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ANNUAL REPORT



+972 2274 1826



info@anar.ps



www.anar.ps



Municipality Road, Beit Sahour, Palestine



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01 | Leadership & Overview

Message from President of Board of Trustees



As we reflect on the second year of ANAR, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for the remarkable achievements we have accomplished. Our organization, dedicated to providing psycho-social support to children in the Palestinian territories, has seen significant growth in both our staff and projects. This progress is a testament to the professionalism, dedication, and vision of our leadership, and it underscores the trust that the Palestinian community has placed in ANAR. It is truly inspiring to witness such trust and support in such a short period.

Our growth has come during an incredibly challenging time in Palestine. The past year has been marked by a genocidal war in Gaza and unprecedented difficulties in the West Bank. Despite these hardships, our team has shown unwavering commitment, enduring long hours and numerous obstacles at checkpoints to reach the most vulnerable communities in the West Bank. Their resilience and dedication are the driving forces behind our success.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who believed in us and supported us from the very beginning. Your unwavering support and trust have been instrumental in our achievements, and we consider you an integral part of our journey. We hope that you will continue to stand by us as we strive to fulfill our mission of “healing to hope.” Together, we can make a lasting impact on the lives of the children and families we serve.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we brace ourselves for further political challenges, including the looming threat of Israeli annexation of the West Bank. However, these challenges only strengthen our resolve and dedication to our mission. We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing essential support to the children and families who need it most, and we are confident that, together, we can continue to make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Pastor Munther Isaac

President - Anar Board of Trustees

Message from Anar's Founder

Dear Partners,

The year 2024 was a testament to the resilience, courage, and firm commitment of Anar. Amid the shadows of unimaginable challenges—the ongoing genocide in Gaza, relentless land theft, illegal settlement expansion, violent settler attacks, and the suffocating grip of military incursions—we stood steadfast. Our communities faced heightened segregation, movement restrictions, and the installation of gates that turned towns and villages into cages, allowing for swift closures across the West Bank.

In the face of such harsh conditions, the dedication of our team became a beacon of hope. Our staff endured countless hardships: hours stranded at checkpoints, separation from their loved ones due to sudden military actions, and navigating through landscapes of uncertainty. Yet, their resolve never faltered. Each step forward was driven by a collective commitment to meet the urgent and ever-evolving needs of the children we serve.

This spirit of perseverance inspired us to expand our reach. What began as a mission focused on the southern West Bank now extends to every corner of the West Bank. Together, we have grown stronger, creating spaces of healing, learning, and Sumud where they are needed most.

To the children and caregivers we serve,

Your courage fuels our purpose. While we know our efforts may never fully encompass the vast needs of our community, the impact of our shared journey is undeniable. In our final counseling sessions, we witnessed stories transformed, burdens lightened, and spirits uplifted. Your words spoke of finding a home within our work, of resilience born from connection, and of a shared Sumud—the steadfastness that binds us together. Together, we have healed, and together, we will continue to rise.



To our partners and donors, both near and far,

Your belief in our mission is the foundation of all we accomplish. Your steadfast support has turned challenges into opportunities and dreams into realities. We are deeply grateful for your trust, which empowers us to serve, innovate, and sustain hope in the face of adversity.

Above all, we honor the unyielding determination of our team. Their courage, creativity, and compassion are the lifeblood of Anar, illuminating a path forward even amidst the darkest and most difficult days.

With profound gratitude and hope,

Rami Khader

Founder and Executive Director of Anar



Executive Summary

2024 was a year of remarkably rapid growth for Anar and its programs. Building on the foundational community assessments and initial programs of 2023, Anar began 2024 with a clear model and program structure which quickly expanded in response to the accelerating crisis. Based on ongoing exploration, experimentation and feedback, Anar refined, strengthened and extended its programs in the face of formidable challenges. Anar's model represents a new approach to trauma support in Palestinian communities, and its growth over the past year speaks to its success both in addressing an urgent need, and in inspiring trust in local communities. By the end of 2024, Anar had reached 3084 beneficiaries across the West Bank.

Three key Anar programs were piloted in 2024: Community based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS), Shababeek, and the Makan program. All three pilots showed significant success, and will form the foundation of Anar's further expansion and development in 2025.



A core tenant of Anar's vision is the belief that local Palestinian community members have the most insight into the psychosocial needs of their own communities. Rather than assume that we can best assess their needs, Anar seeks to uplift the wisdom and experience of community leaders - and follow their lead - providing resources, training, support and feedback to initiatives they themselves create out of their assessment of what support is most urgent within their own communities. Anar's Community Based Self-Help Hubs program (CBPSS), designed and implemented in 2024, is grounded in this decentralized model, supporting and empowering



local teams to be resources for their own geographical areas.

The Shababeek program - Empowering Youth Leadership and Promoting Psychosocial Support and Care Through Coaching and Mentoring – was another successful pilot project that paved the way for further expansion and development. By training, guiding and uplifting young leaders to serve and support their local communities, Shababeek served both as an effective response to genuine community needs, and as a vehicle for the leadership development of Shababeek group members. The Makan

program, the creative heart of Anar's work with children, began to blossom in 2024. Through the exploration of tools such as art, storytelling, theater and puppetry, 255 children were enabled to recognize and share their experiences and feelings, using creativity as the medium.

Over the course of 2024, Anar served a total of 1768 children, 913 caregivers, and 403 youth and community members. The total number of beneficiaries reached by Anar in 2024 was 3084.

1768

CHILDREN

913

CAREGIVERS

403

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

3084

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

Context Summary

The Israeli genocide in Gaza continued to intensify and deepen in 2024. The year brought unprecedented levels of violence, displacement, and starvation, as well as severe shortages of basic medical supplies and emergency services, water and shelter. According to OCHA, between October 7, 2023, and December 2024, at least 45,553 Gazans were killed, and 108,379 were injured.¹

In addition, by the end of this period, 1.9 million Gazans were internally displaced, 344,800 faced catastrophic levels of food insecurity, and 17,000 children were unaccompanied or separated from their families. The genocide had devastating effects not only on the physical health and safety of Palestinian children, but also on their mental health and well-being. OCHA reports that by December 2024, 1.2 million children in Gaza were in need of psychosocial support.² According to a study conducted by Save the Children, the genocide in Gaza has caused a devastating deterioration of children's mental health. "Every stressor on children's psychosocial wellbeing has increased exponentially, while every protective factor has simultaneously been decimated," they report. Jason Lee, Save the Children's country director, writes that children in Gaza who have thus far survived the bombing, bullets, disease and starvation "are going through a period of mass-scale shock and grief."³

“

Every stressor on children's psychosocial wellbeing has increased exponentially, while every protective factor has simultaneously been decimated,”

The Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) continued to face an escalating political crisis in 2024, characterized by a surge in military raids, detentions, evictions, house



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Palestinian youth flee as Israeli military vehicles drive through Jenin. (Photo: Zain Jaafar/ AFP)

demolitions, settler violence and settlement expansion. In early 2024, Amnesty International reported a “shocking spike” in the Israeli military's use of unlawful lethal force against Palestinians in the West Bank.⁴ According to OCHA, the Israeli military killed 254 Palestinians in the West Bank during the first half of 2024, twice the number of the previous year in the same period. Between January and December 2024, 487 Palestinian people had been killed, including 90 children. In the same period, at least 2984 Palestinians were injured, over 500 of them children.⁵

Israeli military arrests, a significant source of trauma for Palestinian children and family members, also surged. In November, the UN Human Rights Office condemned the “mass arrests, ill-treatment, and gratuitous humiliation of Palestinians during raids in refugee camps and towns” in which community members, including children, were routinely handcuffed, blindfolded, assaulted and publicly degraded.⁶ By the end of September, according to Defense for Children International, Palestine (DCIP), the number of children in administrative detention had nearly quadrupled from the number at the same time the previous year. According to Ayed Abu Eqtaish, accountability program director at DCIP, “Israeli forces are arbitrarily detaining Palestinian children without charge or trial at a rate we have never seen before.” Palestinian children held in military detention centers consistently reported an escalation of abuse and torture by Israeli soldiers, as well as worsening prison conditions.⁷ By December, 300 Palestinian children were being held in military detention.⁸ In 2024 alone, reports the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, 8800 Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem were arrested by

the Israeli military, including 700 children and 266 women.⁹ By the end of the year, 10,154 Palestinian “security” inmates were held in Israeli prisons inside Israel.¹⁰



A Palestinian woman inspects her damaged house after an attack by Israeli settlers on the village of Huwara, south of Nablus in the occupied West Bank, on December 4, 2024 [Zain Jaafar/AFP]

Israeli settler violence against Palestinians escalated significantly in 2024 - with the highest number of incidents in 2 decades. With the eased restrictions on gun ownership for Israeli citizens, especially Israeli settlers living in illegal settlements in the West Bank, this violence increasingly involved firearms.¹¹ In 2024, according to OCHA, more than 1400 settler attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank were reported, all of which resulted in casualties and/or property damage.¹² More than 250 settler attacks on olive harvesting were documented, in 79 West Bank communities. At least 1600 trees (mostly olive) were destroyed or vandalized, harvesting equipment and crops were stolen, and at least 57 Palestinians were injured by settlers during these incidents.¹³ Israeli land theft also significantly affected Palestinian communities. By the end of 2024, about 12% of Palestinian land in the West Bank, consisting of 90 Israeli “outposts” or “farms,” - was unofficially controlled by Israeli settlers.¹⁴ Israel’s “official” settlement expansion also surged to record numbers. In June, the Israeli Security Cabinet “legitimized” 5 settler outposts, planning for their expansion.¹⁵ In addition, between January and May, around 10,800 dunams of land in the West Bank were declared “State land” by the Israeli authorities.¹⁶

Movement restrictions in the OPT significantly expanded in 2024. Increased numbers of checkpoints, road barriers, trenches, gates, and earth mounds led to deepened social isolation and the separation of Palestinian family members. A surge in the

number of Israeli settlers on the roads added to the risks of confrontation and violence. These movement risks and restrictions increasingly affected Palestinian access to basic services and emergency care, as well as the ability to work, trade, and go to school. For children, the loss of their schools’ psychosocial support, mental health referrals, and food programs had a grave impact on their overall health and well-being.¹⁷ By the end of November, 614 movement obstacles disrupted movement across the West Bank.¹⁸

The OPT continued to face an extreme economic downturn. By early 2024, the unemployment rate had nearly tripled from the rate 6 months earlier.¹⁹ According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), by the end of the second quarter about one third of the West Bank labor force was unemployed.²⁰ By September, the number of businesses in the East Jerusalem Old City that had partially or fully shut down had reached 80%.²¹ According to the World Food Program, more than 160,000 Palestinians had lost their Israeli work permits and had no income.²² House demolitions and displacement furthered the stress on families. In 2024, at least 1768 Palestinian-owned structures were destroyed by the Israeli military, 4265 people were subsequently displaced, and 165,029 Palestinians were affected.²³ The overall economic decline, according to the PCBS, led to “a dramatic escalation in hardship across the OPT.”²⁴



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02 | Anar Programs

01. Community Based Psychosocial Support (CBPSS)

Community Based Self Help Hubs

Community Based Self Help Hubs are at the heart of Anar's work to empower local community members to recognize and address the needs of their own towns and villages. In 2024, Anar facilitated the creation of 4 pilot groups of community leaders from Bethlehem and Hebron Governates, aged 18-24, to participate in a 3-day intensive training. In the course of this training, they addressed elements of community psychosocial support - such as psychological first aid, child protection, and Do No Harm policies. Participants were then guided through a needs assessment of their own communities using the SWOT analysis system. Using this information, they were supported to explore ways to respond to these needs through community initiatives.



Children's Support Groups

Throughout 2024, children's support groups provided a safe, nurturing space for children, aged 6-12, to learn to recognize and process their emotions. Beginning in March, support groups were held in Aida, Dheisheh and Al-Arrub refugee camps, as well as in various villages, including Dura town in Hebron and Irtas village in Bethlehem. In these meetings, children were supported to talk about mental health topics - such as fear and anxiety about nighttime home invasions, relationships with fathers in prison, and social relationships in their schools and community - and were given stress management tools. In total, Anar counselors led 8 five session groups that served 100 children.

Children's Structured Activities

Throughout 2024, Anar gave 32 play-based sessions to 750 children, aged 6-12, focused on fun, engaging activities within an environment which supported emotional understanding and expression. Through games, drama, and art, these sessions supported psychosocial growth through creating a space of safety in which to playfully explore their creativity, imagination, social connections, and their relationship to the natural world.



Caregiver Support Groups

Support groups for parents and caregivers provided a safe space in which those who care for children could talk about the overwhelming stresses of raising children in the context of military occupation. These groups focused on talking about emotions that were often, of necessity, tightly held in. Allowing participants to begin to express them offered an opportunity to reflect on their experience and support each other. An important focus of these groups was self-care. Participants also discussed various tools and strategies for parenting amidst difficult times. Through these support groups, Anar reached 913 caregivers in 2024.

Awareness Sessions

In response to requests from West Bank communities, Anar counselors gave mental health awareness sessions to parents, teachers and caregivers in 2024. These sessions supported adults who work with children in Palestine to understand and respond effectively to the feelings, behaviors, and academic challenges of children with trauma. These sessions were held at 6 local schools and community centers and served 200 people over 10 sessions.

In June, Anar expanded the work of its awareness sessions and began running groups for children as well. In these play-based sessions, children learned tools and strategies to use in their peer and family relationships. Supported to explore their own feelings and desires, children deepened their understanding of themselves, and developed more agency in their social interactions, becoming more equipped to express their emotions and communicate their needs.

Capacity Building Sessions

In collaboration with community centers, universities, and local psychologists, Anar ran capacity building sessions on a wide range of topics in 2024. In educational settings, teachers were taught how to recognize signs of trauma in children in school, and were given strategies to address the behavior that stems from it. In refugee camps, community members who work with children were given tools in psychological first aid and artistic methodologies for trauma healing. In addition, Anar gave sessions on stress management strategies in various West Bank communities, as well as workshops on facilitating and leading groups. In 2024, Anar ran 13 training groups that met between 4 and 10 times, depending on group needs.

02. Shababeek

In January, Anar initiated the ongoing training and coaching of 14 young Palestinians, aged 18-29, in the pilot of the Shababeek program. In over 24 sessions, participants received psychosocial support and training in life skills and community care, with the aim of empowering them to be active resources for their own communities. By exploring emotions in discussion and psychodrama, and strengthening their skills in community support, facilitation, presentation, and psychological first aid, the trainees were able to develop 5 community initiatives, in collaboration with several local organizations and schools. Trainees were able to leverage both their existing and newfound skills in a variety of areas, such as children's healing through play, the rights and welfare of people with disabilities, and the exploration of self and emotional expression. These 5 initiatives collectively served 100 community members over 8 sessions in 2024. In addition, as the participants of Shababeek developed their skills, they began to support Anar counselors in Makan sessions with children. Shababeek's work of empowering young people to be active in their own locales is an essential part of Anar's ongoing focus on community-based psychosocial support.



03. Makan

In July, Anar began to deepen its exploration and creative experimentation through the pilot of the Makan program. Using theater, art, play, and storytelling, Anar staff, in collaboration with local community organizations, implemented a wide range of strategies and approaches over the next 6 months, carefully assessing the effectiveness of each. Puppetry, DIY puzzles, playdough modeling, stress relief bubble making, exploration of mental health themes in the popular "Inside Out" movie, drama, guided play, and the creation of "emotional robots" that could name and express a variety of feelings were some of the activities Anar counselors implemented in their psychosocial support sessions with children. Through these creative and engaging activities, participants explored, by age group, psychosocial themes such as crisis emotions, peer relationships, and family dynamics, in ways that allowed them to access both their imaginations and their unspoken feelings.

Two noteworthy developments in the Makan program were "Zeina's Journey," and the Creative Writing Project. "Zeina's Journey," written and developed by Anar, was an integration of psychosocial support, theater, and puppetry in which 30 children were led through the story of a 9-year-old girl and her secret friend. As the story unfolded, these two characters engaged with the young audience to explore feelings, differences, mistreatment, bullying, and other relevant issues. Through the story, the children were able to access and process their own experiences in a way that enabled them to help Zeina and her friend resolve their difficulties. The Creative Writing Project, initiated earlier in the year, began with a series of 4 sessions, given to ten 8-12 year-olds, which engaged writing as a tool for healing. 255 children were supported through the Makan program in 2024.



Highlight: A New Project in Cooperation with UNICEF

In August, Anar began its collaboration with UNICEF, ushering in a new era of rapid expansion for its programs. The hiring of two more psychosocial counselors and an additional project coordinator enabled Anar to extend its reach into the Hebron region and deepen its impact in the Bethlehem and Hebron areas. With this increased capacity, and building upon knowledge gained in the explorations and assessments of the first two quarters, Anar was able to deliver targeted and effective programs to a substantially broadened array of participants. By the end of 2024, Anar had reached 824 children (404 males and 420 females), and 729 caregivers (46 males and 683 females) through its collaboration with UNICEF.



03 | Stories of Anar

STORIES OF ANAR

From Isolation to Belonging

Jouri

In Al-Arroub Camp in Hebron, an 11-year-old girl named Jouri joined a children's counseling group while carrying a heavy burden of sorrow and anxiety in her heart. Jouri had been living under the shadow of a traumatic experience, as her father had sustained severe physical injuries by the Israeli forces. This shocking event had left her in a state of constant fear and isolation from the world around her.



At first, Jouri appeared to be a withdrawn child, preferring to sit alone, avoiding interaction with her peers in the group, with signs of sadness and worry evident on her face. It was clear that the psychological pain she was experiencing had deeply affected her mental state and behavior.

However, thanks to the psychological and social support provided through the group's diverse activities, Jouri began to find safety and comfort in a supportive environment. These activities included sessions for expressing emotions, relaxation exercises, and interactive games designed to build trust and communication among the children. Over time, Jouri gradually opened her heart, sharing her feelings and experiences. She learned that fear and sadness are natural emotions that can be managed positively. Slowly but surely, she transformed from a sad and withdrawn child into a girl filled with hope and energy.

Today, Jouri is more active, participating in school events and activities, and her self-confidence has greatly improved. Her story carries a powerful message about the ability to overcome adversity, and the importance of psychological and social support in navigating difficult times. Jouri's story is a living testimony to the power of will and hope, highlighting the significance of providing the right support to children going through challenging experiences, enabling them to build a brighter future.

STORIES OF ANAR

From Chaos to Commitment and Respect

Dheisheh Camp Girls Group Transformed

At the start of a psychosocial support group in Dheisheh Camp, a group of girls, aged 9 to 13, were full of energy. However, this energy often manifested as extreme chaos; there was little adherence to rules, frequent use of inappropriate language, and improper physical behavior. The disorder often disrupted the planned activities. But with persistence in channeling this energy positively, clear rules were established in collaboration with the girls themselves. Commitment was reinforced through positive encouragement and simple rewards, which motivated them to respect one another and follow the guidelines.

In the final sessions, a remarkable transformation took place. The girls began speaking respectfully, listening to each other without interruptions, and showing great enthusiasm for participating in activities. For the first time, all activities during the sessions were completed on schedule without any adjustments. This group's journey demonstrates that when properly directed, high energy can be transformed into a powerful force that fosters discipline and cooperation.



STORIES OF ANAR

Overcoming Loneliness and Finding Peace

A Mother from Dura

A mother from Dura, a town south of Hebron, suffered for a long time from intense loneliness. After enduring harsh experiences and the martyrdom of her husband, she was overwhelmed by negative emotions, a deep sense of injustice, and a desire for revenge - even against those closest to her. This emotional turmoil led her to isolate herself, ignoring the efforts of those who tried to support her, which only deepened her loneliness and psychological pain.

Despite her desire to withdraw, she chose to try to participate in psychosocial support sessions held in her area by Anar. Through these sessions, she began learning how to express her emotions and cope with the wounds that had accumulated inside her. Over time, she realized that the solution did not lie in revenge or isolation but in forgiving herself first and then others. The sessions introduced her to techniques for focusing on the positive aspects of her life and ways to restore her passion and hope.

Gradually, her feelings began to change. She started engaging in social activities and in rebuilding her relationships in a healthy way. She became more active and positive, experiencing a newfound inner peace. This healing journey not only saved her from loneliness but also granted her the ability to live with vitality and happiness, enjoying a sense of emotional comfort she had never known before.



STORIES OF ANAR

Overcoming Stuttering

A Six-Year-Old Girl from Al-Arroub Camp

A six-year-old girl from Al-Arroub Camp in Hebron had suffered from stuttering since she first started learning to speak. She struggled to express herself, which made her feel embarrassed and anxious when speaking in front of her friends and classmates in kindergarten. Out of fear of being ridiculed, she avoided social interactions.



Through various expressive and awareness sessions at her kindergarten delivered by Anar, her condition was noticed. After discussions with her mother by Anar's psychosocial support counselor, she was referred to a specialized association for speech and language therapy. With the financial support of Anar, she was enrolled in a speech therapy program, where she began attending sessions with a speech specialist. Using scientific methods and engaging exercises, the specialist focused on teaching her breathing and relaxation techniques to improve her fluency in speech.

Within a few weeks, the girl started seeing significant improvement. She became more confident in her ability to speak and began interacting freely with others without fear. Gradually, her stuttering disappeared, and she regained her ability to speak fluently and confidently. This experience was a turning point in her young life, allowing her to reclaim her self-confidence and take pride in her achievement.



STORIES OF ANAR

A New Path

Aisha Salama

A young woman - a recent university graduate - found herself constantly being asked to volunteer and initiate, without receiving compensation or appreciation for her efforts. This was not what she had expected upon graduation, and it made her feel frustrated, and unable to give more.

When Anar arrived with its self-help teams project, “it was like a golden opportunity that brought me back to life again,” she shares. She found herself, she says, “in a wonderful and innovative training that invests the energy of young people properly.” Aisha felt she was finally able to create and give - and be appreciated for what she did. She says she gained a lot from this training, as well as from the “Your Laughter Your Health” initiative, and came away with new life skills such as leadership, teamwork, taking responsibility and effective communication. It gave her the opportunity, she shares, to be an effective part of her town - giving her a role in studying the needs of her area and contributing to solutions through various services such as psychological support, stress release training, and community initiatives and campaigns. Finally she felt she was able to break the barrier of fear of trying something new, and put herself on a new life path. This experience, she says, “will definitely help me to continue giving in the future, and to employ my energy properly in a way that benefits me and my surroundings.”



04 | People of Anar

Staff Quotes

“

In the beginning the need was so big, and we were so small. But all the experiments and explorations of the first 6 months put us on the right road.”

Dara Rafeedie, Psychosocial Support Unit Coordinator

“

Working here gives more meaning to the reality of what Palestinians live; we are helping people who really need it.”

Celina Jarayseh, Admin and Finance Officer

“

Sometimes we are in a session and the army storms the camp, and we have to try to keep the children safe, and do our best to calm them. We try to draw and sing and tell stories and keep them away from the windows. We try to communicate with their parents to reassure them that their children are OK.”

Sahar Mohammad Shadfan, Psychosocial Support Counselor - Hebron

“

Locals helping locals - this is how you make real change. Believing in this model makes you want to work harder; it makes you want the programs to be successful.”

Shaden Abuzuluf, Projects Coordinator

“

One woman told me: ‘I arrived at the session 83 years old. In the middle of the session, I was 26, and when I left, I was 18.”

Jiana Isead, Psychosocial Support Counselor - Bethlehem

Anar Board of Directors Highlight

Mohammad Awad

Treasurer, Anar Board of Directors



Mohammad Awad is a dedicated member of our Board of Directors, bringing a deep commitment to Palestinian children and youth to his work with Anar. With a wealth of experience in the fields of management, research, teaching and writing, he has spent the last 20 years serving in humanitarian, development, and educational organizations, working to support the well-being of the Palestinian community.

Dr. Mohammad holds a PhD in Public Administration, with a major emphasis on nonprofit management, from the University of Texas at Dallas. He has worked extensively with national and international NGOs, including World Vision International, Save the Children International, and the YMCA -Vocational Training Center. A founding member of the Association for Middle Eastern Public Policy and Administration (AMEPPA), now based at the American University of Cairo, he served for 4 years as its vice-president and treasurer. Mr. Awad's management experience also includes service with USAID and the Netherlands Representative Office. He is currently the Dean of Student Affairs at Bethlehem University.

Mr. Awad's passion for the mental health of children was deepened during his six years of work with Save the Children International as West Bank Senior Program Manager, and by field visits in which he interviewed young ex-detainees and their parents. In the spring of 2023, he joined with others, including Rami Khader, to brainstorm what could be done to respond to the rapidly escalating experiences of trauma in Palestinian children and youth. When the war on Gaza began, the imperative of this work became even more clear to him. Aware that the current crisis was unprecedented, Mr. Awad believed that the work to address this trauma needed to shift and develop, both in size and scope, to respond to the skyrocketing need. He saw in Anar the commitment and capacity to develop the new tools and structures that the current situation required.

Since then, Mr. Awad has given generously of his time and expertise - currently in the role of Board Treasurer - supporting Anar to continue its essential work of addressing trauma in Palestinian children and their caregivers.

05 | Partnerships & Support

Sister Organization Highlight

Sarah Myers

Executive Director, Healing to Hope



Dr. Sarah Myers is the Executive Director of Healing to Hope, Anar's U.S.-based sister organization dedicated to raising awareness and support for Anar's work. Sarah first met Rami Khader seven years ago in Bethlehem when he was directing Diyar Theatre and she was on faculty at Augsburg University, which was developing a partnership with Dar al-Kalima University College of Arts and Culture at the time.

With a background in theater, creative writing, trauma-informed pedagogy, and community-engaged performance, Sarah was instantly inspired by Rami's vision, passion, and creative energy in working with children, youth, and students. While this meeting was many years before the advent of Anar, Sarah sees the seeds of Healing to Hope sown into this very first encounter.

During her twelve years on faculty at Augsburg, Sarah not only developed coursework for study abroad programs with faculty from Dar al-Kalima University; she also returned to Bethlehem to direct an original, devised theater production with young actors from Diyar Theater at Rami's invitation, an experience that left her committed to supporting Palestinian youth and communities in a deeper, more meaningful way. Sarah is part of an incredible group of volunteers in the U.S. who make up Healing to Hope's working Board of Directors, and she is moved by the ways this new nonprofit came together through grassroots organizing rooted in a deep belief in Anar's vision for and commitment to hope and healing for children, caregivers, and communities in Palestine.

**Healing
to Hope**
التعافي من أجل الأمل

Donors & Partners



HATD

