

Annual Report

2012

Dear friends and partners,

It's an honor to introduce the first annual report of Shoruq organization for the year 2012; it's the official year for inauguration of the organization. Shoruq is an initiative to work with all Palestinian refugees, especially more vulnerable and less fortunate groups. This initiative is lead by a group of activists and professionals in the Palestinian civil society, supported by active youth and children groups from Bethlehem area.

The media program was the launching spark of Shoruq's activities targeting children and youth, the program's core concept is to empower and develop refugee groups in media, and secure a working space of well equipped audio production center, and Shoruq is planning officially to open the center in spring 2013.

During the year, Shoruq conducted strategic planning sessions with involvement of youth and children, based on these sessions Shoruq is aiming at implementing an assortment of programs including offering legal assistance (pro bono) for vulnerable groups, together with consultations in social and legal issues. Whereas, the other programs strive to empower Palestinian refugee women through income generating projects starting in Dheisheh refugee camp. Finally, Shoruq point toward working on advocacy for Palestinian refugees' rights; through building partnership and collaborations with international advocacy networks and groups around the world, plus using expressive art tools to convey their messages.

Shoruq yearns for working with Palestinian refugees locally, and to expand beyond towards national and regional levels. The organization has developed a mission, strategy and work plan aspiring to reach out for target groups, and to work with them in the coming years. In order for all this work to be executed various strategies need to be followed like building trustworthy relations, cooperation with grassroots groups and organizations based in refugee camps locally and regionally.

In this fast forward, I would like to express my gratitude for all the volunteers, especially children and youth; who worked together with the board on the development of the organization in its first year.

As I would like to thank the establishment committee of Shoruq, who worked hard, and spent daunting long hours on developing organizational plan, programs and policies.

Furthermore, indebtedness for our main partner Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), whom without them Shoruq could not precede strongly. Shoruq is thankful for MECA's team, who were generous s with their time and expertise's, namely the director of MECA's Ms. Barbara Lubin, the associated director Mr. Ziad Abbas- who is also a founder member of Shoruq, as well Miss. Josie Alqassas ,and Danny Muller.

I wish all the best for Shoruq, and its new board who was elected at the end of 2012 for two years term. Also, I hope successes and luck for the staff and volunteers of children, youth and women.

Sincerely,
Nasser Atallah (Issa)



مؤسسة شروق
Shoruq Organization

Chairperson
Summary

Vision: *We envision Palestinian refugees, whether living in occupied Palestine or in the Diaspora striving individually and collectively to attain and exercise their rights including the right of return to their original lands, and realizing dignified lives for themselves in the meanwhile until their return*

Mission: *Shorouq aims at defending and protecting the international legitimate inalienable rights of indigenous Palestinian refugees, to act as a voice for Palestinian people, and demand implementation of their rights locally and internationally, based on the moral correctness and the justness of the Palestinian cause, as well as the centrality of the refugees and their rights to this cause, we urge the international community for a genuine implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and its subsequent international covenants regarding Palestinian refugees. Shorouq seeks to empower the most marginalized refugee groups who are affected by the Israeli occupation policies, and lack any social and legal protection in Occupied Palestine and host countries. Shorouq hopes to do this by developing their capabilities and empowering them to depend on themselves and the local resources.. Shorouq's programs are for Palestinian refugee children -under the age of 18 years- along with youth and women. Shorouq is operating in and cooperating with and serving Palestinian refugees in occupied Palestine and the Diaspora.*

Objective:

1. *Advocating and lobbying for Palestinian refugees' inalienable rights, political representation and demands.*
2. *Empowering Palestinian refugees to express their views and experiences through utilizing multimedia platforms.*
3. *Improving mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of Palestinian refugee children, youth and women.*
4. *Offering legal assistance for Palestinian refugees who are in conflict with the law, and facilitate litigation in their public interest.*
5. *Ensuring Palestinian refugees' participation in the local economy and development of their communities.*

August-December 2012 Activities:

🕒 **How many people we served:**

- 20 Children
- 20 Youth
- International guests

🕒 **List of programs and services**

- Constructing musical and recording studios for Palestinian Refugees.
- Introduction to Media and Human Rights with Audio production focus Training Course for Refugee Youth.
- English Language Course.
- Organizational and strategic planning meetings.
- Advocacy Tours in Dheisheh Refugee Camp.
- Welcoming organization official visitors.

🕒 **Special Thanks:** Shorouq is thankful for Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) for boundless support.

🕒 **Special Events**

- New Board Election
- Studios Opening in 2013
- Guesthouse Opening 2013

Introduction

Shorouq's founders, members and supporters gathered to create Shorouq due to their moral, humanitarian and national commitment towards their cause. Since the Nakba (Catastrophe) of 1948 until today Palestinian refugees still represent the pivotal of the Palestinian cause, despite repeated attempts to blur this fact. Nowadays, the refugees issue is in predicament paired with popular and official representation absence; therefore, it is the responsibility of the refugees themselves to rise up out of this impasse, and work collectively towards a real positive change to attain their rights. Shorouq is a refugee civil initiative seeking to strengthen the resilience of the refugees, and advance social, legal, cultural, and economical status of Palestinian refugees.

Shorouq obtained its legal status on April 03, 2012 from the Palestinian Ministry of Interior; under a registration number (BL-3343-I) working in accordance with Palestinian's Charities and Non Governmental organizations Act (no.1) for the year 2000, with this formal recognition; Shorouq is enabled to embark its activities and targeted actions in accordance with its basic law.

For four months after receiving formal documentation, Shorouq was working on the preparation of its offices, and the space to house its activities. Shorouq rented two floor apartment on the outskirts of Dheisheh Refugee Camp, yet this location is easily accessible for people from the camp and off the camp.

Why in Dheisheh Refugee Camp?

This location was chosen for several reasons and not due to impromptu fashion. Dheisheh Refugee Camp as other Palestinian refugee camps exists since decades in the near east, with forceful social, economical and political implications due to the protracted status of Palestinian refugees.

As Shorouq is a Palestinian refugee driven initiative, the best place to be situated is among its people. Although, Shorouq aims at serving Palestinian refugee communities in and off refugee camp locally and regionally, Dheisheh Refugee camp sounds like a good fit for launching our programs.

Dheisheh camp had taught refugee generations the importance of fighting for social and political rights, regardless of the direct oppression practices against refugees, resulting from long persistence fight for their rights. Also, Dheisheh is known for its active civil society organizations, and it would be an enabling environment for Shorouq to grow in, and engage in direct partnership serving the local community organizations and groups.

Shorouq officially opened its offices in August of 2012, from the outset; Shorouq focused most of the work on the preparatory meetings and strategic planning for the Foundation, these meetings included administrative arrangements and structural, planning workshops, meetings with stakeholders and the different categories of the community in the Dheisheh refugee camp.

Shorouq's Strategic Organizational Development

Shoruq has adapted self-assessment principles for building its organizational profile, with indispensable external stakeholders' contributions along the on-going process of strategic organizational development. Providentially, Shoruq's founders and general assembly (GA) members have loaded previous experiences in organizational management generally, and some specialization areas like Refugees, Children and Human Rights, and Women rights, all pooled to support the process of developing Shoruq and to serve Palestinian refugees.

In this approach the organization is based on needs identification, research and precious consultations to formulate Shoruq's comprehensive programs and interventions. All the preparation workshops and meetings were held at Shoruq's new office, the discussions and feedback during these meetings were enriching and improving the work, and revealing and opening new discussions for further future work. During this process we held the following workshops and meetings, and to be continued during next year:

➤ **Board and General Assembly (GA) meetings:**

During the last period Shoruq's board had met seven times; during these meetings they discussed proposed vision, mission, objectives and programs of the organization. And, the board studied the possibility of expanding Shoruq's General Assembly and to open up for accepting membership applications, the board had decided to accept six new members in the GA, which is now consists of 14 members. One of the meetings gathered new and old members of the GA, to welcome them all and provide them with a brief update regarding the work progress; all have decided to join a long detailed workshop to discuss vision, mission, objectives and programs.

➤ **Workshop:**

Shoruq held a workshop included board and general assembly members, to present all the work that has been produced during the months of August- September, resulting from several consultations and one to one meetings with GA members. This workshop was an interactive among the old and new members of the GA; they have discussed and provided feedback on vision, mission, objectives and programs. Profound and insightful feedback was provided from the members with crucial comments, in favor of developing the presented materials.

➤ **Youth and supporters meetings:**

Shoruq's board invited youth groups and supporters, they were from Dheisheh Refugee camp and some soundings areas for an introductory and consultative meetings regarding its institutional perspective, in order to engage the community in the formulation and refinement of its organizational policies, as well as, presenting briefly the recent updates of Shoruq's work, the meetings had positive atmosphere, the participants asked many questions, and provided suggestions for the work and the prospective of the organization.

➤ **Administrative arrangements:**

A team of Shoruq's GA and the accountant took upon themselves responsibility to develop organizational administrative and financial policies, and they have presented a proposal of the following polices to the board and GA:

- a. Policy of receiving fund and its management.
- b. Policy and procedures for savings and fund disbursement.
- c. Employees, consultants and service contracts.

These proposals were reviewed by the legal adviser of Shoruq, these official documents were designed in accordance with the applied Palestinian law, after the ratification from Shoruq's legal advisor of these policies, and they were presented to the board and GA, for discussion and endorsement, to be in act in the organization.

➤ **Final Outcomes:**

These grand discussions and documents were the path to reach our final outcomes, we were able collectively to identify our vision, mission and objectives (stated in the summary page). As well, draft a solid structure for our programs to attain our objectives and achieve our missions, here is our programs in their final shape:

Media Program

Shoruq set up an audio training and production center in order to serve the Palestinian refugees in Dheisheh Refugee Camp. The media program and center will focused in building a qualified team, and will run and houses training sessions on a range of topics including; media and journalism courses, sound recording, audio mastering, broadcasting, and folk and hip-hop music workshops.. The training center is considered an integral part of our media program that will incorporate video and photography programs in near future. The program will work to:

- ⌚ To develop the capabilities of refugee in media, and exploit media outlets to support refugees legitimate short and long term demands.
- ⌚ Establishing grounds for formulation of leadership among Palestinian refugees.
- ⌚ To raise public awareness in Palestinian communities and on an international level about refugee issues.
- ⌚ To link and bridge Palestinian refugee communities with one another and with international human rights advocacy groups;
- ⌚ To build an electronic archive for refugee media resources developed by refugees.
- ⌚ Stimulate media research and education areas among Palestinian refugees.
- ⌚ To create tools for international cultural exchanges and education.

Advocacy Program

This program will shed light on the blatant deprivation and denial of legal, civil, and political rights of Palestinian refugees in Occupied Palestine and the Diaspora. This program supports the Palestinian refugees to restore their full rights. The program will work to raise their voices locally and internationally through:

- ⌚ Launching local, regional and international campaigns to influence policy-making related to Palestinian refugees' issues.

- ⌚ Building capacity of Palestinian refugees in policy analysis, advocacy work and research. And,
- ⌚ Forming and joining networks that uphold Palestinian refugee rights, heritage and aspirations.

Socio-legal Support Program

Palestinian refugees are one of the most vulnerable sectors either for those who live in Occupied Palestine or in the neighboring residential countries. Women and children are the most marginalized among the refugees due to the political repression, poverty and innumerable social constraints. Therefore legal assistance (Pro Bono) and psychosocial support are necessary. The program aims at:

- ⌚ Providing support for individual and groups of refugee children, youth and women who are in serious need to psychological support due to military occupation and dispersion. And,
- ⌚ To offer legal aid, assistance and advice for Palestinian refugees.

Local Development Program

Extreme poverty is prevalent among Palestinian refugees because of cutting of financial support for Palestinian refugees. This drives us to commit to help refugees to break the cycle of poverty and embark the local development, leading to community wide benefits, improving their overall well-being, and give hope to people who previously had little or no opportunity to be self-sufficient, through:

- ⌚ Providing means for dignified well-being by creating local job opportunities.
- ⌚ Setting up income generating ventures.
- ⌚ Promoting social development policies for Palestinian refugees.

➤ New Board Elections

According to the Palestinian Charitable association act (mentioned earlier in the introduction) the newly established organizations have to elect new board within one year of receiving its registration from the Ministry of Interior, Shoruq's board had decided to held the election at the end of 2012; to expand the board membership to become from nine members instead of seven as it was, and to engage more members from the general assembly in the decision making process. On December 29, new board was elected consisting of five women and four men, the election process was in the presence of representatives from the Ministry of Interior.

Media Program

Shoruq's media program has a long term vision primarily to serve Palestinian refugee communities, and to build relationship and partnerships with various community and advocacy groups around the globe. Therefore, this media program will combine access to local as well as global programs and projects, assessed and designed on the needs and values of our target community, at the initial stages Shoruq is investing for human development, providing technical resources and equipping local community with needed skills, to empower Palestinian refugee communities to use the media outlets to serve their interests and to convey their messages.

The first phase of the media program was designed through involvement of youth groups, board members and staff; the major focus will be on audio and radio production, to include four different projects:

1. The Media Training Center.
2. Radio broadcasting.
3. Research, documentation and media education.
4. Audio advocacy campaigns.

These four projects intersect in activities and unified in its goals and mission, the studios of the media center will enfold these projects, the major target groups in these projects are refugee children, women and youth, also, elderly people will take a part in some activities, especially in topics addressing Palestinian refugees' oral history.

The four projects have new added value for the Palestinian refugee community, for couple of reasons:

- a. Sustainable vision: the sustainability of the media program posed in investment in formulating and nurturing leaders of Palestinian refugees in media field; providing opportunities to speak for themselves, and enhance freedom of speech among them, the program is focusing on media and journalism capacity-building for different refugee target groups; enabling them to build a career in the media through Shoruq's Media Training Center, on the other hand, the media center will be equipped with latest technology in audio production, which will provide free media services for those who cannot be afford it, also to those who can, due to this, the media center ensure its durability though this income and sources, and grant the possibility for independence of external funding on the long term.
- b. Regional Action: The media program will be working with Palestinian refugees at the local, national and regional levels; the program will combine social daily issues in refugee communities, with common concerns shared among them, also, it will provide the place and space – even if virtual- to gather Palestine Refugees in Palestine and the Diaspora.

Training Course in “Theoretical Introduction to Media and Human rights with Audio Production focus”

Shoruq had conducted the first theoretical training in media center, the training course entitled "theoretical introduction to media and human rights with audio production focus", to be followed in the coming year with more theoretical trainings, audio production and sound recording trainings, this training was executed according to the following order:

➤ **Need assessment**

Eight youth were invited to participate in a need assessment session for this training course, the idea of the training was presented in abstract, and the participants had identified five subjects as areas of interest to be covered in the training.

➤ **Publicity and participants' recruitment**

An ad was posted in Alquds local Newspaper publishing for the training course; to recruit refugees and non-refugee participants in Bethlehem area, Shoruq had received many resumes. Some other participants subscribed through social media ads.

➤ **Preparation meeting**

After selecting 20 participants, some of whom sent their resume and other participants from the youth group attended the need assessment session, a preparation meeting was held with them all, giving them a brief of the program content, and discussing with the dates that fit with their programs, as many of them are university students.

➤ **Program**

The training course was delivered in 10 sessions covering 60 training hours, comprehensive and interrelated subjects were presented in the program, some of them are subjects suggested by the participants during the need assessment, and others are complementary subjects. Here are the covered subjects:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| ⌚ Introduction to journalism | ⌚ Journalism ethics |
| ⌚ Media and human rights | ⌚ Media and mobilizing |
| ⌚ Art and Media | ⌚ Palestinian refugees and media coverage |
| ⌚ Negotiation and refugees | ⌚ Media and children rights |
| ⌚ Musical audio production | ⌚ Introduction to audio production |
| ⌚ Media and Women rights and marginalized groups | |

➤ **Evaluation**

The course evaluation process conducted in two phases, the first phase was characterized by follow-up and monitoring after each training session, using a written assessment sheet covering training place, session length proportionally with training materials, the material presented in the session, trainer's methodology, information delivery and communication in the session, and debate dynamics.

The second phase of the evaluation used SWOT analysis techniques with the participants at the end of the training, also, the participants discussed the next steps after this training, and they had decided to form a group to continue together to utilize media tools to work

on their own issues, so far, the group has met twice discussing group structure and vision.

In addition, the second phase of the evaluation included an evaluation with trainers, their evaluation was positive toward participants; the trainers highly recommended continuing working with this specific youth group, and develop their potential skills. The trainers attested that training sessions were insufficient time compared to appointed materials of each training session. Positively, a number of trainers expressed their commitment to support the group, and provide cultural and technical guidance to them.

Audio Production and Training center Infrastructure

Shoruq is constructing audio production and training center, the center has two recording studios, one is a massive musical and training recording studio, and the second is simple recording studio for interviews and broadcasting records, the two studios are connected through a control room equipped with modern technologies for audio production.

The construction process will be concluded by the end December 2012, including sound isolation, to be followed with equipment installation and furnishing. Shoruq is planning for an official opening early 2013 spring.

Occasional activities

English language Course

Shoruq organized intensive English language course for a group of 20 children from Dheisheh Camp. The course was given by Hilda Fernandez an American volunteer, over the course she lead the children in presentation skills, conversation skills and English grammars, the course for two weeks.

Formal Visitors

- **Reception for Barbara Lubin and Danny Meller from Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA).**

Miss. Lubin is the director of MECA; she visited Shoruq twice this year. MECA is the first partner and funder of Shoruq, the under-going construction of the Audio Studios is funded through MECA. Also, MECA is playing a vital role in educating American audiences of the Palestinian cause, and raising awareness about Palestinian children and refugees since decades.

- **Africa Martínez from Proyecto Cultura y Solidaridad.**

Miss. Martinez visited the organization and received a welcoming by board members and was briefed on the progress of the organization.

Advocacy Tours

EWASH had invited five international journalist and film makers to visit Dheisheh Refugee Camp, Shoruq had welcomed them all, and briefed them on the water situation inside the camp, and accompanied them to visit families from the camp and interviewed them. *"The Emergency Water Sanitation and Hygiene group (EWASH) is a coalition of 30 organizations is launching, through its Advocacy Task Force (ATF), the Thirsting for Justice Campaign to mobilise European citizens to demand that their governments pressure Israel to change its policies and practices in order to comply with international law and respect Palestinians human rights"*

2013 Plans

The year 2013 will be the proem for Shorouq's programs; the preparation for these programs is undergoing:

- ⌚ Advocacy Program- Art Project: Shorouq will launch its art project as part of the advocacy program beginning of 2013, the program will include oral history education, leadership skills and Palestine Folklore classes, above all, Palestinian folkloric Dance- Dabkh training is the cornerstone of the program.
- ⌚ Media and juvenile justice activities: this is intending to link between media and legal assistance program, its aiming at leading new media role and present a progressive view regarding "the criminalization of children", through research the criminal and children laws, posing new interpretations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, discuss criminality and the legal system in the state, by enabled media youth groups to raise awareness in the media in this regard.
- ⌚ Audio and Music project: Shorouq and hip-hop" *Palestine Street*" group are designing program for children for hip-hop and music, includes recording in the studios.
- ⌚ Studios Opening: Shorouq is planning to organize formal opening ceremony for the studio in spring 2013.
- ⌚ Audio Production Unit Capacity building trainings for youth, children and women.
- ⌚ Women Economic Empowerment Project: Shorouq will launch its first local development project targeting Palestinian refugee women economic empowerment, the project will jewelry design training, production and sales, the project will provide a workspace for the women.
- ⌚ Legal Assistance for Palestinian Refugees: Shorouq will initiate the mapping and research for the legal Assistance program for the Palestinian refugees.
- ⌚ Guest House Opening: Shourq will open Guest house doors starting from January 2013, ready to host backpackers, students and groups in Dheisheh Refugee Camp.
- ⌚ Organize Advocacy tours and briefs on Palestinian refugee issues.