



Social Responsibility 2011

Our Social Responsibility



The background is a solid pink color. There are several thin, white, curved lines that sweep across the page from the left side towards the bottom right, creating a sense of movement and design.

Our Social Responsibility 2011

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USD 232,529

Education, Youth & Innovation

USD 408,896

Health & Environment

USD 213,408

Sports

USD 401,242

Development

USD 89,909

Arts & Culture

USD 224,201

Social & Humanitarian Efforts

USD 221,981

Economic & Diaspora Affairs

Geographical distribution- Financial report

No	Locatione	Number of events	Sponsorship amount (USD)	Percentage
1	West Bank	92	855,831.39	47,70 %
2	Gaza Strip	52	687,364.16	38,30 %
3	Sponsoring events overseas	8	248,980.85	14,00 %

Distribution by sector

**USD
1,792,175**



Dear friends,

It gives me great pleasure to address you through this booklet, which Bank of Palestine is issuing for the second time. I am proud of the bank's contribution towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR); this booklet encapsulates part of the Bank's contribution to humanitarian and developmental activities.

This contribution surpasses business transactions; the Bank's dedicated efforts to its people, which goes beyond the provision of financial services to support activities, events and Programmes that combat poverty and draw a smile on the faces of children, invigorate the nation's economy, and contribute to achieving sustainable development.

We strongly believe that true progress begins with social and economic development on a community level. This has been our belief and commitment since our founding in 1960. Therefore we have been the leaders in Corporate Social Responsibility in Palestine dedicating around 5% of our net profit to CSR, a percentage that is more than double the

worldwide average of 2%. In 2011 alone, BoP's CSR budget reached around USD 1.8 million, and covered several sector including: Youth and sports, education, health, arts, culture, tourism, and other humanitarian work. This contribution reflects our persistence to play a major role in developing the Palestinian economy and society, present at every occasion and contributing to instill the notion of social responsibility as the course to seek in order to achieve our goals for the future.

We are proud to have been able to make substantial contributions towards the betterment of our society, culture, and national identity.

We shall continue our commitment to work tirelessly for a better bank, a stronger community, and for an institution that strives for empowerment and social and economic growth in Palestine.

Sincerely,

Hashim Shawa
Chairman of the Board & General Manager

The Largest Contributor to CSR Among Banks in Palestine for the Year 2011

Bank of Palestine's continuous commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) stems from BoP's belief that true progress begins with social and economic development on a community level. This has been BoP's belief and commitment since its founding which explains why BoP has been leading in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Palestine dedicating around 5% of the net profits to CSR. In 2010 alone, BoP's CSR budget reached around USD1.5 million, and covered the following sectors: youth and sports, education, health, arts, culture, tourism, and other humanitarian work. This year, BoP was recognized by the Association of Banks in Palestine as the largest contributor to CSR among Banks in Palestine.

The First Palestinian Banking Institution to Join the UN Global Compact

Bank of Palestine has become a proud signatory of the UN Global Compact in 2011, which is a strategic policy initiative for businesses that are committed to aligning their operations and strategies with 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. In this way, business becomes one of the main catalysts for globalization, and can help to ensure that markets, commerce, technology, and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere.



WE SUPPORT

**Previous
sponsorships,
projects, &
initiatives
funded by BoP**





Initiatives

Initiatives

Over the past two years, the bank sponsored a number of important Programmes and projects with a humanitarian, educational, and relief aspect, including:

Two Million Dollars Allocated to "Zamalah" Fellowship Programme

Zamalah is a programme aimed at developing and raising the calibre of education in Palestinian universities through building the capacity and increasing the exposure of local university professors by sending them to international academic institutions. This will enhance

professors' theoretical and practical expertise, which will be positively reflected on the Palestinian educational system and the students' ability to engage in the job market and qualify for its requirements.



INJAZ-PALESTINE

H2O Meter, a Palestinian student company sponsored and trained by Bank of Palestine, won the "Best Student Company in Palestine" and the "Best Product Idea" awards in the INJAZ-Palestine competition this year, which qualifies them to compete in the INJAZ- Arab World competition to be held in Abu Dhabi



The "H2O Meter" company consists of a group of students from the Evangelical School in Ramallah and was trained by a number of BoP's staff. The company markets an eco-friendly and modern electronic product, measures water levels in water reservoirs, spots leaks in the tanks, and encourages rational water consumption.

Mustaqbali (My Future)

Bank of Palestine sponsored the "My Future; making Gaza's orphans smile" project, in partnership with the Welfare Association. The 22-year-project is designed to adopt all children who were orphaned after the last war on Gaza in 2008/2009. It includes giving relief aid within a framework that focuses on long term development in terms of education, health, and professional development for the children and youngsters.



The many difficulties that Palestinians face on a daily basis, which cause a severe lack income that affects children and young people's education, especially in light of higher premiums for higher education, has prompted BoP to invest in education. With the belief that investing in our youth and increasing their confidence in their own abilities and creativity is the first step towards building a sustainable economy. We offered our support to strengthen the sector through a number of projects and donations detailed as follows:

Zamalah Programme with Birzeit University

Bank of Palestine signed an agreement with Birzeit University for the Zamalah programme, which aims to raise the capacity and university professors academic and other for a period ranging a full year. BoP is this programme sector companies and the fund.

agreement with Birzeit Fellowship Programme, calibre of education in through building increasing the exposure of by sending them to professional institutions between one semester to also working on expanding by inviting other private individuals to contribute to.



Bank of Palestine Awards Successful High School Students

BoP awarded students with a high school average of 70% or higher with a financial gift of USD100.

Equipping the Board of Trustees headquarters at Al-Azhar University

Given the shortage of financial sources in Gaza, BoP made a financial contribution to equip and furnish the Board of Trustees headquarters at Al-Azhar University.



Building the Kindergarten at Friends School in Ramallah

The bank allocated a sum of money to build the kindergarten at Friends School in Ramallah in order to create a specialized educational environment for young children.

Contribution to President Mahmoud Abbas's Fund for Palestinian Students in Lebanon

Bank of Palestine contributed to the President's Fund to support Palestinian students in Lebanon to attend university, given the challenging circumstances in which they are living.

"Celebration of Creativity" to Honour Young Talented and Innovative Palestinians

In an event attended by a number of pioneers of the private sector, "Celebration of Creativity" was held. The event was presented a number of creative inventions by students all over the country. The event aims at putting Palestine on the map of creativity and innovation, and to give young Palestinians the confidence they need to continue excelling.



Funding a Children's Library in Nilin Village

In collaboration with "Give Palestine", and in an effort to reach out to children in marginalized areas with a shortage in educational tools, BoP contributed to preparing a children's library in Nilin, west of Ramallah. The village suffers from a lack of educational tools and services due to the Separation Wall.



Donating Computers to the School for the Gifted in Gaza

As part of its effort in helping Palestinian schools keep abreast of technology, BoP donated 27 computers and printers to the computer lab at Gaza's School.





Khan Younis Students Go For Gold with Recycled Formula One Car

With financial support from Bank of Palestine and a number of other donors, a group of students from UNRWA's Khan Younis Training Centre (KYTC) in Gaza created a Formula 1-style car out of mostly recycled parts. The students decided to embark on the project as part of the prestigious Formula Student competition in Silverstone Circuit, UK. Which is one of Europe's biggest student motorsport events, Formula Student challenges students from around the world to design, build and race a single-seater racing car from scratch.

The First Educational Mobile Library in Gaza

In cooperation with a number of Palestinian NGOs, BoP sponsored the first educational mobile library project, "Read & Enjoy".

The mobile library contains a number of office and scientific equipments for children. The project aims to expand children's cultural understanding, especially those living in marginalized areas, and to encourage them to read. The project started with a main sponsorship by BoP in addition to support from the A. M. Qattan Foundation and Franco - German Cultural Centre.





Sponsored the Closing Festival for the Directorate of Education in Tubas

Bank of Palestine sponsored a student festival in the Girls' School in Tubas. The festival included a number of entertainment events and it included an exhibition showing the student's achievements. Side events of the festival included sports, cultural, scientific and artistic events.

Offering Scholarships to Needy Students in Palestinian Universities

The bank offered need-based financial aid to a number of outstanding students to help them complete their undergraduate studies.

Supporting INJAZ-Palestine and Giving Trainings to Students

Bank of Palestine offered its annual sponsorship to INJAZ-Palestine, which works to create a strong generation, capable of leading the Palestinian economy. The bank's employees also gave a number of trainings about the economy in an effort to increase Palestinian students' understanding of business management and economics. As a result, the student company which was trained by the bank won "Best Student Company" and "Best Product" in the 2012 competition.

Sponsoring "Nitaj 2" Student Exhibition in UCAS Gaza

As part of the Bank's role in motivating college and university students to present their innovative products and creations, BoP sponsored "Nitaj 2" student exhibition in UCAS Gaza. The exhibition included wood carving, glass painting and other projects carried out by the students.



Honouring the Role of Mothers in Jenin's Directorate of Education

Bank of Palestine sponsored a party organized by Jenin's Directorate of Education to honour mothers who work as teachers in the Directorate, showing the bank's appreciation for the role carried out by the Palestinian woman in raising a new generation.

Equipping Al-Najah University's Hospital



Bank of Palestine funded Al-Najah University's hospital in Nablus with USD100,000 needed for preparing the hospital to allow medicine students to apply theoretical information and to gain practical, hands-on experience needed to prepare them for their careers.

Offering an Electricity Generator to Al-Azhari Institute in Gaza

Given the ongoing blockade and electricity crisis in Gaza, BoP contributed to buying an electricity generator for Al-Azhar Institute in Gaza to help it keep functioning.

Issuing "Student Guide" in Birzeit University

Bank of Palestine covered the costs of issuing "Student Guide" in Birzeit University, which is given to new students to acquaint them with the ABC's of the university.



Honouring Students in Qalqilya and Salfit

Bank of Palestine sponsored two main ceremonies in Qalqilyah and Salfit to honour successful high school students, and it also awarded the students with savings account.

Hajj Hashim School in Gaza

Bank of Palestine contributed to fixing the Hajj Hashim School in Gaza and to equipping it with umbrellas, in order to create a better educational environment for the students.

Sponsoring Birzeit's Employment Fair

Bank of Palestine was the main sponsor for Birzeit's Employment Fair in 2011, which is attended by many graduates as well as companies in an effort to connect the two and provide work opportunities for the graduates.



The American International School in Gaza's Graduation Ceremony

For the third year in a row, BoP sponsored the American International School in Gaza's high school graduation ceremony, which was attended by the staff, teachers, parents and guardians, in addition to a delegation from BoP.

Contributing to Building a Tennis Court

As part of its conniptions role in supporting all forms of education, BoP contributed to building a tennis court in Friends School-Ramallah.

Ceremony to Honour Teachers in Hebron

Bank of Palestine contributed to a ceremony held in hebron to honour teachers as a way of expressing gratitude to teachers, who carry the burden of raising future generations.

Health & Environment

The health sector, which is the basis of any productive society, faces several challenges in Palestine due to political and economic instability, making the health sector in dire need of support. Our environment is our responsibility, and is also strongly connected to our health. At BoP, we consider saving the environment one of our main responsibilities, which is why we supported the following projects:





Sponsoring the Annual Ophthalmologists Conference

Bank of Palestine sponsored the annual Ophthalmologists conference in Ramallah, which was attended by a number of Ophthalmologists from different Arab countries and from around the world.



Sponsoring a Party for Children with Thalassemia

Bank of Palestine sponsored a charitable lunch party for children with thalassemia in Ramallah.

Funding the Fifth Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine

The fifth Palestinian Conference of Laboratory Medicine, which was held in Bethlehem with the sponsorship of BoP, aims at developing palestine's laboratory medicine field and the skills of those working in it.

Dinner for the International Medical Education Trust

Sponsored by BoP, Pal IMET2000 held its second annual dinner, which was attended by a crowd of doctors, nurses, and officials in the health sector.



Sponsoring a Summer Camp for Children with Diabetes

Sponsoring a Conference for Medical Students

Sports

Sport is an important pillar in any society, and should be encouraged and supported by all means. BoP, a champion of sports, has contributed the following the Palestinian sports activities:



Gaza Sports Club

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Gaza Sport Club for a whole season as part of the bank's commitment to supporting youth and sports.

Basketball Championship in Ansar Club

With Bank of Palestine's golden sponsorship, the Khalil Wazir Basketball Championship took off in Ansar with the participation of 12 Jerusalmite clubs and in coordination with Dr. Jihad Alwazir, governor of the Palestine Monetary Authority and late Khalil's son.

Rafah Services Club

Bank of Palestine contributed to the Rafah Service Club, which celebrated its sixtieth birthday this year.

Sponsoring Palestine's International Soccer Championship

Donating to Hilal al-Quds Club in Abu Dis

A soccer Game Between the Palestinian and the Bahraini Teams

Bank of Palestine honoured the Bahraini Olympics Delegation, which was visiting Palestine for the first time, in an Honourary dinner held for the team. In cooperation with Jawwal, BoP sponsored the soccer game between the Palestinian and Bahraini Olympic teams.





Sports Championship for girls with special needs in Gaza

Bank of Palestine provided exclusive sponsorship for the Sports Championship for girls with special needs under the supervision of the Gaza Paralympics Committee. The championship was held in Palestine Sport Field and was attended by girls with special needs participating in different sports.



Adopting the Premier Football League in Gaza

Bank of Palestine signed an agreement with the Palestinian Football Association to fund the twelve Premier League football clubs in the southern governorates in the Gaza Strip with USD120,000. The signing of the agreement took place on December 12, 2011 at the BoP's headquarters in Gaza City and was attended by members of the Board of Directors and executive management of the bank, as well as representatives from the sports sector in Gaza.

Sponsoring the Football Championship in Hebron

With an audience of more than 200 people, the Football Championship in Hebron was launched with the participation of several local teams.

Supporting "Paces" Organization in Jerusalem

Paces, an organization which encourages children to participate in sports, especially children who are exposed to violence, received financial support from BoP out of the bank's belief in the importance of encouraging sports among marginalized young children.

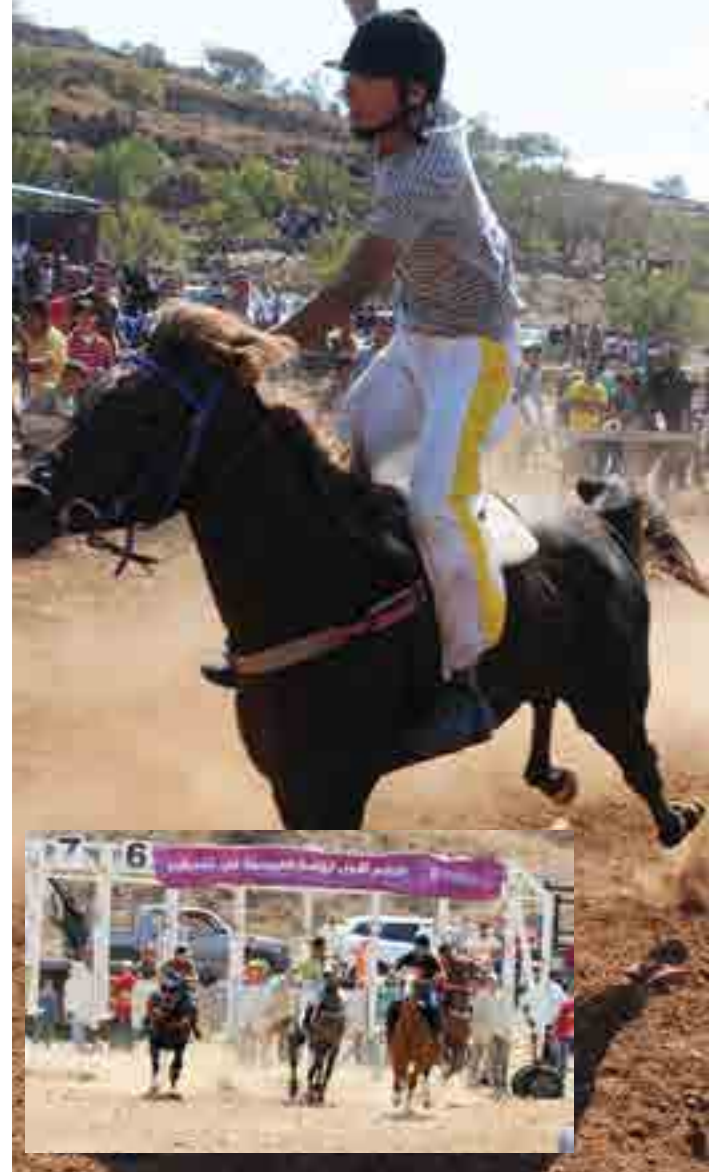
Sponsoring the Gaza Horse Races

Bank of Palestine sponsored the horse races held in Gaza, with many participants on Arabian horses and a crowded audience. The bank also awarded the winners with a financial award of USD200.



Sponsoring the "Abu Falah" Horse Race

Bank of Palestine sponsored the second Abu Falah horse race, with more than 80 participants from Palestine.





Sponsoring football games between the Palestinian and the Japanese women teams in Hebron and Nablus

In partnership with Jawwal, BoP sponsored a number of soccer games between the Palestinian and the Japanese women teams, organized by the Palestine Soccer Union. The first game was held in Hebron, and the second was held in Nablus.

This sponsorship comes as part of the bank's firm belief in the importance of encouraging Palestinian women athletes and supporting them with any means possible.

Development

Development is one of our most important responsibilities because it extends to every field that we contribute in. With a vision into the future, BoP contributed to the following:



Sponsoring the second Human Resources Development conference

The Conference shed light on the role played by companies in attracting Palestinian labour, unemployment, and a number of related issues.



Donating to MAS Research Institute

A financial contribution made to MAS, the Palestine's Economic Policy Research Institute.

TEDxRamallah

One of the main events of the year, TEDxRamallah was held in Bethlehem and received a main sponsorship from BoP.



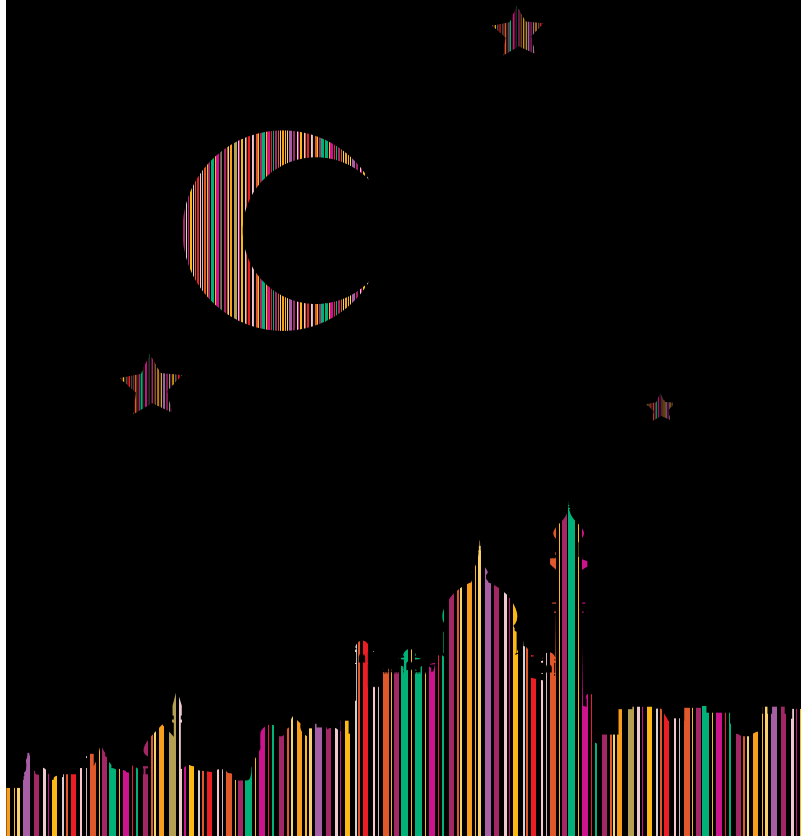
First Tourist Map of Gaza

Issued by Madad Company, and in cooperation with UCAS in an effort to show Gaza's modernity and history at the same time, the first English tourist map of Gaza was issued in 2011 with funding from BoP.



Ramadan Facilities for Public Sector Employees' Wages

With the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan, and in coordination with the Ministry of Finance, BoP issued the remaining portion of public sector employees' salaries without any interest, and postpone their loan instalments to the following month.



Gifts for Gaza's pilgrims for the year 2011

Bank of Palestine employees distributed gifts for pilgrims leaving Gaza to Mecca, starting on 14/10/2011 and until 19/10/2011.





Holy Family Church Bazaar in Ramallah

Bank of Palestine sponsored the charity bazaar organized by the Holy Family Church in Ramallah, called "Peace on Earth." The bazaar, which was attended by a number of Ramallah and Al-Bireh's officials and hundreds of other guests, included several cultural and artistic shows for children and adults. The proceeds of the bazaar go to the Church's fund, which is dedicated to helping out the poor and needy.



Supporting Lady of Peace Centre

Bank of Palestine supported the Lady of Peace Centre, which cares for people with special needs in Palestine and Jordan.



Group Wedding in Silwad

Bank of Palestine offered 200 JD to 17 grooms in the group wedding held in Silwad as a way of helping young couples start off their married life.



Expotech 2011

Bank of Palestine sponsored Expotech, an exhibition for companies and businesses that operate within the ICT sector, in Gaza and in the West Bank.

XPO

TECH

XPO

TECH

XPO

TECH

Third Annual Furniture Exhibition

With sponsorship from BoP and organization by the Federation of Wood, the 2011 National Furniture Exhibition was held in Gaza. Furniture making is one of Gaza's most important industries, making the exhibition a great success especially in light of the ongoing challenges faced by the Strip.



Children's Festival in Ezariyeh

Hundreds of children participated in the children's festival in Ezariyeh's old city, and event sponsored by Bank of Palestine. The festival included theatre, magic, face painting, dabka, and other entertainment events.



"Nitaj 2" Student Exhibition

As part of the Bank's role in motivating college and university students to present their innovative products and creations, BoP sponsored "Nitaj 2" student exhibition in UCAS Gaza. The exhibition included wood carving, glass painting and other projects carried out by the students.

Donation for Rafah Crossing

Bank of Palestine donated a number of computers, printers, and other devices needed to improve the services at Rafah Crossing, which connects Gaza to Egypt.

Young Artists Forum in Ramallah

Bank of Palestine made a donation to the Young Artists Forum in Ramallah, a Palestinian organization focuses on developing art talents.



Startup Weekend in Gaza

Bank of Palestine was the golden sponsor for Startup Weekend in Gaza, an event which was attended by more than 200 people, including ICT entrepreneurs, university students, programmers, web developers, and other interested professionals. According to the


Startup Weekend Website, "the event focuses on building a web or mobile application which could form the basis of a credible business over the course of a weekend." In Gaza, about 15 teams of 3-5 students are participating.



CULTURE AND ARTS


Historically, arts and culture have always been a fundamental part of the Palestinian identity. The Palestinian people have always been leading in poetry, literature, art, and music. At BoP, we believe in the utmost importance of reviving our culture, which is why we supported the following:





Palestinian National Orchestra

BoP provides annual funding for the Palestinian National Orchestra, which carries out performances at home and abroad. BoP also funded the establishment of the orchestra, which is Palestine's first.



"Beyond the Aesthetics" Fashion Exhibition in Birzeit University

Under the auspices of the Bank of Palestine, the Ethnographic and Art Museum at BZU opened the exhibition "Beyond Aesthetics, in an attempt to discover the symbolic dimensions of the Palestinian costume, and how to use it as instruments of communication and social networking. The exhibition highlighted the use of colour, images and shapes in the displayed pieces as tools for delivering messages, related to the Palestinian reality and life until mid-twentieth century.

"Almishmish Festival" in Jifna



Beit Jala and Beit Sahour Festival

Bank of Palestine sponsored the annual festival in Beit Jala and Beit Sahour in Bethlehem, which is a festival of culture and art.



El-Funoun

As part of the bank's annual contribution to Palestinian culture, BoP contributed to El-Funoun dance troupe to support its efforts to preserve the Palestinian identity.





Jerusalemite Nights

Sponsored by BoP, the "Jerusalemite Summer Nights" festival, organized by the Cultural Forum Centre in Beit Anan, was attended by large crowds, including a number of distinguished national figures, leaders and academics. The festival was inaugurated with an embroidery exhibition and included a number of cultural and artistic activities.





Palestine International Festival for Dance and Music

Bank of Palestine sponsored Palestine International Festival for dance and music, which hosted a number of Arab and International artists and bands over a whole week.



Wein A Ramallah Festival

Bank of Palestine sponsored the "Wein A Ramallah" festival in the old city of Ramallah, a festival rich in cultural and artistic events.





Equipping Bethlehem Visitor Information Centre

As a way of encouraging tourism in Palestine, Bank of Palestine contributed to establishing Bethlehem's Visitor Information Centre in Manger Square. The Centre was inaugurated under the auspices of President Mahmoud Abbas during Christmas celebrations.

UNRWA project to archive a number of films about the Palestinian Cause

Bank of Palestine donated to an UNRWA project aimed at archiving a number of films about the Palestinian Cause, within a bigger project also funded by the bank to revive Palestine's cultural heritage.



Christmas Celebrations in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Ramallah, and Jenin

In line with its vision to promote and develop tourism in Palestine, BoP participated and sponsored several cultural, recreational and religious Christmas events in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Ramallah and Jenin. Bank of Palestine, in sharing Christmas celebrations, put up several congratulatory banners around Bethlehem and participated in the Patriarch's reception as well as funding the Scout's parades during Christmas. The bank also distributed gifts for children of needy families in Ramallah, Jenin and Bethlehem.

Birzeit Nights Festival

Organized by Birzeit University, "Birzeit Nights" festival was sponsored by BoP out of the bank's effort to revive Palestine's cultural heritage and history, and relentless support for Palestinian students.



Tulkarem's First "Olive Harvest Season" Festival

One of Palestine's most important seasons, the olive harvest season is led by farmers and peasants around the country. In supporting Palestine's agricultural sector, BoP funded the first three-day "Olive Harvest Season" festival in Tulkarem.



"Wadi al-Sha'eer" Festival in Anabta

Bank of Palestine sponsored the "Wadi al-Sha'eer" festival in Anabta, Tulkarem. The festival, which was held in the village's high school, included a variety of cultural and artistic performances, in addition to poetry recited by Essam Besheeti, Palestine's youngest poet.



The Fourth Rozana Cultural Week-Birzeit

Bank of Palestine sponsored the fourth Rozana cultural week, which was held in Birzeit's old city. The four day event included folklore and theatre performances, in addition to a "Palestinian Wedding" performance.

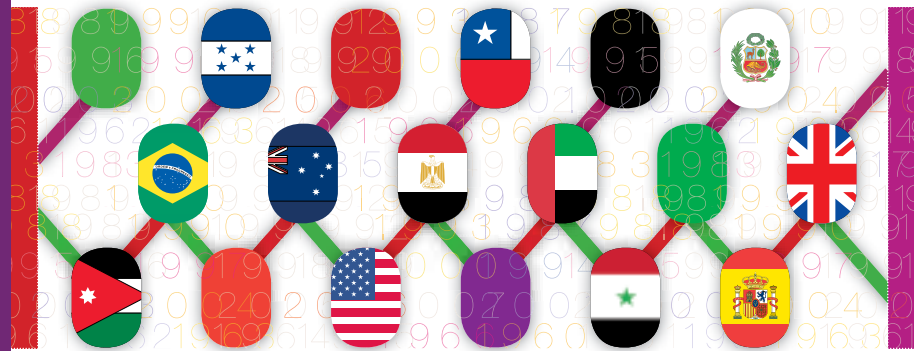


Financial Prize for Young Palestinian Poet Essam Beeshiti

Bank of Palestine presented an award for Essam Beeshiti, a young Palestinian poet who made it to MBC's "Arabs Got Talent" finals with unique poetry about the Palestinian cause.

Economic Affairs and Diaspora Relations

Bank of Palestine , tirelessly seeking to reach customers worldwide, including more than six million Palestinians live in the Diaspora with a total GDP of about USD100 billion, established the Diaspora Unit. The Diaspora Unit is dedicated to building bridges with Palestinians in the Diaspora by providing personal and corporate banking and advisory services for business and investment. BoP has supported the economic sector at home and abroad through a number of projects and donations, including:



Bank of Palestine sponsors the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Investment Forum

Bank of Palestine sponsored and participated in the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation Forum, which was held in DC. Paltel, which also contributed to the forum, participated along with a number of Palestinian businessmen and personalities from around the US and the world. The forum aimed at finding a framework for cultural, social, and economic connections and exchange between Palestinians at home and abroad, and to encourage working and investing in Palestine.

BoP supported a Diaspora doctor to stay in Palestine

Bank of Palestine supported a Palestinian doctor living in the Diaspora to return and live in Palestine, and to build a cancer treatment Centre. BoP encouraged the doctor, who specialized in cancer, to settle in Palestine and serve diagnosed Palestinians.

The 53th Annual Ramallah Convention at Washington, D.C.

Bank of Palestine sponsored and participated in the 53rd Annual Ramallah Convention, which was organized by the Ramallah Club. The Forum brought together more than 1500 Palestinians from around the US and Palestinian businessmen.



International Conference to Rebuild and Develop Palestine

Under the auspices of his Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan Bank of Palestine sponsored and participated in the International Conference to Rebuild and Develop Palestine conference in Amman. The conference was attended by a number of social and economic Palestinian, Arab, and International organizations, in addition to representatives from the Quartet, European Union, Arab League and the World Bank. Ambassadors and dignitaries of different nationalities were also among the participants. The conference aimed at encouraging investors to invest and carry out business in Palestine, especially in Gaza.

Social and Humanitarian Endeavors

The 53rd Annual Ramallah Convention at Washington, D.C.

Bank of Palestine participated and sponsored the 53rd Annual Ramallah convention which aims to perpetuate and enhance the close ties that exist among all Ramallah people, to instill and nurture in the Ramallah Youth in the United States their ancestral language, culture and heritage and to orient the American public with Arab culture and heritage and to promote better understanding of the political aspirations of the Palestinians in particular and the Arabs in general.

Bank of Palestine's sponsorship came as part of the Bank's commitment to building bridges between Palestinians at home and in the Diaspora, within cultural, social, historical and economic frameworks. The convention was attended by several Palestinian families and groups residing in the US. During the convention BoP announced the establishment of the Diaspora Unit at BoP.



Know Thy Heritage

Along with a number of banks and companies in Palestine and the US, BoP sponsored the "Know Thy Heritage" project, which aims at building a framework of cultural, social, and historical exchange between Palestinians in the country and in the Diaspora. The Programme also seeks to host young Diaspora Palestinians in Palestine to acquaint familiarize them with the country and its people.



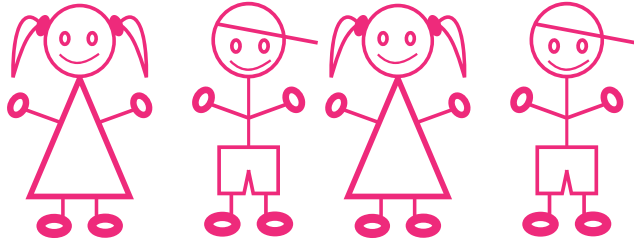
Social and Humanitarian Endeavors

We believe that we are an integral part of our community, and that the sustainability of our success will only be achieved with the sustainability of our society. We have always been keen to continue our humanitarian and social efforts, which specifically aim at supporting and enriching the Palestinian society. The initiatives we started were based on our assessment of society's needs, and they include:



Donating to Orphans with "Give Gaza"

Funded by Bank of Palestine , 100 orphans received financial aid through the "Give Gaza" NGO.



Music Training for Blind Children

For the second year, Bank of Palestine funded a music training for 50 blind students in the Edward Said Institute. A celebration followed the training in Ramallah and was attended by the children's parents and the school staff.

Cycling4Gaza Initiative

Bank of Palestine sponsored the Cycling4Gaza initiative, which took place in Jordan this year and was organized by the Welfare Association for Youth (WAY). The biking initiative aims at raising awareness about the situation in Gaza and also raising funds for a number of charity projects in the Strip.



Expanding the "Amal Orphanage" building with a donation from Hajj Hashim Atta Shawa's Family Fund



Hajj Hashim Atta Shawa's family made a private donation worth USD100,000 to build a second floor in Amal Orphanage in Gaza.

Children's Day in Silwan's Social Development Centre

Bank of Palestine contributed to the children's day organized by the Silwan Development Centre in Jerusalem, during which hundreds of children participated in many activities designed to help them build a positive approach to life.

"Dar al-Barr" Charity

Bank of Palestine donated for the Dar al-Barr, a charity organization which offers aid to orphans, children of martyrs, and the needy in Palestine, in addition to building schools designed to care for orphaned children. The charity also empowers poor families by helping them become productive families and thus providing stable income.

"Disabled Without Borders" Organization

Bank of Palestine donated to the "Disabled Without Borders" organization to enable them to help out people with special needs realize their dreams and ambitions, and to motivate them to integrate in the society and to develop their skills.

Somalia Initiative

As part of its continued humanitarian mission, BoP, along with UNICEF, launched a relief campaign to help relieve the famine in Southern Somalia. BoP opened a special account to receive donations from individuals and companies, and donated USD 50,000, including donations from employees.



UNRWA



The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) works to provide support and protection to about 5 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and occupied Palestine. UNRWA receives financial support on an almost annual basis from BoP.

Ceremony for the Charitable Solidarity Association in Nablus

As part of its humanitarian mission, BoP sponsored a ceremony held by the Charitable Association in Nablus. The Association works on opening Islamic schools for boys and girls and to raise awareness by paying special care to creative students in the scientific, literary and cultural fields. The Association also provides humanitarian and social services to the disadvantaged and seeks to increase solidarity and compassion between different social classes.

Yasmeen Charitable Society

The Yasmeen Charitable Society was established in 2002 as an initiative by the families of children with mental disabilities and has since continued growing. BoP, which has always been keen on helping children with special needs.



"Disability does not stop Energy": International Day of People with Disability

In partnership with the local Youth Council of the Municipality of Jenin, Bank of Palestine (BoP) sponsored the "International Day for People with Disability" entitled: "Disability does not stop Energy" in Jenin. The event included poetry reading, theatrical performances, as well as other recreational activities.

