

# 2013

## Annual Report



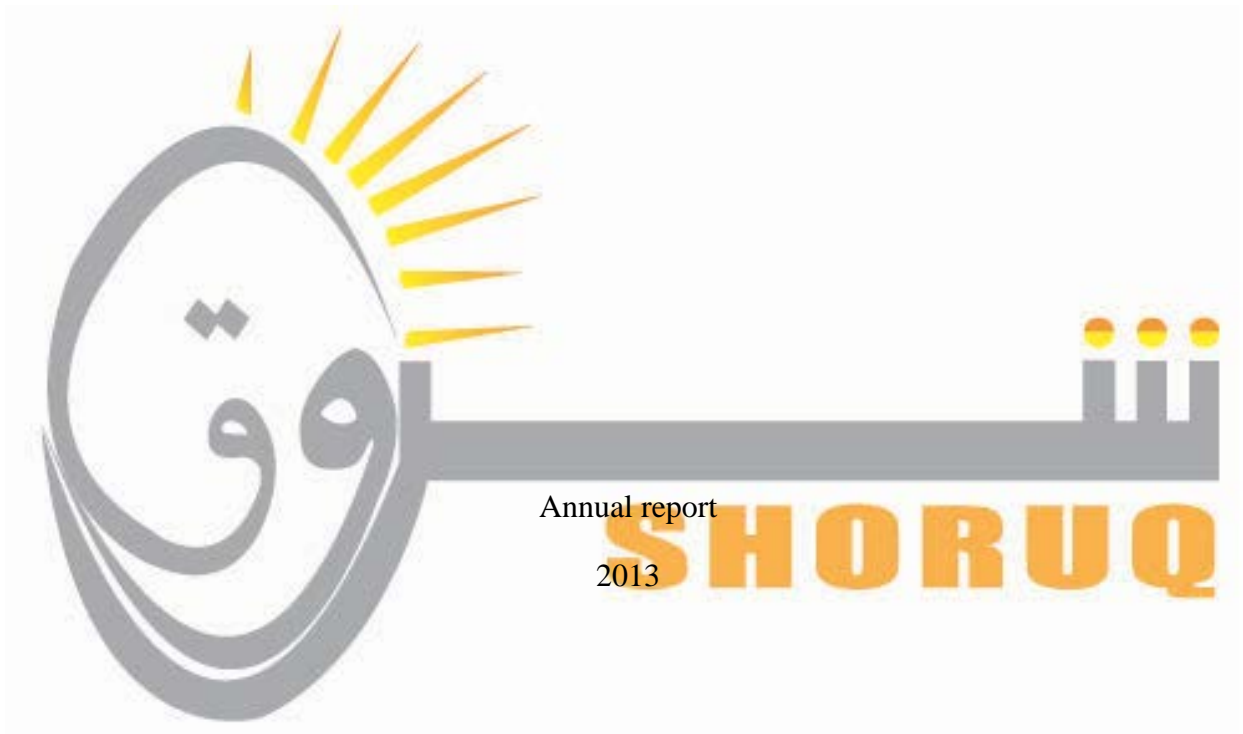
Shorug Organization

Annual Report

1/1/2013



Shoruuq Organization



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## Special Thanks

Shoruq is about supporting and defending Palestinian refugees and their rights rather than charity. It would be impossible for Shoruq to fulfill its goals and objectives without the help and support of its partners, donors, volunteers and staff. In recognition for their generous support, Shoruq would like to express its deepest gratitude for the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), Child Rights International Network (CRIN), Musicians Without Borders and Prelude Foundation. Your contributions make it possible for us to fulfill our goals and support our community. With its inception in 2012, Shoruq set objectives for its grassroots work. This year, we have grown and established our core programs and been able to reach 1465 beneficiaries through the programs and our community activities. This is only possible because of thoughtful and generous contributions from our partners.

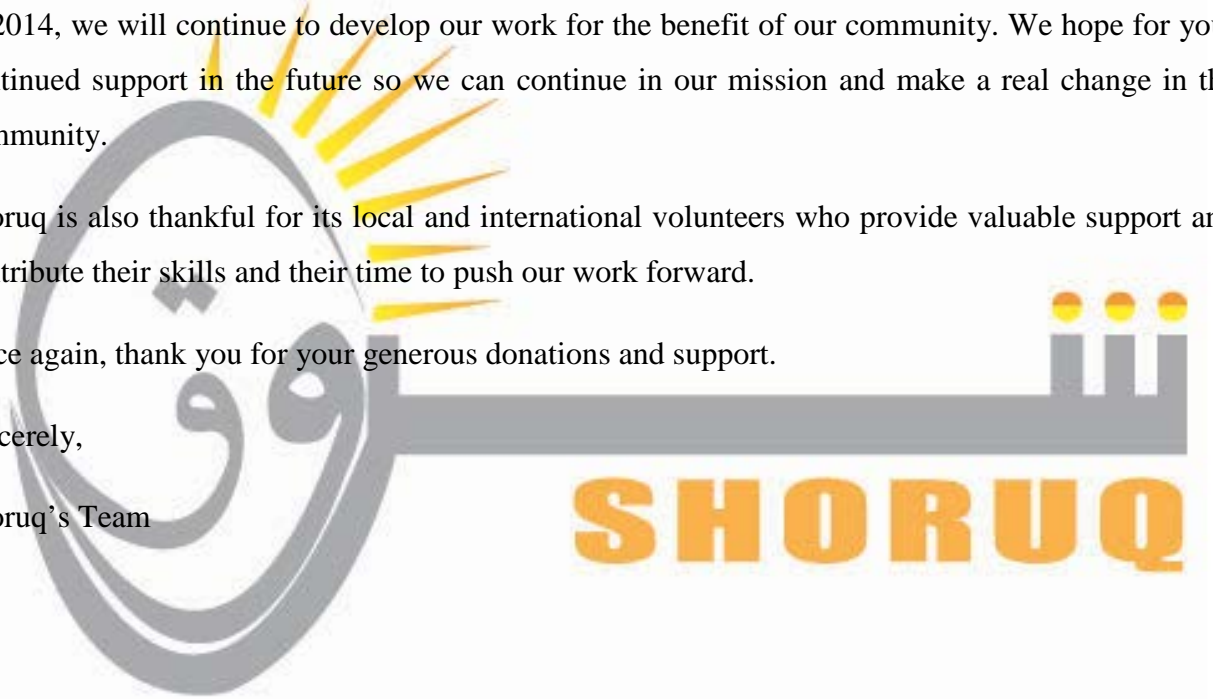
In 2014, we will continue to develop our work for the benefit of our community. We hope for your continued support in the future so we can continue in our mission and make a real change in the community.

Shoruq is also thankful for its local and international volunteers who provide valuable support and contribute their skills and their time to push our work forward.

Once again, thank you for your generous donations and support.

Sincerely,

Shoruq's Team



## Board

Shoruq is a Palestinian-founded Organization which is run by and for the refugee community. We have of nine board members who are from Dheisheh Refugee Camp and Bethlehem. They are community development leaders, artists, social workers, children rights' defenders and activists.

Board members serve in their personal capacity. They are:

### **Raji Odeh – Chairperson**

Mr. Odeh is working as Community Development Officer at World Vision International, working with children and their communities tackling the causes of poverty.

### **Sukaina Omar Khalawi – Vice Chair**

Ms.Khalawi worked three years in child rights based campaigning, advocacy and child participation with Defence Children International-Palestine Section (DCI). She is now the Grants Management and Program Development Officer at DCI.

### **Maysoun Ramadan-Treasurer**

Mrs. Ramadan served as the Director for the Center of Protection and Empowerment for Women and Families “Mehwar Center.”She is currently working in the International Community Partnership Center.

### **Talal Shehadeh- Secretary**

Mr. Shehadeh is working as Staff Nurse in Beit-Jala Hospital. Socially, Mr. Shehadeh served in various social-cultural activities in the community.

### **FerdoosAbdRabah- Member**

Mrs. Abd Rabah works as lecturer at Bethlehem University in the social science department.

### **Nasser Alissa (Atallah) - Member**

Mr. Alisaa works as MENA Regional Coordinator at Child Rights International Network (CRIN). .

### **Ayah Bsiesy- Member**

Ms. Bsiesy worked for four years with women in rural areas all over Palestine. Currently, she is working with the marginalized herders communities.

### **Manal Ayassa – Member**

Ms. Ayassa works as head of Social and Psychological Programs at Spafford Children’s Center in East Jerusalem. Previously she was the head of the disabled center in Dheisheh and the Social Program Officer and Certified Trainer in Spafford Center.

### **Wassim Qassis – Member**

Mr. Qassis founded Jadal musical group and worked for seven years in Music for All Program at Sabreen Association for Artistic Development in Palestine while also playing local and internationally with Sabreen Musical Group. Mr. Qassis is Buzaq and Tabla teacher in The Edward Said National Conservatory of Music and Lutheran High School.

## Chairperson Letter

Dear friends and partners,

I am proud to present to you the annual report of Shoruq Organization for the year 2013. This report will provide you with the key information about our progress, our activities and the fiscal year's financial report.

Founded by the refugee community for the refugee community, Shoruq focuses its efforts on our core mission of supporting and defending the inalienable rights of indigenous Palestinian refugees, to act as a voice for Palestinian people, and demand implementation of their rights locally and internationally.

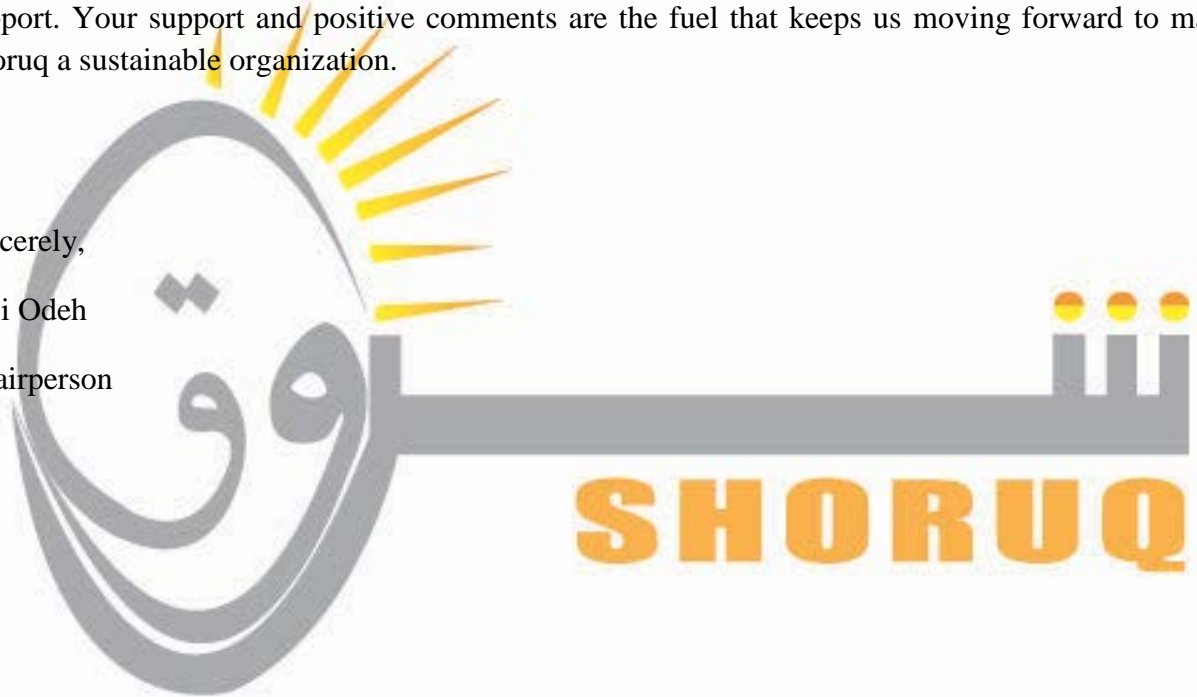
In our report, we present a brief description of the situation of Dheisheh Refugee Camp and highlights of Shoruq's programs and activities inspired by its volunteers and beneficiaries.

On behalf of the entire Shoruq's staff and board members I would like to thank you for your support. Your support and positive comments are the fuel that keeps us moving forward to make Shoruq a sustainable organization.

Sincerely,

Raji Odeh

Chairperson





## Dheisheh Refugee Camp

In Dheisheh Refugee Camp, located southwest of Bethlehem City, 13, 017 inhabitants live on less than one square kilometer of land. The refugees are from 45 villages west of Jerusalem and Hebron. Their families became refugees during the 1948 *Nakba* (Catastrophe). The camp is the largest of three refugee camps in the Bethlehem Governorate and it is administered by the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). Although Dheisheh has a highly resilient and active community, the people have endured many hardships over the years. The main problems in the camp today are education, unemployment, and, sadly, a lack of hope because there are few opportunities for young people.

Today, more than half of the camp's population is under 18 years. The children have no playground, sports fields, or other open spaces to safely play.

Education is highly valued among the local community and, according to the results of the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics; the illiteracy rate among Dheisheh's population is approximately 5.7 percent, of whom 73.3 percent are females. However, the class sizes are too large with 32.9 students on average in UNRWA classrooms in West Bank and several UNRWA schools run in double shifts to accommodate the growing numbers of students (Palestinian Central Bureau for Statistics). The curriculum in the school is restricted to primary subjects including Arabic, English, Math, History, Geography and religion, with the focus on rote memorization rather than critical thinking. There are no electives or after school clubs for students to learn more about human rights and to engage in constructive debates and conversations with their peers and teachers. There are also no secondary schools in the refugee camps forcing children to go to public schools in surrounding towns and villages.

It is difficult to ascertain the exact unemployment rate in the Bethlehem area refugee camps but Sharek Youth Forum's 2013 report on the status of Palestinian youth estimates youth unemployment in the West Bank and Gaza at a staggering 44%. UNRWA estimates the unemployment in these three camps to be between 30-43%.

Though Dheisheh Refugee Camp has a number of local institutions and associations that provide services to various segments of the society including children, youth, women, and people with disabilities, there are still many gaps.

## Shoruq Organization

Shoruq, or 'Sunrise' as the name means in Arabic, indicates a new beginning, a fresh start. Shoruq Organization was founded in 2012 in Dheisheh Refugee Camp in Occupied Palestine; it's a registered non-governmental organization under the Charities and Civil Bodies rules of law No (1) for the year 2000 (registration number BL-3343-I) created by and for Palestinian refugees.

Shoruq has 4 paid staff members which are supported by an active base of volunteers and a board with decades of experience in community development, children's rights, and women's empowerment.

Shoruq's primary sources of funding are grants with some supplementary income from individual donations and the guesthouse.

**Mission:** Shoruq aims at defending and protecting the inalienable rights of indigenous Palestinian refugees, to act as a voice for Palestinian people, and demand implementation of their rights locally and internationally. Shoruq 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. Shoruq does this by developing their capabilities and empowering them to depend on themselves and the local resources.

**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.

### Objectives:

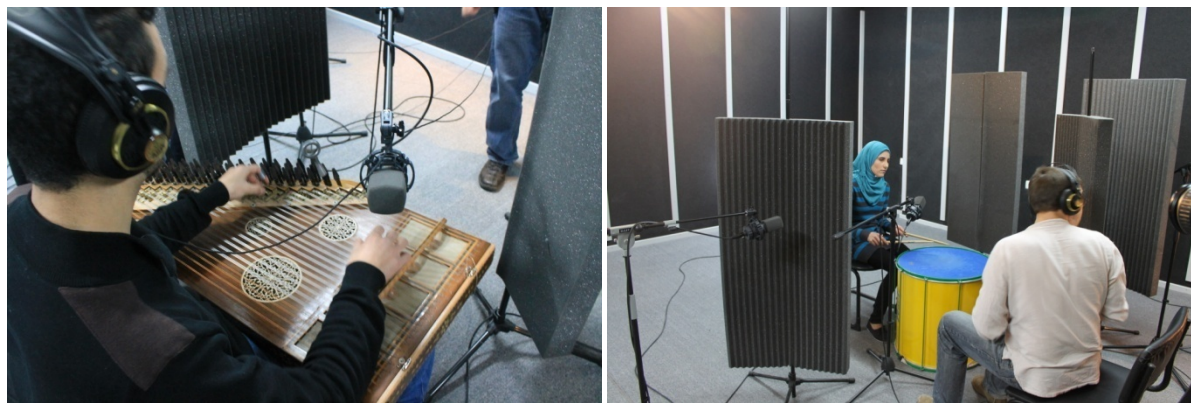
- Advocating and lobbying for Palestinian refugees' rights, representation and demands.
- Empowering Palestinian refugees to express their views and experiences through utilizing multimedia platforms.
- Improving mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of Palestinian refugee children, youth and women.
- Providing legal assistance for Palestinian refugees, to facilitate litigation in their public interest, and offer aid for refugees who are in conflict with the law. And,
- Ensuring Palestinian refugees' participation in the local economy and development of their communities.

### Programs

Shoruq endeavors to achieve its objectives through its four interwoven programs



## Media Program



Shorug set up an audio training and production center in order to serve the Palestinian refugees in Dheisheh Refugee Camp and beyond. The media program and center will focus in building a qualified team, and will run and house 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 aims to:

- Develop the capabilities of refugee in media, and exploit media outlets to support refugees legitimate short and long term demands.
- Raise public awareness in Palestinian communities and on an international level about refugee issues.
- Link and bridge Palestinian refugee communities with one another and with international human rights advocacy groups;
- Build an electronic archive for refugee media resources developed by refugees.
- Create tools for international cultural exchanges and education.

Shorug's media program provides children and youth with educational workshops and professional trainings to increase awareness of their rights and give them new tools express themselves to the world.

**Number of beneficiaries: 42**

### **Activities and Accomplishments:**

- Studio: Shorug completed construction and set-up of a state-of-the-art audio recording studio with professional grade equipment, soundproofing, and isolation. This studio is one of a kind in Bethlehem area and one of the best in the West Bank. The recording rooms and the control room are both large in order to function as both a studio and a training site.
- Training courses: Shorug began a 30-hour technical training course on operating the center's equipment for 12 youth from Dheisheh Refugee Camp with the goal of a building a team capable of professional recording and of training more groups of children and youth.
- Recording: Shorug's media center is open for local and international musicians to use. In 2013, American folk singer Carry Newcomer and guitarist wrote a song with children from the center called "This is my life." Their original song was the first recording in Shorug's studio! Other groups including Palestinian deaf musicians working with Musicians Without Borders and young musicians from the Edward Said Conservatory also recorded in Shorug'

studio. And Shorug's girls hip-hop group also used the audio recording studio to create \_ songs that they wrote.

- Receiving visitors: two of the finalists of the famous program "The Voice" visited Shorug's media center and recorded music with the kids and were interviewed by local and national media sources about their visit to Palestine and Dheisheh.

### **Future plans:**

Shorug will complete the training for Dheisheh youth and then organize further apprenticeships for the youth with the most dedication. Our youth will be the new trainers for the center and also oversee professional recording and editing.

Shorug is also planning to run several media projects for children and youth to activate this media center so young refugees learn to express themselves, share experiences, develop their skills, advocate for their rights, etc.

Shorug and our partners will also do outreach locally and internationally to invite musicians to come record in our studio both to provide income for Shorug's other programming and to raise the profile and change the image of Palestinian refugee camps through these recording experiences.

### **Advocacy Program**



The main incentive for this program is to emphasize the blatant deprivation and denial of legal, civil, and political rights of Palestinian refugees in Occupied Palestine and Diaspora. Shorug's advocacy work is part of the Palestinian refugees' insistence on their rights and works to raise the voices of refugees locally and internationally.

### **Objectives**

- Launching local, regional and international campaigns to influence policy-making related to Palestinian refugees' issues.
- Educating the local and international community about Palestinian refugees through art, media, and visits to the refugee camp.
- 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.

**Number of Beneficiaries: 713**

## Activities and Accomplishments:

- **Networking:** Shoruq participates in several advocacy coalitions including the Occupied Palestine and Golan Heights Advocacy Initiative, Palestinian Network for Children's Rights (which we coordinate in the Bethlehem governate), the National Committee for Nakba Commemoration, and the Access to Justice working group led by UNDP. In April, Shoruq and the Palestinian Network for Children's Rights organized a demonstration against child labor with an afternoon of music and games for children at a park. In May, Shoruq organized a variety of activities to commemorate the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Nakba*, or Catastrophe. The youth led the planning for all activities. We had march through the camp with 70 participants wearing Nakba t-shirts and traditional Palestinian costumes, hung banners in highest building in the camp so everyone can see that read "Return from here" and even more banners at the entrance to the camp. Shoruq youth created club cards with information about the *Nakba* and distributed them to stores, organizations, and people who drove by the refugee camp. Then we had a gathering with traditional food and music as well as short speeches from the youth about the Nakba and right of return. This gathering attracted more than 200 people.



- **Art and education:** Shoruq has a *dabka* dance troupe (traditional Palestinian dance), for children. Participants are trained in dance techniques that allow them to express their thoughts, opinions and national identity. The dancers are given language courses so they can better share their messages with international guests or on future trips abroad. Shoruq also organizes workshops for them on the refugee camp and children's rights. Shoruq also has a group of 9 girls who are interested in hip-hop. Shoruq's volunteers from Palestine Street hip-hop group organize weekly meetings with these girls to train them on composing lyrics and melody, singing and performing. Shoruq also organized arts summer camp for 50 children who are not already involved in Shoruq or other organizations to give the children a chance to try out different art forms including music, *dabka*, and painting and to play and learn with educational workshops and field trips to local sites. In the summer, Shoruq youth organized a "Stories from Refugee Kids" Magazine that aimed to raise awareness about children's rights and refugee issues through creative writing and drawing. 15 children participated in the magazine project and their finished pieces were posted on the wall in Shoruq and will be published on Shoruq's website. Shoruq hosted one day of the Palestinian Network for Children's Rights summer camp. 35 children (5 from each organization in Bethlehem area), ages 13-15 participated. Shoruq volunteers led musical activities in the center with the help of Musicians Without Borders. Then we went to Suliman's Pools and played outdoor games.
- **Website:** Shoruq launched its bilingual website in December 2013. We also continue to maintain an active Facebook page with updates about our activities and refugee issues.



- **Tours and Visits in Dheisheh Camp:** Shoruq welcomes groups and individuals and leads tours in Dheisheh camp to educate them about the history of the camp and the real life of refugees. In 2013 we hosted approximately 80 people from the US, Italy, France, Scotland, and Ireland. Some of our international guests stayed in Shoruq's guesthouse that is a comfortable place at affordable prices for anyone to stay in.

### **Future Plans:**

Shoruq is working on original music for our dance troupe so they will have an original show to present locally and internationally that showcases Palestinian history, culture, and our demands for implementation of our rights.

Shoruq is also planning a children's music group that will learn to play traditional Arab instruments and will form a small choir to write and record original songs. Shoruq is also developing a comprehensive plan for our girls hip-hop group to help them record a full CD and begin touring.

Each year Shoruq will improve and build on our Nakba commemoration activities. In 2014, we plan to use media tools to create educational and advocacy materials documenting our history as refugees.

### **Socio-legal Support Program**



Shoruq has just conducted a needs assessment survey focusing on refugee children in conflict with PA law and is now poised to launch a holistic socio-legal support program for refugee children.

### **Objectives**

- Provide free legal aid to refugee children in conflict with the law in the Bethlehem district;
- Raise awareness about the deficits in the PNA Juvenile Justice System and mobilize civil society to demand reforms;
- Build a community of care comprised of legal and psycho-social professionals, families, educators and the community at large to ensure access to justice and new beginnings for the most marginalized children in Palestinian society.

### **Activities and Accomplishments:**

In preparation for starting this program, Shoruq undertook Needs Assessment research on refugee children in conflict with Palestinian Authority law. Shoruq recruited an advisory group for the research and the program including board members with experience in research, mental health, and children's rights as well as human rights lawyers. Shoruq then hired 2 researchers to oversee the needs assessment including focus groups, questionnaires, and visits to relevant stake holders. Shoruq staff and volunteers assisted the researchers by organizing all visits and focus groups,

transcribing recordings from the focus groups, and visiting the three refugee camps in Bethlehem to fill out questionnaires with children.

Focus groups: 3 focus groups with 21 children who had been in conflict with the Palestinian Authority law, 1 focus group with NGOs, 1 focus group with governmental organizations

Visits: Researchers visited to judges, police departments, lawyers, and organizations working in related fields to interview.

Questionnaires: Researchers with Shoruq staff prepared questionnaires for children. Shoruq volunteers filled questionnaires with children. Aim to get more than 40 children.

### **Future plan:**

Complete the needs assessment research, translate it into English and publish it. There is very little available information about children in conflict with the Palestinian Authority law and this research will be a valuable tool for local and international organizations.

Shoruq is also planning to launch a comprehensive socio-legal support project in 2014 that is built on the findings of our research. The program will

1) Support refugee children and youth from Bethlehem district who are in conflict with the law by providing pro bono legal aid and assistance, referrals to specialized services, and representation in individual cases and public interest litigations. We will target children who have been charged with an offense, as well as witnesses or those who have filed complaints to ensure that their rights are respected. Shoruq will also hire a social worker who will be responsible for visiting the family of the child and explain to them the process that their child should go through, the right way to treat their child after the conflict and do an initial evaluation to decide whether the child needs to be referred for psycho-social treatment.

2) Facilitate a children and youth-led awareness campaign for the refugee community on the legal and human rights of children and youth. Children and parents will be educated about their rights under local laws and international conventions which is the first step in helping them to demand implementation of their rights.

3) Participate in advocacy networks for reform in the Palestinian National Authority's Juvenile Justice System. Shoruq will be publishing the results of our needs assessment research (the first of its kind focusing on refugee children and the PNA) and will use this research as well as data from the project in our advocacy work. Shoruq will support the efforts of advocacy networks towards abolishing the criminalization of children, highlighting the issue of children in conflict with the law and lobbying for legal reform, and finally to support the Child-to-Child Approach.

### **Local Development Program**

Prevalence of poverty among Palestinian refugees due to shortfall of financial support for the refugees, compel us to commit to the local development of the refugees communities, through:

- Providing means of dignified well-being by creating local job opportunities.
- Designing income generating projects.
- Promoting social development policies for Palestinian refugees.

Our future vision for this program is to develop an income-generating project for refugee women that will help them support themselves and their families.

### **Community Activities**





In addition to our core programs, Shoruq hosts community activities such as film screenings, educational workshops, meetings, etc. In cooperation with Lylac, Shoruq organized a film screening that talks about the lives and dreams of children from Dhiesheh Camp. We also organized language courses workshops for children. There were two language courses: one in Italian given by an Italian volunteer, the other one in English course given by Shoruq's volunteers from the camp.

In addition, Shoruq organizes recreational activities for children. In cooperation with the Hebron Defense Committee, Shoruq held a four-month program for children in Tel Rumeida neighborhood of Hebron aimed at providing relief from the tense daily life. Located in the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron, Tel Rumeida is a small neighborhood living out the brutal extravagance of direct Israeli occupation surrounded by extremist Israeli settlers. Out of fear, the children of Tel Rumeida, though they are many, almost never play outside. Those who do venture out run off the streets at the first sound of an approaching Israeli settler vehicle and run into their homes when groups of Israeli settlers walk by.

Shoruq also worked with women in the nearby village of Masara to provide healthy, local food to the village's school children. A group of women who took over the school cafeteria in 2008 cooked healthy snacks and lunches for all 400 children from kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade in the village. In addition, Shoruq organized two summer camps, voluntary days in Dheisheh Kindergarten in cooperation with youth from Birzeit University, and helped the kindergarten to get funds for the summer camp. Shoruq also celebrated the Palestinian Child Day with the presence of children and their families.

**Beneficiaries: 710**





### **Independent Auditors' Report**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the **Shoruq Organization** which comprise of Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2012, the statement of activities and changes in net assets and cash flow for the Year Ended December 31,2013/2012, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

#### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Foundation preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Foundation internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the **Shoruq Organization** as of December 31, 2012, the results of its activities and cash flow and the statement of changes in net assets for the Year End December 31, 2013/2012 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

**Husam Wahhab**

**Certified Public Accountant**

Bethlehem, Palestine

April 9,2014

**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2012**  
*(Currency: NIS)*

**Cash on Hand and at Banks**

Cash on hand and at banks comprise:		
	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>NIS</b>	<b>NIS</b>
Cash on hand	3,091	4,134
Cash at banks in NIS	-658	12,976
Cash at banks in USD	63,990	67,759
Cash at banks in Euro	2,474	
	<b>68,897</b>	<b>84,869</b>

**Prepayments:**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>NIS</b>	<b>NIS</b>
Prepayments Rent	17,504	22,794
	<b>17,504</b>	<b>22,794</b>

**Fixed Assets, Net**

Components of fixed assets costs and related accumulated depreciation as of December 31, 2013 and movement thereon during the year follow:

Balance, beginning of year		Additions	Disposals	Balance, end of year
<b>Cost</b>				
Improvement	44,222	54,004	-	98,226
Equipment Office	3,585	107,404	-	110,989
Furniture	200	17,958	-	18,158
Other Equipment	37,789	37,789		
	<b>85,796</b>	<b>179,366</b>	-	<b>265,162</b>

**Accumulated depreciation**

Improvement	-	4,827	-	4,827
Equipment Office	135	7,143	-	7,278
Furniture	16	703	-	720
Other Equipment	3,094	5,610	8,704	
	<b>3,245</b>	<b>18,283</b>		<b>21,528</b>
<b>Net book value</b>	<b>82,551</b>			<b>243,634</b>

**Grants and Donations**

	<b>2013</b>	<b>2012</b>
	<b>NIS</b>	<b>NIS</b>

Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)	386,137	246,580
Others	16,420	
<b>402,557</b>	<b>246,580</b>	

### Other Operating Revenues

	2013	2012
	NIS	NIS
Members fees		1,000
In kind	3,488	
	<b>3,488</b>	<b>1,000</b>

### General and Administrative Expenses

General and administrative expenses comprise:	2013	2012
	NIS	NIS
Salaries and related benefits	152,019	12,436
Stationary	5,948	578
Electricity	322	81
Water		800
Telephone	2,452	1,424
Bank Charges	444	208
Rent	23,540	33,685
Cleaning	3,630	2,348
Hospitality	15,338	3,944
Printing	4,670	1,550
Maintenance	829	40
Fuel	60	200
Transportation	4,190	217
Accounting software	2,589	2,679
Consultation	-	6,176
Gifts & Trips	2,180	415
Internet	521	550
Advertisement	900	400
Wages	3,070	790
Training	905	6,992
Depreciation	18,283	3,245
Website	3,620	-
Rate of Exchange	19,137	-
Professional Fees	4,025	-
Subscription	122	-
	<b>269,594</b>	<b>77,958</b>