

Arab Foundations Forum – Women Empowerment

The Arab Foundations Forum (AFF) is an association of foundations that aims to foster dialogue, networking, learning and collaboration among foundations as well as other partners in order to strengthen the capacity of strategic Arab philanthropy towards advancing public good and the well-being of citizens in the Arab region. The work of our member organizations spans different geographical areas across the region as well as diverse scopes of interest and focus areas. Foremost among our goals as a forum of foundations is to help advance our members' work



As an important component of its Community Development sector strategy, the Welfare Association supports women being empowered to take an active role in their communities. Since 2006, WA has been assisting local organizations to provide legal and social rights counselling to women living in rural or marginalized areas in the West Bank, in East Jerusalem and in the Gaza Strip. The program works with four major women's NGOs to provide 90 female lawyers and 90 social workers in the northern and southern West Bank with further training in women's rights and supports community awareness-raising activities for women. Also 60 health workers have been trained in identifying and addressing cases of domestic violence. The program also encourages coalition work and networking among 20 women's NGOs to improve services.

In Jerusalem, the program supports a legal clinic that aims to assist several hundred women



Makhzoumi Foundation – Lebanon

Makhzoumi Foundation is a Lebanese family foundation established in 1997 to contribute to the development of civil society throughout Lebanon, addressing different needs of different target groups including women and children, and working on diverse areas such as health care, environment, training and economic empowerment. Stemming from its commitment to empowering Lebanese women, the Makhzoumi Foundation launched several programs that work



The Foundation also conducts regular awareness sessions that involve disseminating knowledge and information on relevant topics, raising awareness on issues of pubic concern and encouraging the engagement of women in their local communities. Women are also offered different training sessions in various arts and crafts including recycling solid waste to create different products which they are then offered the opportunity to sell at Foundation's yearly exhibition.



With regard to the marketing of products, JRF's marketing department promotes and sells these products through multiple national and international channels. They are sold worldwide through tradeshows and featured in prominent home-furnishing magazines and publications. The current number of women employed in Community Handicrafts Project is 46, with 641 direct beneficiaries engaged in project design and implementation.

The Arab Foundations Forum is committed to continue to provide the necessary support and collaboration networks necessary to further the work and goals of our members of which the three organizations mentioned in this report represent a sample of. We are proud to represent our member organizations and to partner with them in addressing the needs of the growing number of the strategic Arab philanthropy institutions throughout the region in contributing to creating more social justice and equality in the Arab world.

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