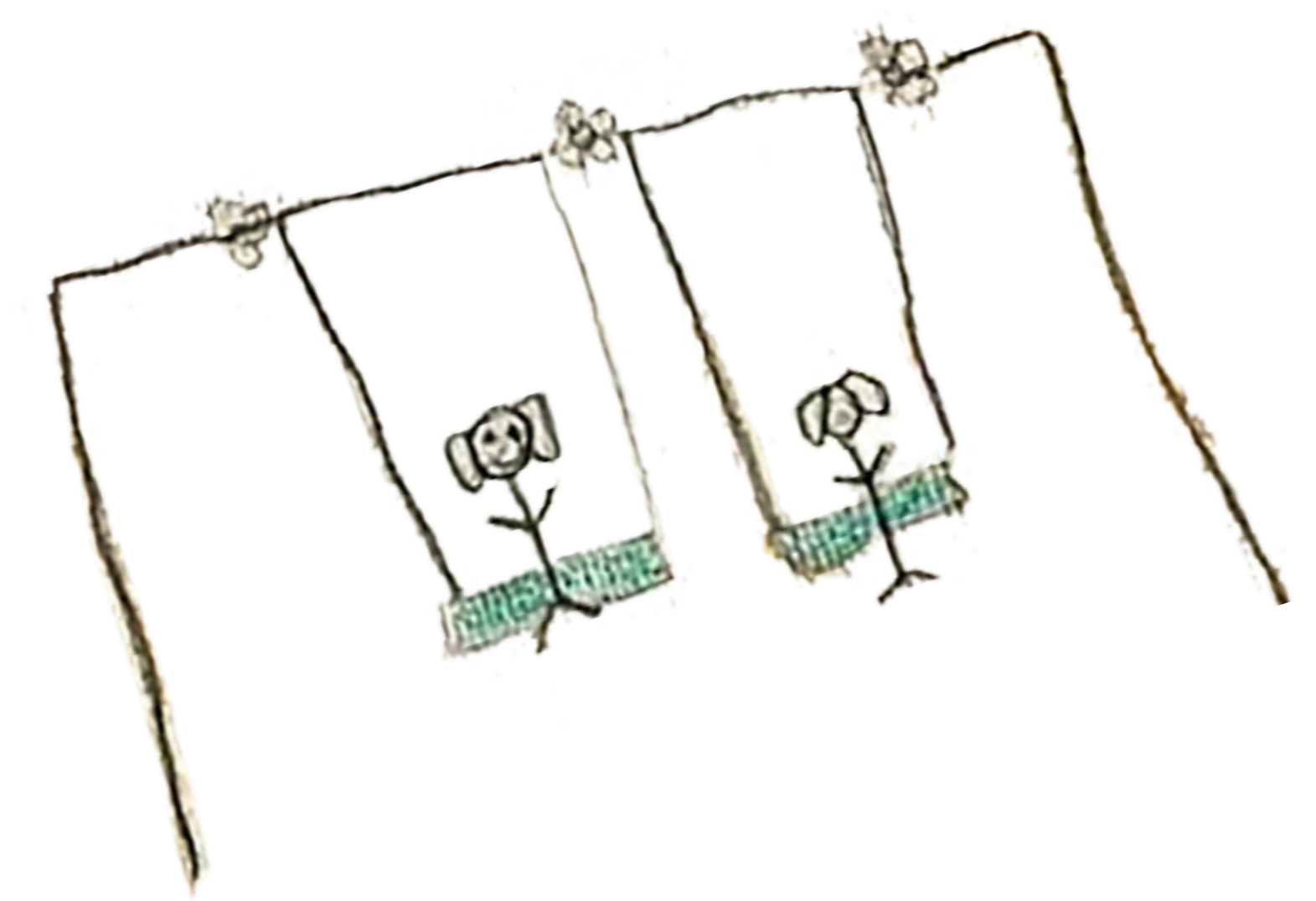


8
Build Palestine
IMPACT REPORT
2025



Table of Contents

Letter from the Director	4
About BuildPalestine	6
BuildPalestine's Values	8
Our Zait and Zaatar: The BuildPalestine Model and Formula	10
BuildPalestine Fellowship	11
Root	12
Rise	23
Nourishing Hope for Gaza	31
The Falafel Experience	34
Reclaiming Funding	36
Ecosystem Building & Partnering for Impact	37
Financial Snapshot	40
Acknowledgements	44
Credits Rommana's drawings	45
Support our Work: Become a Member	46





The visual theme of this report is inspired by BuildPalestine's partner and Rise Fellow, Rommana, a children's center located in the besieged village of Wadi al-Samen in the West Bank. By grounding our impact report in this art, we remind ourselves and our readers why we show up for this work – for those who will inherit the future we build. Consider supporting Rommana with a [donation](#) to sustain their essential space for the children of Wadi Al-Samen.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to [Chiara Perrone](#) for beautifully designing BuildPalestine's 2025 Impact Report.

Cover image: Maymona Ayoub Abo Madi, 13 years.
"Whenever I think of ancient Palestine, I imagine the harvest season, the hard work and beauty all in one, and the intimacy and love that unite the people of Palestine."



Meet **Coco**, a character designed in a short film made by the children of Rommana. In the film, the children of Wadi Al-Samen take a trip to Jericho and enter a magical portal that takes them to 2124. In the future, they ride their magical flying horse called Coco back to Wadi Al-Samen from Jericho in 15 minutes, as opposed to the several hours of current day Palestine due to apartheid roads and checkpoints. On their flight, they view a future free Palestine from above

– no soldiers, no checkpoints. They see an airport and a rising Palestinian flag above the Ibrahimi Mosque in Hebron.
→ **Watch their short film [here](#).**

Letter from the Director



In 2024, I wrote that it was hard to speak about “building Palestine” while everything around us was crumbling. In 2025, I think we found our answer.

More than once this year, we heard fellows say: **“If I hadn’t joined BuildPalestine’s fellowship, I don’t think I would have continued with my enterprise.”**

When people are living in survival mode, the meaning of impact changes. It is no longer only about growth, scale, or big numbers. It becomes about something more fundamental: can a person continue? Can they keep serving? Can they remain rooted where they are, not just to survive for the sake of surviving, but to keep imagining and building a future worth staying for?

This is how we understand **Sumud**.

At BuildPalestine, our question was never simply “How do we liberate Palestine?” For us, we are certain that this will happen one day inshallah. Our question has always been: **what does the Palestine we want to live in actually look like, and how do we start building it today?**

Our work with fellows across historic Palestine, and especially with changemakers and entrepreneurs in Gaza, has made one thing very clear: hope is not abstract. Hope is built. It is built through spaces where children can learn. Through a theatre initiative that keeps young people

expressing themselves in the middle of genocide. Through a rooftop garden that grows food under siege. Through an educational hub that allows students and freelancers to keep going. Through a social enterprise that refuses to close, even when everything around it says it should.

This year, we supported **seven Root fellows** across Palestine, helping them strengthen the foundations of their enterprises and move from passion-driven efforts into more structured and sustainable models. We supported **three Rise enterprises** with tailored grants and technical support so they could build products, create income streams, strengthen visibility, and continue serving their communities more sustainably. We ran **Nourishing Hope for Gaza**, channeling direct support to locally led initiatives in Gaza by building a growing Champions Network that is proving that decentralized solidarity works. We also run the **Falafel Theory Innovation Program** in the middle of the genocide with participants mostly from Gaza, showing us once again that even during destruction, Palestinians continue to imagine, design, and build.



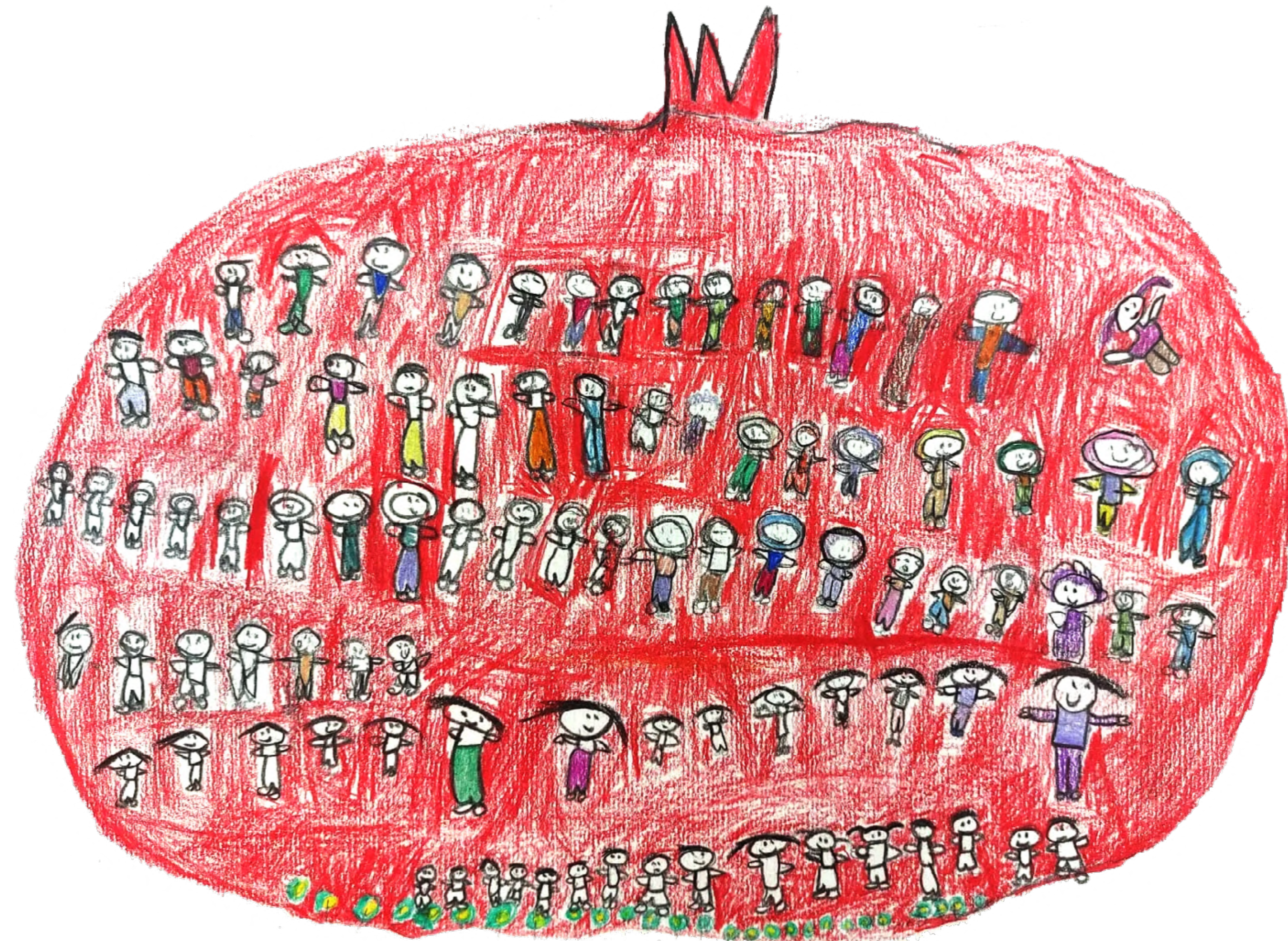
Across all of this, one truth became clearer: Palestinian agency is not a nice to have. It is the only serious foundation for a liberated future.

This is why our model matters. We work to provide the conditions changemakers need to continue—**funds, knowledge, and connections**—in ways that protect their agency and reduce dependency on systems that were never designed to serve Palestinian priorities. We do not see resilience as passive endurance. We see it as an active, intentional continuation. The ability to keep building through hardship. The ability to remain rooted with purpose.

At BuildPalestine, our role is to stand beside them and make that choice to continue more possible.

This report is a reflection of that work. It is a reflection of enterprises and initiatives that kept going, communities that kept giving, and a growing ecosystem of support that believes Palestine will be built by Palestinians themselves.

Let's build,
Lama Amr
Executive Director, BuildPalestine



About BuildPalestine

BuildPalestine was founded in 2016 in Palestine by Palestinians.

Our mission is to empower Palestinian changemakers and accelerate social enterprises. By mobilizing a global community to support locally-led initiatives, we drive impact that enables genuine progress in Palestine. **We create a value chain for changemakers operating in the most constrained and volatile realities through capacity building, networking, funding, and advocacy.**

We see our work as being in service of Palestinian sumud. Sumud is often translated as steadfastness. At BuildPalestine, we define it as the work of **enabling people to remain rooted on their land – improving daily life today while building the capabilities and conditions for a shared, liberated future.**




In 2025, Palestinians, especially in Gaza, continued to endure the systematic destruction of life, infrastructure, economy, and possibility. Yet across this devastation, Palestinian social entrepreneurs, community leaders, and grassroots initiatives embodied sumud as they always have: they organized, adapted, and built.

At BuildPalestine, we do not work in abstraction—we work with the Palestinian social entrepreneurs leading community initiatives on the ground who are creating learning and work spaces amid displacement, children’s theatre and healing spaces, humanitarian relief, emergency health responses, and education pathways that enable youth to pursue their futures.

This reality reinforces what we have always known: **traditional aid architectures do not build Palestinian futures. Palestinian agency does.**

At BuildPalestine, we advocate for and invest in an alternative model—one that centers Palestinian leadership, strengthens local economies, and backs communities to respond with dignity, resourcefulness, and collective power, even under conditions designed to break them.

With nearly a decade of experience supporting social innovation across Palestine, our belief remains unwavering: **a Palestinian future must and will be built by Palestinians.** Through collaboration with partners who share this vision, we continue to support the changemakers who are building—not just surviving toward—a liberated Palestine.



Amro Ayoub Abu Madi, 13 years.
When I help my sister in the farm,
I feel comfortable and calm.
We plant beans, thyme, and okra.
My sister put a wooden fence
around the farm so that dogs do not
come and destroy the crops, but I
love it even more when I play with
my friend among the green plants.

BuildPalestine's Values



BUILD

BOLD

We challenge the status quo of the aid sector in Palestine, speak the truth about what works and what doesn't.

UPLIFTING

We choose to practice hope and optimism for the future of the Palestinian people.

INTEGRITY

We do not partner with those who are complicit in the suffering of the Palestinian people.

LIBERATION

We are loyal to Palestinian self-determination in every decision to grow our impact.

DYNAMIC

We are an agile organization readily willing to adapt when circumstances on the ground demand it.



Our Zait and Zaatar: The BuildPalestine Model and Formula

What is a social enterprise?

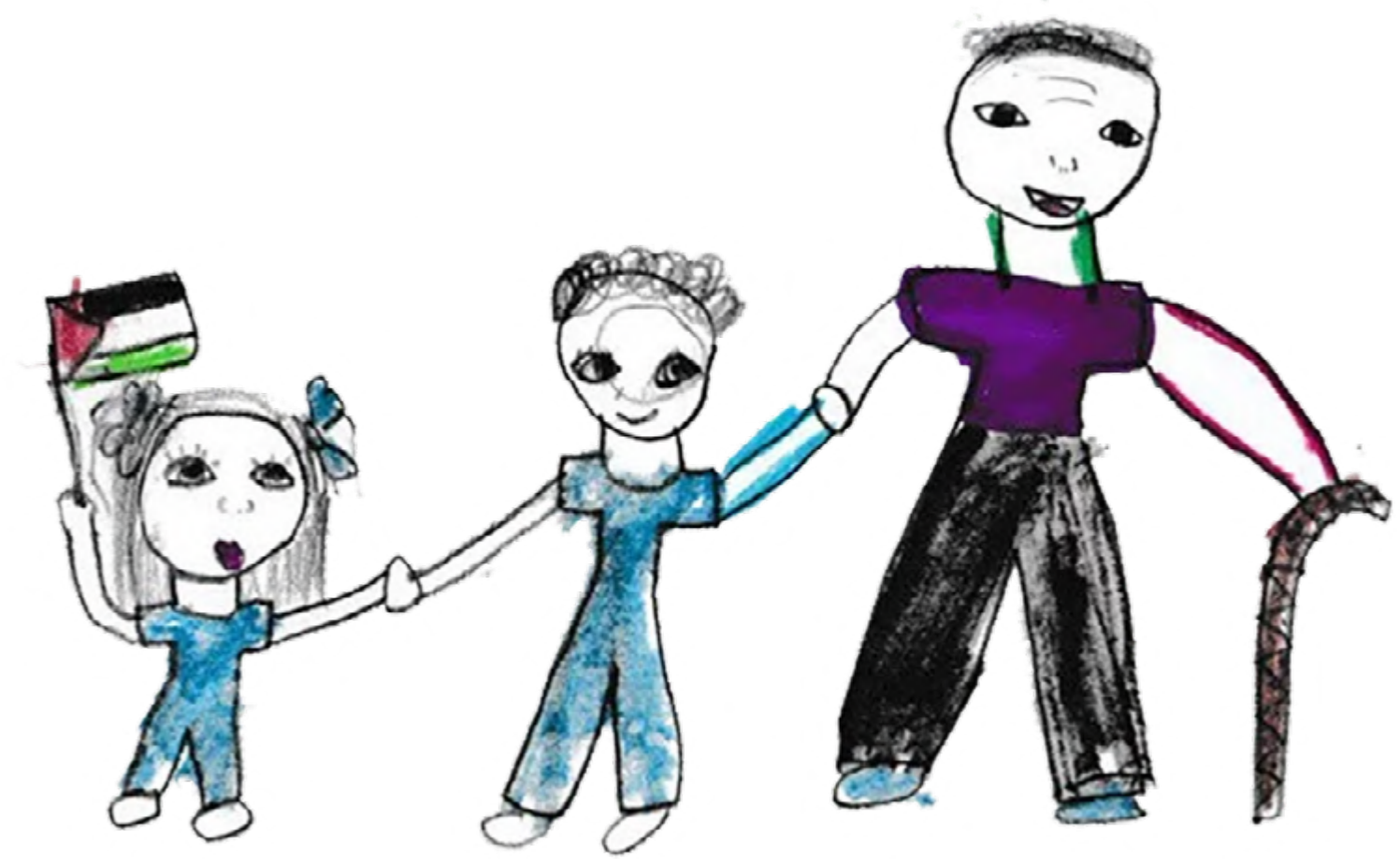
There are many definitions of a social enterprise, and this lack of shared understanding, especially among Palestinian policymakers, is an obstacle in advancing the social impact sector.

The term itself isn't what's important—what matters is the concept: **individuals launching ventures with the purpose of creating impact, while building a sustainable business model** that enables them to continue their work and expand their reach.

After a decade of identifying and supporting social innovation and entrepreneurship in Palestine, it has become clear that these practices are deeply rooted in Palestinian culture and heritage. The commitment to improving society through resourceful and collective efforts is an integral part of Palestinian identity.

However, this ethos was deeply affected after the Oslo Accords in 1993, when Palestine was flooded with international aid that prioritized foreign agendas over Palestinian priorities. Over time, this created a reality where Palestinians increasingly lack the agency to shape their own future.

In 2025, this remained evident as Palestinian initiatives continued building community-rooted responses that sustained dignity under extreme constraint. Every seed needs water, oxygen, and the right conditions to grow. Changemakers are no different—they need financial resources, knowledge, and connections to turn their vision into reality. While these needs are universal, we are working to meet them in a way that protects Palestinian agency.



Funds: Free the Source!

We channel crowdfunding money and funding from non-complicit sources to support social enterprises, shielding them from external agendas. This is our greatest battle, and we fight it every day.

Knowledge: Mobilize the Crowd!

Our team's business development expertise, combined with our network of mentors, helps upskill changemakers so they can move faster and with greater intention.

Connections: Harness Solidarity!

We link changemakers to key partnership opportunities, including fiscal sponsors who ease the process of receiving funds. We also help them access international markets, ensuring that selling products and services outside Palestine strengthens their sustainability within Palestine.

→ **Whether responding to acute crisis or accompanying social entrepreneurs through long-haul leadership journeys, we apply this formula across all our interventions.**



Saeed Ghaleb Abo Turkey,
7 years.
*When I draw a donkey, I laugh,
and everyone laughs.
My donkey is gray, and I drew
a boy riding on its back.
This boy is happy and laughing
because the donkey walks.*

Build Palestine Fellowship



BuildPalestine Fellowship

Root

The Root Program is the foundational level of the BuildPalestine Fellowship journey. It is a six-month program designed for early-stage social enterprises, working with founders at a critical moment while the structures of their ventures are still forming.

Root helps founders turn early traction into structured growth. Through guidance, mentorship, and practical support, the program equips entrepreneurs with essential tools like a Vision and Mission, Social Business Model Canvas, Theory of Change, Financial Model, and Pitch Deck.

Founders take part in group sessions, one-on-one mentoring, and expert consultations. Root helps them build a strong foundation for long-term sustainability and guides their journey from passion-driven projects to stable, intentional, and impact-focused ventures.

SELECTION PROCESS

Each year, Root launches an open call for applications, reaching social entrepreneurs across Palestine. This open call is more than just a recruitment process, it's a way to map the ecosystem and understand how we can strengthen it for the future. **Identification of social entrepreneurs is the first pillar of our theory of change.**

Through the applications, we see what is emerging on the ground: which sectors are growing, what social

issues are being addressed, and what kinds of support founders are looking for. Because Root works across all of Palestine, including different geographic, economic, and political contexts, the application period gives us a wide and meaningful view of the landscape. It helps us better understand the needs, gaps, and opportunities within the social entrepreneurship ecosystem for all Palestinians.

In 2025, the open call resulted in **222 applications from across Palestine – the highest number the program had received to date.** This milestone reflects both the growing interest in social entrepreneurship and the increasing need for structured support at the early stages of venture building.

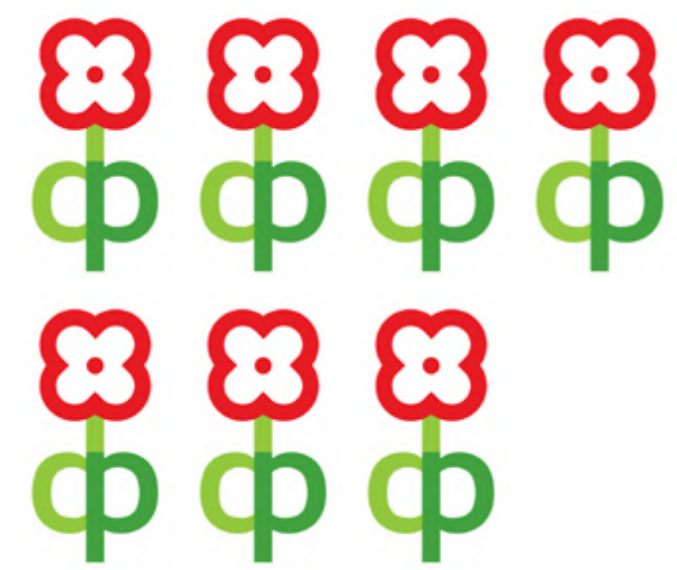
We ultimately selected **7 enterprises** to join the 2025 cohort. We are proud that three of them operate in the 1948 territories, where opportunities like Root are scarce. The other four are based in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Khalil. This diverse group reflects both the geographic spread and the different realities of social entrepreneurship across Palestine. Through their selection, we see the resilience, creativity, and determination of founders working in all corners of the country.

[Watch the video →](#)



BuildPalestine Fellowship Key Outputs

222 Applications



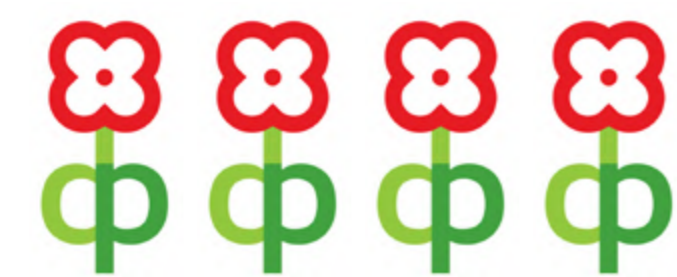
7 Fellows selected & graduated



5 Female Founders



2 Male Founders



4 Fellows selected for advanced support

Cities

Tamra

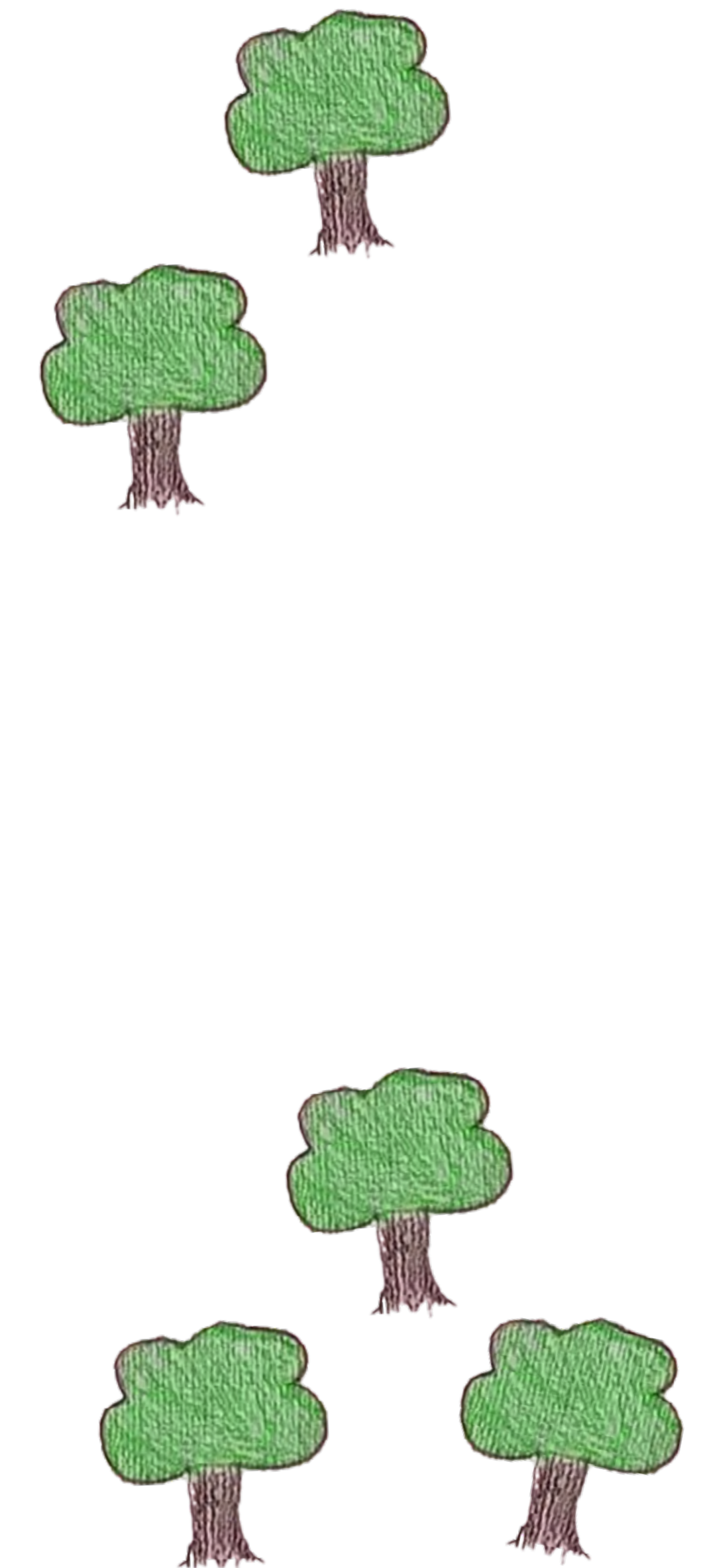
Haifa



Ramallah

Jerusalem

Hebron



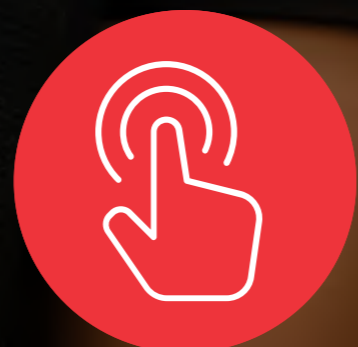


Fatima Yaser Abo Turkey, 9 years.
This drawing is a visual expression of a text written by a child from Gaza. Text provided by Tamer Institute for Community Education.
One day, the planes calmed down and the number of bombs falling on our neighborhood, which we had left for the displacement camp, decreased. My father decided to return home and bring us some clothes, kitchen utensils, and some shoes. He left and never returned, and we have been waiting for him for more than twenty days. My uncle took over my father's role in providing what we needed. One day, we had water and firewood for the fire, and he bought us vegetables. He used to accompany us on trips to the beach. We discovered that my uncle was an excellent swimmer, so he taught us how to swim, and we began to love the sea even more, spending all day at the beach. The children in the displacement camp learned that my uncle was teaching us how to swim, so they began to learn the art of swimming with us. We started to ride the waves and dive underwater. But my uncle left us and set up a tent far away from us in a new place, because he had opened a small shop. We waited for my father to return. A man came from the hospital and told us that my father had been injured in the foot by a sniper bullet who was on top of one of the buildings in the neighborhood. My mother and some Our relatives took us to the hospital, and finally my father came walking on crutches, but always smiling.

Meet our Fellows

This is a glimpse of the selected 7 enterprises of Root 2025





JINAN SAWAHREH

Dagon - Jerusalem

Preserving Palestinian culinary heritage for generations to come

Hummus. Falafel. Knafeh. Palestinian dishes have been rebranded, repackaged, and sold to the world without their origins — a cultural erasure that runs parallel to physical displacement. Dagon resists this erasure through immersive dining experiences, cooking workshops, digital storytelling, and collaborations with diaspora communities and international visitors. Dagon gives Palestinians the tools to reclaim their culinary identity — on their own terms, in their own voice. From custom chef services to cultural publications, every offering is an act of documentation, pride, and resistance.

Dagon's Impact

+650 people reached through their educational services, **25%** of whom are recurring.

[Meet our fellows →](#)



HAYTHAM CANAAN

Nabat Eco Farm

Rooting Palestinian communities back into their land

In Palestine, land isn't just soil — it's memory, identity, and the most contested terrain on earth. For Palestinians, the severing from agricultural roots runs deep, a wound inflicted by decades of dispossession and displacement. Nabat Eco Farm in Tamra works to heal that rupture. Through their Sumud Oases program, Nabat travels to farms across the West Bank, spending months embedded on the land — planting companion crops, designing for year-round food production, and working the soil until each farm is thriving and self-sustaining. It's not a consultation. It's a commitment. Back home in Tamra, Nabat extends that same ethos through permaculture workshops, guided farm work, educational tours, and hands-on training — reconnecting communities with the land their grandparents knew, and building the ecological skills to steward it into the future.

Nabat Eco Farm's Impact

Sumud Oases	5
Trainings done	40+
Volunteer	300+
Plants and organic products sold	100+
Job opportunities created	10

[Meet our fellows →](#)



ISRAA OTHMAN

MKNA Makerspace

Bringing hands-on STEM education to every Palestinian classroom

In the West Bank, quality STEM education has long been a privilege — locked inside private schools and expensive programs that most Palestinian families simply can't afford. MKNA Makerspace in Ramallah is breaking that open. By working directly with government schools, MKNA brings hands-on, creative, Arabic-language STEM learning to the students who need it most — kids who would otherwise never set foot in a makerspace or hold a STEAM kit. Through custom curricula, STEM lab installations, classroom makeovers, and educator training, MKNA doesn't just teach technology — it builds the confidence to imagine, experiment, and create, in a language and context that reflects Palestinian life.

MKNA's Impact

Students reached in the West Bank	300
Students reached in Gaza online, they also work with teachers and volunteers	+1000

[Meet our fellows →](#)



NIDAA NASSAR

Baladna

Keeping Palestinian youth rooted in identity

Palestinian youth inside the '48 territories are navigating a dual crisis. On one side, deliberate Israelization policies designed to erode cultural identity and political consciousness. On the other, some of the highest crime rates in the region — a symptom of communities left without resources, representation, or hope. Baladna stands in that gap. As one of the only national organizations dedicated to Palestinian youth ages 13 to 28 inside the '48 territories, Baladna offers something rare: a space to be Palestinian, to lead, and to matter. Through civic education, volunteering, social campaigns, research, and community programming, Baladna doesn't just protect young people from erasure — it gives them a reason to stay rooted.

Baladna's Impact

Reached thousands across their programs, workshops on Palestinian identity, tours to know the country, conducted researches on crime & violence, in 1948 Arab community, 2 cultural clubs in Naqab and Nazareth, focus groups.

[Meet our fellows →](#)



MOHAMMED ABU FARDEH

Qitaf

Turning neglected land into living classrooms

Qitaf Environmental Collaborative is a Palestinian youth-led initiative based in Dura, Hebron, that transforms abandoned or marginalized land into educational gardens and eco-production spaces. Founded in 2023, Qitaf offers environmental training, empowers young people and women through sustainable agriculture, and creates local green products using recycled materials. Qitaf envisions becoming a licensed environmental education center and a model of community resilience and climate action in Palestine.

Qitaf's Impact

Youth reached since 2023	120+
Hikes in nature	8
Conducted many summer camps and awareness workshops.	

[Meet our fellows →](#)



DOA HRESH

Arab Women Entrepreneurs

Unlocking Palestinian women's potential to lead and transform

Arab Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) is a nonprofit organization founded in 2021 by Palestinian lawyer and community leader Doa Harish to support Arab women in becoming economic and social change-makers. Rooted in Nazareth and working across Palestine and the Arab world, AWE provides women with entrepreneurial training, skills development, mentorship, and access to a supportive cross-border network of peers and partners. By addressing systemic barriers such as limited job opportunities, lack of confidence, and restricted access to resources, AWE builds a vibrant ecosystem of women-led innovation that extends beyond business development to strengthen leadership, identity, and community transformation, contributing

to a new generation of Arab women entrepreneurs shaping the future of their societies.

AWE's Impact

Women reached in their local community	+150
Women reached in the international community	+40
Students reached in college	+470

[Meet our fellows →](#)



RAGHAD AL HAYMOUNI

LAMEES WALEED

TARTEEL AN NATSHEH

Fada Space

Healing through story, theater, and community

Fada is a social enterprise dedicated to improving mental health, particularly among Palestinian youth. Through workshops focused on drama, theater, and community-building, Fada provides a safe space for children to express their emotions and build resilience. In a region marked by political conflict and social challenges, Fada aims to address the mental health needs of Palestinians by offering accessible, community-driven programs that foster healing, connection, and personal growth.

Fada Space's Impact

10s of beneficiaries

LARP technique workshops

Workshops for psychology students

Workshops for kids

Workshops for women

[Meet our fellows →](#)

Root Graduation Day

Root Graduation Day took place on October 13, 2025, as a one-day retreat at Ard Al Ya'as – Saffa (Ramallah). The day was co-designed and facilitated by two Root fellows — Dagon (Jinan Sawahreh) and Nabat Eco Farm (Haytham Canaan).

Fellows participated in an interactive za'atar workshop led by Jinan, where they explored the cultural and political meaning of za'atar in Palestinian life and prepared their own blends together. The session was both hands-on and reflective, connecting heritage, identity, and entrepreneurship.

They also joined a tree-planting session guided by Haytham, applying practical permaculture principles while working directly with the land. The activity grounded the day in action and sustainability, reinforcing the program's values in a tangible way.

Beyond the activities, the retreat created space for reflection. Fellows shared lessons from their six-month journeys, spoke openly about challenges and growth, and strengthened relationships within the cohort. By the end of the day, several fellows had already begun exploring potential collaborations — showing that the impact of Root continues beyond the formal end of the program.

[Watch the video →](#)





Izia Ibraheem Abu Madi, 3 years.
The mountain is full of colorful things, the sun is in a line in the sky, all the trees around me are the same, but there is one tree that is different, its branches, the shape of its leaves, and its size, I don't know its name.

Rise 2025

3 fellows selected
for advanced support

BuildPalestine Fellowship Rise



Through our Rise program—the second stage in our social entrepreneurship support value chain—we have selected three enterprises that graduated from the Root program in 2024. These enterprises, chosen by the selection committee based on their performance and potential, are: **Art to Heart, The Wonder Cabinet,** and **Rommana.**

Rise is a six-month acceleration program designed to fast-track the growth of social enterprises in both income and impact. The program offers a combination of tailored technical support and financial funding to help entrepreneurs scale their ventures and enhance their sustainability. Financial support ranges from €5,000 to €30,000, depending on the size and needs of each enterprise, with the possibility of higher funding for ventures demonstrating strong potential and commitment.

What sets Rise apart is our hands-on, personalized approach. Each enterprise undergoes a comprehensive pre-program assessment to identify current challenges, establish a clear baseline, and co-develop a six-month roadmap with targeted milestones and outcomes. Our goal is to support social enterprises in growing their revenue while deepening their impact within their communities.

As part of our commitment to holistic support, BuildPalestine facilitated an “Introduction to Fundraising”

session open to all grantees and interested team members which explored effective fundraising strategies, donor engagement, and building a sustainable funding funnel.

In August, we focused on Impact Measurement and Management (IMM) in partnership with Alfanar Venture Philanthropy, aiming to equip enterprises with tools and frameworks to better track, assess, and communicate their impact.

Alongside these structured trainings, BuildPalestine continues to provide hands-on, day-to-day support, helping grantees manage their teams, define clear Terms of Reference (ToRs), identify KPIs for new hires, and ensure all activities align with the strategic goals of the grant. We also connect them with relevant experts and consultants to support their growth on the ground, while offering continuous mentorship and guidance to enterprise leaders exploring daily challenges and emerging needs.

In alignment with the scope of the enterprises’ work and their current growth plans, **Rommana received €10,000, while The Wonder Cabinet and Art to Heart each received €20,000.** These allocations were determined based on the size of each enterprise, the scale of their operations, their current needs, and their readiness to

expand, generate revenue, and build internal team capacity. This tailored approach ensures that each grantee receives the level of support necessary to make meaningful progress toward their sustainability and impact goals.

Here’s how we have supported the three Rise enterprises.





Art to Heart Nablus

Art to Heart creates inclusive cultural and artistic spaces for children with disabilities through seasonal clubs, public performances, annual exhibitions, and interactive programs with schools and community centers, promoting visibility, raising awareness, and enhancing inclusion. Through Art to Heart, children with disabilities express themselves, build confidence, and develop both artistic talents and essential life skills.

Based on our assessment and close collaboration with Art to Heart throughout the 2024 Root Program, we identified key pain points and urgent needs affecting the center’s sustainability—particularly in light of the dire circumstances facing all social enterprises in Palestine.

To address these needs, we developed a tailored work plan that focuses on building capacity in critical areas. The support covered the recruitment of a Marketing Officer, Marketing Consultant, Sales Expert, Packaging Designer, Product Photographer, and Fundraising Officer.

By hiring this team through the grant, Art to Heart was able to sustain and grow its operations while continuing its vital work with the community it serves. This support allowed the enterprise to enhance its visibility, improve product development and sales, and strengthen the customer journey—ultimately opening up new opportunities for fundraising and long-term sustainability.

Each of these roles was designed to contribute directly to Art to Heart’s resilience and growth during this challenging period.

Meet our fellows →







Rommana Hebron



Rommana is a creative space designed to empower children through arts, cultural activities, and psychological support. Rommana offers workshops, book discussions, art exhibitions, and other programs that nurture self-confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging among the children who participate. Rommana is located in the besieged West Bank village Wadi Al-Samen, which is cut off from the city of Hebron due to Israeli checkpoints surrounding all entrances to the village.

To address Rommana’s needs, we worked with founder Sarah Abu Madi to identify top priorities to start generating revenue for the space to continue its support for children and youth. It was important for Rommana at this stage to start developing products and work on their digital visibility and sell their products through either physical galleries or online.

The first step we took with Rommana was to support them in building their website by connecting them with Tech to the Rescue—an initiative that

provides affordable technical services to organizations in conflict-affected areas. As part of this process, a graphic designer has been recruited under this grant to support the visual design needs of the website.

To support Rommana in strengthening its financial sustainability, several products were developed including magnets, postcards, and paintings featuring the children’s artwork created during activities held at the space. These products were produced with the support of this grant and sold both online and in galleries.

In parallel, BuildPalestine connected Rommana with a fiscal sponsor to enable online donations of digital products, as part of their broader financial sustainability plan.

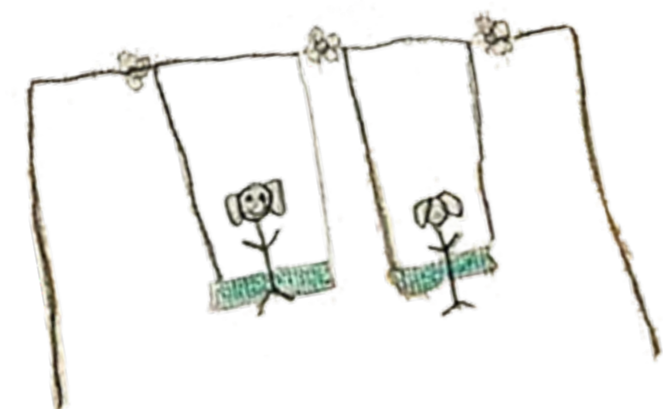


To support product sales and increase reach, a Social Media Officer was recruited to enhance Rommana's digital presence. This role focused on storytelling—sharing the narratives behind the products and the children who created them—while also working on brand visibility and audience engagement. This person was responsible for establishing Rommana's presence on social media, including Instagram and TikTok.

Given the movement restrictions and the difficulty, even for Palestinians within the country to physically visit the space, digital visibility is especially critical for Rommana to reach a wider audience and generate support beyond their immediate community.

Finally, BuildPalestine is proud to feature the artwork of the children Rommana serves as the visual theme for this report.

[Meet our fellows →](#)





The Wonder Cabinet

Bethlehem

The Wonder Cabinet is a multi-purpose, non-profit space dedicated to contemporary creation and community-driven expression. Organized around three core programs — Research and Production, Education and Community, and Public Programming — it offers workspaces for Palestinian artists, engineers, and artisans, encouraging collaboration, learning, and creative experimentation.

Based on our assessment and close collaboration with The Wonder Cabinet throughout the 2024 Root Program, we identified key pain points and urgent needs affecting the center's sustainability — particularly in light of the dire circumstances facing all social enterprises in Palestine. To address these, a comprehensive work plan was developed to recruit the team members and service providers needed to strengthen The Wonder Cabinet's operational, creative, and financial foundations.

This included bringing on a Producer to lead content creation, digital campaigns, and new product development,

alongside managing the launch of a fiscal sponsorship feature and e-shop infrastructure. A dedicated Accountant was recruited to ensure sound financial management, reporting, and transparency, while a Program and Communication Manager was brought in to drive public engagement through high-quality content, coordinated campaigns, and cross-channel communications. Day-to-day operations were supported by a Shop Manager and Administrative Assistant overseeing customer care, product cataloguing, income tracking, and internal reporting. Rounding out the team, a Product Photographer and Graphic Designer was engaged to visually document products, shape the space's visual identity, and develop packaging materials.

Together, these roles ensured that The Wonder Cabinet has the people and systems in place to expand its reach, grow its income streams, and sustain its impact over the long term.

[Meet our fellows →](#)



Nourishing Hope for Gaza

In 2025, [Nourishing Hope for Gaza \(NH4G\)](#) deepened its role as a sustained, community-centered funding and solidarity model for Gaza. Across five campaigns, we supported four Gazan-led initiatives and mobilized \$32,665 USD in direct support to Gaza—strengthening local leadership, infrastructure, and community resilience during a time of profound need.

Our 2025 campaigns supported:

- **Child Smile (returning partner)** → A youth theater initiative, nurturing creative expression, healing, and storytelling for Gaza’s youth
- **Deaf Relief Gaza** → Humanitarian relief for Gaza’s Deaf community, addressing deeply underserved accessibility and survival needs
- **Gaza Education Hub (returning partner)** → A co-working and learning space for students and freelancers, creating pathways for education, dignity, and economic agency
- **Rowad al-Amal** → The construction of a primary school, investing in long-term educational infrastructure and future generations





Reem Tamer Abu Turki, 8 years.
I see on the news what is happening in Gaza. Children appear on TV sad and not going to school, but living there. I want to do something for them. I want to go out in a demonstration with all the people, and I want to stop the war. Our street is also closed by a military checkpoint and soldiers are coming. In the demonstration, I will tell them to leave our street.

MEDIA RECOGNITION

In March 2025, BuildPalestine and Colors for Gaza (2024 NH4G Partner) were featured in [Pioneers Post](#), highlighting Palestinian resilience, community-led recovery, and the role of social enterprise in rebuilding Gaza. This feature amplified the global visibility of Gazan-led initiatives and affirmed NH4G’s model of dignified, locally rooted support.

NH4G CHAMPIONS NETWORK

In May 2025, we launched the Nourishing Hope for Gaza Champions Network—a dedicated circle of BuildPalestine supporters committed to amplifying NH4G campaigns, activating their communities, and strengthening grassroots fundraising power.

Champions serve as:

- Trusted amplifiers of Gazan-led initiatives
- Community connectors and network builders
- Long-term stewards of NH4G’s mission and values

By the end of 2025, the network had grown to 65 active Champions, forming a sustainable infrastructure of solidarity, advocacy, and material support that will continue to power NH4G campaigns in the years ahead.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2026, we will continue running Nourishing Hope for Gaza as a core program—supporting new Gazan-led community initiatives through our campaign model—while also deepening long-term support for past high-potential partners.

Beyond fundraising, NH4G will intentionally evolve into a connected support ecosystem: linking returning partner initiatives to strategic partners, shared resources, mentorship, visibility platforms, and sustained networks of care. This approach moves NH4G beyond one-off campaigns toward a durable, relationship-based infrastructure of support—where partners are not only funded, but accompanied, connected, and continually resourced over time.

The goal is to build a living system of solidarity, stability, and shared growth—one that strengthens local leadership, amplifies community power, and creates lasting impact across Gaza.





The Falafel Experience



In 2024, we piloted the first cycle of the **Falafel Theory Innovation Program** in collaboration with **Hikmat Palestine**, bringing to life a methodology created by [Maher Kaddoura](#) that reframes design thinking and innovation in a language that feels unmistakably ours.

WHY FALAFEL?

Because falafel is simple, affordable, locally sourced, and scalable — made from humble ingredients yet capable of feeding many. That is exactly the philosophy behind the theory: solutions should be rooted, accessible, practical, and powerful enough to serve communities at scale.

The response to the pilot was overwhelming: **479 applications**, most of them from Gaza, applying, attending, and building ideas in the middle of genocide. Delivered entirely online, the five-week journey became more than a training program; for many participants, it restored structure, dignity, and a sense of normalcy.

Through tools from the *Falafel Theory Full Book*, including the Pain Statement Canvas and structured ideation frameworks, participants moved from scattered frustration to clear, testable solutions grounded in real community needs. The program achieved a **4/5 satisfaction rate**, and proved that even under siege, Palestinians continue to ideate, design, and build.

Winning Projects that each received a \$1,000 Prize

GAZA

A First Responder in Every Home

Training one member from each displaced family in first aid to ensure immediate emergency response.

NABLUS

Al Anqa (The Phoenix)

A tele-mental health network providing remote psychological care for women in Gaza.

GAZA

Pulse of Life

A community-led initiative supporting children’s mental health through interactive activities in displacement schools in Gaza.

GAZA

Planting Hope on Rooftops

A rooftop gardening initiative using simple, recycled tools to grow vegetables and improve food access in Gaza.

NABLUS

Youth Career Guidance & Opportunity Network

Connecting Palestinian youth with employment, training, and entrepreneurial support opportunities.



It helped me translate my idea from abstract talk into something tangible that I can test and imagine how a user would actually interact with. I was able to identify gaps and adjust the idea before implementation — which saved me a lot of time and effort.

AYA EWISAT,
participant from Gaza





Reclaiming Funding

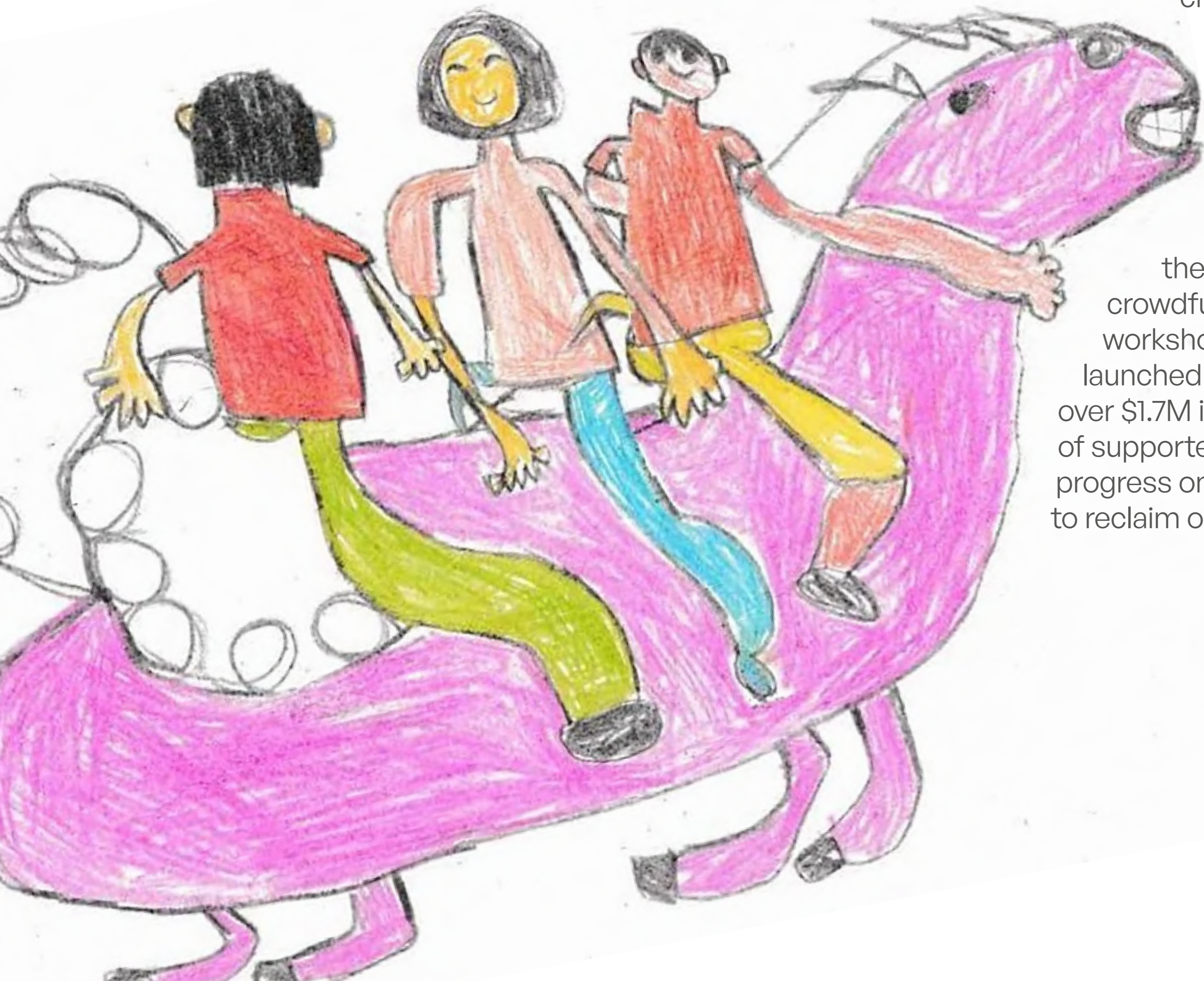
Reclaiming funding for Palestine, liberating funding sources so they truly serve community priorities has been part of BuildPalestine's DNA since its establishment in 2016. This is a long-term commitment to systemic change, and therefore a heavy but necessary responsibility.

BuildPalestine advances this commitment through multiple pathways. At its core is a sustained investment in crowdfunding as a tool to fund impact in Palestine. Over the past decade, we have introduced crowdfunding locally, delivered hundreds of workshops across historic Palestine, helped launch over 90 campaigns which collected over \$1.7M in funding, and built a growing network of supporters committed to enabling genuine progress on the ground. In parallel, we are working to reclaim our own funding sources. In 2025, we

began implementing our vision to become fully member-backed. Since launching our diaspora fundraising efforts in September 2025, we have secured 15 members contributing \$105,964, largely through recurring support. This marks the beginning of a transition we aim to fully achieve by 2027.

We have also contributed to ecosystem-level change. **BuildPalestine advocated for the inclusion of a new clause in the Not-for-Profit Companies Law, issued in December 2025 under the Ministry of Economy, allowing organizations to use Bank of Palestine's payment gateway to collect digital donations.**

This reduces reliance on external intermediaries and opens new pathways for local organizations to access funding directly. It is a critical step toward strengthening crowdfunding in Palestine, an area we will continue to advance and expand in 2026.



Ecosystem Building & Partnering for Impact

Strengthening the Palestinian social entrepreneurship ecosystem requires investment at every level — from sparking early curiosity in young people to building the international bridges that connect local innovation to global opportunity. Our work this year reflected both dimensions: deepening roots at home through awareness and ideation sessions that introduce the next generation to social entrepreneurship as a viable path, and expanding our reach abroad to grow the network of partners, funders, and collaborators who believe in the potential of Palestinian-led change. Together, these efforts advance a pipeline that is not only more robust, but more connected.



ECOSYSTEM BUILDING & PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

Local

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH DAR AL KALIMA

In February, we collaborated with Dar Al-Kalima University to engage their students and their social entrepreneur in a session on social entrepreneurship. During the session, we highlighted the differences between social and business entrepreneurship, introduced the Social Business Model Canvas, and explored various social enterprise business models. We also provided students with tailored feedback on their ideas, helping strengthen their understanding of how social innovation can be translated into sustainable, impact-driven initiatives.

→ <https://www.daralkalima.edu.ps/en>

TECH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WITH AXSOS ACADEMY

In October, we collaborated with Axsos Academy and engaged 23 entrepreneurs in an interactive session on understanding social entrepreneurship in Palestine. The session covered key concepts and definitions, explored different social enterprise business models, and highlighted real-life examples of impact-driven tech companies operating locally. We also shared success stories and scaling journeys from the Palestinian ecosystem and facilitated a discussion on identifying missed opportunities for social innovation in the country.

→ <https://axsos.academy/>



MAKANI: GREEN CITY CHALLENGE BOOTCAMP

The Green City Challenge was designed as a hands-on innovation bootcamp to support teams in developing practical, city-focused green solutions for Ramallah. The program contained design thinking, entrepreneurial logic, showcasing and experts feedback, ensuring that ideas were not only creative, but feasible and ready to be tested in Ramallah city.

The bootcamp was conducted over a 3-day intensive back-to-back sessions, followed by a mentoring, validation and filtering week, and concluded with a Demo Day pitching focused on solution readiness and adoption.

Day 1 → focused on helping participants observe and articulate real challenges they personally experience in Ramallah, rather than jumping directly into solutions, each team aligned around one clearly defined problem statement, grounded in the city’s reality and ready to be taken forward into solution design.

Day 2 → focused on transforming problems into clear solutions. Teams worked through ideation using the “How Might We” (HMW) approach, developing detailed solution concepts directly linked to their problem statements. Throughout the day, teams were mentored by Najla Abdulatif, founder of ZeroWastePalestine and a pioneer in waste management, who supported teams in

aligning their solutions with practical environmental and implementation realities.

Day 3 focused on testing solutions, assessing feasibility, and preparing teams for Demo Day. Teams presented their prototypes and mini-pitches to peers acting as end users, gathering insights and improvement suggestions. This was followed by a feedback session with Eng. Malvina Al Jamal, Head of the Environment and Health Department at Ramallah Municipality.

→ <https://www.ramallah.ps/en/Makani>

MENTORING WEEK

After the 3-day bootcamp, teams moved into a mentoring and validation week led by BuildPalestine. This phase focused on helping teams strengthen their ideas and prepare them for Demo Day.

DEMO DAY

The program concluded with a Demo Day on the 15th of December, where teams presented their final solutions after completing the bootcamp and mentoring phases. The Demo Day marked the transition from idea development to solution selection. Following the pitching of 8 teams, three solutions were selected to move forward to the development stage within the Municipality of Ramallah.



ECOSYSTEM BUILDING & PARTNERING FOR IMPACT

International

Impact in the Neighborhood, held in Morocco and organized by our partners Impact Europe, brought together social entrepreneurship stakeholders from across the Arab region. The event allowed us to exchange learnings on impact models in similar contexts, and to share our experience on the role of crowdfunding in sustaining initiatives in Gaza during the genocide.

Impact Week in Sweden, an annual gathering also organized by Impact Europe, provides an opportunity to engage with international stakeholders and build relationships with potential members and champions who can support our long-term fundraising and membership efforts.

We also hosted an event in Dubai in partnership with Wamda Capital and Venture Souq, where we connected with members of the Palestinian diaspora and introduced them to BuildPalestine's work in strengthening sumud on the ground and the power of Social Entrepreneurship. We brought two social enterprises, Hakini and Art to Heart, to showcase their models and lived impact. This event marked an important step in building stronger bridges with our diaspora and engaging them as members in supporting Palestinian-led change.



Financial Snapshot

Where Our Funding Came From

In 2025, BuildPalestine’s income was supported by a balanced mix of institutional funding, partnerships, earned income, and community contributions.

Institutional donors and foundations continued to play an important role in enabling structured program delivery across our Fellowship programs. At the same time, 2025 marked a major milestone in strengthening our financial sustainability and independence.

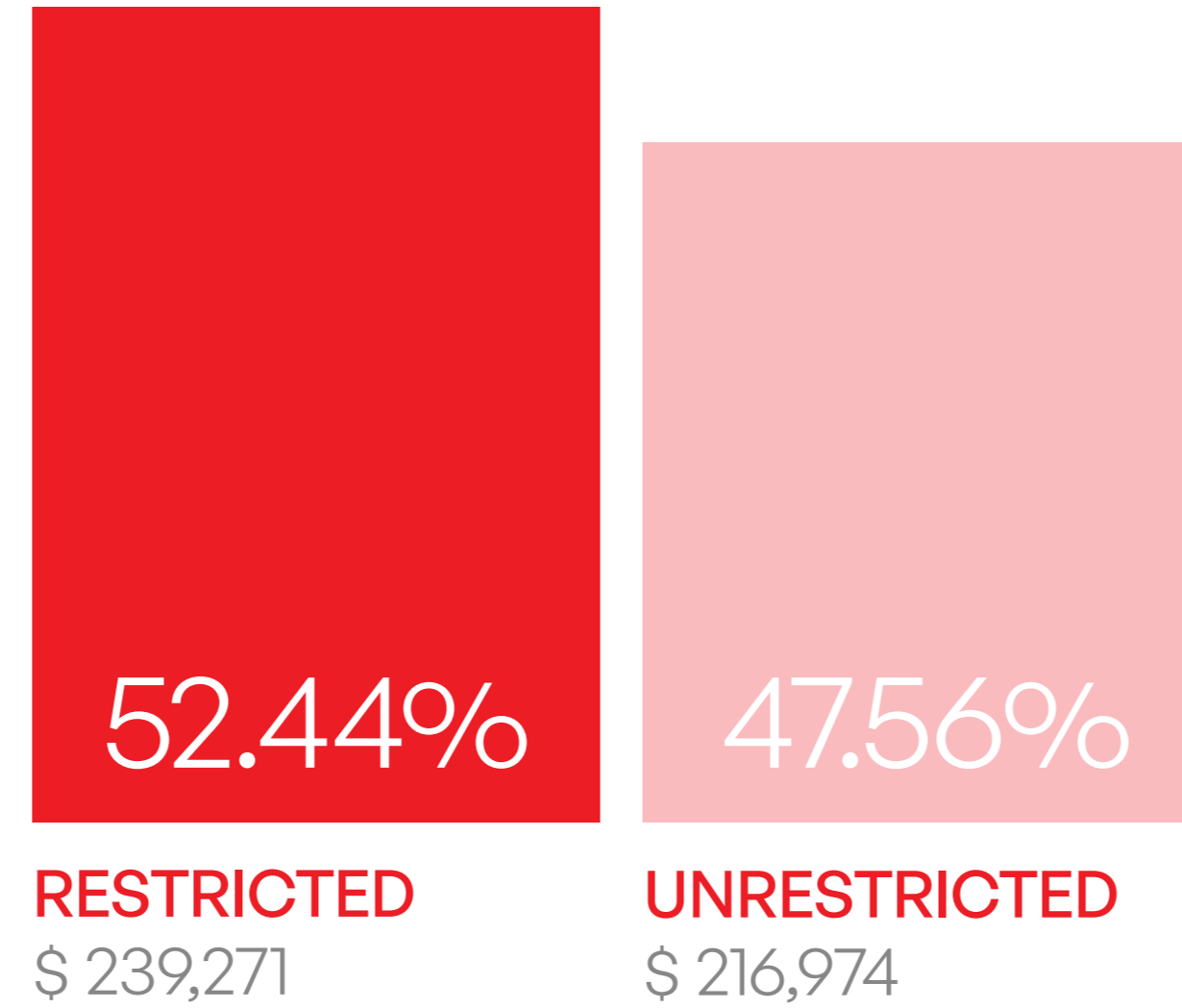
BuildPalestine recorded a total income of **\$456,246**, representing a **90.19% increase compared to 2024**. This significant growth was driven by two strategic shifts:

First, the launch of our Membership Program in September 2025, comprised of recurring donors who contribute monthly or annually to power our work, through which we secured **\$105,964 from 15 large-donor members, and \$17,839 from small monthly memberships**. These contributions are designated to support our 2026 programming and represent a strong vote of confidence in our long-term vision.

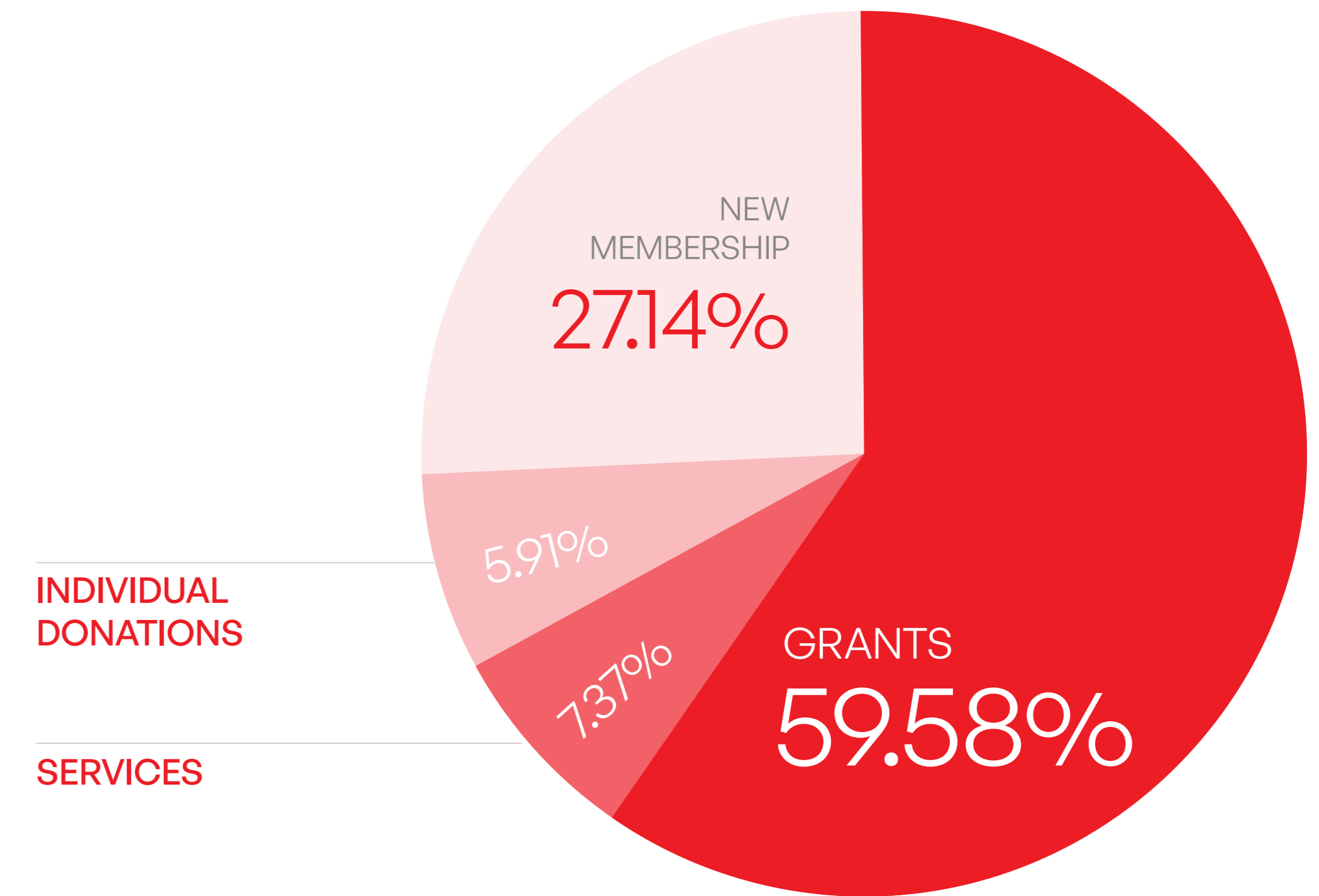
Second, we expanded our service-based offerings, generating additional earned income and further diversifying our revenue streams.

As a result of these efforts, we successfully reduced our reliance on restricted grant funding. Restricted funding decreased from **74.1% of total income in 2024 to 52.44% in 2025**, reflecting a deliberate move toward more flexible and sustainable financial resources.

GRANTS.....	\$ 271,850
SERVICES	\$ 33,623
INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS	\$ 26,969
BUILDPALESTINE MEMBERSHIP	\$ 123,803
Total	\$ 456,246

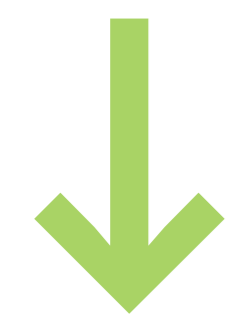


Total
\$ 456,246



How We Invested Our Resources

In 2025, BuildPalestine maintained a clear commitment to directing the majority of its resources toward program implementation and direct ecosystem support.



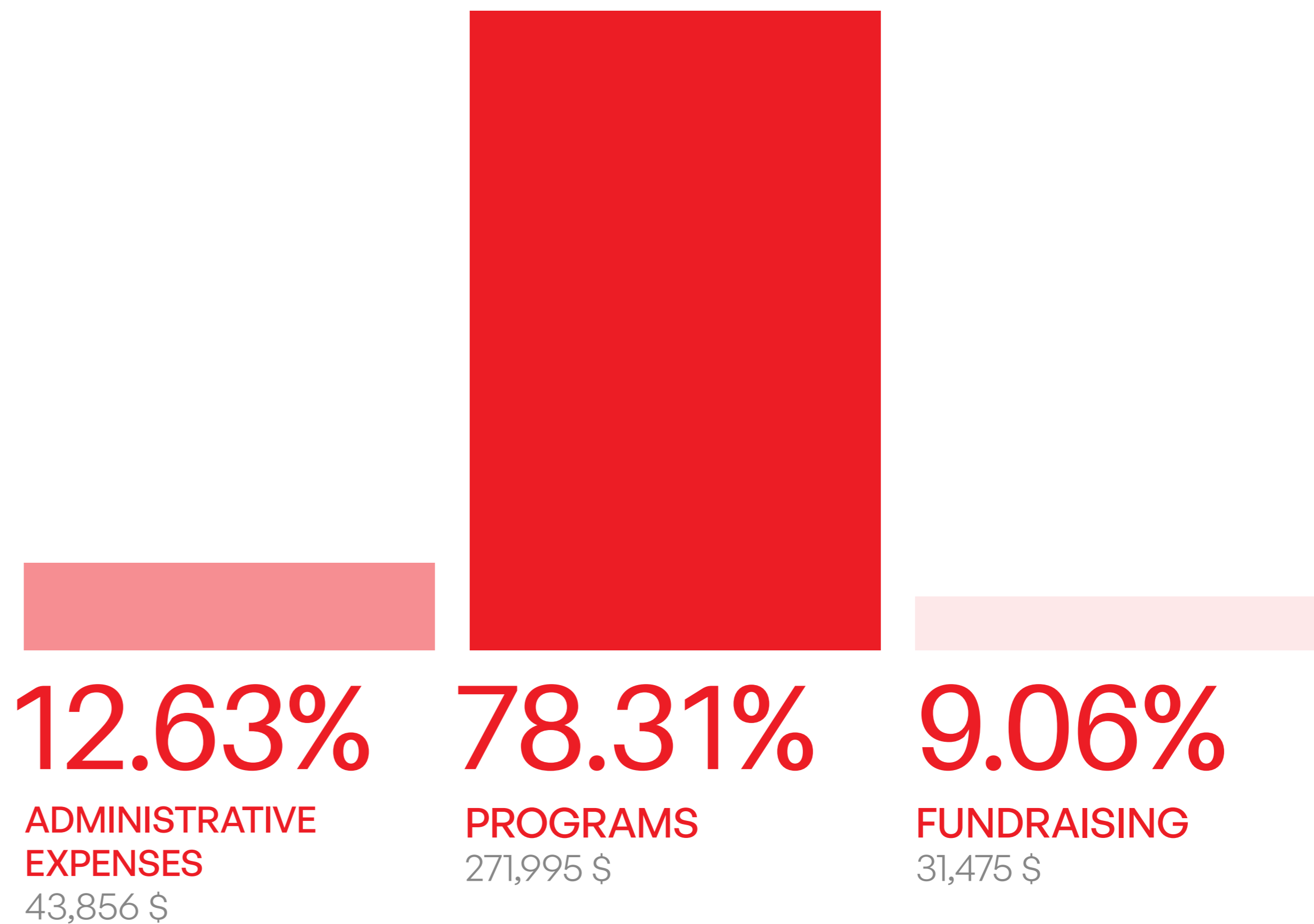
Out of a total expenditure of **\$347,326**, the allocation was as follows:

- **\$271,995 (78.31%)** invested in Programs
- **\$43,856 (12.63%)** allocated to Administrative Expenses
- **\$31,475 (9.06%)** dedicated to Fundraising efforts



Expenses

Total
\$ 347,326





Notably, within the program allocation, **\$97,841 was directly disbursed as grants to social enterprises (SEs)**. This reflects our commitment to combining capacity-building with tangible financial support, ensuring that entrepreneurs receive both knowledge and capital to grow their impact.

This means that nearly **four out of every five dollars spent in 2025** directly supported program activities, mentorship, ecosystem development, and grant funding to social enterprises.

Administrative costs were carefully managed at **12.63%**, ensuring operational stability, financial compliance, and effective coordination while maintaining a lean and impact-focused structure.

Fundraising investments represented **9.06%** of total expenses, reflecting a deliberate increase in spending to build the foundation for a more sustainable and resilient funding model. Rather than ongoing operational costs, these were strategic investments aimed at strengthening our long-term ability to generate and diversify income.

This included investing in the systems, relationships, and infrastructure needed to grow our Membership Program and deepen donor engagement. While this led to a higher share of expenses in the short term, these investments are expected to yield long-term returns through stronger retention, more predictable revenue, and reduced reliance on institutional funding.



 Build Palestine

© ASHRAF AMRA, KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP, PALESTINIAN TERRITORY. 30TH MAR, 2018.

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our individual partners, donors, and members for their unwavering belief in us. Your support is crucial as BuildPalestine continues its journey to create a sustainable future for Palestinian changemakers.

Thank you for standing with us and making this vision possible.

To our advisory board members—for their time, wisdom, and the opportunities they have opened for us.

To our partners at AlFanar, for their invaluable advice and knowledge, their belief in our work, and their tangible support in connecting us with regional opportunities.

To our partners at Impact Europe, for their financial support, consistent check-ins on our team in these difficult times, and their dedication to listening and trusting our decisions.

To the Foundation of Middle East Peace, for channeling unrestricted funding to BuildPalestine, providing us the flexibility to act where and when it matters most.

To Maher Kaddoura for his trust and support in making the Falafel Theory Program come to life, helping us keep innovation alive in Palestine in trying times.

To BuildPalestine members for turning our work into a community-owned movement based on solidarity and hope.

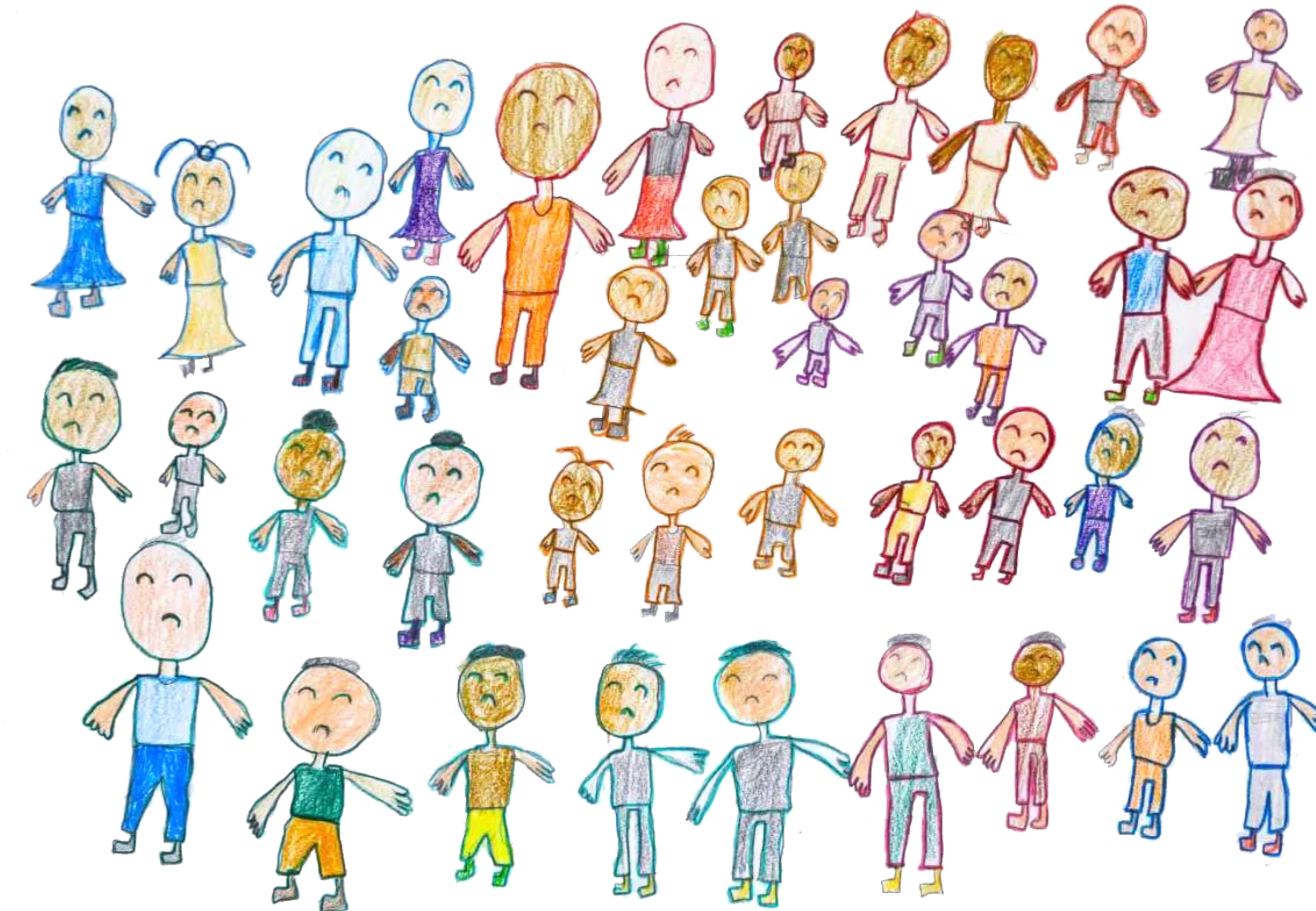
To our Nourishing Hope for Gaza Champions network for being an impactful support system for our courageous partners in Gaza, reminding them that they are not alone.

Finally, to our BuildPalestine Fellows and Nourishing Hope for Gaza partners, for being our heroes, inspiration, and the reason we keep building everyday.

Tala Yaser Abo Turkey, 12 years.













This painting is a visual representation of a text written by a child from Gaza and delivered to the children of Rommana through Tamer Institute for Community Education.

We had a cunning blacksmith whom no one liked. He made a large, shiny, golden cage for us, and you'd love to sit inside it. All the children in the neighborhood entered the cage. The blacksmith locked it behind us, threw the key into the sea, and ran away. Our families tried to find the key to get us out of the cage. And we still shout out loud.





Credits Rommana's drawings

-  Sarah Abu Madi, Founder of Rommana
-  Maymona Ayoub Abo Madi, 13 years, 2022
-  Saeed Ghaleb Abo Turkey, 7 years, 2023
-  Izia Ibraheem Abu Madi, 3 years, 2021
-  Reem Tamer Abu Turki, 8 years, 2024
-  Talya Asem Sabbag, 7 years, 2024
-  Fatima Yaser Abo Turkey, 9 years, 2024
-  Tala Yaser Abo Turkey, 12 years, 2024
-  Rahaf Mohanad Abu Huseen, 13 years, 2025
-  Karam Asem Sabbah, 8 years, 2024
-  Amro Ayoub Abu Madi, 13 years, 2024
-  Sham Yacoub Al-Zareer, 6 years, 2024



Support our Work: Become a Member

BuildPalestine members are the foundation that makes this work possible — funding the support, the training, the connections, and the breathing room that Palestinian social entrepreneurs need to grow. In a landscape where Palestinian-led innovation is chronically underfunded and overlooked, membership is a direct act of solidarity.

BuildPalestine members are recurring donors who contribute monthly or annually to power our work. Our members give us the stability to plan, respond, and scale our impact—enabling long-term, community-led solutions to thrive.

**Become a BuildPalestine member.
Be part of what's being built.**

→ buildpalestine.com/join

Our contact info and socials:


**Buil

ϕ

alestine**

Let's Build!

Ways to reach us:

hello@buildpalestine.com





Build **p**alestine

Let's Build!