# Urgent Appeal from Karama Organization

CONCEPT NOTE

Proposal for community initiatives in Palestinian refugee camps admits critical education situation.

**Sector**: education, youth empowerment.

**Time frame**: March till September 2023.

**Budget**: ranging from 5,000 USD to 50,000 USD.

**Location**: Refugee camps on the West Bank; Deheishe Camp in Bethlehem.

## Context

The Palestinian society has been taken hit after hit in the last few years, with progress in economic and social development being destroyed. The crippling occupation and lack of autonomy effect every aspect of life for Palestinians. Too many children, teens and adults are currently thrown back again in a dependency on aid, lacking the capacities and support systems to build their own livelihoods and live in dignity.

In particular, the children and their education are going through another down point. While COVID19 already caused big gaps in the students’ learning goals, school year 2022-2023 saw several worker strikes that also had a negative impact on the schools. Both government and UNRWA schools have been closed for weeks on end during this school year, with students not receiving the proper guidance. This deepens an already existing education gap between students with access to private education (who continue to attend schools) and students without the financial means to access private education. UNICEF already discussed in their [2021 report](https://www.unicef.org/sop/media/1681/file/Children%20in%20the%20State%20of%20Palestine.pdf) that poverty levels have a clear impact on literacy rates, a trend that is extremely worrisome and will only continue in the coming year. They stated that on average 58% of West Bank children aged 7-14 can count and work with numbers in a way suitable for their ages. This drops significantly looking specifically at refugee children, where it reaches only 49%. A gap in education will directly impact their future opportunities to build a livelihood and is a clear trapping of their basic human rights. Civil society and NGO’s should step in to make sure the most vulnerable households of Palestinian society get the education support they deserve so they can build a dignified future.

## Proposed intervention

Karama Organization is situated in Bethlehem governorate, directly in Deheishe refugee camp. It has good relations all over the West Bank and implements activities since 2002 for the benefit of children, youth and women. Building on the good relations with teachers and social workers in the community, Karama will set up a network of teachers who are willing to contribute several days per week to an educational program for the most vulnerable students. While Karama acknowledges the right to strike of the workers, and supports the demands of the different unions, we have found a common aim. To not let the young generation, miss out on the foundational skills is crucial and through Karama’s neutral position a contribution to this goal can be made collectively. The available teachers and social workers will commit for a schedule of basic courses for the children grade 1 to 8, focusing on the key topics of Arabic, Mathematics and English. In addition, other workshops around science or social skills will be arranged as much as possible. Karama Organization will set up the appropriate space, arrange teaching materials, select and invite the target group and lead the communication with the different parties. Courses are expected to continue as long as needed (as long as the strike continues).

Target group: 6-14 years old, boys and girls from Deheishe refugee camp.

At least 400 to 500 students should be targeted.

Activities: Arabic, Mathematics and English foundational courses for school children.

Other workshops arranged when possible and teachers are available.

When budget allows, connections can be made with community centers in other refugee camps to transfer the knowledge and method to set up similar activities for the same target group.

## Contact Details

Karama’s project manager Luay AbdelGhaffar is ready to discuss the detailed budget and proposal with all interested parties. Please reach out at [luay@karama.org](mailto:luay@karama.org)

Our website for more background information: [www.karama.org](http://www.karama.org)

Any donation small or large is needed and welcome to Karama Organization, either directly to our bank account or through a trusted platform like Global Giving.

Karama’s bank account details:

*For donations in euro.*

Karama Organization for Women and Children Development

IBAN: PS56PINV041100736320052342000

BIC/SWIFT: PINVPS22

Bank name: PALESTINE INVESTMENT BANK

*For donations in dollars.*

Karama Organization for Women and Children Development

IBAN: PS61PINV041100736320020038000

BIC/SWIFT: PINVPS22

Bank name: PALESTINE INVESTMENT BANK