

Handala Center Women's Group

Beit Jibrin Cultural Center "Handala"



Beit Jibrin Cultural Center "Handala" was established in 1999 in Beit Jibrin Refugee Camp in Bethlehem, as a community initiative to address to the growing needs of the camp community, particularly those of the youth who suffer from depression, lack of adequate educational and cultural activities, lack of entertainment and early withdrawal from school.

The center provides various programs and activities to the youth and children: children's library, depka dance class, music class, English class, sports programs, taujihi class, and summer camp.

**KfE - Kommission für Entwicklungsfragen
Universität & ETH Zürich**
www.kfe.uzh.ch

Women's Group Embroidery Project



The Handala center formed Women's Group in 2003. Its main project, the embroidery project, develops and produces embroidery products using traditional designs and color combinations. The economic situation in West Bank, especially in refugee camps, shows no sign of improvement until now. Many of men living in the camp have lost their job since the construction of the separation wall, and unemployment of the population of the camp still remains high. The project provides work to around 30 women, and to many, the income from the project is the only stable household income. A part of sales of the products are contributed to their own activities such as workshops and trainings, and to the activities for children through Handala Center. Members are making effort to improve and keep the qualities of products, and to develop new products. Their products are certified as fair trade products by Palestinian Authority.