



SANAD YOUTH ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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In the year 2016, we have led an organizational development process, including the transition to our new headquarters and the purchase of new tools and equipment which better suit the organization's mission and enable more effective work procedures.

In this year, Sanad has strengthened its position as a leading, credible, and highly professional organization who works with youth groups in the Triangle area. We have engaged local youth in community activism through the provision of essential tools that enable their active and effective participation.

Furthermore, we have established strategic partnerships with different organizations, including Al-Qassemi College for Engineering and Science. Additionally, we have worked with local schools and the local councils of Jatt and Baka Al-Gharbiya in implementing youth-led community projects – generously funded by the US Embassy through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Other collaborative initiatives include the design of a training workshop on resource development in the Triangle Region in cooperation with Shatil. In 2017, the training will be conducted with the aim of developing expertise at the local level, and enabling local organizations to make effective use of their resources.

Among Sanad's overall goals is the promotion of broader cooperation between organizations, and to increase collaborative actions between local stakeholders through building strength in their collective power, and the implementation of joint projects and action plans.

Additionally, Sanad has designed a new website, which will be launched in 2017. The website, as well as other platforms, will open the opportunity for the community, partners and friends to engage with Sanad and support the organization's goals and mission.

The organization currently works on strengthening and expanding its collaborations, and we hope that other organizations and stakeholders will join forces with Sanad in developing joint programs and activities. Additionally, Sanad aspires to increase its human resources and to hire additional dedicated people who are committed to community activism, so can expand our activities and to reach broader populations and target groups.

Obayda Asbeh, Director



OUR MISSION

Promote the well-being of local communities by providing tools and life skills to young people, encourage higher education, and build capacities that can improve their personal and communal life and strengthen their role as active citizens while combating racism, prejudice and violence & promoting equality.

WHY YOUTH?

Too often the energy, enthusiasm, and positive potential of young people are overlooked as community resources - yet young people will be the leaders, actors and decision-makers in the future. Youth participation is a key factor for the political and social development of society and democratic systems. Investing in youth means a commitment not only to their improved well-being and livelihood, but also to strengthening the fabric of their communities, and the economic, social, political and cultural development of future generations.

The empowerment of young people depends on and reinforces the empowerment of society at large.



OUR STORY

As an answer to youth movements in the wider region, several local organizations were established, but many lacked stable and sustainable frameworks and infrastructures and eventually had to close.

As a response to this vacuum, a group of seven local activists came together to discuss solutions that could provide a sustainable and viable platform for youth groups that want to contribute to the development of the local community and to strengthen an inclusive, open and diverse society in the region.



After mapping strengths and opportunities, Sanad Youth Association was established in 2012. Sanad has been officially registered as a non-for-profit organization in 2014, under the auspices of the Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science in Jatt, Israel.

Since those initial meetings, Sanad has successfully achieved its targets set in 2012:

- ✓ Today Sanad is a viable organization
- ✓ Sanad has trained a total of 100 university students and 250 children in 2 local communities (Jatt and Baka), implementing 24 community projects.
- ✓ Sanad has secured its first external funding through MEPI.

Sanad is governed by an active Board of Directors with seven members. The organization is led by Obayda Asbeh, who is an architect and city planner. He received his first degree at the Technion in Haifa. He is currently taking a Masters in Public Administration at the Haifa University. In 2012 he built Sanad together with other local activists. Since January 2016 Obayda became a co-founder of iDAR-Jerusalem (Interdisciplinary Design, Architecture and Research) and he is the Executive Director of an architectural and design magazine published on a quarterly basis by DE-iDEA Labs. Obayda participated in the MEPI Student Leadership Program organized by the US Department of State and won the Best Debater Award.

Risk of Poverty and Other Challenges

In recent years, the risk of poverty has shifted from the elderly to the young. Young people (aged 18-25) have suffered from the most severe declines in levels of income, and youth are now experiencing immense risk of income poverty (OECD, June 2014, *Income Inequality Update*). This is of great significance if we take into consideration that the Arab population in the region is very young, around 40% aged under 14 years.

Arab public schools in Israel are underfunded, which reflects in low scores, high drop-out rates and low proficiency in Arabic and Hebrew. When seeking higher education, Palestinian youth, citizens of Israel, face significant barriers. Access to high-quality education is essential for individual well-being, both as a driver of other outcomes such as employment status, income, health status and civic participation, and as an intrinsic component of human success and personal development.

Furthermore, access for youth to participate in the decision-making process and governance is severely limited. The social cost is the exclusion of Palestinian youth in shaping and participating in society as active citizens. This is detrimental because civic engagement allows people to express their political voice and contribute actively to the functioning of society. In turn, open and transparent governance contributes to the functioning of institutions and the provision of public services that support material well-being and quality of life.



Discrimination and structural challenges, difficulties in building a family and a home, unemployment, patriarchal social norms, and a lack of safe cultural and social spaces result in high levels of frustration and despair, low self-esteem, and feelings of disempowerment. This creates a situation of high risk for youth, leading to an increase in violence and at-risk behaviors, especially for young men.

To build a strong community, which is empowered by and proud of its identity,

hopeful of the future, and enjoys its rights, young people need the tools and life skills to improve their personal and communal life, strengthen their role as active citizens, and expand their understanding of how they can contribute to and benefit from the development of a just and inclusive society, both individually and collectively. Sanad addresses these challenges and taps into opportunities by building partnerships, reaching out to the community, activism, mentorship and training.

Sanad's flagship project is a yearly training cycle, which targets university students, who receive theoretical and practical training. In partnership with the Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Scienc. During the practical hours, students work with and mentor school-children. Together, as a team, they design and implement community projects. Since 2012 around 100 university students and 250 children from two local communities (Jatt and Baka) have been trained. A total of 24 community projects have been developed and implemented.

Well-being involves those aspects that are crucial to meeting human needs, as well as the ability to pursue one's goal, to thrive, and to feel satisfied with their life.

OECD report "Measuring and Assessing Well-Being in Israel", 2015

SANAD'S TRAINING CYCLE 2015-2016

Each group of 15 university students receives 94 hours of theoretical training and 64 hours of practical training. During the practical hours, students work with and mentor 24 school-children. Together, as a team, they design and implement community projects. The cycle is divided into six areas of theoretical and practical training, these being:



- Planning community projects
- Leadership, initiative and entrepreneurship
- Interactive social skills, communication skills, constructive criticism and active listening
- Belonging and collective/personal responsibility
- Cooperation, team work and trust building
- Voluntarism and executing community projects

Teamwork lies at the heart of Sanad's training programs. Through our work we promote higher education, social initiatives, and a strong sense of belonging and volunteerism.

Sanad's Training

From November 2015 until August 2016, a group of 36 university students and 96 school children worked together as teams, to take a closer look into different issues that affect their communities and find joint solutions. In partnership with six local schools, Sanad provided students and children with theoretical and hands-on training as well as mentoring. Some of the issues they dealt with included:

1. Environment and public spaces (raising awareness about recycling; pollution in the riverbank of Wadi Abu Nar; promoting reading by putting books in public spaces; reviving the Old City of Jatt)
2. Schools (positive feedback at schools; sports for girls at schools; promoting reading, pluralism, diversity and inclusiveness in schools)
3. Pluralism and Inclusion (three projects work towards raising awareness about inclusion and improvement of quality of life of people with disabilities; promoting inter-generational dialogue and understanding)
4. Personal development (time management)



As a result, 12 community projects were implemented with outstanding results, including:

1. A path of 500 meters was asphalted and prepared for bicycles in the city of Baka, thus increasing safety for children at the streets and providing them with a place to play. The Municipality supported this project and committed to build more roads like this throughout Baka in the future.

2. Thanks to a booklet that provides creative ideas on how to encourage and support girls to actively participate in sport activities in school, there is greater awareness about the importance of offering suitable sport activities for girls in six different local schools.
3. Thanks to a short film, there is now greater acceptance and willingness to integrate people with disabilities in day-to-day life in two primary schools in Baka (Ibin Huldun and Alrazi) and elsewhere.
4. A more positive way of communicating with each other in class has been promoted at the Ibn Roshd Primary School in Jatt, which resulted in less violence and bullying in class.

These significant results were presented on 27 August, 2016 to the community. Around 250 people gathered at the Al-Qasemi College of Engineering and Science to celebrate the closing of 10 months of hard work. During the event, representatives from the US Embassy, parents, school representatives, local leaders, civil society, community members and journalists witnessed the work of each of the teams through posters, a theater play, two short videos and the personal accounts of the young participants.



In addition to the presentations and keynote speeches, the event was enriched by an innovative and creative musical presentation of the Al-Kendi Music Center. A group of 15 young musicians greeted participants as they entered the gallery. Saleh Gerra, Director of the Jatt High School, said that he was deeply moved by the event “I went through a whole range of feelings during this event” and that he is ready to continue supporting these initiatives.

This initiative has been generously supported by US Embassy through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI). Michele Kimpel Guzman, Cultural Attaché, and Manal Haddad, Program/Grants Specialist, participated in the event. Ms. Kimpel-Guzman talked during the event and mentioned that she was very impressed with the occasion and achievements, and that these kinds of projects should grow and expand in the future as to reach more members of the community.

Media coverage of the event:

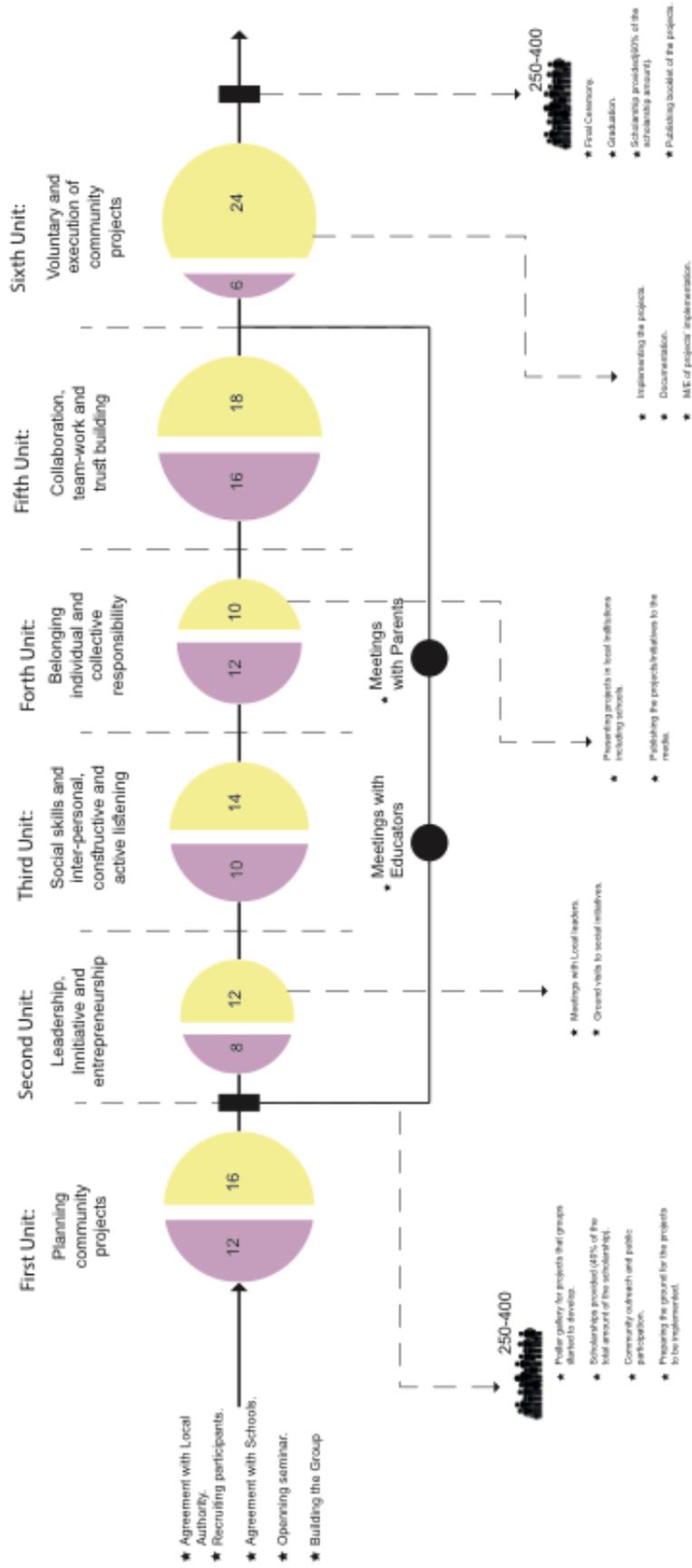
- <http://www.panet.co.il/article/1451102>
- <http://loblab.com/pages/item.aspx?itemid=44798>
- <http://www.elgzal.com/news-2,N-21898.html>
- <http://www.shof.co.il/?mod=articles&ID=34494>
- <http://bokra.net/Article-1348255>
- <http://hasa.co.il/?p=504372>

Audio-visual documentation of the event:

To watch a video of the event, please visit this [link](#) to watch a 9-minute video of the event with English subtitles or this [link](#) to watch a 4-minute TV coverage of the event in Arabic.



Youth Training-Flowchart One Cycle



ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT, CAPACITY & DEVELOPMENT

In the first years of Sanad Youth Association's operations we were kindly hosted by the Al-Qasemi College in Jatt. In October 2016, we moved to our new office in Jatt. The new office space was not the only development for the organization. During this time, we invested important efforts in improving our organizational infrastructure, image and building new partnerships. Our new website will be launched in the first half of 2017. We have developed a new logo, street signs, documents presenting our work in three languages, including a brochure, info-graphs, and others. In addition, we have developed documentation systems and databases.

2016 was a significant year for Sanad, as we became a more stable and recognized organization. At the local level, we are now recognized as a community based and highly professional youth association, representative of the community, and not as a group of individual community members. At the regional and international level, we have been able to reach out to other stakeholders. Thanks to the fruitful partnership with the US Embassy through the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI), we participated in different international events.

Also in 2016, Sanad established important partnerships with different local and regional stakeholders, including: local schools, local authorities in Baka and Jatt, community leaders, civil society organizations, among others.

Board Members

- Mr. Murad Abu Hamdi, C.P.A. and lawyer. Chair. Tax partner at PwC Israel and VAT practice leader.
- Mr. Anan Gera, software developer at Intel.
- Ms. Falasteen Abu-Asbeh, social worker employed by the local authority of Jatt.
- Mr. Moussa Khalaf, musician and oud player. Plays an active role in the fields of arts and music at the Alkendi conservatory of music.
- Mr. Majdy Watted, entrepreneur and coach in excellence at the Center for Personal and Academic Development.
- Mr. Saker Abu-Asbeh, Board Member of the local authority in Jatt, Chair of the Local Parents' Council in Jatt, and a member of the Central Committee.

Sanad's Staff

Mr. Obayda Abu-Asbeh, CEO

Ms. Heidi Paredes, Program and Resource Development. Heidi has an M.A. in Communication Sciences, Political Sciences and American studies from the University in Mainz, Germany. Heidi has fifteen years' experience in program and resource development and is a local consultant working in the fields of media, gender, environment, culture, youth and human rights.

CPA Bassam Qaderi – External Accountant. Basam is a certified public accountant and auditor. He has an MA in Public Policy and Public Projects from Tel Aviv University. He has extensive experience in working with financial and governmental institutions, including the Bank of Israel as senior accountant in control and supervision of banks, audits and control of credit and evaluation of credit portfolios; the Prime Minister Office as control of development budgets in the Arab sector; as well as at the Audit Department in the Ministry of Financial Statement Audits and the State Comptroller's Office.

Ms. Hadeel Awad, Advisor. Hadeel has a BA in Social Work and a Master in Public Administration from Haifa University and is one of the "Cadets for Local Government," a government initiative aimed at training the next local government leaders. Hadeel worked at Sanad from October 2015 to October 2016 and is currently working at the local authority in Baka. She is a long-time activist in the areas of feminism and minorities in Israel.

The work at Sanad has given me the opportunity to learn a lot about management and to gain experience in the field. It has given me the opportunity to work with schoolchildren, which is in my opinion, the best age in which we can positively impact children. Sanad has given me the opportunity to work with formal institutions and to be exposed to their work, which has impacted my decision to work at the municipality of Baka Al-Gharabiye after I graduated from my MA in Public Administration. I have learned about the Triangle Region and about social and community work. This work has given me the opportunity to learn more about the people that live here, as I am come from the north. This encounter has enriched me personally and professionally. My engagement with foundations, partners, and other civil society organizations has expanded my professional working relationships. Finally, working with and besides the Director of the organization, has helped me to develop my abilities.

Hadeel Awwad



2017 IN A NUTSHELL

Sanad aims to implement several projects in 2017:

1. A **course on fundraising for beginners** will start in February 2017, in partnership with Shatil and the municipality of Baqa. The aim of the training is to build local resources, strengthen the work of sister organizations in the region, and build partnerships.
2. The project “**Partnerships for better lives in the Triangle Region**” will start implementation as soon as funding has been secured. It builds on local partnerships and the energy, enthusiasm, and positive potential of young people as community resources with the aim of promoting the rights and improving the well-being of youth and communities in the Triangle Region. The project has a three-pronged approach:
 - The training of 15 students and 24 schoolchildren,
 - The building of an Alumni Network and the creation of seven issue-based forums reaching c.200 youth and community members. Topics will include: Culture; Health; Building Partnerships; Media; Education; Housing, Urban Planning and Sustainability; and Employment and Economic Security.
 - A media campaign promoting the engagement of youth in democratic processes, reaching more than 2,000 young men and women.
3. **Building resilient and vibrant communities** through:
 - A baseline to measure the well-being of youth in the Triangle Region, based on the OECD framework and indicators for measuring well-being in Israel. The report aims to better inform citizens and policy makers.
 - Build skills of young civil society leaders on critically assessing research, data collection and analysis, and the importance of monitoring and evaluating projects, as well as presenting information in a clear and compelling way and applying the conclusions and learning to work and life in general.
 - Encourage networks and exchange ideas among civil society organizations to improve local governance and well-being.

Through these initiatives, the project will have professional exchanges and trainings that will build expertise, expand opportunities for youth, mobilize young men and women around critical issues affecting their rights, well-being, and bring people together. Youth will develop proposed solutions and recommendations, bring their collective voice to decision makers, and will build partnerships with other stakeholders. This will promote a civic culture that supports democratic values through the active participation of youth. In the medium and long-term, we expect an improvement in key dimensions of well-being as laid out by the OECD framework in Israel.

Sanad will implement its work and projects in collaboration with different stakeholders, including:

- Mariam Foundation – will support the Health Forum.
- Dr. Batel Eshkol from the private companies Conatusdesign and Abed Badran from the private office De-iDea Labs – Housing, Urban Planning and Sustainability Forum.
- Shatil – will support the Building Partnerships Forum and the Media Forum and will provide training to 20 Forum members that have a leading role on policy discussions and constructive advocacy.
- Local authority in Baqa and Jatt – will support the entire project and meet the youth.
- Four local schools in Baq and Jatt who will host and participate in the training cycles with students and school children.