Our Mission. Ruwwad is a pioneering program created by Palestinians for Palestinians. Its mission is to empower Palestinian youth, so that they can become local leaders and change-makers. Ruwwad has two main goals:

- **Give young Palestinians the tools and skills to serve their communities.** Ruwwad works to achieve this goal by giving youth training, funding and support to lead grassroots community service projects.

- **Help the Palestinian Authority serve youth and train them for leadership positions.** Ruwwad works toward this goal by advising the Ministry of Youth and Sport, and by helping the Ministry set up four Professional Development Resource Centers West Bank.

What We Do.
Ruwwad works to empower Palestinian youth, communities, and the government of the Palestinian people. In 2008, we’ll be doing this in several ways:

1. **Investing in the community:** We’re giving $500,000 in sub-grants to local grassroots Palestinian NGOs.

2. **Giving leadership training courses and paid internships to 120 youth:** These young leaders will get on-the-job experience in local NGOs, private sector companies, and public institutions—preparing them to become a new generation of Palestinian leaders.

3. **Strengthening the Ministry of Youth:** We’ll be training 60 Ministry staff, so that they can serve Palestine’s youth more effectively.

4. **Creating a Network of Youth Resource Centers and Clubs:** We’ll be opening four main centers that offer IT training, media internships, and youth programs. We’ll also be linking these sites to over 60 local youth clubs across the West Bank.

Our Impact To Date:
- $1.4 million in sub-grants to local Palestinian grassroots NGOs.
- 26 grassroots community projects launched and led by 560 Ruwwad Youth Leaders.
- Over 16,000 Palestinian youth benefiting from basic humanitarian aid and civic education programs.
- More than 7,500 adult men and women receiving food and medical aid, small business training, and agricultural supplies.
- 260 Gaza farmers increasing their household incomes, after getting Ruwwad farm equipment and hands-on training.

“Ruwwad has made a huge change in my life: First of all, it’s helped me develop my leadership skills, so that now I feel I can contribute positively to my community. Second, it’s taught me that leadership isn’t just for men; young women can be leaders too. When we took the Ruwwad youth leadership training course, the women and men were equals…gender equality is still something rare for us, so it’s important to see that Ruwwad has made it a priority”.

-Dua’a, Ruwwad Youth Leader, Tulkarem
Ruwwad: Palestine’s Youth Empowerment Program

Where We Work
- Ruwwad works to create a better future for all Palestinians, across the West Bank and Gaza:
- We work in refugee camps, rural villages, big cities, and small towns.
- Ruwwad runs activities in all 11 governorates in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We also work in all areas of the Gaza Strip, from Rafah to Jabaliya.

In 2008, Ruwwad will help the Palestinian Authority launch four Professional Development Resource Centers for youth. The Centers will be located in Nablus, Hebron, Al-Bireh, and Beita—but they will be linked to over 60 local youth clubs in communities across the West Bank.

Our Palestinian Values.
Ruwwad is committed to serving all members of Palestinian society: Male and female, urban and rural, young and old. As a program designed and run by Palestinians, Ruwwad is proud to embody the values of our culture in our daily work. These values are rooted in the belief that:

- **Youth create solutions, not problems**: Public perceptions about youth must change: Youth have the skills and energy to solve local challenges—and engage others in these efforts.
- **Youth can and should be community leaders**: Palestine’s youth are capable of taking on leadership roles in their villages, towns, and cities.
- **Young women have key leadership roles to play**: Female youth must not be ignored. They can, and already are, making important contributions to their communities.
- **A stronger Palestine means long-term commitment**: Ruwwad is not a short-term program. We make sustainable investments in youth and communities, for the future.

“Before I volunteered in the Ruwwad Youth Corps, I often felt inadequate. I am blind in one eye, and so I lived in a kind of isolation. But now, in spite of my disability and my suffering, I feel I can be a leader. I feel important, and I feel like my life is better, because now I’m working to improve the lives of others…through Ruwwad youth-led projects.”

- Jehad, Ruwwad Youth Leader, Nablus

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