



Al-Maqdese Business Development Center (BDC)

Background

The Palestinian economy in East Jerusalem suffers from chronic and complicated crisis, as the city witnesses clear deterioration at the economic level and high unemployment rates. More than 80% of the Palestinians in Jerusalem live below the poverty line, as the poverty rate reached more than 12% compared to that in 2008 (annual report on poverty rates, Israeli national insurance department 2010). Also, the statistical report published by the Palestinian bureau of statistics show that in the second quarter of 2011, the unemployment rates in Jerusalem reached 10.6%, taking into consideration that these rates increase as more Israeli attacks are imposed on the Palestinians. This is specifically attributed to the lack of opportunities and restrictions imposed on the Palestinians, through the ongoing construction of the Apartheid Wall and settlements. On the other hand, the opportunities in the Israeli labor market are not an option for many of the Palestinians, whom are replaced with foreign workers.

About the center

The idea of establishing Al-Maqdese Business Development Center is stemmed from the urgent need identified to strengthen and encourage new small businesses that will contribute to enhancing economic growth in Jerusalem. This will be achieved through providing technical, financial and professional consultations for the entrepreneurs who seek establishing small investments in Jerusalem. The center surveys and assesses the market needs, and provides financial, professional and financial consultations, as well as conducting feasibility studies and capacity building of persons targeted.

Objectives

Providing technical, financial and professional marketing consultations, preparing feasibility studies and providing facilities and support needed to ensure success of entrepreneurs in their SMEs in Jerusalem

Services and activities

Through a team that consists of consultants, economic experts and researchers in economics and business, the work methodology includes providing the following services:

1. Conducting needs assessment survey on the market needs and opportunities, and establishing a comprehensive database on the field survey results
2. Providing financial, technical and marketing consultations, and feasibility studies of projects
 - 2.1 providing initial consultations
 - 2.2 Feasibility studies
 - 2.3 Preparing action plans
 - 2.4 Professional and technical consultation and initial follow up
 - 2.5 Providing economic information
 - 2.6 Assisting the entrepreneurs getting “approved” projects
 - 2.7 Financial and taxation consultations
3. Establishing networks and relationships for entrepreneurs to provide needed financial facilities
4. capacity building for the entrepreneurs
5. Establishing networks and relationships with related funding entities to facilitate getting grants and loans for the entrepreneurs
6. Providing grants and loans for the entrepreneurs

Target groups

Youth and women of professionals and entrepreneurs to improve their economic and social conditions in Jerusalem governorate

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