al-Araj.

## Faculty Activities

Dr. Ghassan Nagagreh, the program coordinator, actively participated in several events and conferences as follows:

- Dr. Nagagreh participated on March 18, 2023, in a conference titled *History and Archaeology of Palestine: A Critical Review*, under the auspices of the Palestinian Research Center in Ramallah, Palestine. The paper presented was titled *History and Archaeology in Late Bronze Age Palestine*.
- Dr. Nagagreh participated in the third season of excavation at the Tulul Anabta site in Tulkarem during June 2023. The excavation project aims to uncover the history of Tulul Anabta, which dates from around 6000 B.C. The significance of the excavation is to understand the early nature of the city in Palestine and its history, as well as to develop a tourist destination at the site.

- Dr. Nagagreh was the recipient of a post-doc scholarship from the Consulate General of France in Jerusalem to carry out research at the Sorbonne University in Paris, France, during July and August 2023. The research is on Tel al Far'ah (located north of Nablus city) in the Late Bronze Age.





## Sports Management Program

### Student Activities

- Program students actively participated in the Tamkeen project organized by the DAK Benevolent Society during the fall 2022 semester.
- A chess championship was organized by Sports Management students during the spring 2023 semester.

### Faculty Activities

- Dr. Mouath Ghanim joined other faculty members and the sports club in a seminar on *The Role of Sports in the Social Integration of People with Disabilities* on May 19, 2023. The seminar highlighted the importance of integrating people with disabilities into various aspects of society, including sports participation. It also promoted

the use of sports as an effective means to enhance the health and empowerment of people with disabilities. The seminar also encouraged collaboration and partnerships between educational, sports, and support institutions to create an inclusive environment for people with disabilities.

- In 2022 Dr. Magid Shihade (Acting Dean) contributed a chapter entitled *Settler Colonialism in Palestine: Connections and Ruptures*, in *Decolonizing the Study of Palestine: Indigenous Perspectives and Settler Colonialism after Elia Zureik*, edited by Ahmad H. Sa'di and Nur Masalha. Dr. Shihade also contributed a chapter entitled *'Asabiyya*, in *Changing Theory: Concepts from the Global South*, edited by Dilip M. Menon.

## Graduate Studies and Scientific Research College

The Graduate Studies and Scientific Research College is responsible for the running of the MA programs and scientific research at DAK University. The highlights of the year are the following:

### Receiving New Students

At the beginning of the 2022/2023 academic year, 51 students were accepted on to two MA programs: the Master of Arts program which has three tracks, and the Master of Cultural Institutions Management program. The high number of students who enrolled demonstrates the high demand by Palestinian artists for graduate studies in their fields of interest.

## Submitting New MA Programs for Accreditation

The following MA programs were submitted and received accreditation in 2023: Art Therapy and Interior Design.

### Projects

- A project was launched in 2022 to prepare the next generation of Christian leadership, in partnership with the Pontifical Mission. (This project is mainly related to the Cultural Institutions Management MA program.)
- Technology and Innovation in Music project in partnership with Jafra Productions.

### Scientific Conferences

- The Dean of the College, Dr. Mutasem Adileh, participated in the 31<sup>st</sup> Arab Music Conference at the Egyptian Opera House in Cairo, with a research paper titled *The Impact of*

*World Opera on Arab Music Theater: Sayed Darwish as an Example.*

## Seminars, Workshops and Masterclasses

Several speakers were hosted by the College to present scientific seminars, workshops, and masterclasses as follows:

### 1. Dr. Wasim Odeh

Dr. Odeh held a study day for all music students from the BA and MA programs on February 10, 2023. The day included a workshop on Techniques of Playing the Oud for all Oud students enrolled in both BA and MA programs, and a masterclass for two MA students, one each, on playing the Oud.

### 2. Dr. Issa Boulus

Dr. Boulus held a two-day workshop for BA and MA music students on February 16-17, 2023. The

first day included a lecture on music composition (for the BA students) and a workshop on playing the Oud. The second day included a lecture on music composition (for the MA students), a general lecture for students titled *Music Diplomacy - Music in Mandatory Palestine from 1936 to 1948: Cultural, Historical and Geopolitical Dilemmas*, and a masterclass for two MA students, one each, on the Oud.

### 3. Dr. Bashar Shammout

Dr. Shammout lectured at a cultural symposium as well as to BA and MA students of the Performing Arts and Film programs as follows:

1. Dr. Shammout gave a lecture at a cultural symposium titled *Palestinian Audio-Visual Cultural Heritage* on March 2, 2023.
2. Dr. Shammout gave a lecture on *The Basics of Sound (Sound Physics) and Sound Engineering* on March 6, 2023.

3. Dr. Shammout gave a lecture on *Practical Sound Recording: Use of Microphones and other Audio Technical Equipment* on March 7, 2023.
4. Dr. Shammout gave a lecture on *The Creative Use of Music and Sound Effects in Film and Soundtrack Making* on March 9, 2023.

## Scientific Research Policies and Procedures

The Dean continued to monitor and develop clear policies and procedures for all matters related to graduate studies and scientific research at the University.

## Technical Community College

### Workshops/Training/Meetings

1. Faculty training on the standard method of curriculum development for TVET programs was organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research between January 20 and February 3, 2023.
2. A meeting and elections for the TVET League, of which the Technical Community College is a member, took place in Ramallah on April 24, 2023.
3. Three workshops on Problem Analysis and Theory of Change were conducted at DAK University for all heads of colleges and programs. The workshops took place during July and August 2022.



4. An online workshop on Development of a National Qualification Framework was organized by the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and Turkey between July 26 and 28, 2022.
5. Ms. Rebekah Menning Sapato from Augsburg University in the US discussed with Dean Judy Bandak and Chef Bassem Hazboun on September 12, 2022, about potential cooperation opportunities with the Culinary Art and Management (CAM) program as part of a wider exchange between DAK and Augsburg universities.

## New Programs

A new diploma program in Community Performing Arts was accredited and became operational in January 2023.

## Open Day

The Technical Community College participated with all the other colleges at the University in an Open Day held on June 1, 2022, at which Technical College students held exhibitions, engaged in cooking activities, and provided different services. Photography students hosted a photography exhibition, Jewelry students exhibited their products, and the Culinary Art and Management (CAM) students made food for everyone on that day.



## Studios and Labs

The dark room and photography studio were equipped and furnished for the use of students in the Photography program. In addition, a new educational kitchen and classroom were fully furnished and equipped for the Culinary Art and Management (CAM) program.

## Cooking Classes/Study Day

1. A lecture about Palestinian cuisine and a cooking class were organized for 20 MA students from the Jerusalem Theology School on December 12, 2022, by Chef Bassem Hazboun, faculty member and main chef of the Culinary Art and Management (CAM) program.
2. Palestinian cuisine cooking classes were conducted in the new kitchen facilities to several groups from the US, Germany, Sweden, and other countries by Chef Bassem Hazboun.

3. A cooking activity making quiche was organized with Culinary Art and Management (CAM) students and the Alliance Française on March 18, 2023.

## Masterclasses

The following masterclasses were delivered by guest speakers to students at the Technical Community College:

1. Jewelry designers Nadia Hazboun and Jinan Dajani delivered masterclasses on jewelry design to Jewelry program students in the fall semester 2022 and winter semester 2023.
2. Photographer Marius Jovaisca gave a masterclass to photography students on October 31, 2022.
3. The Alliance Française delivered a class on the French language and culture to the Cu-

linary Art and Management (CAM) students on March 18, 2023.

## Visits to Partners

Visits to partners from the private sector were conducted throughout the past period, including visits to jewelry partners Qawasmi Jewelry Company, Al Sayyed Jewelry Company, and Zein Tamim (Abu Rmeleh) workshop in Hebron on October 19, 2022. Other visits were organized to culinary partners, including restaurants and hotels in Bethlehem.

## MOUs

An MOU was signed in February 2023 with a new jewelry partner in Tulkarem, where a student is training with partner Hakeem Wording Jewelry.

## Exchange Program

Dar al-Kalima Voerdersverein in Germany invited students and teachers from the Jewelry and the Culinary Art and Management programs for an educational and cultural exchange from January 29 to February 5, 2023. Students and faculty members from both programs visited the partner schools in Baden Wuerttemberg-the Goldschmiedeschule in Pforzheim (Jewelry school) and Paul Kirschensteiner Schule in Bad Uebrkingen (Culinary Art school). Both groups attended classes, workshops, and had several meetings where curricula and possibilities of further exchange were discussed.

In addition, the visiting group participated in the Annual Palestine Day. Students represented DAK University, their programs, and shared stories of daily life in Palestine, including the obstacles they face on a daily basis when commuting to the university due to Israeli checkpoints. The

Jewelry students also presented a sand-casting demonstration which was followed by a discussion. The culinary team prepared traditional Palestinian sweets and served these during the different activities.

At the end of the exchange program, a meeting was arranged with the members of the Dar al-Kalima Foerderverein for further exchanges. At that meeting, the culinary students and faculty cooked a typical Palestinian meal.

## Palestinian Food Stories Project

The Palestinian Food Stories Project is intended to contribute to sustainable and more diversified tourism in Palestine, focusing on the Bethlehem region as the first phase, by offering culinary tourism tours and experiences. Equipping DAK students to offer such experiences was the initial step and an innovative course was cre-

ated for 20 students from the Culinary and the Cultural and Sustainable Tourism Programs. As part of their training, the students were divided into five groups and were tasked with developing culinary trails, establishing partnerships with the communities of localities where the culinary experiences would take place, and the foods that would be offered to the visiting groups.

During the course, several guest speakers shared their experience in culinary tourism with the students, including chef Fadi Kattan and tour guide Ezz Eddin Bukhari. As part of the project, renowned chef Chris Koetke from the US (CEO of Complete Culinary) visited DAK University from March 4-11, 2023, to give lectures on culinary tourism, the importance of culinary tours, storytelling, and presentation of food during cooking classes. Chef Koetke met the five student groups separately, worked with them on the trails and stories, and gave feedback and tips for further development.



In total, six culinary trails were developed and tested on 36 tourists and visitors. The trails cover Bethlehem Old City; Walajeh village; al-Khader and Artas villages; Dheisheh refugee camp; the Cremisan Winery; and the Sarras Farm.

Partners from the community were motivated by the idea and signed 10 MOUs with DAK University for tourists to visit these establishments and taste food while on the trail.

Another three MOUs were signed with travel agents in Bethlehem and Jerusalem to promote the trails within tourist itineraries. For further promotion, a short video was produced to show the different stations in the trails and interviews with participating tourists.

## Hospitality

The Culinary Art and Management (CAM) program offered several hospitality services throughout the year: receptions, coffee breaks, lunches, and dinners, in particular for tourist groups visiting DAK University.

## Global Education and Exchange

In 2022, the Office of Global Education and Exchange was established to provide innovative vision and strategic leadership in advancing international

relations with global universities. The office facilitates and coordinates all international academic partnerships and outreach programs, including overseas trips (of DAK University students and faculty) and international student and scholar services for partner universities. Currently, DAK University has active partnerships with 10 universities including three from Uzbekistan, one from Hungary, one from Finland, two from Belgium, one from the Netherlands, one from the US, and one from Colombia. Seven more MOUs are pending, including one from Finland, three from Italy, one from Denmark, one from the US, and one from the UAE.

As part of developing one of these MOUs, a representative from Augsburg University in the US, Ms. Rebekah Menning Sapato, was hosted at DAK University for one week in September 2022 to explore different opportunities and customized programs that DAK University could offer to US students. An MOU was signed with Augsburg University for that purpose.

The Office of Global Education and Exchange is responsible for two main programs:

### 1. The Fulbright Program

The Fulbright Program is a US program that offers competitive, merit-based grants for students, scholars, teachers, professionals, and groups. Grants are available for US citizens to go abroad and for foreign (non-US) citizens to come to the US. The main aim of the program is to strengthen ties through international educational and cultural exchange programs between US universities and other universities from 160 partner countries. The main component of the program that DAK University has benefited from and aims to build upon is the *Fulbright Specialist Program*, which sends US faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning, and related subjects at academic institutions abroad for a period of two to six weeks.

In November 2022, DAK University hosted Professor Aileen Wilson, Art and Design Education Chair of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, through the Fulbright Specialist Program. Professor Wilson worked with faculty members of the Department of Fine Art for almost three weeks. Her research interests focused on the education of artists and designers, and their role in contributing to a creative economy. Professor Wilson chose to partner with Dar al-Kalima University because of its deep ties with the local community and potential for mutual interest. The inherently personal aspect of tight-knit educational communities such as Dar al-Kalima University was a key aspect for Professor Wilson, who appreciates the value of schools being completely embedded in their location. During her time at DAK University, Professor Wilson spent much of her time sitting in on intriguing class discussions on topics such as community art and the social responsibility of artists. The agency and resourceful-

ness of Dar al-Kalima University students surprised Professor Wilson with their compulsion to produce art with intentional materials and meaningful mediums. Students' internationalism and the professional feeling of art studios felt familiar and welcoming to her. Professor Wilson also observed how many of the faculty at Dar al-Kalima University act as professionals, students, and practitioners, a model directly in line with her own Pratt Institute. Learning alongside committed practitioners is a beneficial experience for students, Professor Wilson believes, in that they are familiar with roles in the professional field following graduation from university. She also considered ways to further connect her own Pratt Institute with Dar al-Kalima University. Exchanges, model pedagogical structures, and visits are possibilities to be explored. Professor Wilson enjoyed getting to know the students of Dar al-Kalima University, and the opportunity to build relationships and connections across the art world.



## 2. The Erasmus+ Program

As part of the Erasmus+ Program, Dar al-Kalima University has partnered in the MUSAE project with universities in Europe, North Africa, and Asia, including Palestine, since 2020. The project has revolved around developing a curriculum on entrepreneurship skills for graduating fine arts students (in the case of DAK University the film students), to enhance their education and facilitate employment upon graduation. The project ended in December 2023.

Over recent years, the importance of the so-called cultural and creative industries has greatly increased. Today, cultural and creative industries are recognized as driving factors of socio-economic development. Several studies have been produced on the impact of creative industries on the national economy in different countries and regions, but little has been reported on the impact of such new economic frameworks on artists who grapple with subject-

tive motives, a mismatch between learning and teaching methods, and decisions of whether to become entrepreneurs or not.

The MUSAE project brings together higher education institutions from countries with both poor and very good performances in the creative economy. The project identifies effective methods to convince students that the acquisition of the new skills, although apparently irrelevant to their subject, is fundamental for their future employment, especially if the training programs are developed in an international and multidisciplinary context.

To introduce the project to the academic council and faculty, a workshop with the partners from Italy, Belgium, and Finland was conducted on May 10, 2022. Six film students were selected to participate in the MUSEA project as part of two student mobility activities. The first took place at The Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp, Belgium, on February 12-

26, 2023, while the second took place at L'Aquila, Italy on July 1-10, 2023. Students were accompanied by faculty member and film maker Mr. Hanna Musleh. During the two student mobility activities, DAK University students were involved in training and workshops, and cooperated with students from other Palestinian universities, as well as Tunisian and Uzbekistani universities, in creating entrepreneurial projects that could become income-generating to the teams in the future.



## Library

In 2022 the accreditation of Dar al-Kalima University's MA programs took place. This gave the library a new challenge to collate the materials and resources needed for these programs and new specializations, in addition to the new BA programs. The library maintained its normal activities in providing library services to faculty members and students.

There was a total of 14,016 acquisitions during the reporting period: 530 new books were purchased, 219 new electronic books, and nine new references. Acquisitions ranged from references to books, periodicals, e-books, tapes, DVDs and others. Languages included Arabic, English, French, German, and Greek.

## Main Accomplishments 2022

1. A valuable collection of books and reference books was purchased from the annual Palestine Book Fair.
2. A new collection of 219 e-books makes it easier for users to obtain access.
3. All materials by faculty members are linked and downloaded to the library system, making these materials available in electronic form 24/7.
4. Films are made available electronically on the library page.
5. International library links that list the full text collections have had a positive impact on the academic level of students.

## Library Projects 2023

During 2023, the library is undertaking projects that will contribute to the development of information services for students and faculty members. These projects are as follows:

1. Increase the library's electronic collections.
2. Provide the largest possible number of books with full text.
3. Subscribe to some specialized magazines.
4. Subscribe to electronic databases.

## Student Affairs

During the reporting period, the Student Affairs unit undertook several activities, including the following:

### Student Clubs, Meetings and Events

1. The idea behind establishing student clubs is to engage students in activities beyond the academic curriculum. New clubs initiated in the fall semester 2022 included the Drama Club, Arts Club, Design Club, Sports Club, and Music Club. The Cinema Club, which existed previously as an initiative of the Film Program, was reactivated.
2. A student general meeting took place on October 14, 2022, to discuss the prospects for students at the University. The University administration emphasized its commitment

to enhancing the spirit of initiative, leadership, and creativity among all students in line with the University's mission and regulations governing academic and administrative work.

3. An initiative by student leaders on November 24, 2022, promoted an alternative cafeteria for one day only. Culinary Arts students participated in this event, along with some students and graduates who run businesses outside the University selling sweets, shawarma, taboon bread, and other foods.
4. Students from Dar Al-Kalima University participated in decorating the Christmas tree on December 16, 2022, themed after Bethlehem's traditional costumes. The tree was lit at the Smith Court, with the Lutheran Scouts playing Christmas hymns and performing the national anthem.

## Theater Performances, Seminars and Workshops

1. In a collaboration between Dar al-Kalima University and Inad Theater, the theatrical production *A Grain of Sand* was performed on October 13, 2022. It is a short story by the Palestinian novelist and writer Ghassan Kanafani marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his assassination. Additionally, a documentary film was screened to shed light on his life.
2. A seminar on Issues of Theater Funding in Palestine was organized on October 28, 2022, in a collaboration between Dar al-Kalima University and the Palestinian Ministry of Culture as part of the third edition of the Palestine International Theatre Festival. Ms. Marina Barham from Al-Harah Theater and Amer Khalil from the Palestinian National Theatre - Al-Hakawati participated. The event was attended by DAK students and

representatives from various Palestinian cultural institutions.

3. A workshop on Integrated Theater and the Use of Arts in Developing Skills and Abilities of People with Disabilities took place on November 10, 2022. The goal was to introduce participants to the concept of integrated theater and how to engage with persons with special needs in the field of arts. The workshop was led by faculty member Khaled Al-Masou, and 15 young men and women from the Yes to Life Foundation. The workshop included an artistic presentation embodying the play *The Elephant, O King of the Age* by writer Saadallah Wannous, in an improvisational manner, and an expressive dance presentation within the context of community theater.
4. The play *Prisoner* was performed on February 9, 2023, as part of a collaboration between Dar Al-Kalima University and Rasa'il

Theater. The play addressed the real-life struggles of Palestinian female prisoners inside Israeli prisons, focusing on the human aspect of the experience and shedding light on their hardships rather than the traditional narrative that highlights courage.

5. The play *Darkness and Light* was performed on March 3, 2023, as part of a collaboration between Dar Al-Kalima University and Al-Hara Theater. The play addresses family issues, focusing on the unique perspective of motherhood and care, and highlighting the challenges and experiences of a visually impaired mother striving to build a family.





## Film Screenings

1. Documentary films produced and directed by students and graduates of the Film Production program were screened in the University theater on October 27, 2022, in collaboration with the Cinema Club. These films included:
  - *For You* directed by Mahmoud Hamdan.
  - *Just a Hanger* directed by Amir Zabaneh and Kareem Swalmeh.
  - *Sari Mari* directed by Luay Awad.
  - *Fourth Floor* directed by Shaima Awawda.
  - *Ambiance* directed by Wisam Al-Jaafari.
  - *Bethlehem 2001* directed by Ibrahim Handal.
2. The documentary film *Reel Bad Arabs* by Jack Shaheen was screened by the MA Students Activities Committee on November 18, 2022. This film explains the stigmatizing

aspect of cinema history from the early days of silent film to the biggest Hollywood films today.

3. The following films were screened by the MA Students Activities Committee on November 25, 2022:
  - *Dallah Coffee* directed by Thaer Al-Azza.
  - *Fourth Floor* directed by Shaima Awawdeh.
  - *Area C* directed by Salah Abu Nama.
4. The Cinema Club screened four short French films in collaboration with the French Film Festival on February 7, 2023. The films encompassed narrative, documentary and animated productions, all created and directed by French students and filmmakers.
5. The screening of the film *I Was There – Land Day* was organized by the Cinema Club on March 30, 2023, to mark the 47<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Land Day.

## Music Performances

1. As part of the Music Club's activities and the Chamber Music series, a musical performance held on November 17, 2022, featured Sonata in A minor, D. 821 'Arpeggione' by Franz Schubert. Soloist student Dalia al-Makrakar on flute and faculty member Ramzi Shomali on piano participated in this wonderful concert.
2. The Music Club organized a performance by music students on December 15, 2022, and performed pieces by multiple composers: American composer Scott Joplin; Egyptian composer Ahmed El Kasabgy (Laila Murad songs); Polish composer Frederic Chopin; Lebanese composers Rahbani Brothers (Fairuz songs); Egyptian composer Walid Saad; Egyptian composer Mohamed Abdel Wahab; Ottoman-Turkish composer Jamil Bik Tamburi; and Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla.

## Exhibitions

1. The Arts and Design Club organized an exhibition of handmade products made by students on December 8, 2022. The aim was to showcase and introduce the work of students, and to provide a marketing opportunity for them.
2. Students organized a three-day stationery exhibition from January 23-25, 2023.
3. Students at the College of Design and Architecture organized an exhibition on February 20, 2023, to showcase artistic products and output by students on the Islamic Art and Architecture course.

Student Scholarship Awards

1. The Student Scholarship Awards were announced and distributed on March 3, 2023. Of the total student body at Dar Al-Kalima University, 31.2% were granted an award, ranging from academic excellence scholarships to financial aid grants.

Seminars and Competitions

1. A seminar on Culture, Arts, and the Pulse of the Prisoners’ Movement was organized on April 28, 2023, to commemorate the annual Palestinian Prisoners Day. The seminar covered:

- Willpower, artistic impulse, and the sad reality: between the pessimism of reality and the optimism of will.
- Education to challenge control and censorship policies within prisons: between organizational education and academic education.

- Features of the literature of the prisoners’ movement.
  - Prisoners in theater: theatrical works addressing the topic of prisoners.
  - The concept of the image for the prisoner.
  - The legal dimension and the philosophy of confrontation: legal violations in torture.
2. A Cultural Heritage Competition on May 23, 2023, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research and the Al-Ru’ya Foundation, included 15 DAK students from the Tourism Department alongside participants from other Palestinian universities in the West Bank.

Registration

Admission (Academic Year 2022/2023)

Degree	Program	%
Master	Management of Cultural Institutions	23%
	Visual & Performing Arts	
Bachelor	Contemporary Arts	55%
	Film Production	
	Performing Arts	
	Cultural & Sustainable Tourism	
	Sports Management	
	Design	
	Graphic Design	
	Interior Design	
Diploma	Community Performing Arts	19%
	Culinary Arts & Management	
	Jewelry Arts	
	Music Performance	
	Photography	
CE	CE Programs	3%

Enrolled (Academic Year 2022/2023)

Degree	Program	%
Masters	Management of Cultural Institutions	10%
	Visual & Performing Arts	
Bachelor	Contemporary Arts	71%
	Film Production	
	Performing Arts	
	Cultural & Sustainable Tourism	
	Sports Management	
	Design	
	Graphic Design	
	Interior Design	
Diploma	Community Performing Arts	16%
	Culinary Arts & Management	
	Jewelry Arts	
	Music Performance	
	Photography	
	Documentary Film Production	
CE	Contemporary Fine Art	4%
	CE Programs	

Graduates 2023

Degree	Program	%
Bachelor	Contemporary Arts	52%
	Film Production	
	Performing Arts	
	Cultural & Sustainable Tourism	
	Graphic Design	
	Interior Design	
Diploma	Culinary Arts & Management	38%
	Jewelry Arts	
	Music Performance	
	Photography	
	Documentary Film Production	
	Contemporary Fine Art	
CE	CE Programs	9%

Governorates (2022/2023)

Governorate	%
Palestinians from the 1948 territories	1%
Bethlehem	66%
Hebron	13%
Jenin	1%
Jerusalem	12%
Nablus	1%
Qalqilya	0%
Ramallah	4%
Salfit	0%
Tulkarem	1%

4 Gaza Training Center: Empowering the Next Generation of Creative Leaders in Gaza

Dar al-Kalima University (DAK) Training Center in Gaza continued to build on the achievements of previous years and offer empowerment opportunities for young talented individuals in the Gaza Strip. DAK’s Gaza Training Center offered 11 courses in various art topics and techniques, benefiting 175 participants. Additionally, it embarked on developing additional skills for artists in entrepreneurship, social marketing, conceptualizing art and applying for art projects training.

Seventy-three participants benefited from these courses. Over the course of almost two years, DAK organized five joint exhibitions and one solo exhibition for a young female artist in Gaza who enrolled in one of these courses.

Twelve young artists took part in painting three murals commemorating Land Day, the Nakba and the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and images of journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh and artist Ismail Shammout. The Training Center in Gaza engaged 20 volunteer artists in leading more than 100 activities with children at the Center. In coordination with local organizations throughout Gaza Strip, more than 1600 children were reached with art activities. Additionally, four photographers in Gaza received awards for their participation in the annual Karimeh Abbud Photography Award and six artists received awards from the Athar al-Farasha Festival organized in collaboration with several art organizations in the Gaza Strip.



The Gaza Training Center, despite limited resources and space, continued to reach out to talented young artists willing to experiment with art and explore art as a future career path. It conducted a workshop for 17 artists on building skills for art projects. This culminated in the selection of seven artists whose projects received small production internship scholarships in collaboration with local partner Shababeek for Contemporary Art, which provided technical supervision for the artists over a two-month period. The Center also collaborated with Planet Inaba, an organization from Holland that provided an entrepreneurship course for artists on skills for start-ups and small art businesses. The three-month course culminated in a shark-tank exercise where artists presented business ideas in front of a panel of business coaches to compete for seed funding. The exercise concluded with one artist winning the seed fund for his project to produce wooden educational toys, while five other artists received encouragement prizes.

The Training Center in Gaza continued to operate using solar panels installed in 2021; these covered all energy needs since municipal electricity is not available and reliance on fuel generators was eliminated entirely.

The following is a more detailed report on the activities of the DAK Gaza Training Center during 2022/2023.

### Academic and Professional Development Courses

In 2022/2023, the Center organized professional development courses for young artists. The courses offered included sculpture, sculpturing with cardboard layers, painting with mixed media, introduction to painting for beginners, contemporary art theory and practice, conceptual photography, portrait painting with charcoal,

basics of Oud playing, portfolio building, and paper recycling. Additional self-development and skill building courses were offered such as entrepreneurship for artists, organized in collaboration with DAK's main campus in Bethlehem, entrepreneurship for artists organized in collaboration with Planet Inaba, conceptualizing art and applying for art projects in collaboration with Shababeek, and social marketing.

### Art Exhibitions

#### • Karimeh Abboud Award Exhibitions 2022/2023

Two exhibitions were organized during this period in collaboration with the main DAK University campus in Bethlehem, with a parallel exhibition held in the West Bank.

- A photography exhibition entitled Archive of Resilience for the Karimeh Abbud 2021 award and held in March 2022.

- A photography exhibition entitled Inhabited Spaces for the Karimeh Abboud 2022 award held in March 2023.

#### • Solo Exhibition

A debut solo exhibition called Relatively Calm by Farah Qarmout, who participated in a DAK course in 2021, was held to showcase the skills she had acquired that enhanced her talents to produce outstanding artwork. Farah depicted scenery to show the beauty of Gaza before its destruction in the ongoing Israeli onslaught.

#### • Joint Exhibitions

Four joint exhibitions were hosted for artists who completed courses at the Training Center.

- Painting with mixed media, which was the students' final exhibition (September 2022).
- Free Zone (June 2023).

- Stories from the Place (July 2023).
- A Dose of Life (September 2023).

## Engaging Young Artists to Lead Children and Community Art Activities

The DAK Training Center team of 20 volunteers conducted more than 100 activities at the Center and at local organizations in Gaza, engaging 1600 children in various art and handcrafting activities. The Center also hosted children in coordination with local schools and organizations that work with persons with disabilities for engagement in art activities and programs.

The Gaza Training Center also involved 18 young people in a civic engagement course focused on designing community interventions using art to promote social issues of interest to the community, and to engage in place-making ini-

tiatives within their communities. Additionally, 12 young artists were engaged in painting three murals commemorating Land Day, Nakba Day and the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and images of journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh and artist Ismail Shammout.

## Highlights

### • Athar al-Farasha Art Festival

In 2022 DAK's Gaza Training Center joined with several local art organizations in an initiative led by the French Cultural Institute in Gaza. DAK sponsored six of 15 production awards for group and individual artists from Gaza who presented their work in a final festival held in October. The opening was attended by all partner representatives, artists and their families, and by the public.



### • Karimeh Abbud 2022 Photography Award – Inhabited Spaces

DAK University launched the Karimeh Abbud 2022 Photography Award in October 2022 entitled Inhabited Spaces, in cooperation with the Gaza Training Center. The concept was to allow photographers to reflect on the spaces that surround us, how people interact with these, and the value they assign to the space based on these interactions. DAK University hosted a simultaneous opening of the award exhibition in Bethlehem and Gaza in March 2023, during which the top 23 finalists (16 from Gaza and seven from the West Bank and Jerusalem) were presented. There were six winners of the awards, with four of them, including the first prize winner, from Gaza.





## 5 Excellence and Quality Assurance Unit (EQE)

The main achievements of the EQE Unit were the following:

- Spread the culture of quality and excellence among DAK University administrative and academic staff by introducing relevant policies. An inventory of modified and newly drafted policies was made available for monitoring future work on policies.
- An inventory of all university course outlines was made available. The majority of course outlines currently on offer are on file and monitored by deans and program coordinators.
- All monitoring and evaluation templates related to educational services are now available. Additions are made as the need arises. Promote a culture of quality and excellence among DAK University students. This was reflected in the different art exhibitions and graduation projects, and in student evaluations of the faculty and courses.
- The EQE invested in developing resources and establishing a platform for students, administrative and academic staff members to express themselves and to have their opinion valued.
- The EQE organized two training workshops in summer 2023 for both academic and administrative staff to strengthen a culture of high quality at DAK University.
- The EQE moved course evaluation by students to an online platform so that the majority of students could participate in the evaluation process.



## 6 The Adult Education Program

Dar al-Kalima University has an active adult education program. The following highlights took place during 2022/2023:

### People Future Lab (PFL) Project

DAK University has been collaborating with Silkeborg Hojskole, a Danish folk high school, in a three-year project (2021-2023) called People's Future Lab (PFL), sponsored by the Association of Folk High Schools in Denmark (FFD). The project's main goals are to strengthen pedagogy within sustainable and global education, strengthen the global folk high school movement, and strengthen engagement in the sustainable transition of

societies. There are approximately 120 participants representing 12 Danish folk high schools and 12 international high schools and colleges, with each Danish school partnering with an international school or college.

The first joint activity between DAK University and Silkeborg Hojskole was in September 2022, when 32 students with three teachers from Silkeborg Hojskole travelled to Bethlehem and met with 15 students and two teachers from DAK University. During the exchange visit, the students sketched images inspired by Banksy and sprayed them on grey walls inside DAK University campus and in other areas.

Another joint artwork took place by each group on their own campus during November 2022 with an interactive public art project called Before I Die/When I'm Free. Students from both institutions displayed the artwork in a public area inside their campus, and encouraged people to

interact with the artworks created and share their opinions. Two students from DAK were selected to represent the University in May 2023, along with faculty member Ms. Rose Kando, at the International Folk School's Camp and Festival in Kolding, Denmark. Creative young adults from over 20 different schools across the globe gathered to work on this project in workshops. They took part in talks and debates on the pedagogical approach to sustain transition, and how to strengthen the network with folk high schools across the globe through experiences in art installations, performances, and music.

### Wurzburg Academy for Adult Education

Ms. Rose Kando, DAK faculty member and master trainer in adult education, took part in the Wurzburg Academy for Adult Education through its online platform. Ms. Kando made a virtual presentation entitled The Role of Social Entrepreneurship in Empowering Local Communities in Palestine. In July 2022, Ms. Kando travelled to Germany and presented the lecture at Wurzburg University in Germany.



## 7 Stories of Palestine Project



The Stories of Palestine Project seeks to enhance civil society engagement in preserving, reinforcing, and promoting Palestinian culture. Its specific objective is to strengthen the contribution of Adult Education Centers (AECs) in Palestinian rural areas and in marginalized areas to foster cultural education and action. The project is a collaborative initiative between Dar al-Kalima University and DVV International. To achieve its objectives, the Stories of Palestine project comprises three phases:

**First Phase:** Building the capacities of eight community centers for youth and adult education in providing cultural education and activities that promote local cultural heritage, active civic engagement of local people and youth, and values and respect for cultural diversity.

**Second Phase:** Enhancing participation of the target communities in cultural and artistic expression by increasing opportunities for quality local cultural education and action.

**Third Phase:** Raising public awareness of Palestinian cultural heritage and narrative in Palestine and Europe. The highlights during the reporting period were the following:

### Capacity Building and Selection of a New Partner Center

A needs assessment/baseline study was conducted for the al-Sammou' youth center as a new partner. This examined the needs of the local community through the Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) method as part of the Stories of Palestine project. The study aimed to provide answers to the following questions:

- What are the continuous learning needs of the local community in the fields of cultural education and action, personal development, employability, and community participation?

- What are the organizational capacity development needs of the targeted center to ensure that it can meet the interests and needs of the community?

Deliverables of this task included the following:

- A detailed field research plan (in a format of what, why, when, who, with whom, and how).
- Reports of each field research activity (interviews, group interviews, focus groups, etc.).
- Reports on verification sessions.
- Report of the final workshop with the local community, and discussing final findings and recommendations.
- Two detailed reports using the template provided in the project's toolkit:
- The needs of the local community.
- The organizational capacity development needs of the partner in al-Sammou'.

## Capacity Building of Human Resources in Partner Adult Education Centers

This activity is a continuation of the work begun during the first year of the project, namely continuing the capacity building process of human resources in the partner AECs in cultural management, project management and cultural activities, as well as preparing financial management plans for these cultural projects.

The capacity building program for the eight adult education centers consisted of the following:

Two three-day training workshops held in February and June 2022 on how to conduct a market study, identify the cultural needs of the community, and generate creative opportunities and ideas for cultural projects. One training was held in the West Bank and the other in the Gaza Strip.

Individual follow-up was conducted for the AECs' management and cultural actors to develop their ideas to apply for projects.

An additional two three-day workshops on how to prepare administrative and financial plans for cultural projects under development: one workshop in the West Bank and the other in the Gaza Strip.

## Cultural Start-Ups

As part of the Stories of Palestine Project activities, sub-grants were awarded to competing AECs to establish income-generating cultural start-ups. A preparatory stage involved capacity building workshops, the development of ideas, and examining opportunities and possibilities. Preparations with the centers to submit proposals ensued as further workshops and individual follow-ups were held with the trainers, followed by grant writing. Five cultural projects were accepted based on specific criteria and grants

were given to launch the development of the winning cultural projects.

## AECs Cultural Activities

Multiple, diverse cultural activities planned for each AEC were implemented as part of annual plans for 2022 and 2023. These activities were intended to enrich local cultural and social life while strengthening and diversifying the involvement of the target groups in the cultural and societal processes of their communities. So far, more than 2000 community members have participated in these activities.

## Community-based Cultural Documentation Initiatives

The project team held several meetings with local cultural actors from each AEC to discuss the concept of documentation projects. The

suggestions from local cultural actors focused mainly on preserving live oral and practical heritage and tradition. Whether food, songs, natural and man-made scenery or authentic forms of daily simple life, the young cultural actors were aware of the importance of preserving and documenting these, and even identified and expressed aspects that are most at risk of loss from their perspectives.

The documentation ideas proposed will be developed with support from the project team.

## Study Visits to Germany

On September 17, 2022, the first study visit to Germany took place with the participation of partner centers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The one-week visit was to brief partner centers on adult education in Germany, and the role of municipalities and adult learning centers in German society. The visiting delegation was also



briefed on the nature of the cultural programs offered by German adult education centers. During the visit, the exhibition of the Stories of Palestine highlighted the partnerships in Palestine, the important work accomplished, and the achievements of the partners.



## 8 Religion and State – Middle East Program, Phase V

The Religion and State program made substantial and positive achievements during 2022 and up to August 31, 2023. A summary of these highlights is as follows:

### Culture and Digital Transformation Workshops

Three workshops were organized in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt during May 2022, prior to the

conference with the same theme of Culture and Digital Transformation. This topic was deemed important by the project's stakeholders and was selected in response to recommendations made by participants of previous workshops and conferences due to the fact that digital transformation has impacted the way we create, display, experience, and consume culture. The workshops (and conference) were dedicated to exploration of current practices and future trends in the use of emerging and interactive digital technologies and platforms in a variety of Middle Eastern and North African cultural realms. These include cultural heritage, arts, and religion, as well as the effects of digital transformation on tradition, identity, education, cultural diversity management, and sustainable development. All in all, 49 participants took part with 51% female participation, and representing a wide range of political, socio-economic, educational, professional, and religious backgrounds.

## Culture and Digital Transformation Conference

The third international conference on Culture and Digital Transformation Phase V took place over two days from June 10 to June 11, 2022 in Limassol, Cyprus with 65 speakers and participants (including nine online speakers). Women comprised 46.15% and youth 20% of the total participants from 17 countries: Palestine/Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Germany, France, Belgium, the US, South Africa, and Brazil.

The conference promoted critical and interdisciplinary approaches and dialogue on digital advances among academics, artists, researchers, scholars, activists, and young people from diverse fields and backgrounds. It was an excellent forum to discuss the latest advancements and challenges, as well as future directions in digital transformation and culture in today's

Middle Eastern and North African environments. It also opened up new spaces to share information, debate ideas, engage in scholarship, and generate material relevant to contemporary living and life.



Presentations and discussions in Arabic and English were recorded, edited, and uploaded on

DAK University YouTube channel. Conference themes included cultural heritage and digital transformation; digital visual and performing arts; religious practices in the digital age: opportunities and challenges; the impact of digital transformation on tradition and identity – focus on education, gender issues, content creation and socio-cultural praxis/traditions; and the impact of digital transformation on cultural diversity management and sustainable development. Artistic performances and a mixed art exhibition (physical/virtual) were also organized as part of the conference program.

## Consultation on South West Asia and North Africa/Middle East and North Africa Response to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)

A consultation with 20 experts and scholars (nine women and 11 men) was held on Decem-

ber 2-3, 2022, in Limassol, Cyprus, under the title South West Asia and North Africa/Middle East and North Africa Response to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB). This consultation marked an essential step in developing a Middle Eastern culture of upholding FoRB necessary for building inclusive societies. The main goal was to produce a regional response to FoRB and provide a platform for stakeholders to share practices and experiences of FoRB in the region.

The participants were mainly scholars and experts from diverse backgrounds and interdisciplinary fields from Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Qatar, UAE, Egypt, Morocco, and diaspora communities in Europe. They discussed the challenges in addressing issues related to FoRB in the region, its implications, opportunities, and strategies. They identified contextualized recommendations and possible steps for concrete actions which were published in a powerful consultation statement in both Arabic



and English, and in a position paper draft that was shared through different forums, including social media.



## Roundtable on Culture, Religion, Higher Education, and Digital Transformation in Southwestern Asia and North Africa: Challenges and Opportunities

A roundtable on Culture, Religion, Higher Education, and Digital Transformation in Southwestern Asia and North Africa: Challenges and Opportunities took place on June 9-10, 2023, in Larnaca, Cyprus. A total of 36 people (of whom 16 were women and seven youth) participated, including experts, academics, administrators, practitioners, and artists from multi and interdisciplinary fields representing different universities, civil society organizations, religious-based institutions, cultural in-

stitutions, national human rights and women's rights groups; and sectoral bodies from Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Egypt, Morocco, and diaspora communities in Europe and North America. The roundtable's goals were to expand and deepen the critical and interdisciplinary dialogue that started in June 2022 at the 24th International Conference of Dar al-Kalima University and CAFCAW, publish the recommendations and the round table audio-visual material, and expand networks and establish partnerships for future collaboration.

Discussions revolved around the challenges and opportunities of addressing issues related to culture, religion, higher education, and digital transformation in the Middle East and North Africa region. The participants identified practical, contextualized recommendations and possible steps to move forward, including aligning curricula with industry needs, upskilling educators, promoting ethical education, utilizing blockchain

and AI, providing financial support to startups, training artists in tech tools, promoting democracy, initiating dialogues, and establishing partnerships with digital transformation companies.





## Publications

A body of scholarly material and research was published on Christianity and Christians of the Middle East. Seven books covered the role, context, status, and contributions of Christian communities in the region, particularly Palestine/Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. These seven books provide the largest scholarly work ever completed in such a short period, with the largest number of scholars participating and all books available for purchase worldwide. The publications address multiple topics, some of them for the first time, and are largely written by indigenous Middle Eastern Christians of both sexes. This material is now a reference source and authority on topics that can no longer be ignored. The publications are sold on global online platforms such as Amazon.

In total, 66 scholars contributed to this critical body of work: 23 women and 43 men. Almost

50% of the scholars were indigenous Christians from the project countries or who represent the region in the Diaspora. Some of the researchers and scholars contributed to the publications with multiple articles, and also as editors or reviewers. Focus groups and town hall meetings were organized to discuss the findings of the research and publications, and to enlist feedback and recommendations for future steps.

The following books were published:

1. *Handbook of Christianity in the Middle East*, edited by Mitri Raheb and Mark Lampport and published in 2020 by Rowman & Littlefield/US with the contribution of 50 top international scholars.
2. *Mapping of Christian Organizations in Palestine: Social and Economic Impact*, carried out by George Akroush and published in 2021 by Dar al-Kalima University Press

in cooperation with the CNEWA-Pontifical Mission in Jerusalem.

3. *The Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire*, by Dr. Mitri Raheb and published in 2021 by Baylor University Press/US.
4. *A Palestinian Armenian: The Intertwine between the Social and the Political*, written by Dr. Varsen Aghabekian and published in 2021 by DAK University Press.
5. *The Surviving Jewel: The Enduring Story of Christianity in the Middle East*, edited by Mitri Raheb and Mark Lampport and published in 2022 by Cascade books/US with contributions from 16 top Christian scholars from the Middle East.
6. *Rooted in Palestine: Palestinian Christians and the Struggle for National Liberation 1917-2004*, by Xavier Abu Eid, published in 2022 by DAK University Press.

7. *In the Eye of the Storm: Middle Eastern Christians in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Mitri Raheb and published on June 23, 2023 by Wipf & Stock/US with contributions by eight authors, mainly Middle Eastern scholars.

The publications were well received by critics and readers. Dr. Mitri Raheb's book *Politics of Persecution: Middle Eastern Christians in an Age of Empire* has been taught at several US universities and churches. Perhaps the most noteworthy was a book review panel held in Denver, US during the November 2022 American Academy of Religion annual conference. At this event, four outstanding academics from top tier institutions and universities gathered to discuss and praise the book. Multiple book reviews and citations have been published and the book has prompted global discussion and interest.

## Audiovisuals

A production of three short videos on Christians in the region achieved impressive reach. The first was *Palestinian Christians*, the second was *Christians of Lebanon*, and the third, whose production was partly supported, was *We Choose Abundant Life – Christians in the Middle East: Towards Renewed Theological, Social, and Political Choices*. The videos mainly appeared on social forums such as YouTube, CAFCAW and Dar al-Kalima University Facebook pages, as well as the We Choose Life website.



## 9 The Rami Zahi Khouri Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub

The Rami Zahi Khouri Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub (RZK) aims to create a vibrant and interactive incubator for young Palestinian artists, students, graduates, and professors. It provides training, mentorship, and networking platforms to inspire and develop self-generating enterprises. It also aims to strengthen arts and culture in all sectors and domains in Palestine.

During the first year of the Hub in 2022, the following activities were accomplished:



- An educational training program was undertaken in 2022 with the successful implementation of two courses and one two-day intensive workshop. It resulted in equipping 23 students (17 women and six men) with an entrepreneurial mindset and skills, with a higher number of women than originally planned. Students trained on these courses were then qualified to join the entrepreneurship club as members. The following courses and workshops were delivered in 2022:

## 1. Project-Based Learning (PBL) Course

This three credit-hour course utilized the project-based learning (PBL) approach to advance a step-by-step learning process that culminated in students developing contextually relevant initiatives and projects. The course also taught students how to design and develop a strategic plan with detailed activities.

## 2. Is Our Voice Heard Course

This course aimed to train participants to tell their stories on stage using public speaking skills, to pitch their projects, motivate investors to support their ideas, and to encourage audiences to develop their own initiatives and enterprises. Nine students (six women and three men) stood on stage and presented their stories of how they found their purpose in serving their communities during the open day event organized at DAK University.

## 3. Workshop on Entrepreneurship

An intensive workshop took place in Jericho on February 18-19, 2022. The workshop aimed to introduce students to the world of entrepreneurial work by meeting with successful entrepreneurs and working in teams to develop creative ideas in the domain of arts and culture for development into a business model.

- A new entrepreneurship club comprised of DAK students and graduates was established to engage in diverse activities that expand the community of young entrepreneurs and create opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, exchange, and networking. The entrepreneurship club is governed by policies and regulations, and its membership is based on student enrolment, successful completion, and commitment to entrepreneurial courses as preconditions to joining the club.

The club's work during this reporting period comprised different events and programs, including training workshops, meetings, open days, one-to-one mentoring, meet-the-experts sessions, and other activities that facilitate entry into innovation and entrepreneurial work, particularly social entrepreneurship. A total of 178 young people, with 113 women and 65 men, benefited from these activities.

The key activities offered by the club in 2022 were as follows:

### 1. Culture-Identity-Resilience Course:

This was an entrepreneurial course offered jointly with the Polytechnic University in Hebron and the Jerusalem Entrepreneurs Society and Technology. A total of nine DAK students and graduates joined this course.

## 2. The Global Innovation Catalyst (GIC) Online Course with Stanford University:

Three highly committed students enrolled in the prestigious Global Innovation Catalyst online course with Stanford University. The course gave the students access to high-level practices in entrepreneurship and innovation, and helped them to further develop their ideas into projects. Upon completion, the students received certificates that recognized their participation and hard work.

## 3. Global Entrepreneurship Week – Palestine (GEW-PA):

The Entrepreneurship Club organized and conducted an intensive program as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week – Palestine on November 13-19 to raise awareness and engage 110 students and graduates in its programs. The Hackathon event was a full day that aimed to bring artists from different backgrounds

to work together in teams and develop artistic solutions to a problem or need that could become a sustainable project. At this event, 22 students joined virtually from DAK's Gaza Training Center. Another event, held in partnership with the initiative Build Palestine, was a workshop focused on social innovation and community impact. The goal of this workshop was to emphasize the added value of social initiatives, especially in the arts, whereby the participants proposed models that would be effective in designing successful, sustainable initiatives with income revenue.

#### **4. International Conference on Entrepreneurship in Palestine 4.0:**

The manager of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit, Dr. Enas Dib, participated in the International Conference on Entrepreneurship in Palestine, held in Dubai from November 1 to 3, 2022. This conference aimed to bring together Palestinian investors and successful businesses to sup-

port new start-ups. The conference was titled Innovation in Palestine- People & Potential. Dr. Dib's presentation focused on the investment opportunities in Palestine, taking into consideration perspectives from the Palestinian diaspora. She also spoke about the challenges faced by young people in sustaining successful enterprises, but also the opportunities in Palestine, particularly socially motivated enterprises. More than 70 people attended the conference, which was an opportunity to connect with a wide range of potential networking stakeholders who may invest in future entrepreneurial projects.

- A mentorship system was set up between Palestinian entrepreneurs and young aspiring women entrepreneurs to assist in the development of viable products and launch entrepreneurial ventures. A total of seven entrepreneurs (one woman and six men) joined the advisory taskforce to help young entre-

preneurs to develop their ideas. These entrepreneurs are experienced Palestinians who are extremely knowledgeable of the many challenges and opportunities of the Palestinian context and market. The relationships and guidance offered to young students and graduates are of immense importance to gain access to the entrepreneurial world.

Several meetings were held with the Unit manager and DAK top management to prepare taskforce members for their responsibilities and engage them further in the work of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Unit. Taskforce members were also involved in the overall strategic planning process, and the design of the policies and regulations drafted to ensure transparency and accountability.

- The Hub organized an Open Day event on June 2, 2022, that included an award ceremony for the top three projects that exhibited

innovation, a sound business model, ethical and social responsibilities, and sustainability. The event included the final projects and productions of all DAK graduates from different programs in celebration of the end of the academic year. The event was attended by 200 people, including students, faculty members, students' family members, guests from other universities and the taskforce. It was a big celebration that emphasized teamwork, innovation and creativity, and young people's potential.

In preparation for the Open Day and award ceremony, 13 projects were submitted to a six-member jury with balanced gender representation, included members of the task force and faculty. Young women entrepreneurs dominated the competition and there were 11 proposals submitted by females versus two proposals by males. The competitors pitched their projects using different mediums, including a Power-



Point presentation that explained purpose, the business model, the budget, and the plan. The projects were judged according to specific criteria and the top three with the highest scores were given awards: two females and one male. The prize included seed money to help launch their enterprises and intensive mentoring as part of an incubation period to take place from December 2022 to August 2023. The remaining projects were also open to mentoring with relevant services and assistance.

One of the three winners granted an award dropped out due to health reasons. The remaining two winning projects were:

- A project by a young woman from a village near Bethlehem who is a graduate of DAK's Interior Design program in 2022. Her project focused on creating artistic and creative furniture designs and educational games for kindergarten classes using recycled plastic waste.

- A project by a young man from the Jenin district who is a graduate of DAK's Contemporary Art program. His project aimed to work with children in rural areas and teach them art and photography as part of telling their story through courses and workshops. The uniqueness of this project was the mobile classroom that could travel through different villages and introduce the power of art and photography to remote areas in Palestine.

In 2023, the second year of the Hub, the following were accomplished:

- The Hub actively engaged the advisory task-force by organizing three meetings in January, March, and April 2023, as well as a trip to Nazareth and Haifa in April 2023.
- The Hub continued to offer courses for DAK University students, although it was not part of its plan for the second year. Four courses

in entrepreneurship were offered, namely the Entrepreneurship Project-Based Learning (PBL) course given in 2022 and two times in fall and winter 2023 (with 41 students: 27 women and 14 men); a course entitled Entrepreneurship for Designers (with seven women students of the Fashion Design program); and a Proposal Writing course (with 15 students: eight women and seven men). The courses enabled students to acquire critical skills (such as design thinking, critical thinking, problem solving, pitching, etc.) that could allow them to build their own entrepreneurial undertakings and initiatives, particularly in the field of social entrepreneurship. This demonstrates the critical role that the arts can have in the field of entrepreneurship and empowering young women and men economic life.

- The club continued to implement unique activities for all students, including graduates.

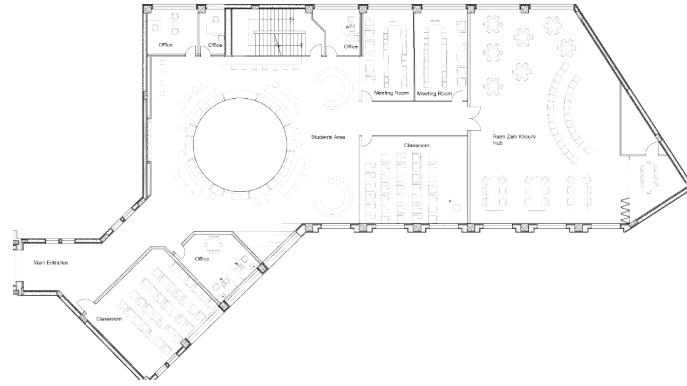
These activities included the following:

- A 50-hour Entrepreneurship for Artisans training program for 10 women participants (students and graduates) from July to September 2023.
- A 32-hour training program called the Fellowship Program for 10 MA students of Art and Cultural Management (six women and four men) during March to June 2023.
- A three-day retreat workshop with Mr. Fouad Sahyoun (member of the Task Force) and fellowship program participants on April 26 to May 1, 2023.
- Two field trips were organized. The first took place on April 29 to Haifa and Nazareth to visit ventures and enterprises run by young Palestinian artists and entrepreneurs from Israel and build future collaboration. A total of 17 persons with six women and 11 men participated, in-

cluding MA students from the fellowship program, taskforce members and DAK senior management. The second trip on May 20 visited Technopark (a technology park) at Birzeit University to explore the role of technology in creative industries. A total of 50 persons (45 students and five faculty) participated with 32 women and 18 men.

- The incubation phase of the two projects that won awards in 2022 was initiated to support project development, create a market fit, and build the prototype of the initiative to be tested and sustained.
- Networks and collaboration with local and international organizations were forged during 2023 to enhance the visibility of the RZK Hub and expand its community. Some examples include:

- The Higher Council for Innovation and Excellence (HCIE), a governmental body, became a member and joined the network of Palestinian universities' entrepreneurship and innovation hubs.
- The relationship expanded with the Build Palestine organization and two joint workshops were conducted.
- Techno Park field visits took place as a joint workshop.
- A visit to University of California-Irvine in July 24-27, 2023, to discuss collaboration including student mentorship and joint workshops.



## 10 Paltisana Program



The Paltisana program is an incubator for artisans from Palestine, established at Dar al-Kalima University in 2020 as part of the Obader project, and implemented in collaboration with CARE International and the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy. The program provides a place for artisans to meet and discuss their issues and needs. It also provides services vital to

the development of artisanal products, in terms of design, production, packaging, promotion, and marketing. A total of 80 members joined the Paltisana program in 2022-2023.

The main highlights of the Paltisana program during 2022-2023 were the following:

1. Paltisana artisans participated in several national events, including JEN Christmas Charity Bazaar 2022 at the American Colony Hotel in Jerusalem, and the DVV International Bazaar in Ramallah.
2. Six courses were organized for Paltisana artisans during 2022 to support artisans with enhanced designs and techniques, focusing on the following topics:
  - Glass-mosaic angels design training by Nancy Salsa, held on February 14, 2022.
  - Pricing training by Nancy Salsa, held on June 28, 2022.

- Stone-mosaic training by Samer Hanna, held on August 2-4, 2022.
  - Packaging training by Alfred Azar, held on August 8, 2022.
  - Marketing training by Tamara Musleh, held on August 17-19, 2022.
  - Drawing on glass training, held on August 23-25, 2022.
3. Paltisana joined Monsha'ti, a national platform of eight partners that provides guidance services, technical and administrative support, and facilitates access to available sources of finance for enterprises of all sizes by creating a network of public and private sector partners interested in developing these businesses.
  4. Paltisana established the Paltisana Award for design, in cooperation with the Rami Zahi Khouri Innovation and Entrepreneur-

ship Hub, after training for artisans to create high-quality products. The training covered topics such as creative design, photography, marketing, pricing, and presentation skills.



5. New artisan products were produced, some of which are already displayed on the new Paltisana website: [www.paltisana.org](http://www.paltisana.org).



## Paltisana Gift Shop

### Facts and Highlights

- Recycled glass artwork and ornaments made up more than 50% of the total sales in the Cave Gift Shop in 2022.
  - A new display was installed, including work from the following artisans:
- Glass designs by artisans Sawsan Rishmawi, Helva Hannoneh, Aya Abu-Mfarreh, and Diala Shomali.
  - Vintage silver products by Farah Zakharia.
  - Mother of pearl by Fuad Qumsieh and Edward Ghattas.
  - Olive wood models by Jack Nasrallah, Hanna Hilal, Farah Zakharia, and Gloria.
  - Embroidery by Ikhlas Bannoura, Alia Ibrahim, and Randa Juha.
  - Fabrics by Ayed Arafah and Zeinab Danadneh.

- Ceramics by Faten Nayroukh and Randa Mansour.
- Silver models by Rawan Salman, Edward Ghattas, Nadira Araj, Shoroq Shabaneh, and Marwa Sebaa.
- Books from Diyar Publisher, Varsen Aghabekian, and Rehab Nazzal.
- Glass ball ornaments designed for the gift shop by Diala Shomali and Ikhlas Bannourah.
- Carved stone pendants by Ala Abu-Haikal.
- Leather designs by Raneen Shabaneh.
- Mosaic stone products by Fatima Louzi and Hind Ghadban.
- Gold-plated jewelry by Nadira Araj.

### Best Sellers

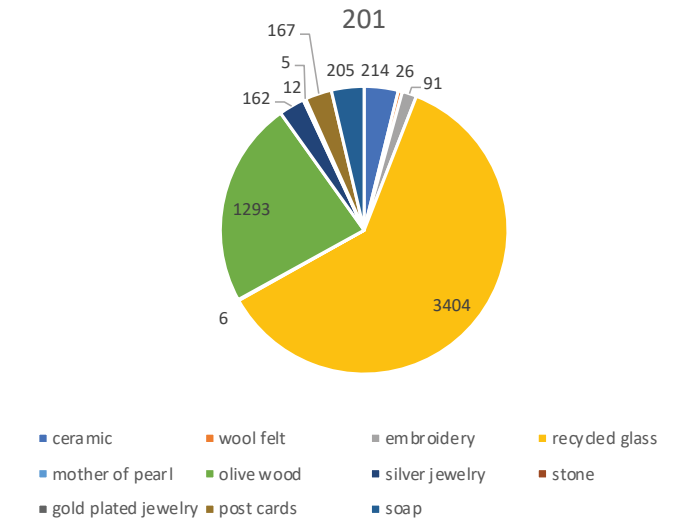
- Books: "Culinary Book".
- Ceramics: olive pot.

- Felted lamb's wool: small nativity.
- Embroidery: stoles – variety of colors and designs.
- Recycled glass items: baptismal droplet.
- Mother-of-pearl: leaf earrings.
- Olive wood: star ornament.
- Silver jewelry: olive leaf ring.
- Stone: Jerusalem stone cross.
- Gold-plated jewelry: olive leaf ring.
- Postcards: Zaki Baboun postcard.
- Soap: olive oil soap.



### Sales by Countries

- Sweden ranked #1.
- US ranked #2.
- Denmark ranked #3.
- Germany, Australia, Italy, and Jordan ranked #4.





# 11 Ajyal Senior Care Program

There were 96 committed members of the Ajyal program during 2022-2023. The main activities during the reporting period were:

1. Home Visits: 104 home visits to members of the Ajyal program.
2. Joint Meals: 22 communal meals, some taking place outdoors, either during trips or local picnics, accompanied by a social program.
3. Spiritual and Biblical Study Sessions: 17 Bible study sessions on a variety of topics and linked to special occasions.
4. Medical Awareness Sessions: 19 sessions covered the holistic needs of members, including body, mind, and spirit. The topics were:
  - The Situation of the Elderly in Palestine: Statistics and Studies (Dr. Nadim Adela).
  - The Elderly During and After the Pandemic: Tips and Advice (Dr. Nadim Adela).
  - Nutrition and Osteoporosis (Dr. Hanna Rishmawy).
  - Diabetes Mellitus (Dr. Issa Ja'nenh).
  - Morality (Dr. Margaret Griffiths).
  - What the Bible and Psychology Say about Forgiveness (Dr. Margaret Griffiths).
  - Atherosclerosis and Varicose Veins (two lectures) (Dr. Peter Kumri).
  - Women's Health (three lectures) (Dr. May Tarazi).

- Other topics covered by local doctors included lectures on cancer, strokes, osteoarthritis, chronic kidney disease, depression, obesity, dental care, and dementia.
5. Trips and Picnics: Four trips were organized to Haifa, Ras al-Naqura and Akka, Jifna and Ramallah, and Jericho. In addition, five local picnics were arranged with recreational programs and lunch.
  6. Special Visitors:
    - Dr. Margaret Griffiths conducted two psychosocial lectures in 2022 and provided counselling sessions to Ajyal group members.
    - Dr. Margaret Griffiths visited again in March 2023 and gave two lectures to the Ajyal group. She gave a third lecture to the women's group of the Christmas Lutheran Church, arranged by Ajyal and called The Healthy Self.
- A parish nurse group from the US visited in 2022 and conducted awareness sessions, medical screening tests, and exchange and experience-sharing activities.
  - A second parish nurse group from the US visited in 2023 and gave awareness-raising lectures on heart disease and women's health. They also conducted screening tests for the Ajyal group including blood pressure, glucose level pulse tests, and foot tests.
7. Celebrations:
    - Mother's Day: This was celebrated in 2022 by taking members on a trip to Jericho. In 2023, the Ajyal program held a dinner event at Dar Annadwa. Women from the local community were also invited to introduce them to the Ajyal program as a way to recruit new members.
    - Christmas: This celebration was one of the most successful events of 2022. Artists were

invited to the event to perform Christmas carols and a play, dinner was served and Christmas gifts were distributed.

8. Clubs: Two clubs were initiated during the reporting period. The Book Club meets twice a month at different locations. The second club was Ergosoma, which meets once a week for light exercise, meditation, and Ergosoma therapy techniques.
9. Dementia Care Program:
  - A four-day training on dementia and Alzheimer's disease took place March 14-17, 2022. A team of professionals and experts from North Carolina, US, was led by Dr. Michael Connor. The training objectives were to equip Palestinian health care professionals and care givers with skills to provide better care, to empower them to teach others these skills, and to raise awareness in the local community about this disease. A total of 40 health care professionals and care giv-

ers received training and were encouraged to train other colleagues. Training materials and video resources were provided to further support the participants, who were mainly from Bethlehem governorate but also from Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Hebron. The training was broadcast live on Facebook and many people were able to attend it virtually from different localities, including from the Gaza Strip. The training was conducted in English with simultaneous interpretation for the participants.

- A webinar on dementia and Alzheimer's disease on October 14, 2022 was conducted at Dar al-Kalima University as part of activities for Elderly Day and attended by 110 people, mostly from the Ajyal group, plus professionals from local institutions, including those who attended the training in March 2022. Three local professionals conducted this event, including Dr.

Ashraf al-Hussaini, a medical doctor who spoke on Quality of Life for People with Dementia, Mr. Ibrahim Ighbarieh, a nursing department director in East Jerusalem who spoke on Care and Needs of People with Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, and Ms. Hana al-Rabady, a nutritionist and public health specialist, who spoke on Diet Recommendations for Alzheimer's Patients.



# 12 Communication and International Relations

## 2021/2022 Academic Year

The 2021/2022 academic year was marked by a qualitative shift in media, public, and international relations that saw the implementation of a new strategic plan for communications and international relations at Dar al-Kalima University. Furthermore, as the newest accredited university by the Palestinian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (August 2021), Dar al-Kalima University was placed on the map of

Palestinian universities with its new and unique status as the only school of art in Palestine. This new elevation in status required engagement in a series of academic and non-academic activities with other prominent Palestinian universities, including hosting the meeting of the Student Activities Committee of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research.

There were new developments in the publication of news and announcements at the University via social and digital media. The following are the key achievements in the 2021/2022 academic year:

### 1. Multimedia and Website

Content and the website design were modified, an Instagram page set up, and increased reporting of University activities on social media platforms. A YouTube channel was launched with video postings on the channel. The following are Facebook and Instagram reports:

### New likes and followers

Facebook + Instagram

#### New likes and follows

Facebook Page new likes ⓘ

4,674 ↑ 53.2%



#### New Instagram followers ⓘ

31 --



### Page and profile visits

Facebook + Instagram

#### Page and profile visits

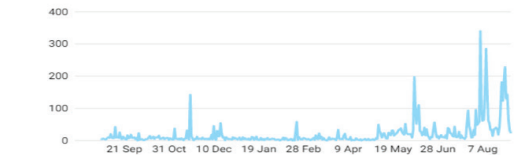
Facebook Page visits ⓘ

56,786 ↑ 105.1%



#### Instagram profile visits ⓘ

7,262 ↑ 956.4%



### Reach

Facebook + Instagram

#### Reach

Facebook Page reach ⓘ

1,764,479 ↓ 1.5%



#### Instagram reach ⓘ

495,575 ↑ 147.0K%



## 2. Events

Events organized included: 1) Dar al-Kalima University hosted a meeting for the Student Activities Committee of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research with representatives from more than 19 Palestinian universities; 2) A special workshop for the Wellwood 3 project for local development and women's empowerment; 3) A seminar to launch book signing for *A House of Colors-Ismail and Tamam*, authored by Mahmoud Shukair.

## 3. Archives

All media materials have been archived in special files, including photos, videos, designs, and written and filmed news reports.

## 4. Printed and Written Media

Many advertising and promotional materials were printed and published, most importantly the student guide for 2021-2022, social media posts, event invitations, digital banners for

events, and 52 news reports issued by Dar al-Kalima University to media agencies, Palestinian newspapers, and social media platforms.

## 5. Visual and Audio Media

Radio announcements about the University's programs were published 110 times on Orient radio and Hala radio, in addition to engagement in radio interviews and television reports about Dar al-Kalima University.

## 6. Introduction to the University's Programs

Field and school visits took place to introduce students to the University's programs. The main schools participating in this activity included Bethlehem Girls' Secondary School, Terra Sancta Girls' Secondary School/St. Joseph School, the Good Shepherd Swedish School, the Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour, and Dar al-Kalima School. The University also participated in the orientation days for high school students organized in many governorates by the Minis-

try of Higher Education and Scientific Research, including Nablus, South Nablus, Jericho, Salfit, and Qalqilya. During these orientation days, more than 10,000 high school students were introduced to the specialties of DAK University.

## 7. Projects

The Community Art Revival project was initiated and implemented through DAK University. The project received the second-place award in the competition for best volunteer work project in a Palestinian higher education institution.

## 8. Marketing

Many marketing plans were drawn up, including advertising the programs available at Dar al-Kalima University; new MA programs in Palestine; a media plan for the International Conference on Culture and Digital Transformation held in Cyprus; and a media plan for the workshop Culture as Sumud Identity for the entrepreneurship program.

## 9. Periodic Seminars

The concept of the Jabra Ibrahim Jabra cultural salon was introduced, divided into four monthly seminars, each named after a work by Jabra Ibrahim Jabra: The First Well; The Ship; Reflections on the Structure of Marmari; and Art, Dream and Deed. Additionally, the Word Gathering program was introduced as a monthly literary seminar accompanied by a cultural or artistic activity.





## 2022/2023 Academic Year

In the 2022/2023 academic year there were tangible achievements by DAK University in communications and international relations via media formats or indirectly through the launch of various forms of interactive cultural activities.

The report has been divided into two main sections of the most important achievements in the 2022/2023 academic year:

### 1. Media Affairs

- **Multimedia**

The University website, social media sites and platforms were developed and updated with news, photos, videos, and data related to the University's work and activities.

- **Events**

Coverage of the University's academic and cultural events.

- **Archives**

A digital archive was set up of events and the University's history, including photos, text, designs, and videos.

- **Printed and Written Media**

Many advertising and promotional materials were printed, including the student guide for 2022-2023, social media posts, event invitations and digital banners, and 55 news reports issued by DAK University and published in the media, Palestinian newspapers, and social media platforms.

- **Audiovisual Media**

Radio announcements about the University's programs were made 612 times on Ajyal radio, Bethlehem 2000 radio, Orient radio, Merah ra-

dio and Mawwal radio. There were also many radio interviews and TV reports.

- **Marketing and Media Plans**

Marketing included a media plan for the consultative meeting on Freedom of Religion or Belief, held in Cyprus; marketing for the festival Stories of Palestine: from Generation to Generation; a plan to submit papers and attend the international conference Land, Peoples, and Identity; a media plan for the consultative meeting on Religion, Culture, Higher Education and Digital Transformation, held in Cyprus; and marketing for the programs of Dar al-Kalima University for 2023.

### 2. Communications and Public and International Relations

- **Events**

Periodic seminars were held as part of the Jabra Ibrahim Jabra cultural salon. Events or-

ganized included a reception for international diplomats; a book launch for *Rooted in Palestine* by author Xavier Abu Eid; the launch event for the Jabra Ibrahim Jabra cultural salon; the seventh edition of the Ismail Shammout Prize for Fine Art titled *Barrier 75*; the Karima Aboud Photography Prize 2022 to honor the winners; the book launch of *Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem: The Oldest Church in Palestine* by Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'beh; a book launch and signing of *Stranger in my Homeland: Palestine and Israel and a Family's Homeland Story* by Fida Jiries; a seminar on Culture and Development by Professor Jurgen Wilhelm; a seminar on Culture, Arts, and the Pulse of the Prisoners' Movement; a book launch of *The Complete Works of the Late Writer Ya'qub Shomali: 1921-1993*; a book launch of *Dedicated to Palestine: The Life and Work of Ethnologist Hilma Granqvist* by Sofia Hagman; and the 15<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony.

### • Promotion of Academic Programs

Field visits were organized, and many schools were visited and hosted to introduce students to the University's programs. The most important schools participating in this activity included Dar al-Kalima School in Bethlehem, Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour, Patriarchal School for Roman Catholics in Beit Sahour, Shepherds Orthodox Secondary School in Beit Sahour, Latin Patriarchal School in Beit Jala, Mar Afram Assyrian School in Bethlehem, and Talitha Kumi School in Beit Jala.

### • Meetings

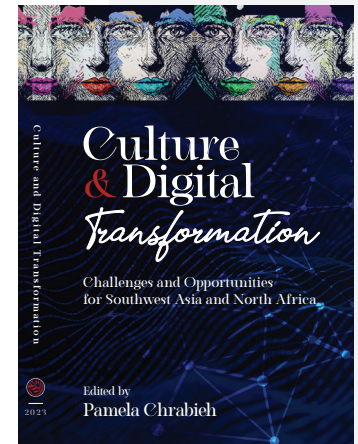
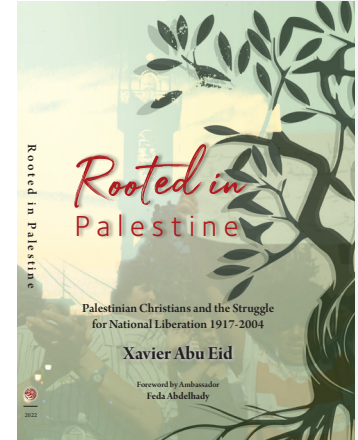
Several meetings were hosted to promote the activities and programs of the University and discuss means of cooperation. In particular, there was a meeting for all the principals of public schools in the Bethlehem district.



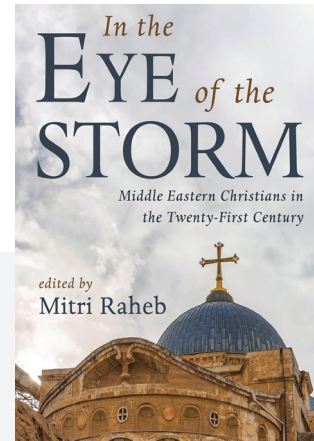
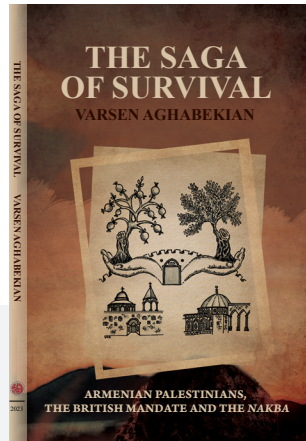
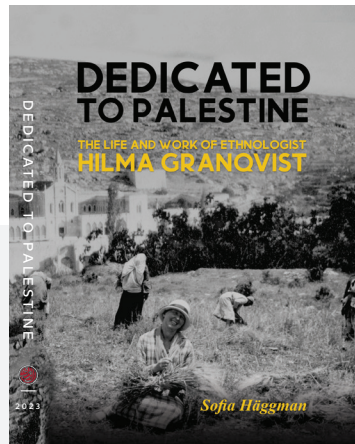
## 13 DAK University Press

DAK University Press published six books between January 1, 2022, to August 31, 2023.

- 1. Rooted in Palestine:** Palestinian Christians and the Struggle for National Liberation 1917-2004 by Xavier Abu Eid 2022.
- 2. Culture and Digital Transformation:** Challenges and Opportunities for Southwest Asia and North Africa, edited by Dr. Pamela Chrabieh 2023.
- 3. Dedicated to Palestine:** The Life and work of ethnologist Hilma Granqvist by Sofia Häggman 2023.



4. **The Saga of Survival:** Armenian Palestinians, the British Mandate, and the Nakba by Dr. Varsen Aghabekian 2023.
5. **In the Eye of the Storm:** Middle Eastern Christians in the Twenty-First Century, edited by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb 2023.



6. **الثقافة والتحول الرقمي: التحديات والفرص لجنوب غرب آسيا وشمال افريقيا للدكتورة باميل شرابيه 2023**



## 14 Construction

### The Hospitality Educational Center (HEC)

The construction of the green energy Hospitality Educational Center (HEC) at Dar al-Kalima University has been ongoing for the past two years. This project includes an educational kitchen, a full-service training cafeteria and restaurant, and auxiliary facilities that will serve students, residents, visitors and tourists who come to Bethlehem.

The HEC, based on international standards, will provide 1100 square meters of space. The proposed project is located in the existing Cultural Heritage Building and comprises four floors. Within the building there are several features worth highlighting:

- The second floor of the structure is the educational kitchen and classroom. As part of the Interior Design program's academic activities, students competed in the re-designing of the existing dining hall into an educational kitchen. The winning design was used for the actual construction, which was completed at the beginning of 2023. The teaching kitchen includes eight student work stations, where students are paired, plus a main teaching station. Each station has all necessary cooking sections: a butchery area, pastry area, cold and hot sections, and a general mixed use area. The total area covers 470 square meters.
- The current unfinished space on the top floor covers 200 square meters and will include toilets, janitors' closets and facilities. An elevator will be installed to serve all floors.
- A unique cafeteria and training restaurant will be added on an additional floor. A con-



crete slab for this space as a base is already cast and it will have a total area 430 square meters. The glazed dome for the student cafeteria and restaurant is a very attractive design due to its unique architectural shape that creates a natural ambiance for students, staff, and guests. An environmental report by an environmental consultant checked all parameters for energy saving and A/C loads for the design. Special glass and finishing materials have been specified for this purpose. The main structure will be made from high-strength aluminum profiles or other light materials anchored to the existing reinforced concrete slab. The glass assembly will be fixed directly on the structural profiles, taking into consideration stability, strength, condensation, thermal insulation, and water supply. Within the dome, doors and windows will operate automatically. Drawings for the structural mezzanine steel slab, interior finishes, electromechani-

cal design, external works, parking area, the emergency staircase with the elevator, and landscaping are in the final stages to be submitted to the Bethlehem Municipality, Engineering Association and Department of Civil Defense for checks and final approval for licensing. The next stage will be the tendering documents, and Bills of Quantities, ready for the bidding process once the licenses are issued by the relevant authorities, planned for December 2023.



## The Rami Zahi Khouri Hub and Classrooms

As part of Dar al-Kalima University strategy and goal to work on turning student talents into income-generating careers, the Rami Zahi Khouri Hub and classrooms project was initiated. The project is located on the second floor of the library building at Dar Al Kalima University with a total area of 765 square meters.

The project consists of:

1. Rami Zahi Khouri Hub, which is an entrepreneurial facility with a total area of 215 square meters.
2. Two classrooms (120 square meters) to serve all students of Dar al-Kalima University.
3. Two meeting rooms (60 square meters) that can function as two separate rooms or one big hall for meetings, classes, etc.

4. Four offices.
5. A student area as the focal point between all previously mentioned spaces. It is equipped everything necessary for a student to work, study, read, etc.
6. The design phase of the project started in January 2023 and was completed by May 2023. The construction phase followed in June 2023. The scheduled final handing over date of the project is December 2023.

## 15 Special Thanks

- *ACT / Church of Sweden*
- *AM. Qattan Foundation (AMQF)*
- *Betlehems Venner*
- *Bread for the World / Churches helping Churches*
- *Bright Stars of Bethlehem*
- *Center for Church-Based Development (CKU)*
- *Dar al-Kalima Förderverein - Germany*
- *DanChurchAid (DCA)*
- *DVV International*
- *Holy Land Christian Society*
- *KaiCIID*
- *Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung e. V.*
- *Pontifical Mission Jerusalem (C.N.E.W.A.)*
- *Presbyterian Church (USA)*
- *UNDP/Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People*
- *United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ*
- *Women World Day of Prayer*
- *World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)*



**DAR AL-KALIMA**  
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**2022-2023**