



M A S

**Palestine Economic Policy
Research Institute**



**State of Palestine
Palestine Liberation Organization
Negotiations Affairs Department
Palestinian Negotiations Support Project**

SOCIAL SECTOR CLUSTER REVIEW EAST JERUSALEM

Varsen Aghabekian –
Principle Reviewer

Sana Hasna
Assistant/Field Support

2019

CONTENTS

1. Social Sector Cluster Review	1
1.1 Objectives, Scope of Work and Methodology	1
1.2 Overall Social Cluster Profile	5
2. Education Sector	9
2.1 Sector profile	9
2.2 SWOT Analysis	14
2.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions	16
2.4 Cost of Program	18
2.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation	23
2.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation	23
2.7 Sector related final status/transition issues	24
3 Health Sector	27
3.1 Sector Profile	27
3.2 SWOT Analysis	29
3.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions	30
3.4 Cost of Program	30
3.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation	34
3.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation	34
3.7 Sector related final status/transition issues	35
4. Social Welfare	37
4.1 Sector Profile	37
4.2 SWOT Analysis	41
4.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions	43
4.4 Cost of Program	45
4.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation	48
4.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation	48
4.7 Sector related final status/transition issues	49
5. Cultural Heritage	50
5.1 Sector Profile	50
5.2 SWOT Analysis	53
5.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions	56
5.4 Cost of Program	57
5.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation	60
5.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation	60
5.7 Sector related final status/transition issues	61
References	63
Annex 1: Selected Social Sector Related Comparative Statistics-EJ/WJ	66
Annex 2: Focus Group Sessions and Interviews	67

List of Abbreviations

AVH	Augusta Victoria Hospital
AQU	Al Quds University
EJ	East Jerusalem
EJHN	East Jerusalem Hospital Network
EU	European Commission
GS	Gaza Strip
KG	Kindergarten
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MAS	Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute
MoEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoJA	Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs
NAD	Negotiations Affairs Department
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NIS	New Israeli Shekel
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PNA	Palestinian National Authority
PHC	Primary Health Care
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
WB	West Bank
YWCA	Young Women's Christian Association

Executive Summary

Around 350,000¹ Palestinians living in strangled East Jerusalem (EJ) face numerous political and socioeconomic challenges with social conditions steadily challenged and deteriorating as a result of occupation. Disparities between the city's Palestinian and Israeli population are reflected in all socioeconomic indicators as a result of an ongoing cycle of neglect and discrimination against the Arab residents.

Furthermore, The Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) budget to EJ is way below what the city requires. This is somehow mitigated through established and vibrant local and international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which provide support to EJ institutions especially in the social sector (health, education, cultural heritage and social welfare) that are highly dependent on donor support.

Maintaining and strengthening EJ's service providing organizations requires continuous support and is in line with the National Policy #8 of the State of Palestine's National Policy Agenda 2017-2022. This support however, needs to be implemented in parallel to strong Palestinian, Arab and international lobbying towards a political solution on EJ as part of ending the occupation, preserving the two state solution with EJ as the capital of the State of Palestine.

This social sector review focuses on: Education (Preschool, basic, higher and Technical and Vocational Education and training (TVET)), Health, Social welfare (including: youth, addiction, disability and the elderly) and Cultural heritage.

The Main challenges and priorities of the education sector in EJ include:

Preschool Education: a substantial need for developing and expanding preschool education to allow for more intake, supporting capacity and human resource development, production and making available early childhood educational material, supporting programs for talented children and introducing a health component in the operation of KGs.

School Education: high need for new schools to provide new places for the growing school population, and rehabilitation and improvement of existing schools and educational material and facilities, continuing the fight for the Palestinian curriculum in EJ, improving use of technology, teaching and management. Furthermore, tackling and following up on the alarming dropout rate and continuing to monitor the effects of the Wall on the educational encounter in EJ.

Higher education: support to Al Quds University (AQU) as the most important and comprehensive Palestinian tertiary education set up in which requires continued support for maintaining operation and expansion to include programs as per market needs with special focus on its campuses within the Wall.

Vocational and Technical Training: Need to upgrade facilities and equipment with special arrangements for trainees with disabilities, strengthening links between the TVET institutions while increasing efficiency and effectiveness, enhancing relevance, accessibility and

¹ There are conflicting numbers. According to a communication with the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics on May 30th 2018, the total population of the Jerusalem Governorate is 435,483 (270,360 in J1 and 165,123 in J2). According to Israeli statistics the number in J1 is 323,700. Yet others believe that the number is 400,000 bringing the total percentage of the Arab Palestinian population in to 40% of the total population.

strengthening the sustainability of the system with better linkages and partnerships with business and industry to introduce apprenticeship programs.

The Main challenges and priorities of the health sector include: Serious budgetary problems due to delays in transfer of debts owed by the PNA, the need to continually explore cost reducing and revenue increasing measures, improving funding and governance aiming towards the long term sustainability of the hospitals, supporting efforts towards downscaling staff as needed including coverage of severance pay and pension claims ,upgrading facilities and human resources based on a clear development plan with increasing national investment in EJ hospitals and supporting , expanding and developing mental health and tertiary services.

The Main challenges and priorities of the Welfare sector include:

Welfare: maintaining and strengthening NGOs and Community Based organizations (CBOs) which provide welfare related services: youth, elderly, combating drug abuse, care for disabled including awareness raising and leadership training to make people aware of their possibilities and to motivate them to make plans for their own development. Additionally, building on ongoing school activities in qualifying school counselors to better identify and deal with psychosocial problems, support schools to become multi-purpose centers where students can use play therapeutically and recreationally with after school extracurricular activities ,supporting programs that monitor, document and follow up on violations of EJ resident's rights and supporting professional intervention including counselling on protection from violence and coping mechanisms.

Youth: Employment and job creation opportunities, youth programs which promote and prepare youth to be agents for promoting national identity, good citizenship, democracy, openness, dialogue and tolerance, need for a human rights approach to and support towards sports, safe play and recreational activities for children and youth which promote release of energy and cognitive, social and behavioral development. Supporting new facilities or improving existing ones for extracurricular education and development activities, sports, culture, recreation and social encounters, supporting coalition strengthening and building for better networking and coordination amongst clubs and youth organizations, focus on organizations dealing with drug addiction and rehabilitation and those which provide psychological services for young and supporting housing initiatives for the youth.

Elderly: Further support to the proposed geriatric hospital by Augusta Victoria hospital (AVH) and to day care centers and activities for the elderly.

Disabled: maintaining and expanding school for challenged children, supporting community based rehabilitation initiatives and initiatives related to inclusive education focusing on the integration of children with special needs into the school system.

The Main challenges and priorities of the Cultural Heritage sector include :financial support to training and awareness raising, renovation and rehabilitation of cultural resources, historical and archaeological sites through support to academic programs in archaeology, conservation and urban planning with focus on training the youth ,ssupporting the documenting, maintaining and protecting of the historic heritage (archaeology, museums, crafts, traditional crafts and others), performance arts, festivals, film and theatre, ssupporting renovation works :housing and others as well revitalization of streets and *Souqs* in the Old City, supporting production and marketing of art and cultural products and the revival of traditional craftsmanship/industries .Additionally, ssupporting cultural infrastructure and

capacity building as well as operating cost of cultural institutions while strengthening of networking amongst cultural organizations.

The review proposes medium and long term interventions to mitigate the challenges in each sector. Suggested interventions are meant to improve infrastructure of service providing organizations, expand capacity, develop human resources and diversify programs aiming at improving relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of service provision to EJ under the current requirements for steadfastness under occupation but in line with the vision of a free EJ as capital of the State of Palestine .Due to the nature of the overall social sector with its sub-sectors, most of the proposed interventions will impact the lives of a high percentage of EJ inhabitants and beyond and will invariably impact improvement and development in other sectors.

Additionally, and in the spirit of a hoped for signed peace agreement with Israel and end of occupation, this report presents transition issues which need to be thought of if and when an agreement is reached and a two state solution is preserved. Tackling related final status issues in various sectors is meant to insure a smooth transition of control from Israeli authorities to the Palestinian Authority with no interruption in sector processes and service provision including:

Education:

- Integration of Israeli municipal schools and kindergartens in the Palestinian education structure
- Strengthening the Jerusalem Directorate of Education
- Jerusalem teacher's pensions from the Israeli System and privileges by the Israeli system
- Jerusalem Teacher's salaries and privileges in comparison with the rest of WB teachers
- Curriculum related issues
- School Buildings and Premises: Several of the currently Israeli run schools are housed in premises owned by the *Waqf*, Jordan or situated on expropriated Palestinian property.
- Increased demand on Higher education and TVET
- General education, scientific and technical cooperation issues with Israeli institutions
- Rehabilitation works on school buildings and facilities:

Health Sector

- Client pool of EJ hospitals with open accessibility to EJ,
- Continuing services by Israeli institutions
- Staff Pensions with the Israeli National Insurance
- Israeli owned health centers in EJ
- Licensing and accreditation issues on the individual and institutional levels
- Dealing with discrepancies in salary and benefit discrepancies between EJ and other WB hospitals and PHC centers
- Coverage of Jerusalemites with Palestinian health insurance.
- Clients records
- Service fees and disparities between EJ and WJ hospitals
- Vaccinations and other public health issues
- Training of health professionals

- Arrangements amongst the Hospital related and Red Crescent ambulance services with the Israeli Star of David Services and movement in and out of the city

Social Welfare

- Social services and benefits from the Israeli system to be subsidized by the State of Palestine: Current benefits include payments to the elderly, the widowed, the unemployed, the disabled, children under 18, mothers for birth and maternity, to injured workers, to workers in elderly homes for daily assistance. Additionally, subsistence and maintenance to those with low income or no income
- Combating Drugs
- Continued funding to centers currently funded by the Israeli Municipality
- Cooperation between youth and sport centers on both sides of the city on promoting the culture of peace.

Cultural Heritage

- The status of archeological sites: Responsibilities and supervision need to be discussed also considering issues of common archeological interests.
- Historic and religious sites including cemeteries and accessibility to all
- Maintenance and management of Holy sites.
- Revival of the Palestinian identity in EJ –naming of streets, etc.
- Preparations by institutions for influx of clients from the WB and potentially abroad especially from the Arab world.
- General education/ cultural cooperation issues.
- Concerted effort on the mapping and rehabilitation of Islamic and Christian neglected sites in preparation for a rising influx of local and international visitors and compliance with safety and preservation measures etc.
- Discussion of measures on promoting and presenting the city as a shared city rather than an exclusive Israeli city and capital.

1. Social Sector Cluster Review

1.1 Objectives, Scope of Work and Methodology

The **Objective** of this report is to provide an updated Jerusalem Social cluster review to furnish the ground for delineating concrete policies and feasible sector program and project interventions to face sector challenges and shortcomings.

The scope of this social sector overview focused on:

- Education: Preschool, basic, higher and Technical and Vocational Education and training (TVET)
- Health
- Social welfare including: youth, addiction, disability and the elderly
- Cultural heritage

Priority short term (within 3 years) and long term interventions have been delineated through relevant literature review as well as suggestions presented by Focus Group participating stakeholders and key sector resource persons through individual interviews. Sector-subsector related /final status transition measures are also highlighted. These are important to point out for consideration if and when such measures are required for a smooth transition and handing to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) / State of Palestine with minimal negative effects on service provision and or disruption on the population.

Methodology

The sector review used the following data collection methods:

- Desk Review: a contextual review and analysis based on related existing reports and studies was conducted (with a focus on literature post 2010 after the publication of the updated sector review in 2010). The purpose of the desk review was to inform the situation assessment process. It included: studies relevant to this assessment, country analyses and project related communication and correspondence as well as the recently published 2018 Office of the President's strategy on EJ prepared in conjunction with Al Quds University.
- Interviews: semi structured individual- interviews with targeted stakeholders-resource persons in the sector/subsector were conducted. The purpose was to collect responses to delineated review questions, to address information gaps and inconsistencies as well as to confirm importance of issues highlighted or those that emerged during the documentation and or the focus group discussions
- Focus Groups: The purpose of the focus groups was to conduct a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of the sector-subsector with the group participants. The purpose of the SWOT analysis and the focus group discussion was to verify issues highlighted in the desk review, elicit information on perceived priorities for intervention and shed light on feasibility of interventions. Participants were invited based on their contribution and expertise in sector/subsector while taking into consideration coverage of services by the various types of providers

Invitations were sent to focus group participants at least a week before the session and a reminder call by the reviewer's assistant made two days prior to the session to ensure maximum presence. Between 13- 25 participants were invited to each focus group session

(depending on the size of the sector) with 15 participants actually participating. Rescheduling of a session was considered when a limited number of participants were available to participate on a set date. Sessions were conducted at the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) in Jerusalem.

The following mix of methods were used (intertwined) to guide the data analysis:

- Throughout the assessment and review process, the reviewer cooperated closely with a team of other sector reviewers in identifying critical sources of information, formulating a clear understanding of the information, analyzing findings and deriving conclusions and recommendations.
- Verification and triangulation of data whereby data and information were obtained from more than one source and triangulated. A thorough analysis of sector documents and of the findings from the interviews and focus group discussions was carried out.
- Mapping and visualization: If and where applicable, the reviewer visualized processes and/or findings. Mapping was used in interviews with stakeholders to better understand specific processes or relationships and their value and between key players in a sector.

In regards to organization of work, the reviewer consulted with the projects team leader and the team of other sector reviewers on regular bases and complied with the projects time line for meeting deadlines for producing the review.

The sector reviewer was supported by a data collection and logistics support assistant. The assistant helped in:

- Updating of a list of key sector stakeholders for interviews and or focus group sessions.
- Conducting focus group sessions and report writing on each session.
- Following up on required information needs from stakeholders.
- Coordinating for logistic support on focus group sessions with the key person responsible for logistic support at MAS.
- Identifying sources of information for sector and subsectors.
- Ensuring that focus group session sites are ready for holding the sessions.
- Contacting related sector /subsector stakeholders.
- Conducting interviews with key informants.

The reviewer provided MAS with a draft list of interviewees and focus group participants (individuals/organizations), shared field work instruments, including questions for interviews and focus groups and joined the team in informal debriefing sessions to present preliminary findings and recommendations.

This draft sector review report is presented based on the review and analysis of available documents and data collected and structured along the lines suggested by MAS. It was modified as per feedback received on the draft report whilst addressing the comments and providing justification for any changes that are not made².

Based on the review, interventions in each of the reviewed subsectors are proposed for the long and short term. A social sector interventions program for EJ has to be seen as part of a comprehensive plan for EJ and is proposed in the context of an unstable political

² Aside from review and comments by MAS, the pre-final sector review draft was reviewed and feedback/comments provided by Fouad Hallak ,Jamil Rabah and Ashraf Khatib-advisors at the Palestinian Negotiations Support project .Draft modifications were made accordingly.

environment, a halted peace process and a wall engulfing and strangling the city. Additionally, a distorted socioeconomic environment, shrinking international funding often conditional upon progress in the peace process and threats to crumbling of the PNA and thus conditions of high uncertainty.

All efforts however should be expended on ensuring - at the minimum- steadfastness and continuity of existing Palestinian institutions and the services they provide in the city in education, health, social welfare and culture and heritage. This support has to be consistent with our longer term development vision of EJ as part of a sovereign Palestinian state and EJ as its capital. The focus as much as possible has to be on impact through the interventions rather than mere outputs with reference to the national agenda and the MSG goals 2030 .In essence proposed interventions would challenge rather than accommodate the imposed realities of obstructed development or de-development in EJ.

This review also highlights- in a broad sense- sector related final status/transition issues to be considered and dealt with, pertaining to each subsector if a peace agreement is reached with Israel. These issues are envisaged in the spirit of two sovereign states: Palestine and Israel living next to each other with good neighborly relations. A transition period from occupation to sovereignty will be defined and will go into effect if such an agreement is reached between Palestine and Israel with end of occupation.

If and when this agreement is reached, then a set of mechanisms need to be delineated for coordination and functions of pertinent sectors and their transition needs and activities. There are three components to transitional arrangements: 1. Transitional/interim period – how long the transition will last. 2. Functional elements – what needs to be transitioned? 3. Transitional body– establishing the body which will be responsible for transitioning the functions with several sector related sub bodies/committees overseeing the transition process and requirements.

The Palestinian objectives of the arrangements in the transition phase be to:

- Ensure the feasibility of the agreement on Jerusalem and practical implementation.
- Protect the vested interests and rights of the Palestinian population of the city.
- Hold Israel responsible for unilateral actions and policies in the city during the transition period.
- Allow sufficient time to separate the two sides of the city and fully end the occupation imposed by the Israel on EJ.
- Ensure that agreement on Jerusalem is irreversible and its implementation is as short as possible.³

However, further elaboration is needed if and when the final status of Jerusalem is agreed upon and in case EJ will be an open city, semi-open city, divided city or any other arrangement vis a vis WJ in the context of two sovereign states and coordination on state to state issues. Future agreed arrangements for EJ will influence which and how transition matters per sector/subsectors will be approached.

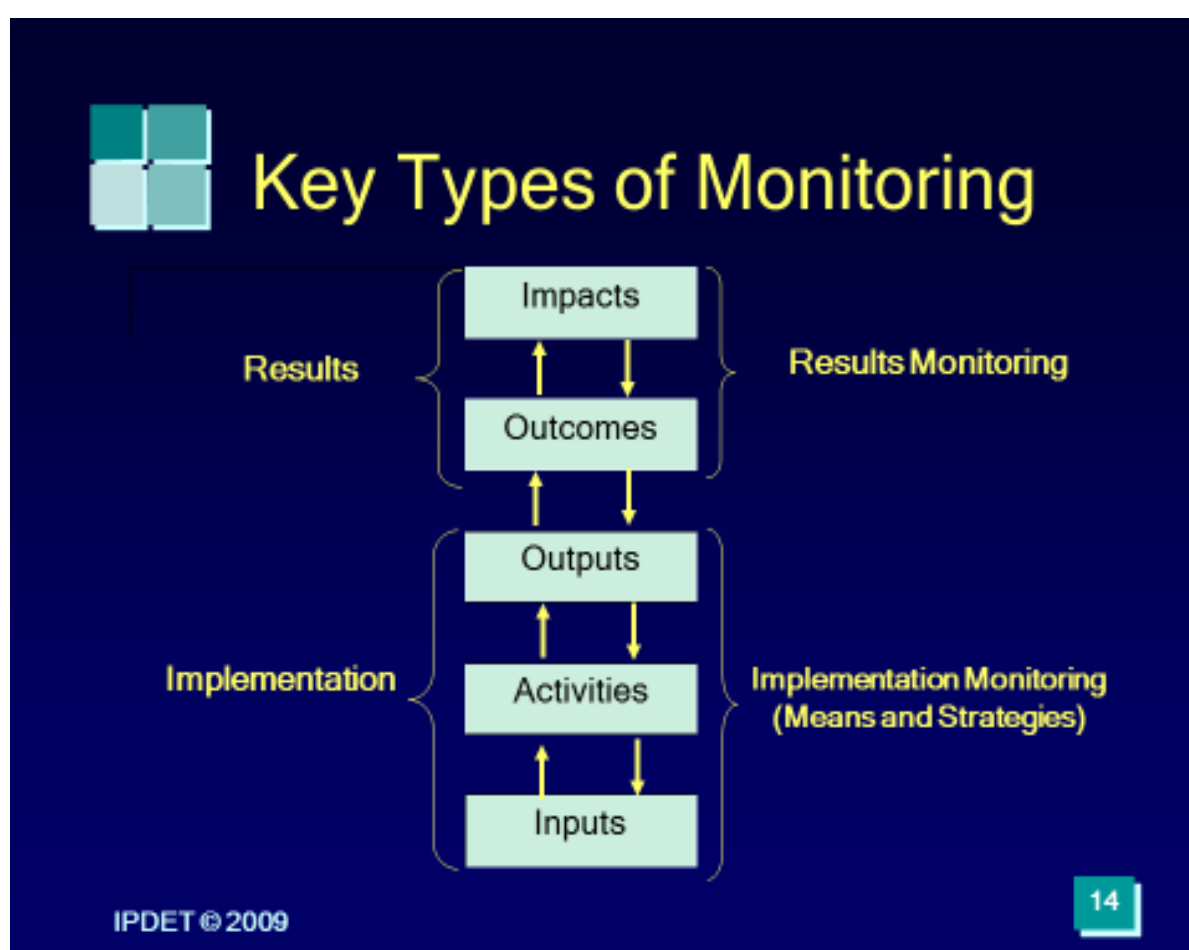
A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system needs to be created and applied to track progress in EJ as per interventions in various sectors and from different sources and implementers. There must be continual monitoring of the political and socioeconomic

³ Fouad Hallak-Policy advisor on Jerusalem, The Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Project, The Palestinian Negotiations Affairs Department (NAD)

situation and their impact on needs and priorities. This is best carried out by an overarching entity with access to information by all sector supporters in EJ and through the use of measureable quantitative and qualitative indicators to measure progress and achievements, ensure consistency between objectives, activities, outputs, and outcomes, and ensure transparency, integrity, and accountability to all stakeholders by demonstrating progress or lack of.

The monitoring of interventions should be comprehensive and based on a systematic approach with buy in from all stakeholders and through a credible and committed entity based on measureable indicators on various levels as illustrated in figure (1) below⁴. Implementation indicators are used on a shorter level span compared to results indicators used for the longer term.

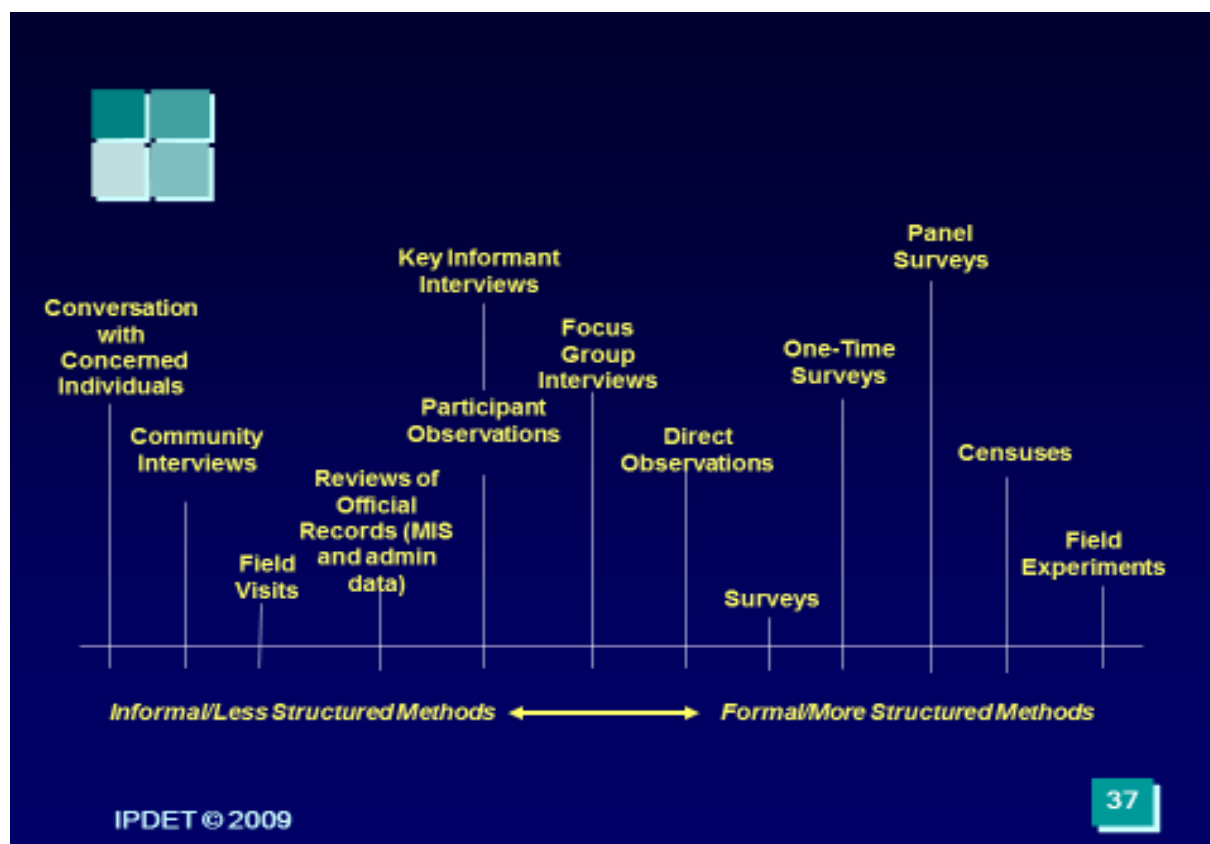
Figure (1): Key Types of Monitoring



Several methods could be used to measure indicators spanning informal less structured to the more formal more structured methods as indicated in figure (2) below

⁴ From IPEDT,2009

Figure (2): Methods Used to Measure Indicators ⁵



1.2 Overall Social Cluster Profile

Many challenges of the Palestinian residents of EJ are a result of the status of EJ as an occupied territory unilaterally annexed to Israel. Israel's policies on EJ fully serve Israel's political strategy of annexing and Judaizing EJ, ensure full political control over the occupied Palestinian population and impact their daily lives. There were 300,200 Palestinian Arabs in EJ in 2015 making 37% of the Jerusalem population. Some claim the number has reached 400,000 -40% of the Jerusalem population. There are 8501 children at risk⁶. The Jerusalemites make up 9% of all Palestinians of the Occupied State of Palestine and 14.6% of Palestinians in the WB⁷. Low income levels⁸ compounded by insecurities resulting from the political climate have had a profound adverse impact on the welfare of the Palestinians in the city especially of children and the youth.

Israel illegally claims that Jerusalem (WJ and EJ), is a unified city and the eternal capital of the state of Israel. Data however shows clearly that the city is anything but unified⁹. Social conditions in EJ have been steadily deteriorating. Poverty and unemployment rates have been

⁵ From IPEDT, 2009

⁶ Infographics: East Jerusalem by numbers, 2015. <https://972mag.com>

⁷ PCBS, -2015 Jerusalem Statistical Year Book

⁸ 75.4% of all Palestinian residents and 83% of Palestinian children in 2015 live below the poverty line according to the Association of Civil Rights in Israel

⁹ Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination <https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/>

rising steadily¹⁰, whilst Arab Jerusalemites receive proportionately small share of municipal services. Disparities between the city's Arab and Jewish population are reflected in all socioeconomic indicators as a result of an ongoing cycle of neglect and discrimination against the Arab residents. Disparities reflect the entrenched disadvantages of the Palestinian population of EJ (see annex one on comparative statistics on East and West Jerusalem).

Although Palestinian tax payers contribute over 30% of Jerusalem Municipality's budget they only receive approximately 10% back in services¹¹. Jerusalemites are bound to these payments as they are the only way to prove their center of life in the city, in accordance with the laws of Israel. Only 2.1% of cultural budget, 1.1% of business development budget and 4.4% of welfare budget is allocated to and spent in EJ¹².

The PNA has no jurisdiction on EJ, it cannot levy any taxes and it faces a severe budget deficit. Nevertheless, it allocates a budget to Jerusalem. The PNA's budget to EJ is however way below what the city requires. It has been around 6.5 million dollars in 2016 and throughout the past couple of years. Half of the allocation is actually received by the Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs (MoJA). The amount has been used in the past to generally cover urgent matters including home demolitions, *Arnona* and legal services¹³. It also covers some requirements outside of the wall. The wide gap in funding is clear when compared with the 2016 budget of the Israeli Municipality in Jerusalem of 5.165 billion New Israeli Shekels (NIS) (245 million NIS over 2015) and which makes up 5% of the national Israeli budget¹⁴.

Several Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and international organizations provide support to EJ institutions especially in the social sector (health, education culture and social welfare). They assist people and communities in coping with the adverse sociopolitical and economic environment and invariably contribute to filling in a portion of the gap of service provision by the Israeli Municipality of Jerusalem.

The number of EJ NGOs continues to decrease due to the ongoing Israeli harassment. Of special concern are organizations dealing with children and women's vital needs. The number of these organizations is incongruent with the extent of needed coverage. They also lack resources¹⁵. Several organizations have been forcibly closed by the Israeli authorities and continue to receive subsequent closure orders for many years now.

EJ organizations in general are under constant surveillance by Israel and subjected to continuous harassment and systematic punitive policies. Over 35 such local and international organizations which offer economic, cultural, housing, educational, legal and humanitarian services have recently received notifications from Israeli Banks to close their bank accounts and receive their holdings. This is an additional collective punishment measure further complicating the work of organizations in EJ¹⁶.

The funding to NGOs in EJ is geared towards sustaining, maintaining and developing EJ so that its population will not be coerced to leave, promoting steadfastness, empowering the Arab Palestinian community and contributing to building EJ - as much as possible- as a

¹⁰ Unemployment amongst the age group 15-19 is estimated at 30% and 22, 2% for the age group 20-24.

¹¹ ACRI, East Jerusalem 2015.Facts and Figures (May 2015)

¹² Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination [https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/\(from Ir Amim\)](https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/(from%20Ir%20Amim))

¹³ As in Rania Elias –a presentation on Culture in Jerusalem at Bir Zeit University 2016

¹⁴ As in Rania Elias –a presentation on Culture in Jerusalem at Bir Zeit University 2016

¹⁵ Interview with Sama Aweidah –Jerusalem women's studies Center

¹⁶ Ibrahim Sha'aban ,31/3/2017.Online available from <http://www.alquds.com/articles>

future capital of the State of Palestine .Funding support to EJ however, remains unpredictable although enhanced recent fundraising and coalition building strategies are helping institutions in their fundraising strategies as evidenced by the work of the East Jerusalem Hospital Network (EJHN) and the recent coalition amongst culture institutions -Network of Culture and Art Centers (*Shafaq*).

The EJ based NGOs working in the social sector and similar to all other NGOs working in other sectors in EJ and in the rest of the WB and GS for that matter, are highly dependent on donor support. Focus group sessions and those interviewed for this review called for further funding and attention to EJ including: endowments for youth, housing, social services and others, to maintain people's steadfastness and mitigate Israeli violations of the Palestinians political and socioeconomic and cultural rights.

Most interviewees stated that EJ is should not be considered as any other city when Palestinian governmental funding in support of the city is discussed. It is to be seen as a city in ongoing crisis and one which needs to be receiving utmost funding to combat Israeli measures in the city and minimize peoples push out of the city. Funding is also required to send a reliable message to EJ residents conveying and stressing the centrality of the city and it's hoped for status as a capital with concrete measures on the ground to maintain its people's steadfastness.

Maintaining and strengthening the remaining EJ service providing organizations thus requires continuous support and is in line with the National Policy #8 of the State of Palestine's National Policy Agenda. 2017-2022. The agenda focuses on improving services in a coherent manner. It emphasizes that recipients of services are closely involved in how services are provided and institutionalized. It particularly focuses on expanding and improving quality services delivered to area C and EJ while the role of the NGO actors in service delivery is strengthened.

Interventions in the social and other sectors in EJ, must however, be implemented in parallel to strong Palestinian, Arab and international support to the city's organizations and residents coupled with lobbying and support towards a political solution on EJ as part of the solution of the Palestinian Israeli conflict and ending occupation. In the interim, interventions must be implemented within the spirit of maintaining the Palestinian identity of EJ, the steadfastness of its people and its indigenous organizations and towards developing and positioning the city as the capital of the state of Palestine.

The general feeling however as voiced by stakeholders , and despite support to Jerusalem ,that neither the PNA ,nor the Arabs or the international community are doing enough towards occupied EJ and that EJ is marginalized and abandoned further exacerbating its isolation and intensifying the push factors imposed on its people forcing them to leave the city¹⁷.Challenges are also compounded by the existence of multiple frames of reference to residents of EJ without a unified and clear address for Palestinian policy and follow up, thus diluting efforts and their impact ¹⁸.

Although not much intervention is allowed by the Israelis in EJ in terms of construction and infrastructure, yet a lot may be done in terms of empowering the living stones-the

¹⁷ This was confirmed by all focus group discussions and individual interviews

¹⁸ This was brought up by the majority of speakers in the meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) April 30th- May 3rd 2018 who clearly requested the restructuring and the presentation of one address

Palestinians of EJ¹⁹. These living stones have once again confirmed the importance of solidarity and social cohesion in steadfastness and lobbying for their rights under occupation as clearly expressed in the people's-the Jerusalemites- mobilization against Israeli measures in the *Al Aqsa Mosque Compound /Haram Al Sharif* in summer 2017 and in the brave stance in early 2018 by head of churches, institutions and people against the Israeli attempts to change the status quo through the new imposed taxation on churches. The people's response alongside retracting measures by Israel, have reignited the light of hope and reinvigorated belief in people's power, a power which could very well be tapped on²⁰.

¹⁹ As iterated by Fadwa El Shaer

²⁰ This was emphasized by Mahdi Abdel Hadi-PASSIA in the International Seminar on Palestine and the peace process on the Occasion of the 23rd Session of the PNC April,29-May1,2018 in his intervention on East Jerusalem; the Capital of the State of Palestine-Ramallah

2. Education Sector

2.1 Sector profile

Pre School Education

The Free Education Law of Israel stipulates that children under three are entitled to enrollment in Kindergartens (KG) and that children over the age of three are entitled to free education. However, preschool education is not widely available in EJ. It is provided mainly by private/charitable and Israeli Municipality related institutions with limited coverage.

Palestinian pre-school education falls under the responsibility of the Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MoEHE) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA). There are only 4 Palestinian preschools affiliated with MoEHE, while most private schools in EJ have preschool classes.⁴⁵ such preschools are licensed by MoEHE while there are some private schools unrecognized by MoEHE but licensed by the Israeli Municipality in Jerusalem²¹.

UNRWA schools do not provide preschool education. There are acute shortages for preschools and KG space with many parents who want their children to join preschools but have nowhere to send them to²². There are thousands of preschoolers in EJ (3-4 years old)-90% are not enrolled in a program. Only 6% of Jerusalem Children attend public preschools despite being entitled to free education²³. There are only 3 municipal preschools in EJ compared to 56 in WJ²⁴. There is a shortage of some 400 KG classrooms in EJ²⁵.

Quality in preschool education is not up to standard. The qualifications of teachers range from *Tawjihi* to a first degree in education-preschool education. Teachers receive in-service trainings organized by the Early Childhood Resource Centre (ECRC), MoEHE and the Israeli municipality on curriculum development, methods of teaching and teaching materials.

Basic School education

The school age population in EJ rose from 74,312 in 2010/2011 to 82,921 in 2016/2017²⁶. Another figure quotes 109,391 registered children enrolled in 224 schools in the year 2016²⁷. Basic schooling continues to be provided in 3 types of schools: (1) *Awkaf* Schools in collaboration with the MoEHE, UNRWA schools and private and church related schools (68 schools with 20% of school children), (2) public schools of the Israeli municipality of Jerusalem (82 schools with 41% of children) and (3) the recognized but unofficial schools owned by private entities and recently supervised by the Israeli Jerusalem municipality (74 schools with 40% of school children).

The precise number of Palestinian children of Jerusalem who do not attend school is unknown. The Israeli Ministry of Interior indicates that in 2016 there were 127,198

²¹ Communication with the Directorate of Education –Jerusalem

²² Stephen Lendman-East Jerusalem Schools-Failing grade. (June 10th 2012)<http://rense.com>

²³ ACRI report. Poverty, blight and neglect in East Jerusalem 2014

²⁴ East Jerusalem poverty –Seven months in Tel Aviv –A tale of two cities–<https://sevenmonthsintela>

²⁵ Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination <https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/> (from ACRI)

²⁶ Information provided by the Jerusalem Directorate of Education on distribution of children in different types of schools in EJ

²⁷ Statistics by the Israeli municipality in Jerusalem (2016) and PASSIA (2016). There are conflicting figures-another figure quoted is 89,543 in Haaretz 31 August 2016 by Hasson: How many new schools has Israel built in EJ? Depends who's counting

Palestinian children between 3-18 years living in Jerusalem of whom 109,481 were enrolled in different types of schools with a gap of 17,717 children on whom information is missing²⁸. The relatively low percentage of students attending public schools is partly because of shortage of classrooms (39,141 in municipal schools, 30,260 in private schools, 12,312 in *Awkaf* schools and 1,208 in UNRWA schools in 2016/2017)²⁹. Thousands are forced to enroll in private non-municipal or unofficial schools due to lack of space and obliged to bear the burden of school fees in a deteriorating economic context where nearly 80% of the population is impoverished³⁰.

The per student budget allocation in Primary schools in WJ is about 4 times that of EJ. According to Ir Amim, only 13-15% of the Jerusalem municipality's budget to education is allotted to EJ. Each Jewish student is allotted 27,000 NIS yearly compared to 20,000 for Arab students and 33,000 NIS for religious Jewish students³¹.

Primary and secondary education in EJ, the basis for all formal education, are characterized by insufficient capacity and over crowdedness. There has been a chronic shortage of classrooms in EJ currently estimated at 2,627 classrooms³² over 1000 classrooms from 2003³³ with an estimated need for 70 new classrooms yearly³⁴, given the 2.7% growth of the Palestinian population in EJ³⁵. Although there are few construction plans by the municipality such as in Jabal Al Mukabber and there are classrooms currently under construction, yet this will in no way come close to bridging the gap between what is needed and what will be available to accommodate the increasing number of school children.

The education system is generally challenged by lack of ability to obtain the necessary licenses for constructing new schools, lack of allocated public land space, and lack of financial resources and at the same time reluctance to turn away school applicants'. This has resulted in accepting more children than the schools can accommodate, resulting in heavily overcrowded schools and classrooms. The average number of students per classroom varies per type of school. Average class size in EJ is 32 compared to 24 in WJ³⁶. The area available for each student is 0.5 square meters, compared to the average 1.5 square meters worldwide.

Due to classroom shortages, some families send their children to WB schools. There are conflicting statistics on the number of children from grades one to twelve who do not attend school and the numbers soar higher when 5 year olds are included³⁷. Schools are also generally characterized by the absence of specialized laboratories, appropriate sanitation facilities, playgrounds and facilities for students with special needs. Only 20 school psychologists work with EJ schools out of 150 staff positions in Jerusalem (East and West).

Palestinian Residents of EJ have to choose between municipality/Israeli ministry of education provided education with a strong Israeli influence and the Palestinian oriented *Awkaf* /Government and private schools. Application of an Israeli curriculum in Israeli municipality affiliated schools as well as municipality funded private schools compromises substance and

²⁸ Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2017-Facts and Figures (May 2017)

²⁹ Information provided by the Jerusalem Directorate of Education on distribution of children in different types of schools in EJ

³⁰ Stephen Lendman-East Jerusalem Schools-Failing grade. (June 10th 2012)<http://rense.com>

³¹ Al Quds Newspaper (September 9th 2017). With the beginning of the new school year, Israel is continuing in imposing its curriculum. By Rasem Ebeidat

³² Jerusalem Post, August 31st-Study: More EJ students opt for informal education and Ir Amim

³³ Multi Sector Review and Strategy for East Jerusalem 2003

³⁴ PASSIA-Agenda 2017

³⁵ Jerusalem Institute of statistical Studies, Statistical yearbook of Jerusalem 2016 –Referring to average 2010-2014

³⁶ East Jerusalem poverty –Seven months in Tel Aviv –A tale of two cities –<https://sevenmonthsin.telaviv.com>

³⁷ Stephen Lendman-East Jerusalem Schools-Failing grade. (June 10th 2012)<http://rense.com>

academic freedom and inhibits Palestinian identity and knowledge of Palestinian history and heritage³⁸.

A censored version of the Palestinian curriculum is taught in public schools where sentences and paragraphs considered against Israeli ideologies, anything considered offensive to Israel, including anti-Israeli expressions and any mention of the PNA are deleted. The purpose is to distort the Palestinian narrative and identity and to promote a Palestinian generation who sees occupation as normal and who may perceive themselves as Israelis, not Palestinians³⁹. Israel recently announced it will allocate 2 billion shekels, most of it for introducing the Israeli curriculum in EJ schools⁴⁰.

About 100,000 Palestinian students study the Palestinian curriculum and 1,500 study the Israeli one. Furthermore, according to Israeli statistics, eight out of 180 schools teach the Israeli syllabus while several schools opened few classrooms to teach the Israeli curriculum⁴¹. Another source claims 10 of EJ's public Palestinian schools changed to the Israeli curriculum and about 5,000 of the 110,00 Palestinian pupils of EJ's 185 public and private establishments study the Israeli program⁴².

Incentives provided to schools by the municipality and the Israeli ministry of education for introducing an Israeli curriculum is one of many steps aiming at Israelizing EJ. Incentives-including monetary support per number of students on one hand - compared with limited financial support to schools on the other tilts the pendulum in favor of the introduction of the Israeli curriculum which is on the rise in EJ schools⁴³.

In 2016, The Israeli Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs approved the transfer some 20 million NIS for the renovation of existing Arab school buildings and the development of additional Arab educational structures in EJ. It has however, made this budget transfer conditional on the Arab schools' adoption of the Israeli curriculum⁴⁴. The head of one East Jerusalem school was offered triple the annual budget for each pupil, from about 500 NIS (\$144) to 1,500 NIS if he agreed to the adoption of the Israeli Curriculum⁴⁵.

Financing and tuition fees vary according to the type of school affiliation. Some private schools (recognized by the Israeli municipality with control by the municipality and those which have accepted to introduce elements of the Israeli curriculum) receive subsidies from the Israeli municipality reaching 85% of the cost per student and based on a yearly endorsement of their accreditation by the Israeli Ministry of Education. Municipal subsidies to schools in EJ reached 26 million NIS⁴⁶.

Remuneration of teachers differs by type of school: At the lowest end are teachers of the *Awkaf* schools (highest salary 6100 NIS per month and lowest 3326 NIS) while at the highest end are teachers of the Israeli municipal schools (average 7500 NIS)⁴⁷. The gap in salaries is a

³⁸ In an interview with Dr Hanna Issa as published in Maan News 3-10-2017

³⁹ How Israel occupies education in East Jerusalem-Raids on schools are part of Israel's strategy to control what Palestinian children are learning, observers say, by Jaclynn Ashly. (Dec 8th 2017) <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017>

⁴⁰ Aziza Nofal. Vying for minds in East Jerusalem schools. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/06/east-jerusalem-palestinians-education-schools-israel-aid.html>. Quoting Palestinian Education Ministry spokesman Sadiq al-Khadour

⁴¹ Israel lures East Jerusalem schools to abandon Palestinian syllabus-The Arab weekly, (August 21, 2016) <https://theArabweekly.com>

⁴² Carrot, not stick': Israel pushes its curriculum in Palestinian schools. Maayan Lubell, Suheir Sheikh (JUNE 29, 2017). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-jerusalem-schools>

⁴³ Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2017-Facts and Figures (May 2017)

⁴⁴ Adalah: Conditioning budgets for repairing East Jerusalem schools on adoption of Israeli curriculum is illegal-<https://www.adalah.org/>

⁴⁵ Carrot, not stick': Israel pushes its curriculum in Palestinian schools. Maayan Lubell, Suheir Sheikh (JUNE 29, 2017). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-jerusalem-schools>

⁴⁶ Communication with the Directorate of Education-

⁴⁷ Information provided by the Jerusalem Directorate of Education on distribution of children in different types of schools in EJ

main reason for teacher turnout detrimental for the quality of education .Additionally, travel restrictions to Jerusalem invariably make it harder for EJ schools to attract teachers from a wider pool of available teachers in the WB.

Dropout rates at EJ schools are much higher than the average in Israel or the WB⁴⁸.They stand at 9% for grade 9, 16% for grade 10, 26% for grade 11 and 33% for grade 12 compared with a drop out of around 5.4% in 11th grade and 1.4% in 12th grade in Jewish schools and 13% in WB schools. Female school dropout is higher than that in the WB mainly due to lack of schools and the need for females to go out of their local community for schooling such as in Silwan and Al Thory.

Parents are reluctant to send their daughters away from their community due to fear of Drugs, harassment by soldiers and cost⁴⁹ .The municipal budget for preventing school dropout in EJ is 3 million NIS against an estimated 15 million required to comprehensively address the problem⁵⁰ . Despite the high dropout rate in EJ schools, there are only 4 staff positions for coping with students at risk of dropout in EJ (only one actually filled) compared to 17 officers in WJ⁵¹.

The Wall restricts the movement of thousands of teachers and students, and disrupts the educational encounter. Around 20% of teachers in EJ schools are from the WB⁵² and their work life is much dependent on the permits they must secure to enter EJ. This puts teachers under ongoing strain and insecurity and fear of losing their job and invariably affects their performance.

Likewise, students have to cross 12 check points which are part of the wall and some within to enter EJ for schooling⁵³ and face numerous difficulties daily including: harassment at checkpoints, denial of passage or delays and loss of school days (over 500 class hours lost in 2015-16)⁵⁴. Similar to their teachers, this ongoing stress also affects the student's mental health and school performance with long lasting impact. The effects of restricted access to education are compounded by the lack of recreational and cultural services and outlets for the children and the youth of EJ.

School infrastructure in many schools is problematic due to age of buildings and poor maintenance. Many schools/classrooms are in rented buildings not initially built as schools and thus lack recreational, safety and basic school facilities. Almost a third of Israeli municipal school classrooms (548 from 1783) are either housed in rented facilities and or do not meet standards ⁵⁵. Despite calls for “inclusive school education” accommodating children with special needs do not have the infrastructure fit to accommodate special needs students. There are currently 49 special needs students in *Awkaf* schools (4% of the school population) with vision, hearing or movement problems⁵⁶.

⁴⁸ PASSIA-2016.Education in Jerusalem bulletin

⁴⁹ Interview with Sama Aweidah-Women's Studies Center-Jerusalem

⁵⁰ Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015)

⁵¹ Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2017-Facts and Figures (May 2017)

⁵² Confirmed by Samir Jibreel-Directorate of Education

⁵³ Ministry of Education statistics 2015

⁵⁴ Ministry of Education statistics 2015

⁵⁵ PASSIA-based <http://main.knesset.gov.il/activity/committees/Education> 2016

⁵⁶ Information provided by the Jerusalem Directorate of Education on distribution of children in different types of schools in EJ (numbers in other types of schools not available)

Higher education

Two Palestinian universities operate in EJ: Al Quds University (AQU) (main Campus in Abu Dis with 11,900 students 40% originating from Jerusalem) and its two EJ branches in Dar Al Tifel-Hind Al Hussein in Wadi El Joz (492 females) and Beit Hanina (443) students all from Jerusalem. It also operates several centers in EJ within its campuses or outside including the Jerusalem Studies Center (16 students), Burj Allaqlaq (91 students) and the Community Action Center all in the Old City as well as among others, the Child Institute and the Jerusalem Institute for health research⁵⁷ outside the Old City. The second university is Al Quds Open University with 776 students in its Jerusalem branch⁵⁸ in the Mount of Olives.

AQU has had a long history of development and expansion of academic fields and graduate studies. The University however, suffers from chronic financial deficiency and inability to cover its expenditures. Its staff has a backlog of percentages of unpaid monthly salaries. Although the university shares many of the challenges of providing higher education similar to other higher education institutions in Palestine, yet its problems are aggravated by its location, its several campuses and the additional expenses resulting from operating in EJ.

AQU graduates have over the years faced problems with their certificates being recognized by Israel. This has affected their ability to secure employment in Israel. Accreditation and recognition of the university and its certificates by Israel has been contested with some success by AQU and its graduate's ⁵⁹. It is expected that the university will continue to be challenged in this regard as this is part of the larger political struggle over EJ.

The AQU's main campus in Abu Dis is close to the wall and has been a site of frequent Israeli military raids and clashes between students and Israeli soldiers. These clashes and Israeli military raids of the Abu Dis campus, disrupt in most instances, the educational encounter and result in destruction of property, detention of students and additional structural rehabilitation costs.

There are also two colleges operating in EJ: Al Ummah College in Dahiet Al Barid outside the wall and Al Ibrahimiyeh Community College in the Mount of Olives which offer 2-4 year higher education programs.

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)

There are several TVET institutions in EJ falling under 3 main categories: formal institutions following the Palestinian curriculum (vocational secondary schools that accept students in grade 11, community colleges which accept students after finishing school to enroll in a 2 year vocational program), vocational training centers including private and non-governmental and Israeli vocational schools following the Israeli curriculum).

Almost all students in vocational training in EJ TVET institutions are Jerusalemites and from both genders. The YWCA of Jerusalem is the main provider of TVET to females'. Other providers include: Lutheran world Federation (LWF), Al Yateem Al Arabi and Dar il Aytam Al Islamiya. The YWCA has been offering courses for those who are over 18 years. The

⁵⁷ Statistics on AQU obtained through communication with Dr.Safa Naseriddin - Vice President's office in Nov 2017

⁵⁸ Communication with Issam Altarteer /Registrar/Al-Quds Open University –November 2017

⁵⁹ 55 medical graduates took their case to the Israeli court which in 2014 ruled in their favor and granted them permission to sit for the Israeli licensing exam

LWF has followed this path recently allowing those over 18 to join. The rest are schools catering for classes 11, 12 leading to *Tawjihi Mihani*.

Keeping up with modern technology and attracting highly qualified trainers are problematic. Up-to-date learning/teaching materials are not always available and teaching methods are conventional. Several institutions operate below their potential coupled with a relatively high dropout rate with a low trainer to trainee ratio. Limited guidance and counselling regarding TVET takes place in schools regarding availability, programs and future potential for work. This greatly hampers the effectiveness of providing and benefiting from TVET as well as meeting the job market requirements.

The YWCA has in early May 2018 taken the lead to gather stakeholders to discuss policies and strategies of TVET in EJ, roles and activities of stakeholders, problems and potential for development aiming at improving training and employability in the city. The outcome was perceived as promising “as what prevailed was the spirit to revive the LET council in Jerusalem with a special focus on the organizations working inside the separation wall, with the aim of consolidating the efforts towards an inclusive atmosphere that will lead to the common aims”⁶⁰.

2.2 SWOT Analysis

The following is a SWOT analysis as reflected through feedback elicited from Focus group participants and individual interviews (see annex two)

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
Human resources	School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from Parents Association • Support from the local community • Dedicated teachers committed to work in EJ 	Preschool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor incentives and pay compared to municipal schools • Deficiency in numbers and qualifications
Management /supervision	School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of an active Directorate of Education • Cooperative indigenous Palestinian education leadership • Cooperation between the various types of Palestinian schools • Current support to educational counselling by MOEHE and others TVET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A higher council for TVET 	Preschool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of a strategy School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible disappearance of indigenous historic education leadership in the next decade • Lack of research on schooling • Some schools do not receive subsidies from the municipality exacerbating their financial situation • Rebellious students difficult to control • Lack of a unified supervisory umbrella • Emergence and increase of the so called private contractual schools with poor supervision and as a profit making venture TVET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak counselling
Achievements	School <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to develop the Palestinian curriculum • Some well-developed schools 	School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak use of modern technology • Limited programs for weak students • High dropout rates especially for males

⁶⁰ Communique with May Amireh–YWCA May-2018 and conference minutes obtained from the YWCA

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
	Higher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining campuses within the wall • Various programs including Medicine TVET • A variety of programs available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demotivated students • Prevalence of the art stream versus the scientific stream • Lack of a long term education strategy for Jerusalem Higher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with accreditation of programs by Israel • Gap between graduates and market needs TVET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak counselling preparation for TVET • Poor perception of TVET
Finances and funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited with lack of sustainability • Incentives by the municipality weakening the Palestinian curriculum⁶¹
Infrastructure	School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some schools have available and unutilized infrastructure that may be used after school hours TVET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of infrastructure and prominent schools 	Preschool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited in general and specifically for children with special needs School: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited use of technology • Lack of infrastructure for extracurricular activities • Limited libraries • Several schools unsuitable for the educational encounter –many housed in home buildings • Limited space and over crowdedness • Difficulty in obtaining licenses • Difficulty in accommodating children with special needs Higher: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of only female programs TVET <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak infrastructure to accommodate new nontraditional programs and keeping up with modern technology

Threats include:

- Israeli efforts towards Israelizing the school curriculum and other harassments including raiding of schools and detention of students with lack of awareness of legal issues
- Perception of people on effectiveness and benefits of Israeli educational set ups versus Palestinian especially in regards to securing future jobs
- Difficult socioeconomic environment with immensity of needs, political uncertainties and ongoing emergency
- Proliferation of non-municipal Israeli (Contractor) schools
- Disappearance of the Historic education leaders in 10-15 years without preparation of leaders to take over
- Social ills and increasing school dropout rate
- Lack of financial sustainability.

⁶¹ For further elaboration from key informants from Jerusalem—see Aziza Nofal.Vying for minds in East Jerusalem schools.<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/06/east-jerusalem-palestinians-education-schools-israel-aid.html>.

Opportunities include:

- Finding an overall umbrella for oversight of Palestinian education in EJ
- A strengthened role by the school children parents association and the teachers union
- Interest to support by Arab Funds and others
- Following the system of “charter schools” for additional school funding
- Cooperation with the private sector and linkage between education and other sectors
- Further linkages and cooperation with the community and increased extracurricular activities
- Increased demand on national –Palestinian schools versus municipal schools
- Further recognition of AQU’s programs with a strengthened dialogue with basic education and employers. Further recognition of AQU programs may also pave the way for attracting Arab students from Israel
- Strengthening quality through the available capacity building programs available to teachers and counselors with focus on children with special needs
- A national strategy for education in EJ endorsed by the PNA ⁶²
- Absorption by the Israeli market of TVET graduates and the further need for TVET graduates in East and West Jerusalem ⁶³
- An active umbrella to oversee TVET in EJ including all stakeholders⁶⁴.

2.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions

Preschool Education

There is a substantial need for developing and expanding preschool education⁶⁵ for a population that is increasingly conscious of its importance for readiness for primary schooling. Consequently, priority interventions include:

- Supporting the increase in the numbers of Kindergartens (KG)/preschools to allow for more intake. Special emphasis on KGs around areas most affected by the wall where it is most difficult to move children in general and those with special needs in particular.
- Supporting capacity and human resource development related to training of kindergarten and preschool operators. University programs and those offered by the few childhood training centers need support to continue training KG managers and special education teachers particularly on early detection of special needs and counseling.
- Supporting production of early childhood educational material and making available educational material at kindergartens.
- Supporting programs for talented children.
- Supporting the introduction of a health component in the operation of KGs aiming at monitoring and improving the nutritional status of children.

School Education

New schools are needed to solve the existing capacity problems and to provide new places for the growing school population. There is a need for developing and improving schools which are characterized by insufficiency to accommodate the increasing numbers of students,

⁶² The Palestinian Government in its meeting Number 206 of May 2018, endorsed a national plan for supporting education in Jerusalem calling for allocating required budgets for improving the educational environment and encounter in the city

⁶³ This point stressed by Noora Qort

⁶⁴ Strongly stressed in the YWCA’s conference on TVET on May 3rd 2018 and subsequent meeting of stakeholders on May 12th 2018

⁶⁵ This is supported in the State of Palestine’s National Policy Agenda 2017-2022-National Policy and Policy Interventions under National Priority 8 on improving early childhood and preschool education

relatively poor infrastructure and low quality, whilst improving student enrolment and retention with a focus on supporting and protecting Palestinian education in EJ⁶⁶ Although there is a definite need for more school buildings to be acquired or constructed yet , rehabilitation and improvement of existing schools may be more feasible and of a higher priority . Improved facilities of existing schools will attract more students and might provide a basis for new expansion in the future, while poor infrastructure will induce withdrawal of students once capacity elsewhere (unicipal schools) will become available. In this context, *Awqaf* /MOEHE and UNRWA related schools need to compete with Municipal schools. Priority interventions include:

- Continuing the fight for maintaining the Palestinian curriculum in EJ. The Israeli government's diligent efforts to Israelize the curriculum and have it devoid of Palestinian nationalism (or so called incitement) need to continue to be lobbied against if a Palestinian identity in EJ is to be maintained and promoted. A strategy by the PNA on the issue is essential along with work with the Parents association and civil society organizations ⁶⁷
- New classrooms ⁶⁸and new schools if and when a land is available. However, in the interim, urgent repairs and renovation of existing school buildings and classrooms to improve physical conditions of education⁶⁹. A program for school rehabilitation and upgrading should be based on a detailed inventory assessing upgrading infrastructure including requirements for modern teaching materials tapping on previous work carried out by the Feisal Hussein Foundation and others.
Cost estimates should be prepared for realizing these upgrading needs, both in terms of initial investment costs and the implications for operating costs. Based on the needs assessment, priorities can be assigned with respect to the upgrading of various schools. Rehabilitation of the *Awqaf* /Government schools is a priority. Most of the existing schools do not meet the minimum requirement.
- There is a need to decrease the gap between salaries and benefits of teachers in non-municipal schools with those run by the municipality/ Israeli Ministry of Education and or private schools. Turnover of teachers in *Awqaf* /government schools will remain high with subsequent negative impact on quality. Improving quality should be an important concern. It can only be assured through stable and qualified staffing, which can only be achieved by offering appropriate employment packages and conditions.
- Supporting programs geared towards improving use of technology, teaching English as well as improving management capacity are priority.
- Tackling and following up on the alarming drop outs is a priority in light of the high percentage of dropouts and the expected gloomy future for the dropout under occupation and deteriorating socio- economic conditions
- Continued monitoring of the effects of the Wall on the educational encounter in EJ.

The national plan for supporting education in Jerusalem endorsed by the PNA in May 2018 calls for allocating required budgets for improving the educational environment and encounter in the city and includes focus on most areas listed above. The PNA approved \$30 million to support and improve education in EJ and counter Israel's efforts to impose its

⁶⁶ This is supported in the State of Palestine's National Policy Agenda 2017-2022-National Policy and Policy Interventions under National Priority 8

⁶⁷ Strongly advocated by Rasem Ebeidat Al Quds Newspaper (September 9th 2017). With the beginning of the new school year, Israel is continuing in imposing its curriculum. .

⁶⁸ There is a need of 2,200classrooms –PASSIA 2016 based on a report by Israeli rights organizations –<http://www.acri.org.il/ar>

⁶⁹ This was also recommended by Samir Jibril Director of the Palestinian education governorate and Khitam Hanoun director of the buildings section at the Palestinian education governorate in a hearing session in Jerusalem titled Infrastructure in Jerusalem schools published in Al Quds newspaper on March 2nd 2017

curriculum and undermine the use of the Arab language in Palestinian schools. It will also bring Palestinian KGs up to par with Israeli ones, reducing school fees, supporting staff of the EJ Directorate schools, maintaining and adding classrooms to private schools, teaching the Palestinian curriculum, purchase new buildings for schools, computers for students and provide scholarships to students from EJ⁷⁰.

Higher education

- AQU is one of the few strong Palestinian entities left in EJ. Its importance lies in not only being the most important and comprehensive Palestinian tertiary education set up in EJ but as a strategic Palestinian organization functioning in EJ which requires continued support for maintaining operation and expansion to include programs as per market needs. Special focus and support is required towards its campuses within the Wall: Dar el Tifel and Beit Hanina.

Vocational and Technical Training

- Need to upgrade facilities and equipment with special arrangements for trainees with disabilities.
- Networking and strengthening links between the TVET institutions is of high priority. Such networking should be based on internal strengthening of the institution and strengthening links with the labor market.
- Increasing the efficiency and effectiveness, enhancing the relevance, accessibility to and equity of the system and strengthening the sustainability of the system with better linkages and interface with business and industry⁷¹.
- Supporting new programs and diversification especially for females
- Developing and upgrading curricula
- Creating an umbrella body to oversee TVET in EJ, with the need to conduct an in depth situation assessment and develop a strategy for TVET in EJ as part of Palestine's TVET strategy⁷².

2.4 Cost of Program

Suggested interventions below are meant to improve coverage and learning outcomes by expanding and improving education infrastructure: facilities and human resources and diversifying programs for further availability, accessibility and quality of education and improving employability of graduates through relevant of education,

⁷⁰ Aziza Nofal. Vying for minds in East Jerusalem schools.<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/06/east-jerusalem-palestinians-education-schools-israel-aid.html> .Quoting Palestinian Education Ministry spokesman Sadiq al-Khadour

⁷¹ Supported by the National Policy Agenda 2018-2022

⁷² This recommendation and most of the other recommendations were also stressed in the conference on TVET and sustainable development held at the YWCA early May 2018 with participation by the Jerusalem Governorate, the private sector, Ministry of Labor, the donor community, TVET institutions in EJ and others

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost -USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
SHORT TERM					
Support KGs-preschools :Establishing KGs-preschools, Including a health program, teacher training and educational material	Need to increase number of KGs as per increasing demand Need to improve effectiveness and efficiency for better services	3 KGs developed 20 KGs supported towards: Institution of a health program 40 teachers trained Early childhood education material developed and or modified	Improved accessibility to KGs -preschools Improved quality of KG – preschool services to children and their families Children better prepared for schooling	1,000,000	Early childhood research Center (ECRC), Union of Medical Relief Committees (UMRC)
Create a unified supervisory entity for education in EJ	Important to unify vision and mission and the follow up on current and arising challenges in a unified manner and front by the multiple providers	One unified supervisory entity	Unified oversight of education services in EJ with more relevant, effective and efficient operation by the various types and providers of schooling	250,000	MoEHE, Waqf, Private and charitable schools, universities, civil society, TVET providers and others
Purchase of land if available and or turning available buildings to schools	Need to increase availability of educational facilities in EJ to accommodate the numbers of out of school children in EJ and to respond to the increasing numbers of school children	Two-three lots of land purchased for school establishment Three available buildings turned to schools	Improved capacity to accommodate students Decreased dropout rate as a result of further capacity to accommodate students	20,000,000	Awqaf- MoEHE,
Support to Parents association	Strengthened advocacy by parents is important for accountability by schools and for a unified and more strengthened stance on curriculum related issues	Association instituted through: a focal person, a small office and clear regulations	Increased and more effective role of parents in terms of advocacy and follow up on educational issues for further accountability of providers and Palestinisation issues	100,000	Faisal Hussein Foundation
Budget for rehabilitation of school Infrastructure	Need to rehabilitate schools in EJ especially those with extreme poor physical conditions and to improve accessibility to students with special needs	20-25 schools rehabilitated based on an inventory of priority intervention in schools	Improved school environment for students and teachers Improved accessibility to and retention of disabled students	5,000,000	MoEHE, Faisal Hussein Foundation, UNDP, Taawon, Islamic Development Bank
Upgrade school equipment and educational aids	Need to upgrade equipment and education aids or insure availability	10 schools supported with educational equipment and	Improved educational encounter and satisfaction of	2,000,000	MoEHE, Faisal Hussein Foundation

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost -USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
	especially in schools with limited educational equipment and aids to promote quality of education and make schooling more enjoyable	aids based on an inventory of priority schools	students and teachers. May also contribute to decreasing student's dropout and teacher's turnover		
Fund for teacher training	Teacher training is a continuous process and a requirement for improve quality of education	100 teachers from various types of schools especially those with limited funding receive further training	Improved educational encounter Satisfaction of students, parents and teachers	2,000,000	MoEHE ,UNRWA, Waqf, and private schools ,universities, Faisal Hussein Foundation
Encourage schools to open up facilities for extracurricular and out of school activities	Out of school activities are important for children's wellbeing and constructive engagement after school hours. Opening up of school facilities will, provide children with social space which is very restricted in EJ and paves way for more efficient use of space and resources in EJ	10 schools receiving support to open up facilities for extracurricular and out of school activities	More available social space for children after school Improved efficiency in relation to space and resource utilization Safe haven for children to channel their energies	1,000,000	MoEHE ,UNRWA, Waqf, and private schools, parents ,donor countries
Support to AQU	Support to training programs-short term- with focus on programs which meet the requirements of this review and across the review of other sectors. Such as, in tourism, teacher training, conservation, traditional arts and marketing and others	60 trained in various fields	Improved availability of local human resources in various fields	2,000,000	AQU, donor countries, specialized centers and groups in EJ
Support to TVET	Need to continue to training skilled workers for employment. This may be accomplished by: Developing existing infrastructure, improving the technical skills of trainers, modernizing equipment and enriching the curricula. Apprenticeship program for graduates	3 TVET schools supported for improved physical and human infrastructure 100 graduates supported in an apprenticeship program for one year	More effective and relevant training of skilled workers for employment Increased utilization of current institutions, Improved linkage between graduates and market and employer needs	2,000,000	TVET centers, donor countries, Ministry of Labor
School Dropout	A study needs to be conducted. Study to propose mitigation, measures and programs to be implemented in the long term while addressing issues	Study report on an in depth assessment on school dropouts available	Minimized long term effects of dropouts Decreased student dropout	20,000	External consultant

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost -USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
	related to student mobility, alternate routes and time lines to school completion, as well as engage in rigorous evaluation of school-completion programs.		rate in EJ		
TOTAL				34,370,000	
LONG TERM					
Establishing new schools	Increase number of schools to meet the increasing demand	3 new schools established	Improved accommodation of students Decreased drop rate	20,000,000	Donor countries, MoEHE, private sector
Rehabilitation of schools	Continue with rehabilitation needs as per an inventory and development plan	20-30 schools rehabilitated	Improved school environment for students and teachers Improved accessibility to and retention of disabled students Satisfaction of students and teachers	4,000,000	MoEHE, Faisal Hussein Foundation ,UNDP, TAAWON
Special Education	Need to accommodate students with special education needs –many of which are currently serviced by centers in WJ	In-depth study on nature of services and potential implementing organizations Expand services of current organizations and or add services as per need	Improved and more accessible services to students with special needs	2,000,000	MoEHE, Faisal Hussein Foundation and others ,Princess Basma Hospital other related organizations
Remedial programs for school dropouts	Preventing school dropout and successful graduation is a national concern and a challenge for schools with youth at risk. Students disengage from school and drop out for a variety of reasons. No child should be left behind	200 students-Potential dropouts at risk -receiving remedial tutoring for one year	Decreased student dropout rate in EJ Minimized long term effects of dropouts	500,000	Schools, Colleges,
School for gifted children	Gifted Children require special attention and nurturing. There is currently no school catering to the	School established	Gifted children in a nurturing and stimulating environment suiting there	5,000,000	MoEHE, Faisal Hussein Foundation and others, parents, universities

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost -USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
	needs of gifted children in EJ. Proper attention to gifted children in early years is an investment for the future of the child and nationally		needs National contributions through energies, effort and inventions of gifted children		
Extra Curriculum Education-activities	Extracurricular activities for students of all ages up to secondary stage during or after school hours such as: Field trips, Lectures, workshops, films...etc. are as important as the formal educational encounter in its contribution to widening children's horizon and experiencing the world around them.	A system of Extra curriculum educational activities instituted formally in 50 schools and initiation phase supported for one year	Improved educational encounter Satisfaction of students, parents and teachers	2,000,000	MoEHE, private sector Faisal Hussein Parents association and others
TOTAL				34,500,500	

2.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation

Several input, output and outcome indicators may be used for monitoring and evaluating interventions in the Education sector proposed above including but not limited to:

- Percent of Drop outs of grade 9 and 12 in comparison to baseline data in East and WJ
- Percent of eligible EJ children enrolled in schools/preschools
- Number of families participating in school related program
- Number of children, parents and employers who participate in school awareness raising events, disaggregated by gender
- Number of trained teachers and school managers
- % of total PNA funds allocated to education in EJ
- Number and type of measures introduced aimed at supporting the access and regular attendance of children with disabilities
- Number and type of different university education programs available and those added
- Number of schools rehabilitated
- Additional number of new schools
- Number of schools and facilities utilized for out of school activities
- After school programs that are developed and offered
- Number of students engaged in after school programs
- Number of new classrooms
- Average number of students per class and by type of school
- Additional number of facilities established/operational (Laboratories, sports etc.)
- Funding from diverse resources
- Numbers of schools with parents committees
- Numbers and types of special education programs established
- Numbers of students in special education programs
- Number and types of student's inventions/creative initiatives
- Numbers of teachers trained
- Numbers of students passing the various streams of the *Tawjihi* exam.

2.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Political-occupation related			
• Deterioration on the political level	Medium	High	• Ongoing monitoring of the situation
• Continued closure of Jerusalem and its institutions and the difficult mobility into the city	High	Medium	• Continuous monitoring of Israeli actions vis-à-vis institutions in EJ. • Continuous lobbying with the international community on the status of EJ
• Increasing harassment of schools with focus on israelizing the school curriculum and conditional municipal funding.	Medium	High	• Public emphasis on the fact that fund assistance is legally authorized to Jerusalem as an occupied city • Public lobbying on maintaining the Palestinian curriculum
• Finding qualified teachers with ease of mobility to EJ which may result in failure to sustain operations and compromise quality of education	Medium	High	• Invest in a teacher development program • Support to AQU and Al Quds Open University towards their teacher development programs
• Brain drain due to better work conditions	Medium	High	• Review pay-scales and reward system to attract and retain qualified staff.
• Limited land and tedious licensing procedures available for new construction	High	High	• Rehabilitation and expansion efforts towards what is available

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some Palestinian schools lagging behind Israeli municipal operated schools in terms of infrastructure and human resources 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rehabilitation of schools and facilities further input into educational aides
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Time and efforts required to rehabilitate schools-old buildings 	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close coordination with related entities such as UNDP and the Welfare Association (TAAWON) and others
Internal-Palestinian institutional related			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of external funding for developing and or rehabilitating infrastructure and growth in activities and operations 	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further lobbying with Arab and international funds
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued financial deficit in the PNA budget, and increasing public debt due to lack of funds 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying to pressure the PNA for increased funding to Jerusalem and education in Particular Further fundraising from the international community A fundraising campaign for AQU
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued fragmentation, weak cooperation and lack of strategies 	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inclusive umbrella for education in EJ

2.7 Sector related final status/transition issues⁷³

Tackling final status issues related to the education sector is meant to insure a smooth transition of control of education by Israeli authorities to the Palestinian Authority and that no interruption in the education process arises in case a final status agreement is reached between both sides: Israel and Palestine .It is worth noting that we have dealt with transition in 1995 with the emergence of the PNA.A discussion of Lessons learned from that experience may be beneficial. The following are issue to be considered related to education:

- Integration of Israeli Municipal schools and kindergartens in the Palestinian Education Structure: The Palestinian Ministry of Education will take responsibility for the ex-administered Israeli Municipality and Israeli Ministry of Education schools .Kindergartens will also fall under the MoEHE /Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).This will require measures for a smooth transfer of authority with necessary policies and orientation .The Palestinian MoEHE needs to obtain full data on teachers of the EJ Israeli municipal controlled schools and staff: qualifications, years of service, pay scale, benefits etc. ,in addition to the need to obtain students records.
- Strengthening the Jerusalem Directorate of Education: The Directorate of education will become the umbrella for all types of schools and will be accountable for adequate provision of schooling to all. This necessitates increase in its personnel, budget and relevant restructuring of its organization etc. It will require a full inventory of all furniture, equipment, teaching aids, and laboratories from Israeli run schools. It will also require full integration of an overall supervisory entity of education inclusive of all providers with the Palestinian education system.
- Jerusalem teacher's pensions and the privileges from the former Israeli System: Agreement will need to be reached with the Israeli Jerusalem municipality and the Social Security System along with related Palestinian ministries on transfer of collected payments towards pension and other benefits. Compensation settled to those leaving the system and transfers to those wishing to stay in a Palestinian administered system.

⁷³ Sections on final status issues in this review where reviewed and commented on by: Fouad Hallak, Jamil Rabah and Mohammad Hadieh, policy and legal advisors from the Negotiations Support Project of the Negotiations affairs department

- Jerusalem Teacher's salaries and privileges in comparison with the rest of WB and GS teachers:
EJ teachers are used to a higher pay and privileges than their colleagues on the WB. Policies and measures of integration into the Palestinian system will need to be in place and applied to all. Orientation at all levels will be required and agreement needs to be reached with those who wish to continue under Palestinian management whilst drafting plans for alternative staffing to prevent interruptions.
- Curriculum related issues: The Palestinian school curriculum will be applied to all schools including the formerly administered Israeli Municipal schools. This will require teacher orientation, provision of books and a decision on whether the Hebrew language will continue to be taught in schools (government administered schools mainly as other non-government schools continue to have their freedom of choice). Given expected open market relations with Israel and most probably the continued employment in Israel, the Issue of the Hebrew language becomes essential for employment and thus seriously considered in all schools including in the WB and GS schools.

Additionally, mutual understanding and good neighborly relations will require that both Israel and Palestine cooperate in the adoption of an educational curricula based on peace education devoid of any hostilities or discrimination against each other. Both curricula to be equally scrutinized to ensure promotion of a culture of peace based on mutual respect and tolerance of the other.

- School Buildings –Premises: Several of the currently Israeli run schools are housed in premises owned by the *Waqf*, Jordan or situated on expropriated Palestinian property. Arrangements need to be reached with original owners for transfer of ownership and or other needed arrangements.
- Increased demand on Higher education and TVET: With Accessibility to Jerusalem, there may be further demand from WB students on AQU (especially campuses currently within the wall) as well as the TVET institutes. This will require additional funding for expansion purposes to accommodate the additional influx of students whilst ensuring quality of education.
- General education, scientific and technical cooperation issues with the Israelis :These need to be discussed and elaborated including but may not be limited to: cooperation between schools and higher education institutes on both sides, student and faculty exchanges, joint trainings workshops for better understanding of both cultures and the appreciation of the culture of peace, contacts between research and scientific institutions for joint research and transfer in technology and protection of intellectual property rights.
- Physical rehabilitation of school buildings and facilities: A Palestinian masterplan needs to be in place for the rehabilitation works required on the many buildings taking into consideration ;the historic buildings housing schools with maybe decisions made on preserving some of the historic buildings and finding alternatives for housing related schools , location of schools especially the ones inside the walls of the Old City and the time required for carrying out the rehabilitation works ensuring no interruption in schooling.
- A plan on utilization of WB schools closest to EJ to accommodate EJ student in an effort to decrease gaps in school seats in EJ for EJ students.

- Data and information gathering and sharing between the Education's directorates in the two parts of the city as well as between EJ and the WB and the GS.
- Developing a comprehensive education data base for EJ to include human resources, students, needs and gaps shedding light on the extent to which available services fulfill current and projected needs in the near future.
- Special Needs Education: Special education designed for groups with special needs such as the physically or mentality handicapped, the visually impaired and the mentally handicapped, currently partially or fully covered by Israeli centers need to be developed by Palestinians. Arrangements may need to be in place with the Israeli side on continuity of service provision until services are developed in EJ.

3 Health Sector

3.1 Sector Profile

Health services for EJ residents are provided by 5 main providers :(1) UNRWA serving the refugee population through clinics and referral to Palestinian Jerusalem hospitals mainly Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) ,(2) private centers including clinics, laboratories and maternity hospitals, (3) charitable and religious entities such as Makassed , AVH , St John's Ophthalmic Hospital ,St Joseph hospital and the Red Crescent Society as well as some clinics, (4) other NGOs active in Primary Health care services such as the Health Work Committees and (5) the Israeli sick funds which contract various health setups in EJ and WJ to provide health care services to Jerusalemites.

EJ residents with a valid Israeli Jerusalem identity card have access to and pay for an Israeli mandatory health insurance can receive treatment in Israeli setups or in EJ health care institutions. There are however, holders of a Jerusalem identity card who are denied services through the health insurance as they are unable to renew their identity card, the card has been withdrawn or they do not contribute to the Israeli social security. Others who are considered by Israel to be illegally living in EJ are not covered by the Israeli health insurance. These may include west bankers-husbands /wives and children without Jerusalem identity cards.

EJ Hospitals face geo-political and financial challenges. The annexation of EJ and the tightened physical security controls by Israel between EJ, the WB and the Gaza Strip (GS), create operational difficulties at hospitals mainly: restricted accessibility to hospitals by patients and staff members. EJ hospitals require clients from the WB and the GS as EJ alone is in an insufficient catchment area to sustain the hospitals especially Makassed and AVH. A main client of the hospitals is the PNA. Reliance on reimbursement for services rendered for patient transferred by the PNA has exacerbated the financial difficulties at hospitals as a result of the volatile financial situation of the PNA and delayed transfer of payments to hospitals.

The six EJ hospitals have historically played a critical role in providing services to Jerusalemites, Gazans and West Bankers and receive approximately 20,000 patients yearly from out of Jerusalem, specifically those referred by UNRWA and the PNA needing services and procedures unavailable in hospitals in the WB or the GS⁷⁴.They also have to cater to the hospitalization needs of the non-insured Jerusalemites who for residency consideration issues as per Israeli measures are not covered by the Israeli mandatory health insurance system and or simply clients who are unable to cover their hospital service costs .In the last few years close to one thousand such cases where assisted by AVH, Makassed and St John⁷⁵.

The East Jerusalem Hospitals Network (EJHN) was established in 2005 with the intention to consolidate collective work, strengthen EJ hospital's position in negotiating with the Israeli sick funds over pricing matters, and to procure together for cost efficiency. It has also been successful in attracting and channeling funding to EJ hospitals.

The hospitals funding for capital investments generally comes from donors, so does part of the operating cost which is also covered through pay for costs for services .Since 2012, the EU and its member States have made available over 80 million Euros for the six Jerusalem Hospitals of EJ with a substantial contribution towards covering referrals from the Palestinian

⁷⁴ As stated by Walid Namour, Director of AVH an increase of 5,000 patients over 2010.Oncology cases to AVH made up most of the referrals

⁷⁵ Al Quds Newspaper, Nov 12th 2017.The EJHN's Project supports hundreds of uninsured patients.

Ministry of Health (MoH) ⁷⁶. The USAID also made available 55 million dollars to the hospitals in EJ in the last 14 months.⁷⁷

Despite contributions, several hospitals suffer ongoing budgetary constraints with some institutions in chronic financial difficulties mainly due to failure of the Palestinian Government to pay for patient care. By end of 2012, the PNA owed the hospitals over 85 million NIS with more than half of the debt owed to AVH with its Oncology and Dialysis services ⁷⁸.

In 2017, the PA owed the hospitals over 200 million NIS⁷⁹ with around 120 million NIS owed to AVH alone⁸⁰ and 90 million NIS owed to Makassed ⁸¹. The directors of the largest two Palestinian hospitals in EJ believe they will collapse if the PNA delays continue as is.⁸² The debate on the PNA's debt to EJ hospitals intensified in October 2017 and the government agreed to transfer 60 million shekels to EJ hospitals whilst promising the EJHN to work on fundamental solution to the problem⁸³.

Challenges facing EJ hospitals include: quality and accessible health care, capabilities to meet increasing patients' needs, raids on hospitals violating human rights and risking the safety of patients and the need for diversifying funding⁸⁴. Israeli policies also impose certain restrictions on EJ hospitals including: Strict Israeli Ministry of Health licensing requirements for nurses / physicians and other health care workers; financial pressure from Jerusalem Municipality property tax (*Arnona*), access restrictions imposed on staff and patients from the WB and GS and restrictions on expansion of facilities and services. Furthermore, some health professionals are drawn to Israeli facilities mainly for pay and broader clinical opportunities and experiences which may be difficult for EJ hospitals to compete with.

Over 50% of EJ hospitals staff are from the WB⁸⁵, require permits to enter and work in EJ and are under the mercy of the selective Israeli permit system. The uncertainties surrounding the seeking of, being granted a permit and having renewed permits are a continuous challenge to hospitals and their WB staff .

Primary Health Care (PHC) is provided by the Israeli Sick Funds, the PNA centers and health centers run by NGO's and charitable and religious institutions⁸⁶. Lack of specialized and diagnostic services or a comprehensive, integrated, primary, secondary and tertiary system and lack of comprehensive mental health care in Palestinian EJ institutions continue to be problematic for EJ residents⁸⁷. The Israeli Jerusalem Municipality has opened 6 clinics for

⁷⁶ EU Press release -22 August 2016-The EU provides 14 million Euros to East Jerusalem Hospitals

⁷⁷ As stated by Walid Namour and verified by Rafiq Hussein

⁷⁸ East Jerusalem Hospitals face a severe financial crisis impacting service delivery, October/November 2012. Online available from <http://www.emro.who>

⁷⁹ Interview with Dr Rafiq Hussein-Director Makassed Hospital

⁸⁰ Interview with Walid Nammour-Director of the AVH

⁸¹ Interview with Dr Rafiq Hussein –Director Makassed Hospital

⁸² Walid Namour from AVH stated that the transfers to the AVH from the PNA cost around 14,000 million shekels a month of which 7 million NIS are drug related as most are oncology cases with high cost. He added that the least acceptable is for the PNA to pay the drug cost on time. The EJ hospitals cannot subsidize the PNA. He suggested that despite the paralysis of the Palestinian Legislative Council .it should assign an expert committee to assess the situation of the EJ hospitals and come up with recommendations with decisions on the political level to deal with the EJ hospital problems emanating from transfer of dues. He added, we cannot continue dealing with coverage of patients as if we are a rich country.

⁸³ <https://www.maannews.net/contents.aspx?id=927264> (on the Ministry of Health's assurances to support the hospitals) and <https://www.maannews.net/contents.aspx?id=927262> (on statement by the Ministry of Finance on Issue of AVH)

⁸⁴ East Jerusalem Hospitals Network Aims To Improve The Health System In Jerusalem. (August 2015) Online available from <http://english.pnn.ps>

⁸⁵ As confirmed by Rafiq Hussein of Makassed and Walid Nammour of AVH, the two largest hospitals and employers in the EJ Palestinian health services

⁸⁶ Noora Qort stressed that the health centers staff are challenged by the same Israeli imposed measures as the hospitals of EJ (wall, closures, permits etc)

⁸⁷ As stated by Walid Nammour-Director of AVH

infant health care in the Palestinian neighborhoods of Jerusalem compared to 27 in Israeli neighborhoods⁸⁸.

Emergency services are provided by the Israeli Star of David which is restricted to specific and not all EJ neighborhoods due to so called security reasons. The Palestinian Red Crescent ambulance services also serve EJ neighborhoods.

3.2 SWOT Analysis

The following is a SWOT analysis as reflected through feedback elicited from interviewees

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
Human resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to work in EJ • A pool of qualified professionals in various health related fields 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower incentives and motivators when compared with Israeli set ups • Specialist's loyalties more to private practice than the hospitals • Politicization and polarization at some institutions
Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Development plans available • Institutional policies and procedures available • Credible and committed boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bugged down with day to day financial problems more than the strategic outlook
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record of reputable achievements. Such as: high occupancy; provide services to high ratio of PNA referrals, developing new units as per need among others • Sustainability despite difficulties under occupation and the unique status of EJ • Historically, provided services that meet health needs of the EJ community and Palestine at large. • EJHN promoting coordination and a lobbying platform for EJ hospitals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievements jeopardized due to increasing deficit and lack of transfer of dues from the PNA
Finances and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efforts to attract local and international donors and diversify funding • EU, USAID and other countries support in the past even to operational costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expenditures exceeding revenues • Israeli taxation measures and other policies draining resources • Deficit and delayed payment of dues from the PNA
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure available and suitable for effective and efficient operation • Available external funds for infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult Israeli licensing measures on expansion and new services

The prevailing external environment represents challenges and/or **threats** for the health sector in EJ. The continuous political and economic instability in EJ and the dwindling funding pose the greatest challenges to the hospitals, the main features of which are:

- Continued Israeli occupation of the city with its harassing policies and measures towards EJ hospitals and staff of various categories in health care settings. Threat of denial of staffs permit to access EJ and thus loss of core-specialized and needed staff
- Competing health facilities and limited donor funding for operation costs in general jeopardizing ability to secure running cost, job security and sustainability
- Overall limited funding to Jerusalem and delays in transfers of dues from the PNA to the hospitals.

⁸⁸ Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2015-Facts and Figures (May 2017)

- Establishment of specialized health care facilities in other Palestinian cities such as the Istishari and the Khaled el Hassan Oncology hospital, both in the Ramallah governorate. This will detract WB health service clientele from EJ. Also, if further public health centers are established, then this will further drain the already limited funds available for health in general and for EJ in particular
- Relative high costs in Jerusalem resulting in increased operation costs.
- Finding qualified staff is a serious problem that all organizations face in Jerusalem.

Opportunities include:

- Further strengthening of the EJHN to play a stronger role in advocacy for the hospitals
- Increase attraction and admission of EJ clients covered by the Israeli social security and health insurance to counter some of the difficulties due to transfer issues from the PNA
- Continued lobbying for funding to EJ health care settings as part of the few Palestinian entities left in the city and which require continued support to survive and remain as symbols of steadfastness
- Available funding for infrastructure from Arab and Islamic and international funders and proposals available for expansion of services⁸⁹.

3.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions

Serious budgetary problems due to delays covering services provided through transfer and contracts with the Palestinian MoH jeopardize financial sustainability of hospitals and remain a prime concern. Timely and full payment for services by the PNA is imperative for survival and sustainability.

- Cost reducing and revenue increasing measures need to be continually explored by each hospital and collaboratively as in the case of the EJHN. This network requires continuous support as it is a body that improves effectiveness and efficiency and promotes collaboration and unity. It is working on developing strategies and implementing reforms to improve funding and governance aiming towards the long term sustainability of the hospitals⁹⁰
- Hospitals need to be further supported in efforts towards downscaling staff as needed including coverage of severance pay and pension claims
- Upgrading of EJ hospital facilities and human resources is required based on a clear development plan with increasing national investment in EJ hospitals. These hospitals are the strongest amongst the few Palestinian entities left in EJ.
- Supporting, expanding and developing mental health and tertiary services.

3.4 Cost of Program

Suggested interventions below are meant to improve infrastructure of health service providers, expand capacity, improve networking and complementation of services among providers, and develop human resources for maintaining, sustaining and improving health

⁸⁹ Walid Namour of AVH stated that they are well funded in terms of Infrastructure and capital .Out of his 12 million dollars needed for infrastructure and capital development for 2017,the hospital already secured over 90% of the amount in the first quarter of 2017 (11.5 million secured) .AVH also has a proposal ready with licensing on the way for establishing a 144 bed geriatric care hospital within the AVH compound with the cost of 45 million dollars .This will fill a big gap in terms of elderly hospital care for EJ residents and will become a great source of income for AVH whereby patients will be covered through the Israeli social security and health Insurance and will certainly further diversify funding sources .Also confirmed by Suheil Miari from Makassed hospital in terms availability of money for infrastructure

⁹⁰ Mentioned by the networks chairman in the EJHN 4th annual conference in 2012 – East Jerusalem Hospitals Network Aims To Improve The Health System In Jerusalem. (August 2015) Online available from <http://english.pnn.ps>

care delivery and establishing new and needed service delivery programs to fulfill health care service needs in EJ and the rest of Palestine.

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost /USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
SHORT TERM					
Support to MoH and MoF to cover part of debt owed to EJ hospitals	Mounting debts are detrimental to the PA, the hospitals and jeopardize future services offered to clients	Debts covered and remaining debts lowered by xx percent	Maintaining/ sustaining hospital services to clients	10,000,000	MoF
Budget support to cover indemnities and end of service – especially Makassed hospital	Funds made available for coverage of indemnities will allow hospitals to downsize if needed and or retire staff of retirement age and replace with younger and hopefully more productive and up to date staff. Hospitals are currently unable to retire staff because of lack of funds	Covering indemnities of retiring staff	Injecting new staff and energy to hospitals. Improved productivity Minimizing drainage of resources A leaner staff structure	10,000,000	EJHN Donors Related hospitals
Support for priority upgrading needs of hospitals including additional training and continuous professional development	Ongoing need as per inventory of needs of hospitals	100 professionals receiving specialized-short term-continuing professional education 15-20 professionals receiving support of longer term specialization-sub specialization programs	Maintaining hospital services to clients Improved human resource capacity Meeting requirements of new departments / specialties	3,000,000	EJHN
Support to the EJHN	Ongoing need for more effective and efficient work	Active operation of EJHN	Strengthened oversight and networking amongst E hospitals Improved effectiveness and efficiency	150.000	EJHN
Support current and expand mental health services	Political and socioeconomic pressures in EJ are numerous and affect all especially women and children. There are currently limited mental health services on one hand and mounting	Support to 5 NGOs offering mental health services for East Jerusalemites	Improved mental health services for EJ population	2,000,000	Counselling centers

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost /USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
	counselling and intervention needs on the other hand. Need to continually monitor the general physiological status of society and provide aid to improve the general mental health to society.				
Fund/Support to the marginalized and those not covered by the Israeli health Insurance	There is ongoing need for funds to cover those out of the Israeli health insurance including those whose identity cards have been revoked, those married to Jerusalemites but not recognized as residents by the Israeli system and others	50 uninsured patients/cases supported	Rights to health services of the uninsured upheld Minimized socioeconomic strain on the uninsured	500.000	MoH, Donors, Private sector
TOTAL				25,650,000	
LONG TERM					
Establishing new priority specialty services	Ongoing as the need arises including Special Needs & Equipment: Providing specialized health care for people with special needs such as: the physically handicapped, the blind and people suffering from hearing losses. Providing aids & equipment's to such groups.	New specialties departments as per inventory and priority of needs and or upgrading of existing ones	Needed services available Minimized reliance on Israeli services	10,000,000	MoH- MoF. private sector, donor countries, EJHN
Training for new specialty areas	Ongoing need and as per development of new specialties	5 professionals of each health occupation receive specialized long term training including: physicians, nurses, medical technologists, radiotherapists an others	Improved availability of needed services Improved health care Minimized reliance on Israeli services	5,000,000	MoH- MoF. private sector, donor countries, EJHN
TOTAL				15,000,000	

3.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation

- Funding received from donor countries
- Increased coverage of deficit at hospitals
- Development of new priority services
- Number of health providers trained in xx
- Client satisfaction with health care services
- Mental health services developed
- Number and types of medical specialties introduced
- Hiring of professionals with new and needed specialties
- Improved quality of services
- New services introduced
- Additional equipment bought and operational
- Revenue through introduction of additional equipment

3.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Political-occupation related			
• Continued closure of Jerusalem and the GS with mobility and accessibility to EJ leaving a small pool of clientele in EJ	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring of Israeli actions vis-à-vis Palestinian institutions in EJ. • Continuous lobbying with the international community on the status of EJ
• Constant harassment of Palestinian institutions- Hospitals subjected to measures by the Israeli authorities, including forcible closure.	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek joint ventures: Palestinian – international as much as possible and strong ties with international offices in Jerusalem • Public emphasis on the fact that fund assistance is legally authorized to Jerusalem as an occupied city
• Finding qualified staff with ease of mobility to EJ which may result in failure to sustain operations and compromise quality of activities,	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in a human resource development program (including apprenticeships and on the job training) • Support to AQU university in securing accreditation of its programs and licensing of its health related graduates
• Brain drain to WJ and elsewhere due to better work conditions	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review pay-scales and reward system for staff in order to attract and retain qualified staff.
Internal-Palestinian institutional related			
• Growth in activities, operations, complexity, development activities requiring organizational adjustments which may not be met	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen middle management including clinician managers • Empower managers to focus on more strategic and less operational issues within the institutions. • Continue efforts to build on synergies with other health service organizations in EJ.
• Continued and increasing deficit due to lack of transfer of dues by the PNA	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous concerted efforts by the EJHN on the PNA regarding transfer of dues • Lobbying by the Jerusalemites to pressure the PNA to transfer payments on timely basis • Further fundraising from the international community
• Continuing loss of EJ hospitals centrality with opening up of specialized centers in the WB	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous discussions with the PA-MoH on synergies and impact on EJ hospitals

3.7 Sector related final status/transition issues

Tackling health sector related final status issues is meant to insure a smooth transition of control of health services by Israeli authorities to the Palestinian Authority in case a final status agreement is reached between both sides whereby no interruption in the service provision occurs while maintaining the same, or better level and quality of services.

- Client pool of EJ hospitals: With open accessibility to EJ, there may be an increased access and demand on EJ hospital services increasing the client pool with needed subsequent coverage needs by hospitals. Scenarios on increased demand and subsequent needs need to be drafted. Of special concern would be rising demand on specialty services offered in Jerusalem but limited elsewhere in Palestine such as Oncology. Furthermore, will EJ hospitals be actively open to use by Israelis? How will cost of services be determined in light of costs in Israeli setups for similar services? How will the language barrier be dealt with?
- Continuing services by Israeli institutions: Need to address issues pertaining to any need to continue to receive needed and unavailable services by Palestinian Institutions from the Israeli institutions, including under what formula/s. For example, will there be contractual arrangements with Israeli hospitals for unavailable services in EJ or WB hospitals such as in some tertiary care?. How will costs be negotiated ?
- Staff pensions with the Israeli Social Security: Need to agree whether financial and monetary funds to be handed to the PNA or Israel will continue to manage. What mechanisms would be followed?
- Israeli owned health centers in EJ: Arrangements need to be in place for Centers currently owned by Israelis to either be bought or transferred to Palestinians unless an agreement-arrangements are reached with the Israeli side on continuity to operate. The Palestinian private sector may be engaged in this.
- Licensing issues: EJ centers will need to be audited and licensed by the relevant Palestinian Authority. May also require reaching an agreement with Israel to continue with Israeli licensure if Palestinian health care centers in EJ will be used to serve clients from WJ. Furthermore general agreements must be reached between Israel and the State of Palestine on mutual acknowledgement and respect for licensure in each respective country
- Salaries and benefits: Dealing with discrepancies in salary and benefit discrepancies between EJ and other WB hospitals and PHC centers
- Health Insurance: Means to be explored for coverage of Jerusalemites with Palestinian health insurance. Currently almost all residents in EJ are insured through the mandatory Israeli health insurance. Will there be a need for a transition period? What will that entail knowing that levying taxes by the providing authority may continue? How will gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian baskets of services be dealt with? What arrangements will be made for patients highly dependent on costly services and medications be dealt with if health insurance becomes solely under Palestinian management and their services are not covered?

- Clients records: All client records to be transferred to the Palestinian administering entity especially at the PHC centers currently operated by the Israeli sick funds
- Service fees and disparities between EJ and WJ hospitals to be further elaborated with agreements reached on pricing etc.
- Vaccinations: Arrangements to be discussed with the Israeli side on general vaccinations, infant and child vaccination and Insuring that visitors and the Adult population are vaccinated according to international standards
- Veterinary Medicine: Providing medical care to animals and preventing animal related diseases in accordance with Palestinian/international standards.
- Training of health professionals: discussions amongst health care institutions on need, mechanisms and arrangements for training of health professionals in clinical sites in WJ and EJ for further exchange of experiences and Health related scientific interaction including research
- Ambulance and emergency services: Arrangements amongst the Hospital related and Red Crescent ambulance services with the Israeli Star of David Services and movement in and out of the city. Also arrangements with Jordan if required. Also, establishing & managing a system to provide onsite first aid and transport patients to hospitals. Additionally, agreeing with the Israeli side on coordinating medical services in cases of natural disasters.
- Data and information gathering and sharing between EJ and WJ hospitals and health care set ups and between EJ, the WB and the GS
- Developing a data base on Palestinian health professionals in EJ as well as on the availability of services and equipment
- Personal matters-newborn registry, death Certificates and burial permits etc.: Supplying the public and authorities with certified information from the Palestinian authority.
- Private sector: Engagement of the private sector in partnering/supporting sector.
- Accreditation of health professionals according to Palestinian standards and measures and discussion of endorsement of accreditations by Palestine and Israel.

4. Social Welfare

4.1 Sector Profile

76% of Palestinian East Jerusalemites and 33.4% of the children live below the poverty line compared to a 21.7% poverty rate in Israel and 30% among children⁹¹. Welfare programs in EJ are covered through: (1) Israeli institutions (the Social security system of the Israeli National insurance System, the EJ Israeli municipality, popular centers, juvenile counseling centers, labor organizations, sick funds and others), (2) a variety of Palestinian CBOs and NGOs and international locally based organizations which assist people and communities in better dealing with an adverse environment.

37% of those receiving Israeli welfare services in Jerusalem are Palestinian. However, only 22% of social workers positions are designated to the Palestinian population. Additional positions were promised but have not materialized. Additionally, while there are 22 welfare offices in Jewish neighborhoods, there only 5 in Palestinian neighborhoods. Each social worker in EJ handles an average of 339 cases compared with 194 in the rest of the city. This jeopardizes meeting of the actual needs⁹² especially with the high rates of poverty

EJ is way behind WJ in terms of welfare and youth related services: social centers, public libraries, sports facilities and play grounds, public parks, swimming pools, etc. with at best 10% of what is available in WJ⁹³. Gaps in welfare-related services have to some extent historically been filled by a large number of Palestinian and international NGOs. The NGOs vary in many aspects including target groups, mode of organization, management, professionalism of staff, facilities and sources of funding. Many are members in the network of Palestinian NGOs or charitable societies.

Where social services and infrastructure are missing, women, children and youth are especially affected. Availability of facilities for extracurricular and development activities, sports, culture, recreation and social encounters are well below standard. Lack of facilities, combined with an oppressive climate and high unemployment rates, have a demoralizing impact on the population with increasing social ailments. The challenge is to provide assistance to groups in society that develop temporary and urgent needs and provide consultation and support to strengthen family structures

One of the main problems is reflected in the EJ resident's accessibility to the services as rights under occupation. Problems have been noted with regard to accessing the benefits to which the people feel they are entitled. These problems can be particularly important in the case of accessing benefits from the NII. Problems with respect to perceived lack of information on operating rules and conditions of the system are aggravated by the fact that most such information is still only available in Hebrew.

Protecting human rights in EJ remains a priority under occupation whereby residents are empowered to exercise their rights within strengthened organizations supporting them with legal advice and advocacy. This requires the strengthening of organizations involved in raising the consciousness of people with regard to their rights through support to people

⁹¹ Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2017-Facts and Figures (May 2017)

⁹² Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015) and May 2017.

⁹³ PASSIA-2017.

towards making correct application and seeking the correct organizational addresses .Additionally, support to lobbying, legal advice and advocacy⁹⁴.

Youth and addiction

Palestinians under 28 years of age in EJ make up over 75% of the EJ Palestinian Arab population. In 2013, the percentage of individuals aged below 15 years in EJ was 35.2 percent of the total population, while those aged 60 years and above made up 6.7 percent of the governorate's total population.⁹⁵

Employment amongst Palestinian residents of Jerusalem stand at 67% for men and 14% for women aged 15+⁹⁶.PCBS reports that the labour force participation rate for ages 15 and above in EJ governorate was 31% in 2014 down from 40% in 2009, while the unemployment rate stood at 19% in 2014 compared with 11.8% in 2009⁹⁷.

High unemployment or underemployment may be attributed to lack of adequate skills and resources. High rates of youth unemployment mean free time. If not positively channeled, it will lead to frustration, hopelessness, and loss of confidence .It must be seriously dealt with because of its long term development implications.

The impact of the occupation and political violence on the lives of young Palestinians in EJ will have its toll for generations to come. Jerusalemites under 50 have been born and raised under occupation shaping their attitudes towards society, values and overall outlook to life and living. Youth in Jerusalem live in two worlds (Palestinian and Israeli) which are often in contradiction and in which the youth often find themselves confused with a distorted identity. Confiscation of land, fragmentation of Palestinian families, the Separation Wall, limited employment prospects and lack of recreation opportunities compound the youth's marginalisation, alienation and disconnectedness with the rest of the Palestinians and disempowerment.

The isolation and the continuous feeling of insecurity, being constantly under surveillance and lack of safety coupled with limited recreation facilities affect the wellbeing of Jerusalemites especially children and the youth. A boring and empty life with no recreation is characteristic of youth life in EJ resulting in a variety of social ailments. The unstable and risky circumstances have increased the youth's frustration and hindered their development. They could however, become a vital resource for socio-economic development and nation building.

The psychological impact of occupation and violence on young people cannot be underestimated as school students are injured and often killed by Israeli live ammunition, placed under house arrest or jailed and often suffer from the loss of their schoolmates and friends⁹⁸.250 orders of house imprisonment were ordered since the Al Aqsa uprising with the majority targeting children .The house detentions may take the form of imprisonment within own homes or within a relative's home⁹⁹.

⁹⁴ This was emphasized by most interviewees.

⁹⁵ PCBS, 2015 Jerusalem Statistical Year Book.

⁹⁶ ACRI, East Jerusalem 2015.Facts and Figures (May 2015).

⁹⁷ PCBS,-2015 Jerusalem Statistical Year Book

⁹⁸ Since Oct 2015 until April 2017, 40 Palestinians from EJ have been killed by the occupation of which 8 are children under 18-Source journalist Maysa Abu Ghazaleh). Additionally, up until March 2017, 3414 were jailed (including 1053 minors). 510 continue to be jailed of which 85 are minors and 17 females (according to communication with the Prisoners club in Jerusalem).

⁹⁹ In an interview with Farawneh from the documentation unit at the Commission of prisoners and detainees published by Maan news on 4-10-2017

Minors who are arrested, interrogated and detained suffer from various violations of human rights including: physical restraint, night interrogation, right to remain silent, right to counsel, right to have parent present during interrogation, lack of protection in interrogation rooms and or being held in inappropriate conditions¹⁰⁰. Although some NGOs offer psychosocial counseling to children and youth, yet the need remains high for such services offered through qualified and experienced staff in a systematic manner with coordination and cooperation amongst providers¹⁰¹.

Most youth institutions are small with limited infrastructure and capacity basically focusing on sports more so than the conceptual and creative activities. The limited availability of facilities for extracurricular education and development activities, sports, recreation and social encounters in combination with the oppressive climate and high unemployment rates, have a demoralising impact on youth with increasing problems of early dropout from schools and increasing drug addiction.

Drug abuse is alarmingly on the rise among Palestinian adolescents in general with 20% starting below the age of 18¹⁰². The existence of Drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centres is limited in EJ while available centres in WJ are not a viable option mainly due to accessibility obstacles and or the language barrier.

Drug use and addiction are generally correlated with weak socioeconomic status, family violence and child neglect, youth in distress and high dropout rates from schools¹⁰³. The unique political status of Jerusalem and particularly its Old City with its built environment represent an extreme case of the adverse and complex social and economic impacts of occupation and isolation on its residents especially the youth and is seen as a major contributor to the rise in drug addiction especially amongst the youth¹⁰⁴. The continuous exposure to violence and trauma most likely lead to unsafe practices including increasing drug and alcohol consumption and greater prevalence of violence. Drug use is of particular concern as the Palestinian law enforcement authorities are not allowed to police EJ¹⁰⁵.

Some claim that the occupation authorities have no serious attempts to raid dealers and addicts or provide programs and funding for anti-drug education programs and for raising public awareness, and could care less as long as the victims are Palestinian¹⁰⁶. Some believe that increased availability of drugs is part of a systematic policy and plan to ensure the flourishing of the drug trade in EJ and thus the Palestinian's dependency and away from resistance. Others believe the prevalence is decreasing with rising awareness of how it benefits the occupier¹⁰⁷.

The number of addicts in EJ and its environs has exceeded 6,000 with additional estimated 25,000 users¹⁰⁸. Others estimate the number of addicts to reach 29,000 especially amongst

¹⁰⁰ B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. Unprotected: The Detention of Palestinian Teenagers in East Jerusalem. Oct 2017

¹⁰¹ Interview with Fadwa El Shaer

¹⁰² Study reflecting dangerous numbers of drug addiction in Palestine. Available from <http://www.alquds.com/articles - Nov 11-2017.Study> indicates 26,500 drug addict in Palestine

¹⁰³ Confirmed through interview with Sama Aweida-Jerusalem Women's Studies Center

¹⁰⁴ Leila Bustami, Nisreen Harhash. Drug Addicts Behavior and the Built Environment of the Old City of Jerusalem. Universal Journal of Psychology 3(6):185-196, (2015)

¹⁰⁵ Massad, Salwa G et al. "Substance use among Palestinian youth in the West Bank, Palestine: a qualitative investigation." BMC Public Health. 16:800. Accessible at <<https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-016-3472-4>>

¹⁰⁶ Sawzan Ramahi, The scourge of drugs in Jerusalem (January 2014). Online available from <http://www.middleestmonitor.com>

¹⁰⁷ All they want our children to do is to take drugs and throw stones: Drugs, Israel and Silwan –January 3-2013.<http://www.silwanic.net>

¹⁰⁸ Al-Huda Association for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Addicts in Shuafat. Online available from <http://www.middleestmonitor.com>

teenagers and school dropouts¹⁰⁹. Statistics although dating to 2008 indicate that 2.5% of the population in EJ are addicts, amongst the highest in the world. More children are being drawn to drugs at a younger age with claims that over 5,000 children aged 12-17 years are using drugs in EJ¹¹⁰. This invariably affects school dropout and crime rate. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that there are few centers that deal with drug addiction and use and are only able to cope with a very small number of cases¹¹¹

Drug addiction in EJ adversely affects the addicts' interest in national issues, breaks down families and increases family tension. It further has devastating effects on an already grave EJ economy and contributes to school drop out with long term negative implications on the addict's family and the society at large¹¹². To Jerusalemites, one of the most important issues that is not sufficiently covered, reported on and dealt with is "drug use among young people" especially synthetic cannabis which is most addictive and most sought treatment for in Israeli and Palestinian rehabilitation centers with increasing numbers of young users in their 20s¹¹³

Women of EJ

EJ women are part of the most affected and marginalized with gender concepts and roles intertwined with the occupation and its impact. Alongside social and cultural restrictions, the systematic policies of occupation exacerbate women's sufferings. Family members fear their women's exploitation by occupation directly affecting women's mobility in general and in and out of EJ through checkpoints in particular. This also influences the families' permission to allow their daughters to continue schooling. The EJ Palestinian women's birthing journey in particular whilst trying to ensure giving birth in an EJ hospital to maintain her and her children's Jerusalem residency status is full of violence which "invades women's spaces, time, bodies and psyches through militarized control of their legal status, movement and ability to reach medical facilities and care"¹¹⁴.

The lack of housing and over crowdedness has its greatest impact on women's daily lives negatively affecting family ties and relationships. Furthermore home demolitions in EJ have also their greatest impact on the female household members. Additionally, families of martyrs and or detainees are subjected to harassment and often women in these families bear the most pressure. Some women are forced to become the jailors of family members placed under house arrest by the Israeli authorities¹¹⁵.

A number of EJ women who are either married to a west bankers/Palestinians from the PA areas or they are west bankers who have married a Jerusalemite face tremendous difficulties. The same applies to women from Jordan who have married a Jerusalemite. These women live in utmost uncertainty continually struggling to obtain permits from the Israeli authorities to stay in Jerusalem and or to allow their husbands to stay in Jerusalem and maintain a family. This has its toll on the family as a whole but mostly on women who are under continuous threat of expulsion, relocation and severance of family ties¹¹⁶

¹⁰⁹ Samir Jibril-Education Struggle in Jerusalem. AlJazeera net May 2016

¹¹⁰ East Jerusalem Youth find escape in drugs. Online available from <http://www.dw.com>

¹¹¹ Including: My Friendly Doctor Society for the care and rehabilitation of addicts located in Bethany, the Caritas Old Town Center for Guidance and prevention of drugs, the purity center in Shuafat, the Saidieh neighborhood center, the Counseling Center in the Old City, Al Maqdese. Additionally, the Jerusalem Women's Center has been active in related research and awareness raising on drugs for women and other groups

¹¹² Sawsan Ramahi, *ibid*,

¹¹³ Occupied and High in East Jerusalem (April 27th, 2015). Online available from <https://medium.com>

¹¹⁴ Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian. The Politics of Birth and the Intimacies of Violence Against Palestinian Women in Occupied East Jerusalem. The British Journal of Criminology, Volume 55, Issue 6, 1 November 2015, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azv035>

¹¹⁵ Confirmed Interviews with Salwa Hdeib and Sama Aweidah

¹¹⁶ Confirmed Interviews with Salwa Hdeib and Sama Aweidah

Increasing numbers of female and male school dropouts means males most probably finding employment in menial jobs and as a consequence early marriage for males but more so for females. Increasing numbers of male drug addicts has its toll on all the family but mostly on the wives who are often required to work for pay as subsistence to the drug addicts' monthly allowance from Israel¹¹⁷.

EJ female labor force participation is also low with less than 18% at its best. Many are in an ongoing struggle to escape poverty, who would want to work but their search for jobs is often blocked. They are challenged by limited access to education within EJ and thus limited work prospects exacerbated by restricting patriarchal and social norms.¹¹⁸

The Elderly

Most of the elderly are covered by the Israeli health insurance and social security and entitled to services and reductions on several services as per social security arrangements. There are also few organizations mostly church related which offer day care services to the elderly. Some such as the AVH and elderly homes outside the wall in El Ezariyyeh and Abu Dis offer in house accommodation and services for the terminally ill and the elderly. In addition there are few privately owned elderly service centers.

The Disabled

Children with disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable in a society and usually children with mental disabilities are least serviced. The most prevalent disability categories are mobility, mental disabilities, speaking disabilities and visual impairment with majority being congenital or disease related. There are few centers in EJ which deal with motor disabilities and centers for the Blind

Princess Basma Hospital is the specialized Palestinian hospital offering services for the disabled. Its work philosophy is based on community based rehabilitation and integration of the disabled in the society and education through integrated schooling. It provides comprehensive services to the disabled under one roof¹¹⁹

4.2 SWOT Analysis

The following is a SWOT analysis as reflected through feedback elicited from Focus group participants and individual interviews (see annex two)

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
Human resources	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committed people working for Jerusalem Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great human resource power with energies and ideas Creative with love for competition Initiation and change agents. Think out of the box Ready to experiment and venture into new things Both genders active in organizations mostly sport Dynamic and keen to improve knowledge and skills Demonstrate signs for regaining their Palestinian 	Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School dropouts/absenteeism Distorted identity with increasing marginalization Rebellious with distorted values Poor participation in political and cultural activities Easily influenced Prevalence of deviant behaviors especially addiction Desperate, hopeless with no vision for the future and insecurities

¹¹⁷ Interview with Sama Aweidah-Women's Studies Center -Jerusalem

¹¹⁸ <https://newsdeeply.com/womensadvancement/articles/2017/04/14/palestinianwomen> in East Jerusalem struggle to escape poverty

¹¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CETRpnKEk>

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
	identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate signs of willingness to move on from individual to collective activities • Open to the outside world through different media sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emptiness with no constructive channeling of energies • Enslaved by family traditions and rules –especially females • Increasing divorce rates amongst young adults • Increasing violence amongst youth • Decreasing tolerance and acceptance of the other
Management	Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of several umbrellas for youth 	Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of a unifying umbrella • Poor youth participation in decision making at the family and organizational levels with hegemony by the older generation
Achievements	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence and survival despite difficulties • Strong social networks Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A relatively large number of institutions operating 	General <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fragmented work within and across NGOs Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small and limited organizations and activities-mostly sport
Finances and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Church support/presence of church related institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited with needs much more than available funding
Infrastructure	Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of youth related institutions available Elderly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally well taken care of by the family and the Israeli Social security system 	Youth/addiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplication and fragmentation of institutional efforts • Competition amongst organizations with weak networking • Poor funding and investment in youth organizations

Opportunities include:

- Youth could become leaders and maintainers of EJ with its Palestinian identity if their energies are properly channeled
- Better investment in education especially TVET and linkage with employment sectors to further provide work opportunities to the youth
- Use of available school infrastructure for after school activities
- Further strengthening the coalition against Drugs and addiction
- Further building coalitions and coordinating the work of youth organizations
- Law/rules and regulations on youth participation in board membership and management of youth organizations
- More effective use of social media
- Mapping of and specializing organizations
- More effective reliance on support from extended families

Threats include:

- Israeli measures in general and against the youth in specific with Israelization attempts of all facets of life along with the existence of Israeli centers attracting the youth with increasing loss of identity, hopelessness and lack of security
- The prevalence of drugs and the ease of acquiring drugs with its impact on the whole family and community at large

- The poor economic environment and the transfer of the economic centrality from EJ to neighboring cities with increasing unemployment leading to a variety of deviant behaviors including increasing crime rate and collaboration with occupation
- The weakening social environment with increasing early marriage of females, rapidly increasing divorce rates, weak infrastructure for protecting women and children, increasing poverty, lack of housing and over crowdedness, culture of tribalism, *Wasta* and favoritism
- Increasing regional religious strife which may exhibit itself locally
- Continued Palestinian internal split and factionalism, marginalization of EJ with limited funding and its impact on the morale of Jerusalemites especially the youth
- High taxation by Israel affecting all Palestinians in Jerusalem.

4.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions

Welfare

The focus should be on maintaining and strengthening NGOs and CBOs which provide welfare related services: youth, elderly, combating drug abuse, care for disabled including awareness raising and leadership training to make people aware of their possibilities and to motivate them to make plans for their own development.

- Building on ongoing school activities in qualifying school counselors to better identify and deal with psychosocial problems. This must be complemented with support to allow schools to become multi-purpose centers where students can use play therapeutically and recreationally and for a more child friendly atmosphere. Additionally, supporting after school extracurricular activities and incentivizing schools that open their facilities to the community after school hours
- Supporting programs that monitor, document and follow up on violations of EJ resident's rights.
- The effects of the violence against children has a long lasting impact and requires Professional intervention including counselling on protection from violence and coping mechanisms¹²⁰
- Supporting programs which respond to women empowerment, dealing with violence against women as well as support institutions, programs and awareness raising on political exploitation¹²¹.

Youth

- Appropriate welfare and youth development strategies and programs imperative for ensuring a well-equipped, skillful youth valuable to their communities whilst increasing their confidence and preventing them from embarking on the path of social ills, including: starting new businesses/job creation. Employment opportunities remain limited particularly for graduates of higher education and unskilled laborers. This area deserves serious attention with a focus on a policy on employment of young people and concerted efforts by the MoEHE, the Ministry of Labor, the Private sector and other stakeholders. Life skills, career counseling and vocational training must be the focus of the policy.
- Youth programs which promote and prepare youth to be agents for promoting national identity, good citizenship, democracy, openness, dialogue and tolerance that will

¹²⁰ See recommendations in the study by The Palestinian Counselling Center, The Human Rights and IHL Secretariat and JLAC on Violence by Occupation and its impact on internal family and community related violence -2017. This was also emphasized in the social sector focus group and the interview with Fadwa Al Shaer

¹²¹ Emphasized by Sama Aweidah

promote social stability. This also includes programs which help the EJ youth increase their participation in decision making affecting their lives and shaping the environment around them. Additionally, supporting the capacity of local institutions to involve the youth in their planning, implementation and evaluation of youth related activities.¹²²

- A human rights approach to sports is required with linkage to needs of children and youth for sports infrastructure and facilities. Support towards sports, safe play and recreational activities for children and youth which promote release of energy and cognitive, social and behavioral development.
- Supporting new facilities or improving existing ones for extracurricular education and development activities, sports, culture, recreation and social encounters as means for channeling youth's energies in productive outlets. The improvement of many facilities does not require substantial sums of money. Where space is available, neighborhood organizations and relatively small amounts of money might be sufficient to realize safe playing fields for small children. The same might apply to the upgrading of meeting rooms where more adult children can meet.
- Supporting coalition strengthening and building for better networking and coordination amongst Clubs and youth organizations.
- Supporting organizations dealing with Drug addiction and rehabilitation in terms of expanding services and covering operation costs and provision of rehabilitation and awareness raising programs
- Supporting organizations which provide psychological services for young people including psychological therapy – play therapy especially for children who have been imprisoned/detained and or those under house arrest
- Supporting housing initiatives for the youth

Women

- Support to a women's shelter to make available a safe haven for women from EJ and an alternative to Israeli shelters
- Support to awareness raising on legal rights, early marriage and available services in general
- Support to job creation and women's initiatives¹²³
- Support to women counselling especially ones with children detainees and martyrs in the family¹²⁴

Elderly

- Further support to the proposed geriatric hospital by AVH
- Further support to day care centers and activities for the elderly
- Awareness raising for the elderly on joining elderly care centers is required to attract them to use such services and convince them of benefit. Experience with the elderly reflects difficulties as the elderly perceive that organizations are after their money and their old age allowance¹²⁵.

Disabled

Needs of People with disabilities must not be overlooked by more priority humanitarian issues and to include:

¹²² Strongly supported by Salwa Hdeib

¹²³ Strongly stressed by Noora Qort who referred to her organizations experience with the embroidery project benefiting over 500 women, the small coffee shop project and other projects on training women on starting small businesses for food production.

¹²⁴ Emphasized by Sama Aweida and Salwa Hdeib

¹²⁵ Point stressed by Noora Qort

- Support for maintaining and expanding school for challenged children at Princess Basma hospital
- Supporting community based rehabilitation initiatives and integrating activities related to the disabled in all facets of life
- Supporting initiatives related to inclusive education focusing on the integration of children with special needs into the school system.

Generally

- Child Protection: Insuring the well-being and basic rights of children and providing assistance to children under stress.
- Orphans/ Orphanages: Management & establishment of orphanage institutions. Providing basic need for orphans with no support.
- Providing assistance to elements in society which are temporary in need (individuals and families), Elderly, single parents, Temporary incapacitated...etc.
- Providing Social benefits and income to the unemployable.
- Manage retirement programs.
- Intervention in cases where individuals are or families are dysfunctional or destructive.
- Family Consultation: Providing advice, consultation and support to strengthen family structure.
- Special Needs Care: Providing the necessary services and assistance to groups with special needs such as the physically and mentally handicapped, blind ...etc.
- Poverty: Fighting poverty and providing assistance to meet basic needs of low income families.
- Unemployment Support: Providing temporary income for the unemployed and assisting in finding employment.

4.4 Cost of Program

Suggested interventions below are meant to maintain the existing organizations which are continuously threatened to close due to lack of funding but their work is relevant to the needs of EJ inhabitants under the current requirements for steadfastness under occupation. Additionally supporting youth related services to increase employability of both genders to have a long lasting impact on the EJ inhabitants'. The ultimate aim is to reduce poverty, improve wellbeing, and raise efficiency and effectiveness of service providers and the quality of their services with increased space for social participation.

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost /USD	Stakeholders/ proposed implementer/s
SHORT TERM					
Subsistence support for maintaining the existence of NGOs especially those related to women, the elderly, the disabled and drug rehabilitation	These NGOs provide vital services and many will crumble if there is no continued funding. Their programs and services may have wide reaching effects on participants that extend far beyond their intended outcomes. This should go in parallel with a program on raising the effectiveness and efficiency of welfare NGOs whilst developing their physical and human resource infrastructure with focus on management and fundraising skills.	20 organizations receiving support between 50,000-250,000 USD depending on priority needs, programs and projects	Maintaining operations and services of organizations	5,000,000	Donor Countries, NGOs
Support to youth clubs and youth activities	If youth energies are properly channeled then youth could become leaders and maintainers and developers of EJ with its Palestinian identity. Youth clubs attract a large number of youth. Activities are needed to improve youth skills, engage both genders, and enhance the youths leadership skills and political participation	30 clubs supported with 30,000-100,000 USD depending on priority needs, programs and projects	Improved and targeted activities Improved youth skills	3,000,000	Clubs, higher committee on sports, MoSA, MoJA, private sector, donor countries
Continuing support to citizens advice and advocacy on legal, social rights and civil rights in EJ	Assist people in understanding their rights and working towards their entitlements from the Israeli system to maintain the steadfastness of Jerusalemites in EJ	Support to programs and projects of 4 Human rights related organizations	Improved access to entitlements Steadfastness and peoples resilience in the occupied city	2,000,000	Rights related organizations, Donor countries
Youth employment programs in cooperation with the private sector	Support to projects and employment of youth in the private sector to ensure youth engagement and reduce poverty rate	300 youth employment opportunities supported for one year	Improved youth preparation for the work environment Reduced poverty rate	5,000,000	Private sector Youth organizations Related ministries
TOTAL				15,000,000	
LONG TERM					
Supporting community based rehabilitation initiatives	Further works needed to make facilities more accessible for use by the disabled. There is high need for supporting institutions providing psychological support especially for traumatized children as a result of the socio-political and economic strains in EJ	50 facilities rehabilitated for better servicing the disabled. 5 organizations in EJ working with traumatized children supported towards continuing and or expanding activities	More accessible facilities for use by the disabled Improved psychological support for traumatized children	2,000,000	Donor Countries, related NGOs
Supporting geriatric services	Services currently offered by the Israeli system will need to be gradually instituted in the respective Palestinian organizations		Improved geriatric care and services	2,000,000	Pertinent organizations

TOTAL	4,000,000	
-------	-----------	--

4.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation

- Number of organizations receiving funding and continuing their activities
- Number of beneficiaries from supported activities
- Number of youth employment initiatives/projects supported
- Number of employed youth in projects established
- Rates of employment/unemployment
- Number of facilities rehabilitated for more accessibility by people with disabilities
- Number of children offered psychological support as a result of funding pertinent organizations and projects
- Increase/decrease in numbers of those on drug addiction
- Numbers rehabilitated from drug addiction
- Satisfaction of clients with services
- Increase number of youth people employed
- Number of youth trained for job creation /Number actively employed post training
- Participation in Youth Groups
- Participation Levels in Sports
- Increased Hopes of the people towards betterment of the services
- Number of organizations that had infrastructure developed
- Number of staff with additional training
- Improved management (effectiveness and efficiency)
- Funds received from various sources
- Male/female youth participation in clubs and activities
- Number of women with employed
- Number of activities held
- Number of youth on organizational boards by gender.

4.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Political-occupation related			
• Further deterioration on the political-Conflict level	Medium	High	• Ongoing monitoring of the situation
• Constant harassment of Palestinian institutions- related NGOs subjected to measures by the Israeli authorities, including forcible closure.	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek joint ventures: Palestinian – international as much as possible and strong ties with international offices in Jerusalem • Public emphasis on the fact that fund assistance is legally authorized to Jerusalem as an occupied city • Maintain continuous coordination with international organizations and donors including, the EU, UN bodies
• Finding qualified staff with ease of mobility to EJ which may result in failure to sustain operations and compromise quality of activities,	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in a human resource development program (including apprenticeships and on the job training) • Support to Al-Quds university in securing accreditation of its programs and licensing of its health related graduates
• Language barrier for East Jerusalemites obtaining needed services in the WJ	Medium	Medium	• Continued lobbying towards having material in Arabic
• Continuing to lag behind in provision of municipal services compared to WJ despite paying same municipal dues	Medium	High	• Further work by local and international NGOs highlighting discrepancies

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued weakening of the Palestinian identity 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs geared towards strengthening identity especially to children and adolescents
Internal-Palestinian institutional related			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient coordination 	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue efforts to build on synergies among youth related organizations in EJ including education, clubs and those dealing with drug addiction.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued and increasing deficit due to lack of funding 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing efforts towards fundraising from the international community Lobbying by Jerusalemites to pressure the PNA to increase funding to EJ institutions Lobbying for timely coverage by the PNA for rendered services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued weakening of the Palestinian political, social and economic environment 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Persistent calls for a more active Palestinian involvement in EJ

4.7 Sector related final status/transition issues

- Social services and benefits from the Israeli system to be subsidized by the Palestinian system: Benefits include payments to the elderly, the widowed, the unemployed, the disabled, children under 18 and mothers for birth and maternity, to injured workers, to workers in elderly homes for daily assistance, low income salary supplement among others. Additionally, subsistence and maintenance to those with low income or no income pursuant to Palestinian laws and regulations. Expectations of those receiving these services/allowances are high and they are highly dependent on them.
The government of the state of Palestine will have difficulties in replacing benefits given limited resources and lower tax base compared with Israel. The PNA will also be urged to unify systems and have measures applied to all of Palestine as one entity including EJ. It will thus be important to conduct in depth comparative studies on social welfare related laws and regulations and to as much as possible adopt the higher standards and services to be applicable in Palestine. This will also require in-depth assessment and analysis of Levied taxes.
- Combating Drugs: Necessary measures to be in place for combating and preventing the production and trafficking in illicit drugs and for bringing to trial perpetrators. Will need to have in place an extradition treaty to expedite transfer of criminals on both sides of the two states with its relevant clauses. Furthermore elaborate on approaches for joint activities on establishing and or cooperating amongst related social and health institutions, exchange of information and training and research.
- A decision on currently Israeli funded community and youth center (popular centers) ensuring continued funding to centers with proper handover to Palestinian management
- Cooperation between youth and sport centers as well as religious institutions and political entities on both sides of the city on promoting the culture of peace
- Data and information gathering and sharing.

5. Cultural Heritage

5.1 Sector Profile

The cultural heritage is not solely composed of sites, buildings, monuments, museum collections and physical artifacts which have cultural significance and which are tangible and produced and transmitted through generations, but also of living intangible cultural heritage¹²⁶ of inherited expressions including oral traditions, performing arts, local knowledge, and traditional skills. The preservation of Palestinian art, culture, music and most importantly, identity reflects the Palestinian life, perseverance, and steadfastness of Palestinians.

The issue of culture and development in EJ is complex and multi-layered. EJ residents are involved in a daily struggle trying to preserve their national identity, cultural heritage and their existence and right to stay in their city. Jerusalem was the main Palestinian cultural center until 1993 when closure of the city and later the built up of the annexation and separation Wall completely sealed off Jerusalem. Culture as other sectors in EJ suffered gravely from restrictive Israeli policies which mounted in 2009 against cultural activities in the city especially the prohibition of activities related to Jerusalem the Capital of Arab Culture 2009.

Culture and its activities are highly influenced by the political environment; EJ totally separated from the WB and GS, checkpoints and the Wall restricting movement of Palestinians into EJ –all negatively influence the development of culture, cultural life, international cultural exchange and a limited clientele pool. Furthermore, policies separating Jerusalemites from neighboring countries have excluded EJ from cross-border cultural development.

Furthermore, Cultural organizations and activities suffer the most due to lack of funding. Relatively good funding was available before 2010 through the Rockefeller Foundation but this fund dropped drastically and ceased after the global financial crises and the pull out of the Rockefeller Foundation from supporting organization after an incident with one of the organizations in Gaza. This had a great impact on the funding situation and the coverage of operational costs. This funding however is currently being revived by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) although the current funding input is relatively still low¹²⁷

EJ has invaluable tangible cultural heritage in a city that is unlike other in the world for its religious and historical significance. It is of universal value and significance. There is a number of cultural heritage NGOs operating in the EJ. The fields of activity of these NGOs are numerous, including protection of historic heritage resources, arts, traditional activities - dancing, needlework and other traditional handicrafts and sponsoring cultural programs and events.

Culture and cultural activities unite people and help them in better expressing their identity and history. Culture institutions and programs assist the population in its steadfastness and in

¹²⁶ According to the definition by UNESCO, intangible cultural heritage is made up of oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals and festive events, knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe, and traditional craftsmanship knowledge and techniques. www.unesco.org/new/en/santiago/culture/intangible-heritage/.

¹²⁷ As stated by Jack Persekian. SIDA is currently providing 500,000 dollars for 5 institutions for a year and a half.

maintaining their Palestinian identity. There have been numerous efforts with EU and other funding to promote culture as a priority in EJ.

Some of the active cultural organizations of different sizes and target groups in EJ include¹²⁸ (not an all-inclusive exhaustive list).

Name	Specialty
Palestinian National Theatre -Al-Hakawati ¹²⁹	Theatre production
Al-Hoash Art Gallery	Art Center
Al-Jawwal Youth Theatre Group	Theatre production
Al Ma'mal Foundation for Contemporary Arts	Exhibitions and art information
Iss'af Nashashibi Center for Culture Arts and Literature	Exhibitions, symposiums
Jerusalem Centre for Arabic Music	Oriental music training, performances
Magnificat	Music school
National Conservatory of Music	Music conservatory
Oushaq Dance School	Dabkeh dance and training
Hind El Husseini Museum	Museum
Qafilah	Mobile theatre
Sabreen Association for Artistic Development	Music
Sanabel Theatre for Culture and Arts	Art activities focusing on children
Yabous	Performing Arts

These organizations share the following¹³⁰ :

- Relatively low public interest and participation in art and art activities and reluctance of local community to attend events due to lack of security and social conditions.
- Shortage in local talent/ qualified artists whether to design, perform or teach.
- Limited educational options to learn and specialize in the arts. Exception is the National Music Conservatory and to some extent Al Ma'amal
- Cultural activities driven by donor funding – mostly external with limited sustainability.
- Weak policy support for the sector and for cultural organizations in EJ.
- Occupation restrictions on building and expansion for cultural organizations
- Limited media coverage to cultural events.

Despite difficulties, there have been achievements including: the existence of prominent and active organizations music conservatory catering to the needs of over 450 students, numerous yearly productions in arts, music, theater and others, over 10 *Dabkeh* groups and yearly concerts and exhibitions ¹³¹.

Although cultural organizations have historically suffered from minimal cooperation and coordination amongst them, yet the recent cooperation forged between five organizations

¹²⁸ Yabous Strategic plan (2011-2014). The list is not exhaustive. Appear also in This Week in Palestine(July 2017).The Cultural Scene in Al Quds: Challenges and Success Stories by Rania Elias.

¹²⁹ Almost closed down –see Acclaimed Palestinian theatre in Jerusalem risks closure. <http://www.reuters.com /articles/us-Israel-Palestine>

¹³⁰ These were also confirmed in interviews with Jack Persekian, Rania Elias, Said Murad, Manar Idreesi, Daoud El Ghoul and Amer Khalil. Appear also in This Week in Palestine (July 2017). The Cultural Scene in Al Quds: Challenges and Success Stories by Rania Elias

¹³¹ As in Rania Elias –a presentation on Culture in Jerusalem at Bir Zeit University 2016. Appear also in This Week in Palestine (July 2017). The Cultural Scene in Al Quds: Challenges and Success Stories by Rania Elias

under the *Shafaq* seems promising and is hoped to promote complementarity, cost effectiveness and efficiency¹³².

The PNA continually stresses on the importance of preserving the Arab culture in Jerusalem; maintaining the national cultural heritage and identity; and strengthening cultural life in all its forms by improving cultural infrastructure and organizational capacity. However, the overall PNA budget for culture is relatively low let alone that for EJ.

In 2016, the Palestinian Ministry of Culture's budget was 18million NIS, only 0.003% of the national budget¹³³. This includes work on the ministry's strategic objective of catering to the needs of EJ and marginalized areas including supporting the maintenance of Palestinian identity and international advocacy towards protecting heritage and other cultural activities. This is negligible when compared with the Israeli municipalities budget of 1.8 billion NIS endorsed in 2016 for culture sports and elderly¹³⁴.

All interviewees on culture and heritage for the purposes of this review complained of lack of monthly Palestinian funding to EJ institutions and culture institutions in specific for at least sustenance let alone development. When Palestinian funding is made available through the government or specifically through MoJA, it is to manage crisis such as covering rentals and accumulated *Arnona* for hundreds of thousands of NIS but not as part of a well thought strategy for steadfastness¹³⁵. The absence of active interventions in the cultural sphere through the PNA requires that existing cultural institutions bear the work of the Ministry of Culture even with under funding and budgetary constraints¹³⁶.

Of special concern is the issue of the status Quo and the dealing with the Holy sites by the Israeli occupation of the city¹³⁷. There are hundreds of sites in EJ that are sacred and deeply embedded in its history and linked strongly with the three monotheistic religions in the holy city of Jerusalem. According to international law, it is Israel's responsibility as an occupying power not to change the local laws and customs in place, including the non-acquisition of sovereignty and the Status Quo.

The historical Status Quo is a set of body of procedural and substantive rules that govern the relations between religious communities and the civil authorities. It is about rights and responsibilities towards the Holy places¹³⁸. In the conference organized by Al-Azhar, in Cairo, the Holy See in his message to the participants declared that the Old City needs a special regime with international guarantees¹³⁹. He also stressed on the importance of respecting the Status Quo of the holy shrines in direct response to Trump's unilateral decision on Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

The Palestinian leadership officially affirmed its respect and commitment to the Status Quo, as witnessed lately in the bilateral Comprehensive Agreement signed on 26 June 2015 between the State of Palestine and the Holy See, along with the agreement signed between

¹³² Organizations include: Yabous, AlMa'mal, alHakawati, The Music conservatory and Al Hosh. The network is supported in 2016 by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) with oversight management by the NGO Development Center (NDC).

¹³³ As in Rania Elias –a presentation on Culture in Jerusalem at Bir Zeit University 2016

¹³⁴ As in Rania Elias –a presentation on Culture in Jerusalem at Bir Zeit University 2016 from <https://jerusalem.muni.il/en>

¹³⁵ Interview with Amer Khalil-Head of the Palestinian National Theater –Al Hakawati

¹³⁶ Interview with Huda Al Imam

¹³⁷ This section on the Holy Shrines has been developed by Ambassador Issa Kassissieh –Deputy Head of NAD

¹³⁸ Religious Freedom: Israel, occupied Palestinian territory: A report to the commission on International Religious Freedom, Palestine Works, 2016, p. 45.

¹³⁹ Letter from the Holy Father Pope Francis to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, for the International Conference of Al-Azhar; 18 January 2018.

President Mahmoud Abbas and King Abdullah Ibn El Hussein in January 2013, to respect the Status Quo and to ensure the Jordanian Custodianship over the Christian and Moslem holy shrines.

All effort is needed to ensure that the multi-faced characteristics of the holy city are maintained and to embrace tolerance and respect among the faiths. Thus, the fundamental element to ensure the multi-face of the city is to maintain the Status Quo, and to look into different options to tackle the challenges of today and to contribute to reaching a just and acceptable formula for the city, as it is considered a key factor to reach an aspired for comprehensive solution to the Middle East conflict. In this regard, respecting the Status Quo is a perquisite element to ensure any future arrangements for the city.

The daily provocative actions by the settlers, protected by the Israeli police, are an attempt to alter the current reality and arrangements in the holy places especially towards the Al Aqsa Mosque and Compound. Regional and international condemnations are usually heard. The heads of churches as well as Jerusalemites are concerned that any changes in the Status Quo of the premises of Al-Aqsa Compound will reflect itself on the Status Quo related to the churches in Jerusalem.

Most important statements issued by the thirteen churches of the Holy Land in this regard were in September 2015¹⁴⁰ and July 2017¹⁴¹. Additionally, the last stand up in March 2018 between the churches and the Israeli municipality related to the issue of taxation and the attempt of the Israeli municipality to impose property and other taxes on the church and its related institutions, showed clearly that any attempt to alter the historic and legal obligations that have been set over centuries cannot be touched, unless all parties agree to it. The unprecedented act of the closure of the Holy Sepulcher for three days in 2018 by the heads of churches sent a clear message to those who attempt to impose policies against the agreed customs and procedures that govern the relation of the religious communities with the civil authorities.

Dealing with the holy shrines remains a challenging matter not just in the Jerusalem area, but inside the territories of Israel and Palestine as well.

5.2 SWOT Analysis

The following is a SWOT analysis as reflected through feedback elicited from individual interviews

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
Human resources	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity of talents 	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited # of artists, musicians dancers etc. Inability to attract artists from the WB
Management	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Shafaq</i> as a coordinating body Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection by <i>Waqf</i> (Islamic/ Christian) Minimal Arab property purchased or transferred to Jewish ownership 	Culture and heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack or minimal coordination with other sectors: education, tourism and others ¹⁴²

¹⁴⁰ See Joint Statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem

“Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed...” Isaiah 1.17

¹⁴¹ <https://www.lpj.org/heads-of-churches-in-jerusalem-express-concern-regarding-breaches-of-the-status-quo-in-the-jaffa-gate-case/>

¹⁴² Point stressed by Said Murad-Sabreen

Area	Strengths	Weaknesses
	through the past 2 decades	
Achievements	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various activities - with track record under difficult political environment Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some conservation/ rehabilitation by organizations such as Ta'awon, UNDP and others Frequent and quality restoration and maintenance works noticeable Old City and its walls recognized by the UNESCO World Heritage Center 	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of continuity or sustainability due to limited funding or as funding stops Limited activities on documenting intellectual heritage Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak museum culture
Finances and funding	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU and Scandinavian interest in funding Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding interest also tied to improving of physical living conditions of residents 	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> limited and shrinking Most hard hit are the larger organizations with Obligations towards rent and large staff salaries Lack of balanced and fair funding to culture institutions ¹⁴³ Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited funds compared to needs available for preservation/ rehabilitation of buildings
Infrastructure	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established structures Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rich architectural heritage Most of the old buildings have preserved their historic features despite their age. Outstanding universal value of structures. A large number of cultural heritage (mosques, churches, <i>Hammams</i> etc. 	Culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Absence of a museum culture, despite the presence of museums The Israeli Municipal Library does not offer important books on the Palestinian history and cause. Tangible Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demands on housing needs in EJ result in over crowdedness in the old city and wear and tear of old historic buildings and infrastructure. Serious threats to architectural integrity Lack of regular maintenance of buildings adding to their degradation Costly work in terms of rehabilitation of infrastructure "Most of the Palestinian neighborhoods inside the Old City wall are in a catastrophic situation. As much as 25 per cent of the Old City is "at risk" because of neglect, poor maintenance or overcrowding"¹⁴⁴. Lack of awareness on importance of preservation coupled with economic hardships were daily living takes precedence over preservation Condition of disintegration and decay in some structures due to disuse ¹⁴⁵

Challenges and threats to Tangible Heritage include

- Environmental features affecting old buildings

¹⁴³ Point raised by Said Murad-Sabreen

¹⁴⁴ Nazmi Jubeh-Renowned historian-Jerusalem

¹⁴⁵ This Week in Palestine (July 2017). Preserving Cultural Identity by Ivan Carmi

- Financial hardships leading to loss of ownership of old historic buildings or lead to sales to cover debt and thus loss of Palestinian ownership
- Distorted biblical claims and intensive Judaisation measures in EJ threatening to wipe out the Old City's ancient heritage and delete its tradition including attempts to take over the Al Aqsa compound
- Forcible legal imposition of Israeli authorities on the privacy of Holy sites
- Lucrative financial offers to individuals by Israelis to transfer ownership
- Further denying the children and youth to appreciate parts of their heritage and their attachment to that heritage.

Challenges and threats to culture and cultural institutions include:

- Continuing limited PNA support in EJ especially towards culture
- Absence of a strategy for culture approved by all stakeholders and haphazard work by many stressing on the smaller rather than the larger more inclusive culture vision and activities¹⁴⁶
- Inability to sustain the know how due to inability to retain artists or those who are trained as they leave to more lucrative areas and packages ¹⁴⁷
- Push out factors which push artists and organizations outside the city
- Increased costs in EJ and high taxation
- Palestinian cultural heritage continually concealed by Israel in a systematic and concerted effort to undermine the Palestinian national identity
- Back to non or limited coordination after funding for coalitions requiring coordination for receiving funding ¹⁴⁸
- Limited space for large activities. Open spaces are reserved for Israeli activities ¹⁴⁹
- Targeting of cultural activities by the occupation forces especially those held in public spaces. Also resorting to confined spaces to avoid requesting and most probably being denied permit to conduct activities from the Israeli authority¹⁵⁰.
- The easiness by which artifacts can be sold and transferred to Israelis without any criminalization for such activities

Opportunities for cultural heritage include:

- Tapping on the vast opportunities offered by EJ with its historic, religious and cultural sites and reviving its centrality
- Becoming a strong culture competitor to others especially Israelis based on our rich cultural heritage ¹⁵¹
- Expansion of *Shafaq* with added members and strengthened coordination as well as further funding based on the achievements of the current funding phase
- Opening up to and cooperation of Arab institutions and Artists in Israel
- Business like partnerships with the tourism sector and creation of programs catering to tourists
- Further funding to renovation and rehabilitation
- Opportunity to raise awareness and ownership within communities on general rehabilitation and conservation of historic sites

¹⁴⁶ Stressed by Said Murad-Sabreen

¹⁴⁷ Strongly emphasized by Jack Persekian

¹⁴⁸ Point stressed by Said Murad-Sabreen

¹⁴⁹ Pint stressed by Daoud El Ghoul-Shafaq

¹⁵⁰ Point stressed by Manar Idrisi-Al Hoash and Daoud El Ghoul -Shafaq

¹⁵¹ Point stressed by Said Murad-Sabreen and Daoud El Ghoul -Shafaq

- Reconnect rehabilitated buildings /structures with their unique social function as a gathering site for the local community¹⁵²
- Further strengthening of democracy and freedom of expression and national identity
- Coordinating with schools for strengthening art education and extracurricular art activities¹⁵³
- Forging public/private partnerships in support of cultural activities
- Opening up for twinning and cooperation with international cultural organizations
- Interests and talents of the younger generation with a variety of art related matters to be capitalized on ¹⁵⁴
- Active targeting of the international community in EJ to join cultural activities
- Moral and material support of Israeli Arabs which can be capitalized on
- Active targeting and encouragement for Arab visitation to EJ in solidarity with and support to the occupied.

5.3 Main challenges: Priority short/medium and long term interventions

Interventions in cultural heritage in EJ must take into account the interrelatedness of its components including: the cultural industries, the natural cultural heritage and its preservation needs, the crafts masters and professionals in the field ,the education ,training and awareness raising institutions and the cultural spaces available including the galleries, museums and libraries towards the revival of the tangible (buildings and others) and intangible heritage (memories, stories, personal histories documenting the past and the present and visioning the future).

The NGOs working in EJ and dealing with the preservation, conservation and promotion of the cultural heritage have made good progress in these areas and implemented several hundred varied projects and activities. This work is costly and continuous funding is required.

Priorities include:

- Provide financial support to training and awareness raising in
 - the traditional crafts
 - Renovation and rehabilitation of cultural resources, historical and archaeological sites and artifacts through support to academic programs in archaeology, conservation and urban planning. The focus should be on training the youth in the preservation and techniques of architectural conservation
 - The history of the cultural heritage and the importance of its conservation with focus on projects which entice children and adults to be involved to promote appreciation of their culture and heritage and the significance of their city.
- Supporting the documenting, maintaining and protecting of the historic heritage (archaeology, museums, crafts, traditional crafts and others), performance arts, festivals, film and theatre.
- Supporting renovation works: housing and others as well revitalization of streets¹⁵⁵ and *Souqs* in the Old City
- Supporting production and marketing of art and cultural products. Strengthening and reviving traditional craftsmanship/industries with support to crafts masters and artisans

¹⁵² This Week in Palestine (July 2017). Preserving Cultural Identity by Ivan Carmi.

¹⁵³ Stressed by Said Murad-Sabreen.

¹⁵⁴ Point stressed by Said Murad-Sabreen.

¹⁵⁵ As in the EU, Islamic Development Bank and UNDP project on revitalization of the Sultan Suleiman and Salah Eddin streets.

- Supporting cultural infrastructure and capacity building as well as operating cost of cultural institutions.
- Supporting the strengthening of networking amongst cultural organizations and reviewing and learning from the experience of *Shafaq*. Furthermore, encourage the joining of additional organizations.

5.4 Cost of Program

Suggested interventions are meant to preserve historic infrastructure and promote the Palestinian identity, history and cultural narrative currently targeted through Israel's Judaization efforts in EJ. Additionally, improving networking among related organizations and promoting employability and marketing of sector products.

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost /USD	Stakeholders/ Proposed implementers
SHORT TERM					
Continuing support to <i>Shafaq</i> and others	Further strengthening and empowerment is required for sustainability based on the evaluation of the current funding phase	Support to <i>Shafaq</i> maintained for at least another round	Sustainable coalition Improved networking, efficiency and effectiveness	4,000,000	NDC (based on evaluation of current implementation phase)
Support to cultural activities and to the Promotion of the Palestinian identity, history and cultural narrative	Ongoing funding to activities of various forms by culture organizations in EJ including: documentation of cultural heritage, artistic and cultural events and others	Support provided to 25 activities of various organizations/groups	Preservation of Palestinian identity, history and cultural narrative	2,000,000	Local and international NGOs, Funders, Universities
Rehabilitation of Cultural, Heritage and religious sites as well as historic houses- <i>hoash</i> 's in the Old City	Ongoing funding is required for maintenance and preservation especially to counter the poor quality of residential areas in the Old City and the resulting burdens suffered by the inhabitants	Rehabilitation of 15-20 heritage and religious sites Rehabilitation of 15-20 houses in the Old City based on an inventory of priority interventions for rehabilitation	Preservation of Palestinian identity and history A more livable environment for residents of the Old City	5,000,000	UNDP. Taawon, Jerusalem rehabilitation group
Training in rehabilitation and conservation	Ongoing need due to high demand	20-30 trained in programs of different types and duration	Improved local capacity and skills for rehabilitation and conservation	1,000,000	Al Quds university Universities-conservation centers abroad
Production and Marketing of cultural products	Palestinians have a rich cultural heritage and cultural products. This needs further attention in relation to the developing and the marketing of the products for better quality, distribution and sale and competition with others	Individuals-organizations producing 5 main products targeted for improved capacity and marketing of products 2 new ideas on production of cultural material entertained for development	Preservation of Palestinian identity and history Improved quality and marketing of products Improved economic return	3,000,000	Pertinent organizations including tourism
TOTAL				15,000,000	
LONG TERM					
Master plan	There is need to come up with a comprehensive master plan as part of broader cross sectoral plans for EJ including: cataloguing and archiving of all national culture and heritage resources necessary for future management	Master plan available	Integrated and comprehensive work on culture and heritage aspects	100,000	MoTA, consultants
Support to cultural activities	Culture is one of the most marginalized sectors in terms of governmental funding	Priority activities supported as per masterplan	Preservation and Promotion of Palestinian identity and history	1,500,000	

Intervention	Justification	Output	Outcome	Estimated cost /USD	Stakeholders/ Proposed implementers
	and will require continuous subsistence				
TOTAL				1,600,000	

5.5 Indicators and Approach for Monitoring and Evaluation

- Number and percent of collaboratively designed/implemented projects/activities by culture institutions as a result of coalitions
- Number of partners actively participating in and contributing to coalition activities
- Number of rehabilitated sites
- Number of Palestinians trained in conservation and rehabilitation
- Emergence of cultural products
- Increased marketing of cultural products
- Number of people reached through cultural activities
- Number of festivals, exhibitions and artistic events
- Number of publications of culture and heritage
- Emergence of young artistic talents.

5.6 Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Political-occupation related			
• Continued closure of EJ and the GS with no mobility and accessibility to Jerusalem leaving a small pool of audience/participants in EJ cultural activities	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring of Israeli actions vis-à-vis Palestinian institutions in EJ. • Continuous lobbying with the international community on the status of EJ
• Constant harassment of Palestinian institutions- subjected to measures by the Israeli authorities, including forcible closure and stopping activities.	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek joint ventures: Palestinian – international as much as possible and strong ties with international offices in Jerusalem • Public emphasis on the fact that fund assistance is legally authorized to Jerusalem as an occupied city
• Finding qualified staff with ease of mobility to EJ which may result in failure to sustain operations and compromise quality of activities,	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invest in a human resource development program (including apprenticeships and on the job training) • Support to culture related training programs in EJ (ex. through AQU or shorter programs offered by Al Ma'mal, the National conservatory and others)
• Transfer of ownership of structures with architectural and historic value to Israelis through lucrative sale offers	Low	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowments and increased funds for covering cost of purchase by Palestinian entities when offers arise • More contribution by Arab Funds on buying buildings presented for sale
• Continued over crowdedness in the Old city	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising on preservation • Funds available for renovation and rehabilitation of housing and others
• High cost of preservation activities	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active fundraising • Training locals in preservation activities • Coordination amongst organizations involved in preservation and rehabilitation
Internal-Palestinian institutional related			
• Duplication and lack of coordination amongst the Culture institutions	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further support to <i>Shafaq</i> and its expansion to include additional cultural intuitions. • Continue efforts to build on synergies with other related sectors and organizations in EJ such as tourism and the private sector.

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited space at some organizations challenging expansion 	Medium	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cooperation amongst institutions for sharing spaces. Mapping unused or underused facilities if any especially in the Old City and planning usage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued and increasing deficit especially for the smaller organizations 	High	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobbying by the Jerusalemites to pressure the PNA Further fundraising from the international community Joint programs between the larger more established / able and the smaller organizations

5.7 Sector related final status/transition issues

- The status of archeological sites: Responsibilities and supervision on EJ will be transferred to the Palestinian side. Assessment should take place between the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and the Ministry in Israel on supervision and management of sites and all archeological activities .
- Issues of potential further excavation requests by Israel need to be discussed considering issues of common archeological interests whilst those activities are halted in the transition period. Additionally, issues pertaining to theft of archeological artifacts must be dealt with in accordance with Palestinian Antiquities Law and other relevant regulations.
- Historic and religious sites including cemeteries and accessibility to all: There are sites with historic and religious value to both Palestinians/Arabs and Israelis on both sides of the City. Measures need to be in place for ensuring access to sites without discrimination and within the context of the final status and as per administrative and security arrangements agreed upon between the two sides.
- Holy Sites Security: measures for providing security for holy sites and their affiliate organizations to be discussed and agreed upon.
- Licensing and Quality Control: Issuing licenses to tourism related business such as hotels, travel agencies...etc. Monitor performance of such business and set standers.
- Revival of the Palestinian identity in EJ –naming of streets, etc. Maybe a committee to be established for that purpose with due concern to history, religion and culture.
- Preparations by institutions for influx of visitors from the WB and potentially from abroad especially from the Arab and Islamic world.
- General cultural cooperation issues: These need to be discussed and elaborated including but may not be limited to: cooperation between cultural centers, between media agencies to make visible the new reality in Jerusalem with focus on peace and its benefits to all, and between religious institutions.
- Maintenance and management of Holy Sites: To maintain, restore holy sites. Concerted effort on the mapping and rehabilitation of Islamic and Christian neglected holy sites in preparation for a rising influx of local and international visitors and compliance with safety and preservation measures etc.
- Discussion of ways on promoting and presenting the city as a shared city rather than an exclusive Israeli city and capital. This will require extensive discussions amongst related ministries on both sides.
- If still closed, then the immediate reopening of Palestinian institutions forcibly closed by the Israeli authorities and strategies towards their operation as needed

- Work on Palestinian guides within a comprehensive strategy for tourism in the transition phase including agreement on licensing tourist guides.
- Data and information gathering and sharing.
- A strategy to revive the cultural centrality of EJ and as part of EJ as the Capital of the State of Palestine.
- Inheritance Law: Inheritance division to resolve inheritance disputes and other legal issues.

Specific Final Status transition issues related to the Holy Shrines include:¹⁵⁶

- The most delicate and sensitive to be dealt with are the shrines considered sacred for more than one faith and both claim the sacredness of the shrine. Such disputes, to be solved require creativity in securing the right arrangements. Regardless, any political arrangement would be built on an agreement between the Israeli and Palestinian sides along with the consent of the spiritual leaders of the three religions.
- Both parties should agree on the definition of a holy shrine, and should make a distinction between the holy shrines and the heritage/historic sites. A clear list of the holy sites agreed upon by both sides should be put on the negotiating table¹⁵⁷.
- In future talks on the holy shrines and the essentiality of preserving the historic and legal Status Quo, the Heads of Churches as well as the Islamic Waqf officials should be engaged to ensure the success and the implementation of any future potential agreement. During the 2000 Camp David summit, and while the Israeli and Palestinian officials were negotiating on Jerusalem, the Heads of Churches issued a strong statement, pointing that the holy city of Jerusalem had its owners, and that the Patriarchs and the Heads of Churches should be engaged in any future arrangements for the city especially when it comes to the old city of Jerusalem.
- Any shared holy place like the Cenacle in Mount Zion should be crafted carefully, and detailed protocols should be worked out, to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding.
- It is suggested that a body composed of the three local religious communities would be set up to ensure the pluralistic, tolerance and respect of each community to the other, based on the fact that Jerusalem is inclusive and not exclusive. Interfaith dialogue¹⁵⁸ and the multi voices should be the main characteristic of the holy city, and each faithful community has free access to their sacred sites without any impediments or obstacles from any side except to ensure the safety and security of the believers, especially during religious seasons.
- Consider the principle of applying the same arrangements on both sides Israel and Palestine.

¹⁵⁶ This section has been developed by Ambassador Issa Kassissieh –Deputy Head of NAD

¹⁵⁷ The Negotiations Affairs Department commissioned Dr. Nazmi Jubeh to number all the holy shrines of the Old City: 89 holy shrines for the Moslem faith; 41 holy shrines for the Christian faith; and 47 holy shrines for the Jewish faith.

¹⁵⁸ Reverend Trond Bakkevig's model on the interfaith dialogue; <https://www.prio.org/People/Person/?x=5745>

References

General

- ACRI report. Poverty, blight and neglect in East Jerusalem 2014
- Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015)
- Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2017-Facts and Figures (May 2017)
- ARIJ-A Guide for CSO's, Policy Makers and Donors for Improving Services in the Vulnerable Communities of East Jerusalem " (Dec 2016)
- Charlie Hoyle-Decades of neglect leave East Jerusalem mired in poverty, violence (May 14-2015)
<https://www.maannnews.com>
- East Jerusalem poverty -Seven months in Tel Aviv -A tale of two cities-
<https://sevenmonthsintelaviv.com>
- Ibrahim Sha'aban, 31/3/2017. Online available from <http://www.alquds.com/articles>
- Infographics: East Jerusalem by numbers, 2015. <https://972mag.com>
- Jerusalem Institute of Statistical Studies, Statistical Yearbook of Jerusalem (2016)
- Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination
<https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/>
- PCBS, 2015 Jerusalem Statistical Year Book
- State of Palestine-National Policy Agenda 2017-2022-Putting Citizens First (Dec,2016)
- President's Office, Sector Development Strategic Plan of East Jerusalem (2018-2022)-the Jerusalem Unit Dec 2017(Draft).

السمان، ديمة، ٢٠١٢، التعليم في القدس المحتلة، تحدٍ وصمود. معركة المناهج الفلسطينية معركة تاريخ وثقافة وتراث، وزارة التعليم العالي، رام الله.

دائرة الإحصاء الفلسطينية، ٢٠١٦، كتاب القدس الإحصاء السنوي ٢٠١٦، رام الله، فلسطين.

مؤسسة حقوق المواطن، ٢٠١٣، القدس واقع وتحديات.

Education

- Adalah: Conditioning budgets for repairing East Jerusalem schools on adoption of Israeli curriculum is illegal-<https://www.adalah.org/>
- Al Quds newspaper (March 2nd 2017). Hearing session in Jerusalem on Infrastructure in Jerusalem schools
- Al Quds Newspaper (September 9th 2017). With the beginning of the new school year, Israel is continuing in imposing its curriculum. By Rasem Ebeidat
- Arab Thought Forum. Dropout from East Jerusalem Schools: Reasons (June 2012)
- Aziza Nofal. Vying for minds in East Jerusalem schools.<https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2018/06/east-jerusalem-palestinians-education-schools-israel-aid.html>
- Carrot, not stick': Israel pushes its curriculum in Palestinian schools. Maayan Lubell, Suheir Sheikh (JUNE 29, 2017). <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-palestinians-jerusalem-schools>
- Directorate of Education. Israeli Changes on Palestinian Curricula in Jerusalem (2012)
- Directorate of Education-various electronic communication
- Education Under Occupation: East Jerusalem-An Interview with Zakaria Odeh (April 2016). Online available from <http://www.alternet.org>
- Hearing session in Jerusalem titled Infrastructure in Jerusalem schools published in Al Quds newspaper on March 2nd 2017
- In an interview with Dr Hanna Issa as published in Maan News 3-10-2017
- Ir Amim , Shortage of Classrooms in East Jerusalem-Annual Survey, August 2014
- Israel lures East Jerusalem schools to abandon Palestinian syllabus-The Arab weekly, (August 21, 2016) <https://the arabweekly.com>
- Jerusalem Unit and The Ministry of Education and Higher Education. Education in Occupied Jerusalem (Challenge and steadfastness) (2012)
- PASSIA. Education in Jerusalem (Sept, 2016)

Samir Jibril –an interview with Al Quds newspaper –January 17th 2018 ,P 3
 Stephen Lendman-East Jerusalem Schools-Failing grade. (June 10th 2012) <http://renew.com>
 YMCA Jerusalem report on conference on developing TVET/priorities of sustainable development in EJ
 YMCA Jerusalem-meeting minutes of the first meeting of the TVET Council in EJ within the annexation and expansion wall –May 12th 2018

Social Welfare

Al-Huda Association for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Addicts in Shuafat. Online available from <http://www.middleeastmonitor.com>
 All they want our children to do is to take drugs and throw stones: Drugs, Israel and Silwan (January 3-2013) <http://www.silwanic.net>
 B'Tselem, The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. Publication- Unprotected: The Detention of Palestinian Teenagers in East Jerusalem. Oct 2017
 East Jerusalem Youth find escape in drugs. Online available from <http://www.dw.com>
 Empowering youth in East Jerusalem (April 27th, 2015). Online available from <https://www.map-uk>.
 Interview with Farawneh from the documentation unit at the Commission of prisoners and detainees published by Maan news on 4-10-2017
 Leila Bustami, Nisreen Harhash. Drug Addicts Behavior and the Built Environment of the Old City of Jerusalem. Universal Journal of Psychology 3(6):185-196, (2015)
 Massad, Salwa G et al. "Substance use among Palestinian youth in the West Bank, Palestine: a qualitative investigation." BMC Public Health. 16:800. Accessible at <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-016-3472-4>
 Nadera Shalhoub Kevorkian. Trapped: The violence of Exclusion in Jerusalem .Jerusalem Quarterly 49
 Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian. The Politics of Birth and the Intimacies of Violence Against Palestinian Women in Occupied East Jerusalem. The British Journal of Criminology, Volume 55, Issue 6, 1 November 2015, <https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azv035>
 Occupied and High in East Jerusalem (April 27th, 2015). Online available from <https://medium.com>
 Palestinian Women in East Jerusalem Struggle to Escape Poverty (April 14th, 2017). Online available from <https://newsdeeply.com/womensadvancement/articles>
 Samir Jibril-Education Struggle in Jerusalem. Aljazeera net May 2016
 Sawsan Ramahi, The scourge of drugs in Jerusalem (January, 2014). Online available from <http://www.middleeastmonitor.com>
 Study reflecting dangerous numbers of drug addiction in Palestine <http://www.alquds.com/articles> - Nov 11-2017
 The Association for Civil rights in Israel. Policies of Neglect in EJ. (May 2012)
 The Palestinian Counselling Center, The Human Rights and IHL Secretariat and JLAC on Violence by Occupation and its impact on internal family and community related violence -2017

Health

Al Quds Newspaper (Nov 12th 2017). The EJHN's Project supports hundreds of uninsured patients.
 East Jerusalem Hospitals face a severe financial crisis impacting service delivery, October/November 2012. Online available from <http://www.emro.who> .
 East Jerusalem Hospitals Network Aims To Improve The Health System In Jerusalem. (August 2015)
 Online available from <http://english.pnn.ps>
<https://www.maannnews.net/content.aspx?id=927264> (on the Ministry of Health's assurances to support the hospitals) and <https://www.maannnews.net/content.aspx?id=927262> (on statement by the Ministry of Finance on Issue of AVH)
 Palestinian Health Policy Forum. Localizing (Tawteen) health services -2015

Cultural Heritage

Acclaimed Palestinian theatre in Jerusalem risks closure .<http://www.reuters.com>

/articles/us-Israel-Palestine <https://www.lpj.org/heads-of-churches-in-jerusalem-express-concern-regarding-breaches-of-the-status-quo-in-the-jaffa-gate-case/>

Intangible Heritage, www.unesco.org/new/en/santiago/culture/intangible-heritage/

John Reed, Jerusalem city of ruins (Oct 1st ,2015). Online available from <http://www.ft.com>

Letter from the Holy Father Pope Francis to the Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, for the International Conference of Al-Azhar; 18 January 2018.

Joint Statement from the Patriarchs and Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. “Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed...” Isaiah 1.17

Rania Elias –Paper presented at the Palestinian Culture Conference by the Institute of Palestine Studies .Paper titled Culture in Jerusalem on 30/10/2016 at Bir Zeit University

Religious Freedom: Israel, occupied Palestinian territory: A report to the commission on International Religious Freedom, Palestine Works, 2016, p. 45.

Reverend Trond Bakkevig’s model on the interfaith dialogue;
<https://www.prio.org/People/Person/?x=5745>

This Week in Palestine (July 2017). Preserving Cultural Identity by Ivan Carmi

This Week in Palestine (July 2017). The Cultural Scene in Al Quds: Challenges and Success Stories by Rania Elias

Annex 1: Selected Social Sector Related Comparative Statistics-EJ/WJ

Area	EJ	WJ	Source
Population	37%		ACRI, East Jerusalem 2015.Facts and Figures (May 2015)
Contribution in taxes to the “Israeli Municipality	30%		ACRI, East Jerusalem 2015.Facts and Figures (May 2015)
Services received from Municipality	10%		ACRI, East Jerusalem 2015.Facts and Figures (May 2015)
Culture budget	2.1%		Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/ (from Ir Amim)
Business development budget	1.1%		Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/ (from Ir Amim)
Welfare Budget	4.4%		Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/ (from Ir Amim)
Children attending pre-school	6%		ACRI report .Poverty, blight and neglect in East Jerusalem 2014
Number of municipal preschools	3	56	East Jerusalem poverty –Seven months in Tel Aviv –A tale of two cities– https://sevenmonthsintela
Shortage in Kindergarten classes	400		Michael Schaeffer Omer-Man -Jerusalem by the numbers: Poverty, segregation and discrimination https://972mag.com/jerusalem-by-the-numbers-poverty-segregation-and.../91425/ (from ACRI)
Per student school budget	20,000	4X NIS27-33,000 for Jewish	Jerusalem Post ,August 31 st -Study :More EJ students opt for informal education and Ir Amim Al Quds Newspaper (September 9 th 2017).With the beginning of the new school year, Israel is continuing in imposing its curriculum. By Rasem Ebeidat
Municipal school budget allotment	13-15%		Jerusalem Post, August 31 st -Study:More EJ students opt for informal education and Ir Amim
Average class size	32	24	East Jerusalem poverty –Seven months in Tel Aviv –A tale of two cities – https://sevenmonthsintela
Area per square meter per student	0.5	1.5	East Jerusalem poverty –Seven months in Tel Aviv –A tale of two cities – https://sevenmonthsintela
School dropout rates by Grades	9% (9 th) 16% (10 th) 26% (11 th) 33% (12 th)	5.4% (11 th) 1.4% (12 th)	Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015) Up to 50% as claimed by Samir Jibril in Al Quds newspaper January 2018
Staff positions for coping with students at risk of dropout in EJ	4(only one actually filled)	17	Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem2015-Facts and Figures (May 2017)
Number of infant care clinics	6	27	Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem2015-Facts and Figures (May 2017)
Population receiving welfare services	37%		PASSIA-2017
Designated social welfare positions	22%		PASSIA-2017
Welfare offices	5	22	PASSIA-2017
Welfare cases per social worker	339	194	Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015)and May 2017
Welfare and youth related services	10%		PASSIA-2017
Children below poverty line	76%	33.4%	
Employment	67% M 14% F		Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015)
Unemployment	19%		Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI), East Jerusalem 2015-Facts and Figures (May 2015)

Annex 2: Focus Group Sessions and Interviews

A- Focus Group Sessions

EDUCATION	Names of Participants	Organization
Date: April 10th	1. Fawziyyeh Musmar	Muslim Womens/Wadi El Jz
Venue :YWCA	2. Adel Hallak	Al Aqsa Schools and Kindergartens
Number invited: 25	3. Nabeel Daoud	
Number participated :15	4. Ikram Al Weheidi	Muslim Women's secondary school
	5. Ahmad Safadi	Al Aytam/Al Thory
	6. Sameer Jibril	Directorate of Education
	7. Sawsan Safadi	Directorate of Education
	8. Aref Hussein	Al Naizak
	9. Haya Maraqa	Field worker -Directorate
	10. Raeda Atton	Field Supervisor-Directorate
	11. Nida Amireh	Al Aytam –Basic school
	12. Mai Amireh	YWCA
	13. Abdel Qader Hussein	Faisal Hussein Foundation
	14. Ziad Al Shamalli	Parents union –Jerusalem schools
	15. Ziad Hammoury	Legal Counselling Center

SOCIAL WELFARE	Names of Participants	Organization
Date: April 10 th 2017	1. Hania Bitar	PYALARA
Venue :YWCA	2. Fatmeh Abdellatif	Jerusalem Women's center
Number invited 25	3. Ahmad Safadi	Elia for Media
Number participated: 16	4. Riyadh Shihabi	Old city youth organization
	5. Hamdi Rajabi	Ministry of Jerusalem Affairs /governorate
	6. Issam Jweihan	Al Maqdisy
	7. Majed Alloush	Al Sadeeq Al Tayyeb
	8. Jamal Ghosheh	Jerusalem-Al Hilal Club
	9. Mohammad Abdel Fattah	Clubs Union and Shuafat Camp Youth Center
	10. Saleem Fageeh	
	11. Sandrine Amer	YWCA
	12. Mazen Jaabary	Arab Studies /Youth Department
	13. Naheel Bazbasat	YWCA
	14. Samer Nusseibeh	Business Man
	15. Nasser Qous	African Community

B: Individual interviews

	Name	Subsector	Organization	Date of interview
1	Rafiq Hussein	Health	Director -Makassed Hospital	March 29 th 2017
2	Walid Namour	Health, Elderly	AVH	April 1 st 2017
3	Rania Elias	Culture	Yabous	April 1 st 2017
4	Umayyah Khammash	Health	UNRWA-Former Chief of Health	April 10 th 2017
5	Jack Persekian	Culture and heritage	Al Ma'amal	April 1 st 2017
6	Fadwa Shaer	Social Welfare	Jerusalem Women's Center	April 19 th 2017 & varied
7	Issa Kassissieh	Cultural heritage, Social Welfare, General	Negotiations Affairs Department	Varied 2017-2018
8	Amer Khalil	Culture	Palestinian National Theater Al Hakawati	April 25 th 2018
9	Huda Al Imam	Culture and heritage	Free Lancer	April 25 th 2018
10	Sama Aweidah	Women	Women's Studies Center	April 25 th 2018

	Name	Subsector	Organization	Date of interview
11	Salwa Hdeib	Women	PNA Staff-Women's Affairs and MoJA	April 25 th 2018
12	Daoud ElGhoul	Culture	Coordinator of Shafaq	May 7 th 2018
13	Manar Idrisi	Culture	El Hosh Director	May 7 th 2018
14	Said Murad	Culture	Sabreen	May 8 th 2018
15	Nora Qort	Welfare, geriatrics, women, health and culture	Hamilat Al Teeb, Jood Museum	May 8 th 2018

C: Other contributing individuals

	Name	Organization	Nature if contribution
1	Suheil Miari	Makassed Hospital	Information on Funding
2	Fouad Hallak	NAD	Review of document
3	Jamil Rabah	NAD	Review of document
4	Mohammad Hadiyeh	NAD	Review of document
5	Ashraf Khatib	NAD	Review of document
6	Staff member	Palestinian Central Bureau of statistics	Statistics on Number of Jerusalemites 2018
7	Ghassan Shakhshir	Norwegian Representative Office to the PA	General discussions on EJ