



ORGANIZATION

Jafrā Foundation for Relief and Youth Development is a Palestinian youth-led organization working closely with communities and individuals to promote resilience in Palestinian communities. We place youth at the heart of our response as we endeavor to empower them to assume their roles and responsibilities towards their communities, thereby enabling Palestinian communities to achieve their just causes. Jafrā Foundation fully adheres to humanitarian standards and works under the principles of Transparency and Accountability.

BACKGROUND

Since 1948, Palestinians have been denied their most basic rights and continue to be subjected to war, displacement, discrimination, marginalization, and unjust policies. There are nearly 7 million Palestinian refugees around the world, including 800,000 in Syria and Lebanon. Both of these countries suffer from severe political instability, a history of civil war, poor infrastructure, inadequate services, and ongoing economic crises. In addition, there is the threat of war with Israel, particularly in southern Lebanon.

Many Palestinian refugees live in dire conditions, deprived of social protection and access to basic rights and services such as shelter, water, food, and personal identification documents. These conditions make Palestinian refugees one of the most vulnerable groups, with no clear future stability or political solutions in sight. Palestinian refugees strive to end their suffering and survive under these harsh circumstances.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) provides vital health and education services. However, with the escalating needs and risks in the area, local Palestinian groups and organizations also play a crucial role. They support the resilience of the camps and access areas where and when it is not feasible for others, ensuring that essential services reach those in need.

**Vulnerable Individuals
Reached In 10 Years**

2,797,880

PROGRAMS

Jafra Foundation as part of the community work through its holistic approach with Palestinian communities in a participatory manner to create innovative sustainable solutions that address the root causes of their problems, and enable them to thrive and take control over their lives and support the resilience of the community. Women, children, and people with disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable groups that Jafra prioritizes in its response. Jafra Foundation has been working in Palestinian camps and gatherings in Lebanon, Syria, and Greece since 2002, in collaboration with various donors such as UN Agencies, International NGOs, Embassies, Local NGOs, and regional organizations, providing an array of services across various program sectors:



Food Security & Livelihoods: agriculture (lands and houses/rooftop gardening), livestock, cash-based interventions (cash for work, subgrants for MSMEs and grassroot CSOs), vocational training and capacity building.



Education: non-formal education for children and youth aged 4 years to 20 years old. Risk education in countries with armed conflict and widespread contamination of Explosive Remnants of War (ERWs)



Youth Empowerment: soft skills, life skills, capacity building, income-generating activities.



Child Protection: structured and semi-structured psychosocial support (PSS), including PSS sessions, recreational activities, awareness raising sessions, and case management.



WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene): water provision, construction/rehabilitation of WASH facilities, solid waste management



Social Cohesion: promoting positive communication between host and refugee communities through cultural and community/neighborhood activities.



Health: primary healthcare, health kits.



Emergency Response: responding to basic needs by providing food items (food kits & community kitchen), non-food items (hygiene kits, household essential items, winterization kits, school kits), and shelter (shelter kits, rehabilitation of community shelters).

In addition to collaborating with partners, Jafra cooperates with local CSOs and entities as part of its holistic approach which it embeds in all facets of its work in Palestinian communities. This not only directly addresses and enhances localization, but ensures that Jafra remains an integral part of the Palestinian communities it works in.

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

Throughout 20 years of working, learning, and developing, Jafra Foundation for Relief and Youth Development has mainly supported the resilience of Palestinian refugees in 16 camps and refugee gatherings. Equipped with schools and youth centers, along with an experienced team and volunteers, Jafra has been involved in livelihood economic empowerment programs, education and psycho-social support, and continuous capacity building for youth and volunteers in organizing, community mobilization, and cultural activities. During the war in Syria and the crisis in Lebanon, Jafra also worked in high risk areas considered hard to access or sometimes besieged, providing emergency programs for relief and education. Jafra believes that children and youth are the future and should not lose their right to protection and education.

Jafra adopts innovative green and environmentally sustainable solutions, adapting them to the local context in each area. This includes initiatives such as rooftop gardening in rural areas, waste collection and recycling, and food processing.

Due to its rich experience and deep understanding of the local context, Jafra's team has developed skills in various fields, including humanitarian negotiations, risk management, conflict analysis, and economic and social empowerment at both local and international levels.

Localization is a shared responsibility, requiring collaboration between international actors and local organizations. Jafra has responsibly built solid systems, processes, and policies that ensure accountability and transparency to both partners and targeted communities.

JAFRA CENTERS IN SYRIA AND LEBANON



The academic year 2023–2024 is already finished, with ongoing courses for elementary and secondary school students, foundation classes in mathematics and languages for 1264 students, and the provision of a workspace for 2009 students who lacked a designated area at home for homework or study.

The Jafra educational program is a vital source of support for the Palestinian refugees in Homs Camp, South Damascus, Jaramana Camp, and Qodsaya because of the difficult economic circumstances that the locals face, the high cost of private schools and tutoring, the rise in dropout and unemployment rates as a result of working and supporting their families, and the rising rate of early marriages as a way to get out of debt. pointing out that the Jafra Center is the only facility in the aforementioned neighborhoods offering free educational service.

The educational program offered by Jafra is aimed at students who are no longer able to enroll in government or UNRWA schools. 40% of students are dealing with circumstances like early marriage, losing a breadwinner, unemployment, family separation, or chronic illnesses. The majority of students are Palestinian refugees and Syrian internally displaced. Many of the students were not proficient in reading and writing in the early transitional classes. 65% of students in transitional stages are dropouts or have discontinued due to the effects of previous wars and current economic conditions.



Jafra has a long history of educating displaced populations and is eager to carry out its goal, which was started during the war back in 2001 when the organization chose to continue its educational program despite the fact that the majority of the affected areas were in an emergency.

Despite the overwhelming obstacles, the children of the camps, in Jafra Foundation's education program have achieved something truly extraordinary. Against all odds, they've passed their exams, earned their diplomas, and secured a future filled with hope. With a 90% success rate, these young heroes, along with their devoted teachers, have proven that even in the darkest times, education can be a beacon of light.

We are incredibly proud of these brave children and their families, whose unwavering support has helped them overcome so much. We also deeply thank the teachers, facilitators, and donors who have stood by them, ensuring that they have the chance to dream of a better tomorrow.



Jafra in Syria achieve exceptional success rates for the year 2023-2024

Number of students enrolled for this year

741

Secondary Certificate

393

Preparatory Certificate

348

Number of females

482

Number of males

259

91%

Success rate in
secondary certificate exams

95%

Success rate in
preparatory certificate exams



Our centers

Jaramana camp
Yarmouk camp
Homs camp
Qudsaya gathering

Palestinian refugees, having lost their lands and livelihoods, view education as their primary tool for achieving justice, a better future, and more empowered communities. With young population, human resources are the main asset for Palestinian refugees. Empowering these children with quality education and raising awareness about their rights is crucial for their future. By ensuring that children receive their right to a quality education, to build a better future and resilient community.

If you believe that every child deserves the right to education, dignity, and protection, please join us in supporting our education program in the Palestinian camps in Syria. Together, we can help 1,200 children this year build a future full of possibilities.