



Ibtikar
ابتكار

ابتكار للتمكين والريادة المجتمعية
Ibtikar for Empowerment and Social Entrepreneurship

Ibtikar for Empowerment & Social Entrepreneurship

Educate, Innovate, and Advocate

Organization Profile

TALK TO US

Tel: +972-2-2742498

Mobile: +972 59-875-6808

www.ibtikar.ps

ibtikarpal@gmail.com



ABOUT US:

Ibtikar is a Palestinian youth-led NGO that was established in 2019 in Bethlehem, Palestine. Ibtikar offers innovative youth programmes, corporate training sessions, and consulting services to foster social innovation and entrepreneurship in the community.

Additionally, it promotes education for social innovation by developing programmes for teachers and students, aiming to inspire a qualitative improvement in the educational atmosphere. Strategically, Ibtikar aspires to enable Palestinians to use their creativity to address social issues effectively and contribute to building a fairer, more caring, and equal society.

At Ibtikar, we focus on empowering and supporting teachers, students, young people, and women to realise their potential as social innovators, change-makers, and entrepreneurs; giving them the skills needed to tackle the social issues they face in their communities. Ibtikar believes that young people must lead the way in making the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals a reality, and each of Ibtikar's projects is a powerful tool to accelerate progress towards these goals. Ibtikar's strategy is aligned with the U.N. transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Leave No-One Behind.

Ibtikar Vision of Change

Ibtikar empowers the next generation to address societal needs and achieve improved well-being for all.

Ibtikar Mission

Ibtikar connects and inspires, teaches, trains, and mentors change agents and innovators to become global problem-solvers who can contribute to better Palestinian entrepreneurship and educational ecosystems, guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



Our Interventions

Ibtikar works to create safe and inspiring spaces for learning, growth, and social innovation.

Ibtikar designs and implements interactive programs that integrate economic empowerment, community education, and social entrepreneurship, with a particular focus on women, youth, and children. Its interventions are grounded in field realities and shaped by community needs, aiming to strengthen social resilience and promote responsive solutions to socio-economic challenges.

Ibtikar provides vocational and transformative training programs, psychosocial support sessions, and consultancy services for community initiatives, institutions, and individuals. It also develops educational resources for teachers and students, working to rebuild the relationship with education as a driver of social change.



A Path to Resilience: WASH and Agricultural Relief in West Bank

Led by Ibtikar, the project will support 300 to 450 vulnerable households, benefiting up to 2,250 individuals across the southern West Bank. At its core, the initiative aims to empower 150 youth leaders through practical, hands-on training in WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), sustainable agriculture, and livestock management.

Each youth participant will be provided with the tools, materials, and resources needed to implement real, community-based interventions. These efforts will include the distribution of water-saving technologies, agricultural inputs, and livestock support to improve both household water access and food security. In addition to technical training, participants will receive mentorship in business development, enabling them to sustain and expand their initiatives beyond the project's timeframe.

By investing in youth leadership and resilient livelihoods, A Path to Resilience addresses immediate humanitarian needs while laying the groundwork for long-term recovery, self-reliance, and community-driven development.

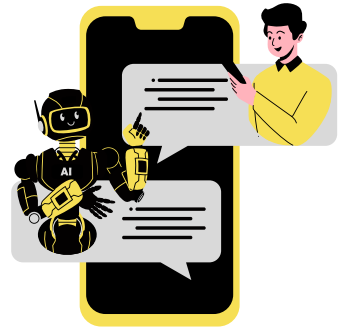


Combating Online Gender-Based Violence in Palestine

Ibtikar is spearheading a groundbreaking initiative to protect women and girls in Bethlehem and Hebron from online gender-based violence. By integrating digital literacy, legal support, and innovative technology, the project equips participants with the knowledge and tools to navigate digital spaces safely and confidently.

By the midpoint of the project, it had already surpassed its initial target for direct beneficiaries. The initiative continues to expand, reaching formal institutions, governmental bodies, and local organisations through tailored trainings and awareness sessions.

A seven-month digital campaign is actively running across Ibtikar's social media platforms, raising public awareness and promoting safe online behaviour. In parallel, a dedicated learning hub is being developed on Ibtikar's website to provide open access to campaign content, educational resources, and practical tools.



At the heart of the initiative is a Mobile App - a comprehensive tool featuring AI-powered abuse detection, reporting guidance, and a digital resource hub. Designed with privacy, inclusion, and accessibility in mind, the app will offer real-time support and empower users to respond effectively to online threats. Crucially, the project places a strong emphasis on reaching women and girls in marginalised and underserved areas, particularly in remote and peri-urban communities across Bethlehem and Hebron.

These areas often experience digital exclusion due to limited infrastructure, lower access to technology, and reduced exposure to digital safety education. Through local partnerships, mobile outreach, and community-based workshops, the initiative ensures that women and girls who are most at risk are not only included but prioritised—bridging the digital divide and promoting equitable access to protection and empowerment in online spaces.



Empowering Women-Led Enterprises Through Coaching and Skills Development

Building on the success of the Youth Business Coaches (YBCs) project, which ran from late 2022 through to the end of 2023, the Empowering Women-Led Enterprises (EWLE) initiative focuses on uplifting women entrepreneurs across the southern West Bank. This project is designed to provide tailored training and ongoing business coaching that addresses the unique challenges women-led businesses face—challenges that were clearly identified through previous coaching efforts.

At its core, the programme aims to equip women with practical skills essential for growing and sustaining their businesses. Key areas include marketing and branding, financial management, and product development and promotion. By strengthening these competencies, women entrepreneurs are better prepared to manage their enterprises effectively, raise their profile, and broaden their customer base—both locally and through digital platforms.

Alongside enhancing individual capacity, the project also seeks to widen its reach.

New women-led initiatives are being engaged, and the Youth Business Coaches team at Ibtikar is expanding. This twofold strategy not only maximises impact across the region but also strengthens the coaching unit established during the YBC project, ensuring it remains a valuable resource that continues to support women entrepreneurs well beyond the project's duration.

EWLE is a strategic and impact-driven endeavour, particularly focused on women operating within informal, home-based, or marginalised settings. Every aspect of the project is thoughtfully designed to confront and overcome the practical and systemic barriers women face in business. Through these efforts, **EWLE** promotes a more inclusive entrepreneurial environment and lays the foundation for lasting economic empowerment.

Sustainability lies at the heart of this initiative. By championing locally rooted solutions and fostering women's leadership, the project aims to create enduring benefits for communities and inspire a new generation of Palestinian women innovators and business leaders.



Empowering the Next Generation Through Storytelling

This project engages 100 children from five Palestinian schools in storytelling using traditional Palestinian puppet characters. Through this initiative, children recall their heritage, express their identities, and build communication skills, fostering a deeper connection to their cultural roots.



In a region with limited creative outlets, the project provides a safe space for self-expression and cultural exploration. By using storytelling as the primary tool, it strengthens identity and encourages peacebuilding within communities.



As a pilot initiative, this project lays the foundation for expanding heritage-based storytelling, ensuring that Palestinian children remain connected to their history and empowered to share their narratives.



SHELEADS II



SHELEADS II: Empowering Refugee Women in Bethlehem Governorate

Implemented by Ibtikar for Empowerment and Social Entrepreneurship in partnership with the Strengthening the Influence of Palestinian Refugees on their Living Conditions (PART II) programme—commissioned by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)—SHELEADS II addresses the complex socio-economic and psychosocial challenges facing refugee women in the Bethlehem Governorate.

The project directly supports over 1,120 refugee women through targeted capacity-building workshops and vocational therapy sessions, while indirectly benefiting their families and wider communities.

SHELEADS II

Additionally, around 200 women entrepreneurs are engaged through dynamic open-air markets, and 94 women receive psychosocial and vocational support. The initiative also includes a mentorship component involving 10 trained youth mentors to foster ongoing guidance and community leadership.

SHELEADS II adopts a holistic and sustainable approach, combining psychosocial support, mosaic art therapy, community mapping, dialogue sessions, and business empowerment through training and market exposure. Its mission is to promote psychological well-being, strengthen social cohesion, and foster economic independence for refugee women.

By nurturing community-led initiatives and embedding lessons learned into future programming, the project lays the groundwork for long-term impact and contributes to a more resilient and inclusive future for Palestinian refugee communities.



The Palestinian Puppets Project

The "Palestinian Puppets" initiative, Ibtikar showcases the perseverance, cultural pride, and human spirit of Palestinian women crafting unique puppets and embroidery handcrafted pieces of art. Each puppet represents a different city or village in Palestine, serving as more than a cultural artifact. These creations are symbolic narratives, weaving together the experiences and resilience of the women, telling stories of the land, the people, and the unbreakable threads that connect humanity.

The invitation is extended to support Ibtikar's cause by acquiring these unique puppets and now, embroidered purses and other handcrafted pieces. By doing so, supporters not only embrace a piece of art but also become part of a larger story, contributing to the dreams and aspirations of the women involved, preserving Palestinian heritage, and standing against forces that seek to erase their presence and culture. These distinctive creations, each embodying the essence of the place it represents, foster a connection to the land, resilience of the people, and the shared threads of hope and humanity.





The Palestinian Puppets Project

The "Palestinian Puppets" project by Ibtikar stands as a beacon of resilience and hope in the face of challenging times. Beyond its economic impact, the initiative empowers Palestinian women, providing not only financial stability but also a therapeutic outlet for creativity and expression. As these unique puppets and handcrafted pieces preserve cultural heritage, they become symbols of strength, fostering a sense of pride and identity within the community. The collaborative nature of the project builds a supportive network among participants, contributing to the overall well-being of individuals. These narratives of resilience, coupled with the potential for global solidarity, make the project a powerful force in inspiring and connecting the Palestinian society, transcending difficulties, and weaving a narrative of enduring strength and cultural pride.

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