


Monthly Highlights

August 2023

Towards the formation of a more just society where every individual has the ability to participate effectively.



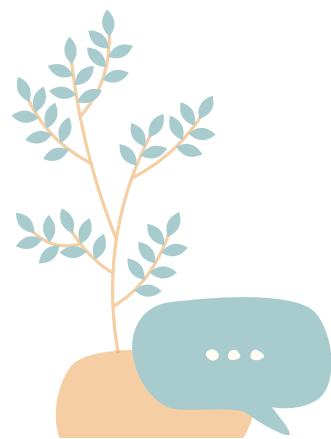
**“Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean.”**

– Ryunosuke Satoro, Japanese writer

Dear Reader,

Thank you for participating in our August issue. Without you, this newsletter would not have been possible. Through this newsletter, we encourage the participation from all of REFORM’s units, as well as the General Director and Board of Directors. Your participation is extremely valuable, especially “In the Loop” section.

The “monthly highlights” do not include an extensive list of all REFORM’s monthly engagements. Rather, it is used to highlight some of the monthly activities to enhance transparency and internal and external communication, which bring us closer together.



"In the Loop"

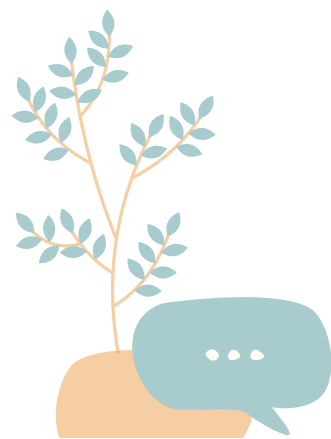


“In numerous instances, the challenging task of enumerating incidents of attacks on public property becomes apparent. They have been perpetrated by agitated crowds in various locations including cities, villages and camps throughout the Palestinian territories. The reasons behind these occurrences are diverse and multifaceted. Political protests may trigger such attacks, particularly when attempts to enforce security measures and maintain order by the authorities are met with resistance.

Additionally, clashes and acts of violence can erupt from arrests and law enforcement actions. Escalation can occur from personal disputes between individuals, eventually taking on a clan or tribal nature. Other contributing factors may also exist to lead to such incidents.

This alarming and deeply unsettling phenomenon is not only characterised by the massive loss of life and property, but also by its contribution to the perpetuation of a culture of violence and hatred. The root causes of this phenomenon can be comprehended through two distinct angles of analysis.”

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Operations Unit

All shared activities are implemented by REFORM and linked to REFORM's programmes and 2022-2025 Strategic Directions.

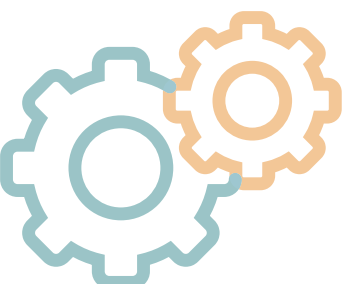


Programmes:

- **Diversity and Cohesion Programme**
- **Governance and Public Policy Programme**

Strategic Directions:

1. Combat polarisation and fragmentation
2. Enhance the access of local and marginalised communities to justice and security
3. Promote active citizenship practices and foster youth and women engagement
4. Advance outreach and targeting capabilities of REFORM
5. Develop REFORM's organisational, administrative and financial structure



"United in Diversity III"

In partnership with NPA, this project aims to promote young men and women's participation in decision-making processes through monitoring plans and policies of organisations and holding local organisations accountable at the level of public policies that increase youth's participation in public life. The project aims to enhance the values of good governance and transparency in the work of local organisations and to inform policy makers of citizens' rights and needs.



REFORM conducted a dialogue session to discuss the role of political dialogue and ways to enhance participation of Palestinian youth, promoting pluralism values. This session highlighted why the national reconciliation efforts have failed along with youths' role and their potential contributions to achieve the success of upcoming reconciliation efforts. It also addressed the reasons why youth have limited participation in national reconciliation dialogues.

The symposium dialogue sessions show REFORM's role in pluralism and open the conversation with decision-makers through the creation of safe spaces. At the end of this session, there was feedback from the speakers, general discussion and reflection.

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Gaza Strip

Public Discussion Session: “The Impact of the Economic Situation on the effectiveness of Youth’s Participation in Decision-making Processes”



A dialogue session was held related to a policy paper entitled: “Examining the Influence of Economic Conditions on the Efficacy of Youth Engagement in Decision-making.” This session focused on economic reality and challenges affecting youths’ participation in public affairs in the Gaza Strip. This session was at Gaza City's Museum Hotel and featured the attendance of experts and specialists, in addition to 25 young activists representing various governorates of the Gaza Strip.

The session concluded with several recommendations: empowering youth incubators in Gaza, enforcing laws that support the youth, emphasising the importance of involving youth in leadership roles and ensuring the provision of funding opportunities for emerging youth projects.

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Advocacy Campaign, "Student elections are a democratic necessity!"



This campaign emphasised the importance of holding regular student council elections at Palestinian universities in the Gaza Strip.

Currently, the project is leading a campaign to resume the student council elections in the universities of the Gaza Strip, which were stopped since the political division.

Join us in exploring the perspectives of university students!. They shed light on the significance of their participation in fostering pluralism and their pivotal role in shaping diverse decision-making pathways!

[Watch Video here](#) →

Weekend Solution Workshop: “Student Council Elections in the Gaza Strip Universities: A Gateway to Partnership and Democratic Transformation.”

The weekend solution involved analysing the political context within Gaza's universities, identifying the barriers and challenges hindering election processes, and subsequently assessing needs and constructing a collaborative plan endorsed by all stakeholders.



Throughout the workshop, participants jointly created a strategic roadmap to ensure the successful implementation of student elections, considering the following:

- Adoption of a unified electoral system for student councils in Gaza's universities without exceptions.
- Encouraging an environment in Palestinian universities that supports public freedoms, such as the freedom to express opinions, share thoughts and assemble peacefully.
- Neutralising security interventions and ensuring the freedom of student leadership activities both within and outside the university.
- Ensuring an environment of integrity and transparency in managing all stages of the electoral process by university administrations, while emphasising their impartial stance towards all student frameworks.
- Formation of a high committee comprising political leaders, prominent figures, and civil society representatives to oversee the agreement's implementation.
- Disseminating an atmosphere of tolerance, acceptance of others, and distancing from all forms of hate speech.
- Urging civil society institutions to provide training and qualification for all relevant parties involved in student elections, equipping them with necessary skills and knowledge.
- Providing full and secure space for student frameworks to operate without restrictions imposed by university administrations.
- Adoption of a code of conduct charter to respect election results.

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Government Performance Monitoring Report for 2022: Results of the report were reviewed with several Palestinian Ministries: “Towards promoting accountability”



REFORM held a dialogue session at the Ministry of Labour, where the results of the Government Performance Monitoring Report for 2022 were reviewed. This session was attended by his Excellency the Palestinian Ministry of Labour Dr. Nasri Abu Jish, Mr. Abdul Karim Draghama, the spokesperson of the Ministry, representatives from various public departments, directors from diverse ministries, REFORM representatives and the members of the youth monitoring team.

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REFORM held a dialogue session at the Ministry of Health to review the results of the Government Performance Monitoring Report for 2022. Attended by key actors, including her Excellency the Palestinian Minister of Health Dr. Mai Kila, the Ministry’s deputy, representatives from various public departments, directors from diverse ministries, General Director of REFORM and the youth monitoring team.

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REFORM held another dialogue session at the Ministry of Women’s Affairs to review the results of the Government Performance Monitoring Report for 2022. The meeting was attended by her Excellency Dr. Amal Hadad, Palestinian Minister of Women’s Affairs. Mr. Ismail Hammad, Legal Advisor to the Ministry, REFORM representatives and the youth monitoring team.



“Youth Led Action”

“Youth Led Action” project, strengthening the Influence of Palestinian Refugees on their living Conditions (PART II), implemented by the GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). This project aims to empower marginalised young men and women to become transformative leaders within their societies and to combat the shrinkage of civic spaces in Palestine by creating a set of platforms for social mobilisation.



REFORM's Cultural Cafés

REFORM's Cultural cafés are civic interactive platforms creating spaces for reflection between youth, enhancing togetherness, co-thinking and a co-working atmosphere. This is achieved while strengthening social cohesion, promoting participation and pluralism. Especially in times of high escalation, these platforms are vital safe community spaces where youth can reflect on their emotions and mental health and regain their agency for collective positive change.



Ramallah Cultural Café: “Mechanisms and ways of setting goals and personal values.” The youth discussed what they want to achieve in their lives, professionally and personally. They highlighted the values of justice, tolerance, cooperation and pluralism.

The session also highlighted the values of respect, appreciation of diversity culturally and socially and the value of active participation. Respect can enhance positive interaction between people while opening a door to understanding worldviews.

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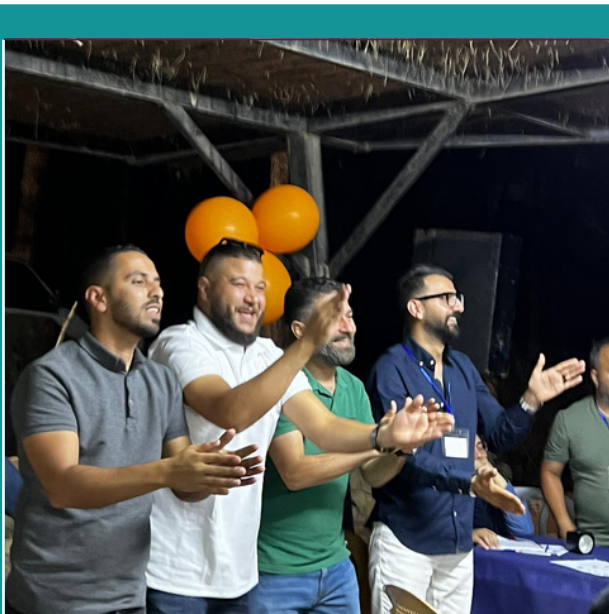


Youth Summer Camp: “Change Inside Out”

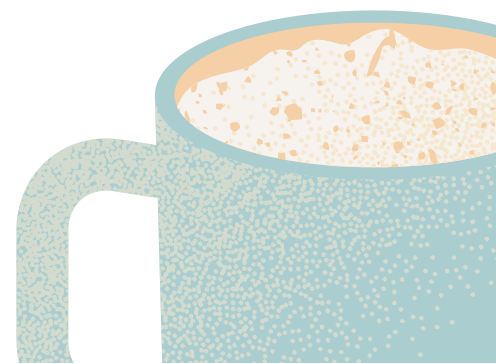
Aims to reflect the experiences and challenges of beneficiaries over the years, connecting these experiences to the transformation they hope to bring through community engagement. Simultaneously, it offers a safe space for participants to build connections, engage in team-building activities and establish valuable networks.



Encourages participants to become more aware of their own emotions, as well as those of others, fostering cooperation and mutual understanding while strengthening their sense of belonging within society. Through different activities, participants are able to understand how their lives evolve over time, how events and experiences impact their trajectories, including fears. They understand how experiences affected their lives and influenced their personalities. Participants explored their identity and gained self-awareness, including understanding their emotions, attitudes and behaviours.



Through the various activities, participants strengthened social ties and stimulated cultural integration, promoting an understanding and mutual respect among participants from diverse backgrounds.



"Symposia"

Funded by DIAKONIA in partnership with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) This project aims to enable young activists to lead an interactive dialogue with members of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the National and Central Councils, through a dialogue platform in which the perceptions and aspirations of young people are being represented, leading to social and political change within the PLO. This will be done through the formulation of draft policies and discussions with policymakers to discuss social and political life.



Majd Abu Farha, a participant, emphasised the importance of acquiring the skills required to effectively facilitate and steer sessions.

“These skills are crucial as they showcase our active involvement as young individuals within our community. Our participation is driven by a desire to contribute to Palestine by raising awareness about topics discussed during dialogue sessions, particularly concerning our community's involvement and the significance of our role in shaping the Palestinian political sphere. I also believe that embracing diversity and learning from it is a valuable aspect of our participation.”

Aims to enable Palestinian youth, who are politically and socially active, to lead an interactive dialogue with members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization Executive Committee and the National and Central Councils, through a dialogue platform through which youth's perceptions, aspirations and demands are presented. The project seeks to enhance their participation in the administration of public affairs for decision-makers.

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"Unveil"

In partnership with the Assembly of Cooperation for Peace (ACPP) and the Psycho-Social Counselling Centre for Women (PSCCW), supported by the Extremadura Agency for International Development Cooperation (AEXCID). Unveil aims to build a network of Agents of Change to enhance the protection of the rights of women and youth and to combat exclusionary values. By building the capacities of the participants and enhancing their presence and partnership in public spaces through Social Transformation trainings. In addition, the project studies the social values that enhance gender-based exclusionary behaviours.



Four coordination meetings convened participants from distinct initiatives, each aligning with a specific governorate: Salfit, Tubas, Tulkarem and Qalqilya. These meetings established comprehensive implementation plans, according to each initiative. Here some of the initiatives highlights:



Salfit awareness session: "Reimagining Masculinity"

Attended by 35 students with representatives from diverse institutions. Held at Al-Quds Open University with the aim to challenge negative masculine behaviours and promote positive models of behaviours, fostering empathy and communication amongst men.

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In Qalqilya, a policy paper was presented addressing the scarcity of specialised fields and its correlation with gender-based violence within Qalqilya.

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In Tubas, coordination efforts evolved in a plan for implementation, selection of pioneering women's inspirational stories for filming and scenario development with project participants.



"Who's Behind Me?" interactive workshop

"I really enjoyed the interactive game we played, 'Who's Behind Me.' It made me reflect on the people who have supported and influenced my journey and behaviour. Understanding the roots of our behaviour is crucial, and I see it as a valuable tool for various training sessions within the municipality. Overall, it was a significant and engaging experience." - Walaa Abdel Razek, one of the project's beneficiaries.

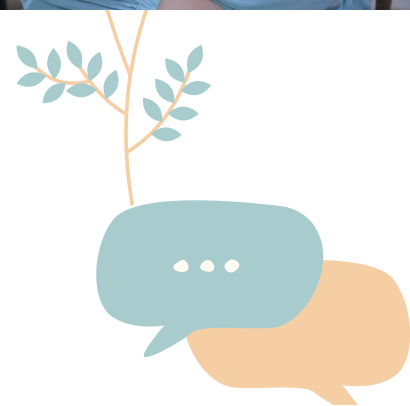
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In Tulkarem, an awareness-raising session focused on exploring societal stereotypes and their influence on career choices and opportunities for both men and women in the labour market.

The project will create a network of Agents of Change to protect the rights of women and youth and counter exclusionary values by improving their capacities and public presence through Social Transformation training.

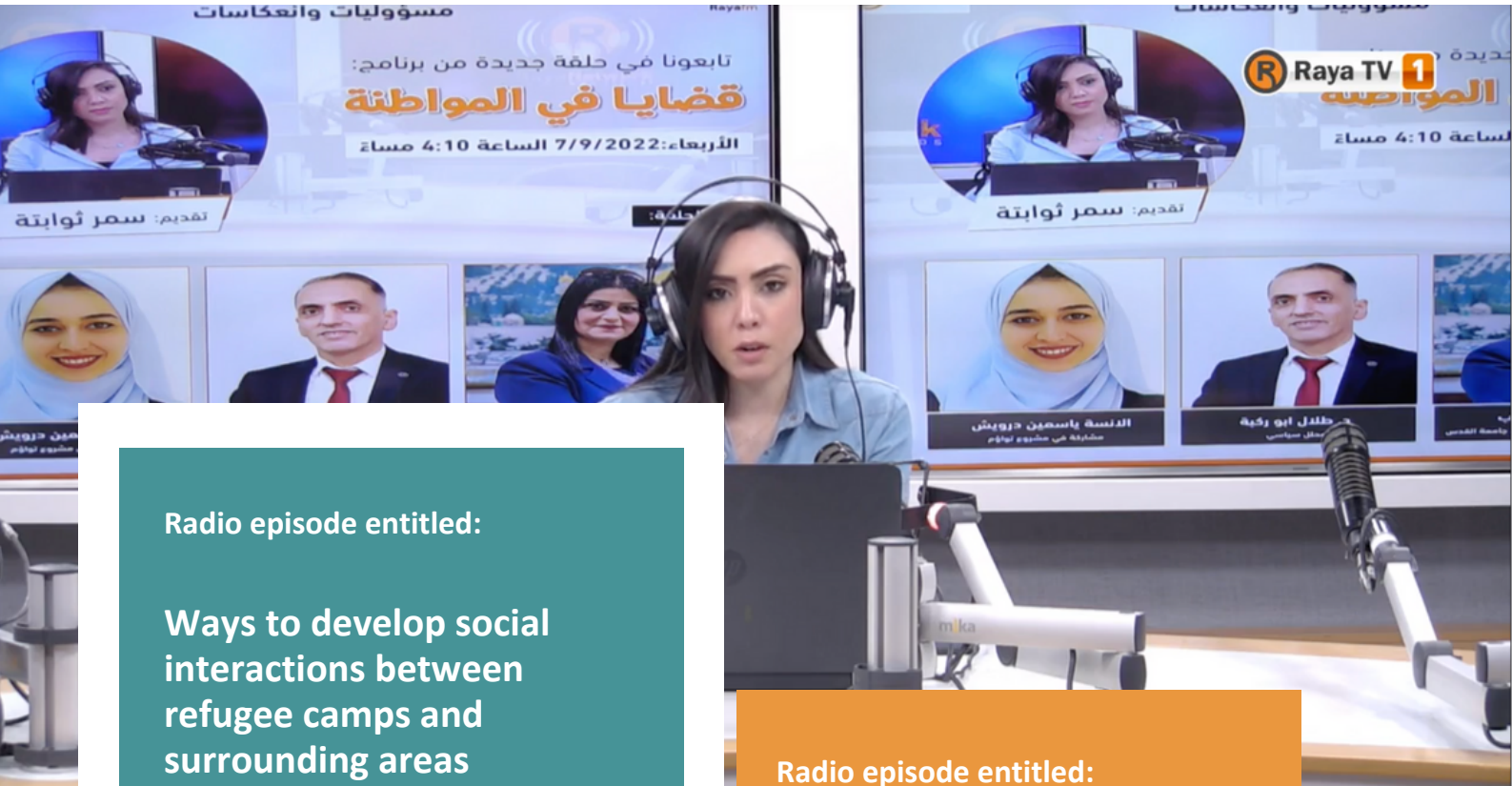


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“Citizenship Issues Under a Microscope”

Broadcasted every Wednesday on Raya FM and shared live on our Facebook page. All episodes are produced by REFORM and presented by Ms. Samar Thawbteh.



Radio episode entitled:

Ways to develop social interactions between refugee camps and surrounding areas

[Listen to this episode here](#) →

Radio episode entitled:

National Reconciliation Tours: Evaluating the causes of failure and exploring the role of youth in the transition towards success

[Listen to this episode here](#) →

Radio episode entitled:

Palestinian reconciliation in light of current challenges

[Listen to this episode here](#) →



REFORM is happy to share with you:

We are pleased to share with you our Annual Report for 2022, which highlights our achievements and contributions to our mission. We hope that this report will be informative and provide valuable insights into our work.

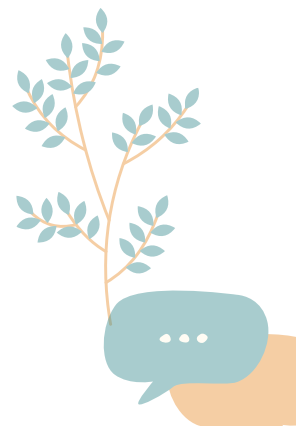


Over the past decade, significant progress has been made through mutual efforts. We have established an agency of change that is committed to driving social and structural change, with a focus on engaging young individuals from marginalised communities.

[Read Annual Report](#) 

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Get to Know Our Colleague

Raghad Shahwan, Projects Assistant



What inspires you the most?

Work, it motivates me to achieve things, makes me look at myself in a good way.

What is the best thing about your job?

Supporting everyone and connecting with REFORM participants and colleagues offer valuable opportunities for mutual exchange and learning. It allows for continuous personal growth and the chance to engage with a wide array of individuals.

Who is your role model?

Nelson Mandela, was a courageous individual who fearlessly fought for justice and stood firmly against racism.

Tell us what you like the most about yourself?

My personality, specially the way I can deal all kinds of people. I like to meet people from different backgrounds and cultures.

Favourite quote?

Everything happens for a reason.

Links to Journals & Articles

"Local Elections in the Gaza Strip: A Public Entitlement"

By: Reema Kataneh Nazzal

[Read here](#) →

"Governors: Towards a New Vision for the Civil State in Light of the Current Challenges"

By: Omar Rahhal

[Read here](#) →

"Paths and Prospects: Political Elite Meetings and the Palestinian People's Hopes for Division's to End"

By: Hani Taleb

[Read here](#) →

"Japan contributes US \$ 1 million to UNRWA in support of Palestine Refugees in Jenin refugee camp"

Source: UNRWA

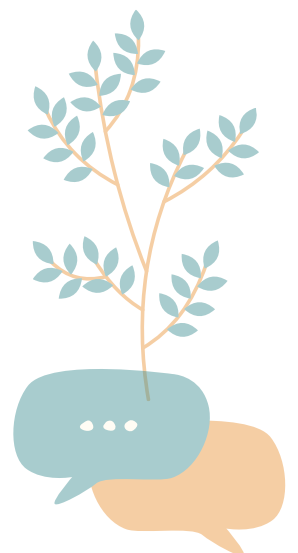
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-  REFORM's Characteristics
-  REFORM's Personality
-  [REFORM's Tone of Voice](#)
-  [Who we are](#)
-  REFORM's Strategy
-  [REFORM's Theory of Change](#)



Thank you for your participation!

We hope you enjoyed this month's brief.

Please let us know if you have colleagues who would be interested in receiving REFORM's monthly highlights.

Thanks for reading!