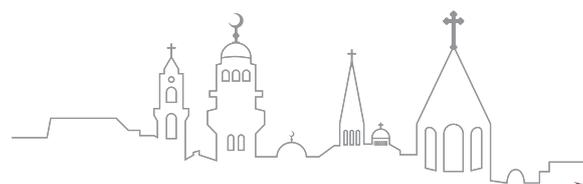


BETHLEHEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

A NON - PROFIT ORGANIZATION

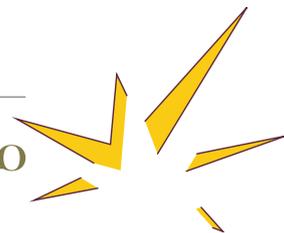


BETHLEHEM DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION
IN ACTION
UPDATE AS ON APRIL 2015



مؤسسة تطوير بيت لحم

Bethlehem Development Foundation





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This initiative shall be planted in the heart of Bethlehem and its roots shall dig deep into the soil, permanently reinstating peace and tranquility throughout the land

Said T. Khoury

Chairman Board of Trustees
Bethlehem Development
Foundation (BDF)

The Bethlehem Development Foundation was established by the late Said T. Khoury, as the implementation arm of the Bethlehem Development Initiative. This initiative aims at transforming Bethlehem into a vibrant international and spiritual destination with a sustainable economy and infrastructure, in order to make it more accommodating to the needs of its current residents, pilgrims and tourists.

Since its inception in 2012, the Bethlehem Development Initiative launched by the late Mr. Said T. Khoury has achieved outstanding success, marked by a number of milestones in various fields. The Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) was officially registered and blessed by the Palestinian Government in May, 2012. By 2013 successful funding was secured for key developmental projects marking BDF's initial accomplishments.

The ongoing efforts are displayed in the enclosed pages cover BDF in Action from January 2014 up to the end of April 2015. Efforts begin with the rehabilitation and beautification of Manger Square in Bethlehem and continue with the management of Solid Waste in the Bethlehem governorate. The quality of public life is enhanced through the introduction of several community sports and childrens' playgrounds throughout the municipalities of Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Al-Doha and Al-Khader/ Artas area.

Our foundation has strong relationships with international organizations, which we hope will aid us throughout our journey. Examples include cooperation with the European Parliament, UNESCO, USAID, DFID, AFD, UPFI, the Quartet, World Bank, the Arab Monetary Fund and the Welfare Association.

We welcome your support and feedback geared towards enhancing the implementation of the initiative vision.

The vision of the Bethlehem Development Initiative is to transform the Bethlehem Governorate into a vibrant international spiritual destination.

It seeks to create a sustainable economy and infrastructure for the Bethlehem Governorate that improves the quality of life for residents and acts as an attraction to visitors.

To implement this vision, a group of International and Palestinian philanthropists established a non-governmental organization called the Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) in May 2012.

The Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) is now closing off its second year of operation. Progressing forward with its core vision; the BDF aims to regenerate and revitalize the Governorate of Bethlehem to enable this Holy City to shine once again as the peaceful beacon and unique spiritual center of the world for pilgrims.

Due to political challenges throughout some Palestinian regions and the lack of international donor support, the realization of some BDI's planned projects was compromised.

We firmly believe that without justice there will be no peace and hence the wheels of development will not move as freely and effectively as we all wish. Despite all challenges, the Bethlehem Development Foundation constantly seeks to promote the message of peace and equality through our different projects. We have commenced in building bridges of cooperation with donor agencies and international bodies.

BDF is constantly progressing through its' three identified set tracks, which include private sector investments, public infrastructure projects and donor aid. These tracks will help us to realize our goals of achieving a sustainable Master Plan with set pipeline projects to enable further economic growth, development and prosperity throughout the Holy land.

This year we are proud to announce that we are in the process of transforming our vision into reality through the many projects that are currently under implementation. This transformation was made possible through the dedicated support of the late Mr. Said Khoury, may his soul rest in peace, who relentlessly worked hard to implement his Development Initiative.

Bethlehem City

Church of Nativity: the first phase of the restoration works at the Church of Nativity are currently in progress. Planned completion in expected by third quarter of 2015.



2014 in Retrospect

Manger Square

The residents and visitors of Bethlehem are now enjoying the enhancements of the municipal buildings surrounding the square with all facades restored and enhanced.

Revitalization of the square included decorating and lighting the Bethlehem Christmas Tree, all surrounding Municipal trees and buildings facades at Manger Square for the third year in a row.

Restoration works to the Omar Ibn Al-Khattab mosque have improved the state of the restrooms and utilities, made possible through donation from CCC employees and Bank of Palestine.



Bethlehem Governorate

Through the Said Khoury Donation to Bethlehem, Community Sports and Children's Playgrounds are planned for the Cities of Doha, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour and Al Khader/Artas area.

The Solid Waste Management Project (donated by the Arab Monetary Fund) for the Bethlehem Governorate is currently in progress. The Strategic Solid Waste Management Master Plan for the year 2034 was completed and supply contracts are in place for the importation of solid waste collection containers.

The Bethlehem Development Initiative (BDI) was launched to revitalize and rehabilitate the Bethlehem Governorate and make it more accommodating to the needs of its current residents, pilgrims and tourists for generations to come. To realize our vision, we have entrusted your esteemed selves and have selected the finest Arab and International Philanthropists to offer guidance and support so that we can accomplish our vision to regenerate this sacred place as the unique center of the world.

The BDF was the pride and brainchild of the late Said T. Khoury, may his soul rest in peace. We shall continue in his direction and footsteps to achieve the wonderful vision of the revitalization of the Governorate of Bethlehem as the peaceful spiritual center of the world.

BDF showcase opening



On April 22nd, 2015 the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Samer Said Khoury, President Engineering and Construction of Consolidated Contractors Group, opened the BDF Exhibition Hall. The first of its' kind in Palestine, the showcase covers a total area of 121 m2 generously donated by the Bank of Palestine in their regional headquarters in Bethlehem.

The opening was attended by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mrs. Rula Ma'ayah, Mayor of Bethlehem Mrs. Vera Baboun, Chairman and General Manager of Bank of Palestine Mr. Hashim Shawa, CCC Managing Director in UAE & Palestine Mr. Walid Salman, Members of Board of Directors of BDF Dr. Victor Batarseh and Mr. Mitri Abu Aita, and Executive Director of BDF Mr. Mazen Karam. In addition to the mentioned key attendees, mayors of the Bethlehem Governorate cities, BDF staff and committee members attended this event.

BDF Development Coordinator Mr. Ahmad Hifnawi explained that all completed, on-going and future projects of BDF are highlighted using models and markers. Moreover, visitors and potential investors will be able to view, identify and understand the vision, mission and projects of BDF. This is made possible by the following:

- An aerial photo of the major cities in the Bethlehem Governorate covers 92 m2 of the floor, making the world's largest on record.
- Audiovisual Informative screens to showcase work progress of BDF.
- Interactive projectors to present plans and projects.
- Two Panoramic photos of Bethlehem showcasing past and present.
- Green walls to promote green roofs, terraces and walls in public spaces and rooftops.
- A Children-customized interactive map, children stories and informational games will be used to educate children about their cities and raise their environmental awareness.

BDF showcase opening



Mr. Khoury said that the BDF showcase highlights the historical and cultural importance of the area and plays a crucial role in raising awareness about its geographical significance, rich cultural heritage and holy sites nationally and internationally among citizens and visitors.

Mr. Karam thanked Bank of Palestine, being a strategic and long term partner, for their generous contribution to bringing BDF's showcase vision into reality, pointing to the importance of this exhibition in supporting the Foundation's projects, aiming to boost tourism and strengthen the economy in order to build a sustainable bright future for the citizens of the Bethlehem Governorate.

Mr. Shawa expressed his appreciation for this fruitful partnership, considering the bank a contributor and participant in this event and ensuring that it will provide all the facilities needed for visitors and invite local and international organizations to visit the showcase, in order to advertise and promote its vision and mission.

Minister Ma'ayah expressed her happiness for having such a high-quality and user friendly showcase in Bethlehem, focusing on its important role in strengthening the status of Bethlehem and the tourism services it offers.

Mayor Baboun thanked BDF for their projects and mission to improve the Bethlehem Governorate noting that this initiative helps in promoting Bethlehem's message of love, justice and peace.

BoT and BoD Joint Meeting

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS JOINT MEETING IN AMMAN

BDF held a joint Board of Trustees (BoT) and Board of Directors (BoD) meeting in Amman, Jordan on Wednesday April 1st, 2015. The meeting was opened with a minute of silence in the memory of the late Mr. Said Tawfiq Khoury, founder of the Bethlehem Development Foundation.

Mr. Samer Said Khoury thanked all for attending and expressed commitment from all to continue the journey of his late father, Mr. Said Khoury. Mr. Khoury was elected to succeed his late father as Chairman of the Board of Trustees with Dr. Hanan Ashrawi as Vice Chairman and Dr. Varsen Aghabekian as secretary.

Mr. Ziad Al Bandak, Chairman of the Board of Directors, talked about the history of the Initiative launched by the late Mr. Said Khoury and the foundation he established.

Arch. Basma Alhusseini presented the Strategic Development Plan completed by Khatib & Alami and Arup in 2012. Mr. Nafez Hussieni talked about horizons and prospects of the desired funding for BDF proposed projects. Mr. Mazen Karam talked about the status of the four projects currently in progress including the Solid Waste Management Project, the Manger Square Beautification and Rehabilitation Project, the Community Sports and Children's Playgrounds and Omar Mosque Sanitation Units rehabilitation.

Ms. Vera Baboun, Mayor of Bethlehem, talked about the most significant achievements of the city during the past couple of years which included the completion of the Master and Strategic Plan for the city of Bethlehem. She also presented an update on the issue of the Annexation Wall at Cremisan Monastery. Mr. Nicola Khamis, Mayor of Beit Jala, talked about the importance of tourism for Bethlehem, while Mr. Hani Al Hayek, Mayor of Beit Sahour, discussed the importance of conducting income-generating projects that would revive the economy of Bethlehem and prevent the youth immigration.



BoT and BoD Joint Meeting

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS JOINT MEETING IN AMMAN



Dr. Fouad Qaddumi talked about soft projects which encourage human capacity building and job creation, Mr. Hani Abu Dayyeh talked about preparing for tourist exhibitions on annual basis in Bethlehem, which local religious institutions will participate in and support in order to promote for religious tourism and Dr. Fadi Kattan presented BDF financial report that depicts the expenses of the project implemented by foundation during 2014.

All attendees recommended continuing to work on securing the necessary funding for the implementation of a range of high-priority projects, which include infrastructure and the promotion of inbound tourism to Bethlehem.





Photo By: Elias Halabi

PATRONS

| | |
|---|--|
| H.H. Pope Tawadros II | Pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Alexandria |
| Sheikh Muhammad A. Hussein | The Grand Mufti of Jerusalem |
| H.B. Patriarch Theophilos III | Patriarch of the Orthodox Church of Jerusalem |
| H.B. Nourhan Manougian | Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem |
| H. B. Michel Sabbah | Patriarch Emeritus of Jerusalem |
| Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick | Archbishop Emeritus of Washington |
| H.R.H Prince Talal Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud | of The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia |
| H.R.H. Prince Hassan Bin Talal | of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan |
| H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al Nahyan | of The United Arab Emirates |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

| | |
|--|--|
| Mr. Abdel Mohsen Qattan | Mr. Nicola Khamis (ex officio , Mayor of Beit Jala) |
| Mr. Abdel Salaam Al Majali | Mr. Odeh Aburdene |
| Mr. Basel Aql | Mr. Ramez Jaraisy |
| Faisal Al Alami | Mr. Riad Al Sadek |
| Mr. Fouad Kattan | Mr. Sabih Al Masri |
| Mr. Hamid Jaafar | Mr. Salah Al Dabbagh |
| Mr. Hani Hayek (ex officio, Mayor of Beit Sahour) | Mr. Samer Khoury |
| Mr. Hanna Nasser | Dr. Saleh Jallad |
| Dr. Hanan Ashrawi | Ms. Varsen Aghabekian |
| Mr. Ibrahim Dabdoub | Dr. Vera Baboun (ex officio, Mayor of Bethlehem) |
| Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb | Mr. Walid Al Khalidi |
| Bishop Dr. Mounib Younan | Mr. Walid Salman |
| Mr. Munir Anastas | Mr. Zuhair Al Alami |
| Dr. Nabeel Kassis | Mr. Ziad Al Bandak |
| Dr. Nabil Qaddoumi | Mr. Zahi Khouri |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Eng. Ziad Al Bandak

Chair

Eng. Al Bandak was the Palestinian Minister of Tourism and Local Governments. Currently he is the advisor to the Palestinian President for Christian Affairs.



Dr. Mohammad Rizek

Vice Chair

Dr. Rizek is the Director General of Bethlehem Health Department.



Mr. Nafez Hussein

Secretary

Mr. Hussein is the VP of ICT & Digital Business of CCC. He is very active in promoting youth and knowledge-based industries and has been a key founding member of the Palestine Education Initiative.



Dr. Victor Batarseh

Dr. Batarseh was the Mayor of Bethlehem from May 2005 to November 2012 and a former chairman/member of many medical institutions.



Dr. Fadi Kattan

Head of Governance Committee

Dr. Kattan is the Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration at Bethlehem University and Founder/ Director of the Master of International Cooperation and Development program (MICAD).



Dr. Hani Abu Dayyeh

Head of Public Relations and Resource Committee

Dr. Abu Dayyeh is the Vice President of Net Tours and the General Manager of Net Transport.



Dr. Samir Hazboun

Treasurer

Dr. Hazboun is the Chairman of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director of DATA - Research and Consulting Institution in Bethlehem) and Associate Professor at Al-Quds and Bethlehem Universities.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Att. Mitri Abu Aita

Project Strategies Committee

Attorney Mitri Abu Aita is a former Minister of Tourism and a former Chairman of the Jordan Bar Association.



Mr. Salah al-Tamari

Mr. Al Tamari was a previous Governor of Bethlehem and Head of Prisoners movement and is currently a member of the Central Council for Palestine Liberation Organization.



Eng. Akram Bader

Eng. Bader is the Head of Battir Village Council and Chairman of the Board of Joint Services Council for the Villages West of Bethlehem since 1999.



Mr. Sami Mroua

Mr. Mroua was the Mayor of Al-Doha and is currently the Director of education in the Palestinian Ministry of Education for North Hebron district.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Eng. Mazen Karam

Eng. Mazen Karam is a Managing Director at Consolidated Contractors Company with over 38 years of experience in engineering, construction and management of civil, water, environmental, petrochemical and general building programs throughout the Middle East.

PRESIDENT OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY MAHMOUD ABBAS

8th April 2013

Dear Mr. Said Khoury –Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Bethlehem Development Foundation,

Dear Board Members of the Bethlehem Development Foundation,

The Bethlehem Development Foundation which you have initiated has arrived at a crucial stage. It promptly coincides with all our efforts that are exerted, nationally, regionally and internationally towards establishing the independent and sovereign Palestinian state on national Palestinian land. Its significance is enhanced as we are forging bridges of cooperation and channels of communication with the international business and investment community to enrich economic and institutional development throughout Palestine.

The Bethlehem Development Foundation is a milestone in the making. It aims at transforming Bethlehem into a vibrant, international, spiritual and economic destination. The Strategic Master Plan launched by the Bethlehem Development Foundation addresses the different areas of Bethlehem's Development, in line with the Palestinian National Agenda goals. This initiative showcases our progress in creating an enabling investment environment and presents the various investment opportunities that exist in Palestine's diverse sectors.

I would like to thank you for your efforts at instituting political and economic development in the region. We call upon all Palestinian, Arab and international investors to actively engage in these efforts to support the Bethlehem Development Foundation to attain its targets. Allow me to take this opportunity to welcome you all to Palestine – a country where we have made great progress in providing security and rule of law, paving the way for economic and social development. A place where our citizens and guests as well as all who graciously wish to join us are able to witness the veracity of the Palestinian people, their steadfastness and persistence to build a better future for the forthcoming generations to come.

Mahmoud Abbas

President of the Palestinian National Authority

Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization

support letters

PRIME MINISTER
RAMI HAMDALLAH



دولة فلسطين
رئيس الوزراء

April 21, 2014

Esteemed Bethlehem Development Foundation,

The Bethlehem Development Foundation is an inspiring model and pioneer in hard work which encompasses all sectors of the Palestinian society, institutions, ministries, local government bodies, civil society, and holds a national goal destined for the advancement of the governorate of Bethlehem by preserving its religious character and human civilization while addressing the needs and aspirations of all residents of this province.

The founders of this initiative were determined to mobilize various sectors in pursuit of promoting developmental projects vital for achieving sustainable development and revitalization of the national economy such as promoting tourism, where Bethlehem in particular, has always been a magnet for tourists and pilgrims, thus encouraging investment environment.

The initiative to develop Bethlehem is a natural expansion of the endeavours of all of our governmental institutions as well as the civil society, but also the goal of the Palestinian people in upgrading the city's infrastructure and strengthening its position in the history of mankind, a message to the world to stress the determination of our people to progress, construction and effective contribution to cultural and religious heritage.

I am confident that the successes achieved by this initiative are invaluable. I call upon our friends and investors Palestinians, Arabs and philanthropists from all over the world to grant all support and to assist the Palestinian people to achieve prosperity and progress leading to an independent viable Palestinian State, with full assurance to the right of worship and religious freedom to all its inhabitants and visitors.

Rami Hamdallah
Prime Minister
State of Palestine

MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SAED KAWNI

27/08/2013

**Palestinian National Authority,
The Ministry of Local Government,
Minister's Office,**

To The Bethlehem Development Foundation,

On behalf of the Ministry of Local Government, I value the great efforts generated by your committed organization and appreciate its active role in developing The Bethlehem Governorate's infrastructure sector. I am confident that this organization will reach a milestone in the making of the history of the Bethlehem Governorate and will enable the holy city to rise once again as the religious, spiritual and unique center of the world.

I had the opportunity to examine the projects that the Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) seeks to accomplish in the governorate and I value your foundation's professionalism, high caliber and clear vision that are consistent with our vision at the Ministry of Local Government. The Bethlehem Development Initiative's appreciation for the future needs and objectives of developing the projects listed under the Bethlehem Governorate's strategic master plan leads us to fully support this initiative and we are ready to facilitate all procedures to reach our goals of revitalizing the Bethlehem Governorate and elevate it globally as a worldwide center.

We look forward to further collaboration and cooperation in this national mission to serve the citizens of Bethlehem and our visitors. I am confident that you, The Bethlehem Development Foundation are the appropriate organization for this mission. God bless you and the good will that you are accomplishing for Bethlehem and the nation.

Dr. Saed Kawni

Minister of Local Government,

● support letters

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND ANTIQUITIES
RULA MA'AYAH

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

State of Palestine
Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities
Minister's Office



دولة فلسطين
وزارة السياحة والآثار
مكتب الوزير

Bethlehem 29th January 2014

Mr. Mazen Karam
Bethlehem Development Foundation
Bethlehem.

Subject: Endorsement for Bethlehem Development Foundation BDF

In my capacity as Minister of Tourism & Antiquities of Palestine, I am pleased to endorse the objectives and strategies of the above Foundation, which aims to improve the quality of living of the local communities in Bethlehem and to enrich the quality of experience for international visitors by preserving cultural heritage sites and improving the infrastructure and tourism facilities.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the founders and Board members of BDF and appreciation for the commendable efforts they are making toward Palestine and Bethlehem in particular. Accordingly I express my commitment to support this foundation.

With this endorsement, I therefore expect that all local and international organization would help and support projects and initiatives presented by BDF.

Sincerely,



Rula Ma'ayah
Minister of Tourism & Antiquities

FORMER PALESTINIAN PRIME MINISTER SALAM FAYAD



State of Palestine
Office of the Prime Minister

No: P.M/BDF/20/2013

Date: 07/05/2013

Dear Business Leaders and Investors,

The Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) represents an important milestone in the economic and spiritual role the Holy city of Bethlehem plays in Palestine. It sets out to showcase economic and social progress for national, regional and international investors, and institutional progress and peaceful integration with the global community.

Numerous initiatives have contributed to the positive indicators we see today regarding sustainable economic growth. Worth mentioning is the Bethlehem Development Initiative (BDI) and its aim to revitalising Bethlehem through its master plan that aims to empower partnerships with the private sector, the public sector and the adoption of policies that secure an enabling environment for investment. In addition, much effort has been devoted to promoting Palestinian products and services, improving local resources, infrastructure and supporting creativity and the use of knowledge.

The BDI is an important opportunity for all to witness the achievement of the international community and both the public and private initiatives in establishing economic reform and investment. We sincerely appreciate the growing international consensus in support of the Bethlehem Development Foundation. Today, we invite the world to join us by contributing to sustainable economic development in Palestine.

I would like to personally invite you to engage in the initiative. The Government stands ready to do its utmost to accelerate sustainable business activity with rule of law and sound financial management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Salam Fayad'.

Salam Fayad
Prime Minister

strategic objectives

In line with our vision, the Bethlehem Development Initiative has developed key strategic objectives for the development of the Bethlehem Governorate.

1. **Transform the Bethlehem Governorate** into a vibrant spiritual center of Christianity.
2. **Development of Basic Infrastructure** for:
 - a. **Energy:** enhance the efficiency of energy usage and utilization of low carbon energy.
 - b. **Water:** increase water consumption efficiency and develop wastewater networks to secure water resourcing.
 - c. **Waste:** reduce waste land filling and increase the recovery of waste materials, whilst improving the collection and transport of solid waste.
 - d. **Access of movement:** enhance connectivity between various vital areas and sites through a more efficient network that supports pedestrian routes as well as sustainable transport.
3. **Enhance Quality of Living:** provision of improved education, security, safety and air quality in order to actively support social inclusion.
4. **Enhance Economic Development and Employment:** creating job opportunities, diversifying economic base, increasing private sector role in local economy and increasing contribution of the tourism sector to GDP.
5. **Improve Tourist Experiences:** preserving and improving cultural and heritage sites.
6. **Public Realm:** creation of sports and children's playgrounds, a district park near Solomon Pools and developing appropriate signage in historic sites and along heritage trails.



Concept

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Background

The Bethlehem Governorate comprises 35 local government units including Bethlehem with a current population estimated at 200,000 residents. These municipalities and village councils are distinguished by their exceptional historical status and their spiritually vibrant centers.

Together with Bethlehem, the cities of Beit Jala and Beit Sahour are main nodes along the arc of spirituality, the main destination for Christian Pilgrims worldwide. Along with the on-going efforts to preserve the spiritual, cultural and touristic resources within the Bethlehem Governorate, it is vital to advance the existing infrastructure and municipal services for the local residents and world-wide visitors.

Stakeholders

The project is funded by the Arab Monetary Fund through the Aqsa Fund administered by the Islamic Development Bank with a total amount of 2.9 Million Dollars.

A Cooperative Agreement for the implementation of the SWMP for the Bethlehem Governorate was signed between BDF and the Ministry of Local Governments/ Bethlehem Joint Service Council for Solid Waste Management.

Scope of Work

1. Solid Waste Master Plan: Arabtech Jardaneh Partners & Architects, Engineers Consultants & Project Managers, EMCC Engineering & Management Consulting Center were awarded the Master Plan for the engineering & supervision works.
2. Procurement of Solid Waste containers: Was awarded to Al Marah Company for Industry and Trading with a total price of \$400,234 to supply 2,700 different containers, 50, 240 and 360 liters and 1.1, 4 and 10 m³.
3. Procurement of Solid Waste Vehicles: Three supply contracts were signed on



SW Collection



Solid Waste Mini Street Sweeper

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

10 March 2015 for the delivery of vehicles as follows:

- a. Al Assbah Company for Heavy Equipment & Trucks (made by VOLVO) to supply:
 - One each Solid Waste Collection Compactor Truck 13 m³, 14 m³, 20 m³ and 21m³
 - One Solid Waste Collection Roll-On Roll-Off Truck
 - One Solid Waste Collection Mini-Tipper Truck
 - One Solid Waste Street Sweeper
 - b. BOW Equipment Co. to supply:
 - Three Solid Waste Mini Street Sweeper (Made by Hako)
 - One Street litter Vacuum Suction Cleaner (Made by Glutin)
 - c. Palestinian Tractor and Equipment Co to supply one Skid Steer Front Loader (Made by CATERPILLAR)
4. The Construction of Central Maintenance Station Facility, preparation for the Final Design and Tender Documents are still in progress.



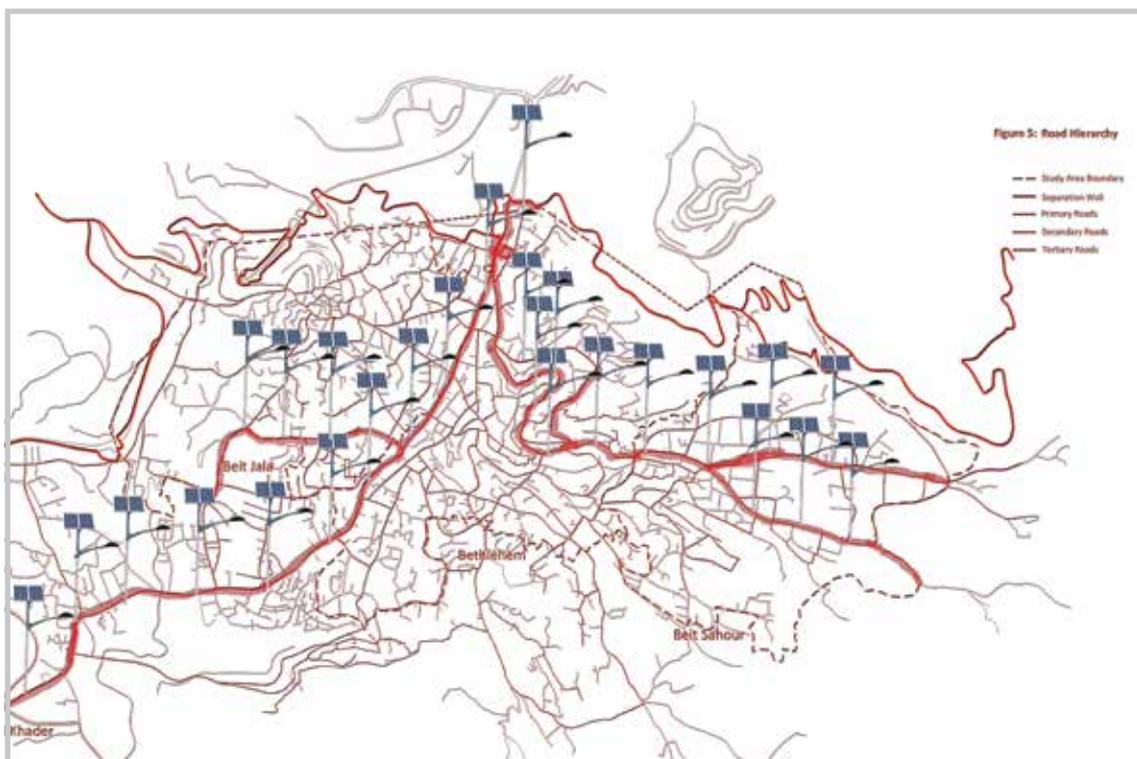
EFFICIENT LUMINARIES FOR STREET LIGHTING

Funding has been pledged for lighting selected streets throughout the Bethlehem Governorate. The project covers roads along the procession routes from Jerusalem Gate to the Church of Nativity and the Shepherds Fields and the road from Jerusalem Gate to Alkhader Gate. The towns of Battir, Husan, and Za'atara will also benefit from this intervention.

The photovoltaic panels will be installed on existing poles. They will convert the solar energy to electrical energy during day time. The produced electrical energy will be fed directly to the electrical grid through a bidirectional electrical meter which will measure the produced electrical energy during the day time. This electrical energy will be re-fed to street lighting networks. During the night time, the street lighting luminaries will consume energy from electrical grid through the consumption meters.

Objectives and Rationale

1. Rehabilitate the existing street lighting networks, while being environmentally conscious.
2. Reduce the electricity expenses generated by street lighting.
3. Pave the way towards making the local authorities more sustainable.



project three

MANGER SQUARE BEAUTIFICATION AND REHABILITATION

The late Mr. Said Khoury, Co-founder of CCC and founder of BDF has pledged to rehabilitate and beautify Manger Square.

Objectives and Rationale

Manger Square is the iconic center of Bethlehem, and the hub of various religious activities and festivals celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. The square is currently used for festivals, celebrations and on-street parking. Planning and beautification of Manger Square aims at reclaiming the functionality of the square as an open space and its status as an urban landmark free of vehicular traffic. It will help in place making, prolonging tourist stay in Bethlehem, job creation and the overall quality of life.



Progress to Date

- The Bethlehem Development Foundation completed the first phase of the beautification and rehabilitation of Manger Square in December 2014 with plans underway to complete the second phase by Christmas 2015.
- Cleaning up and prepping the three municipal buildings surrounding Manger Square to receive green roofs.
- These buildings are; the Old Municipality Building, the New Municipality Building and the Peace Center.
- Decorating the Christmas tree and Manger Square; BDF annually commissions the lighting of a large Christmas tree in the center of Manger Square, with the help of a highly qualified and internationally renowned decorating team from the UK known as The Christmas Decorators.
 - » The New Municipality Building and the Peace Center facades were cleaned by pressure washing and/or sand blasting.



MANGER SQUARE BEAUTIFICATION AND REHABILITATION

- » The stone facade of the Old Municipality building was brush cleaned and re-pointed.
- » All the windows of the Old and New Municipality buildings were replaced with double glazed high quality aluminum windows. The windows of the Old Municipality Building facing Manger Square were enlarged.



- The chaotic piping and wiring on the back facades of the Old and New Municipality buildings were reorganized.
- The doors of the Peace Center were repaired and repainted.
- At Old Municipality the archive room and concrete water tanks were demolished to make more room for beneficial use by the Municipality.
- The old waterproofing system of tiling and sand-fill was removed and replaced by reinforced screed and bituminous waterproofing on top of a new layer of reinforced concrete screed.



- The water distribution system was completely reorganized for optimal water distribution, using a new set of plastic water tanks and a 100 MC water reservoir as part of the total solution for optimal water distribution.
- The old and chaotic electrical distribution networks which gathered over the past 60 years were organized and concealed in cable trays.

project three

MANGER SQUARE BEAUTIFICATION AND REHABILITATION



- New stone benches were added in the square and six water fountains were refurbished.
- Dead or lost trees were replaced and the cast iron grills at their base was upgraded to allow for easier cleaning and maintenance.

Phase 02

The following works will be achieved:

- The electrical distribution capacity will be boosted to cater for the increase need for electrical power during the Christmas season.
- A new lighting scheme will be installed to accentuate the surrounding buildings, the features of the square and the processional route. In addition, new spot lights will be installed beneath the trees in the square to articulate them. The entire lighting scheme will be programmed to change depending on the season.
- A new interactive information board will be installed in the square.
- The roofs of the Old Municipality building, the New Municipality building and the Peace Center will be greened and equipped with recycled wood tiling and matching kiosks for use by media during festivities.
- A rainwater harvesting scheme will be implemented for the reuse of runoff water for landscaping, irrigation and maintenance.
- Solar farms will be installed on the roofs to harness solar energy for the municipality's use.
- New guidelines for unifying shop signs were developed. Implementation will be done progressively.



REHABILITATION OF SANITATION UNITS AT OMAR IBN AL-KHATTAB MOSQUE MANGER SQUARE - BETHLEHEM

Background

Omar Ibn Al-Khattab Mosque is the main historical Islamic landmark in Bethlehem. It is located at the heart of Bethlehem in Manger Square.

The Mosque, first built around 1850, was named after the Second Islamic Caliphate Omar Ibn Al-Khattab. It was restored in 1954 during the Jordanian administration of the city. The land on which the mosque was built on had been donated by the Jerusalem Orthodox Church.



Introduction

Bethlehem Development Foundation recognized the importance of the site as part of its aim and vision to revive the city of Bethlehem and to highlight it on the world tourism map as a unique destination to welcome all visitors to the achievement of a unique religious and cultural experience not provided anywhere else in the world.

BDF earned a generous donation from the Employees of the Consolidated Contractors Company (CCC) through the Ramadan Appeals. Another donation earned from the Bank of Palestine to cover all the cost of the Rehabilitation activities.

The needed study for the site launched by BDF through a donation and cooperation with Bait El- Maqdes Engineering Office to prepare the Architectural and Construction Design, and with Community Development Group (CDG) to prepare mechanical, electrical design, bills of quantities and supervision of implementing the works.

Objectives

To help channel the generous donation by CCC employees and Bank of Palestine into the place where the Bethlehemite population can benefit most.

Scope of Work

The renovation works at the mosque included the following:

- Rehabilitation of water and sanitation units.
- Provision of sustainable solutions to limit the amount of wasted water in order to minimize excessive expenditure and allow efficient water consumption.
- Renovation of the existing water cistern to provide efficient storage for spare amount of the needed water for the mosque.

project five

COMMUNITY SPORTS AND CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS

Project Description

There is a large shortage of sports and children's playgrounds in the Bethlehem Governorate. Creating such amenities will help improve the quality of life and the development of sport and children activities in the governorate. Beneficiaries of this project will be responsible for managing the playgrounds with cost covered through moderate usage fees.

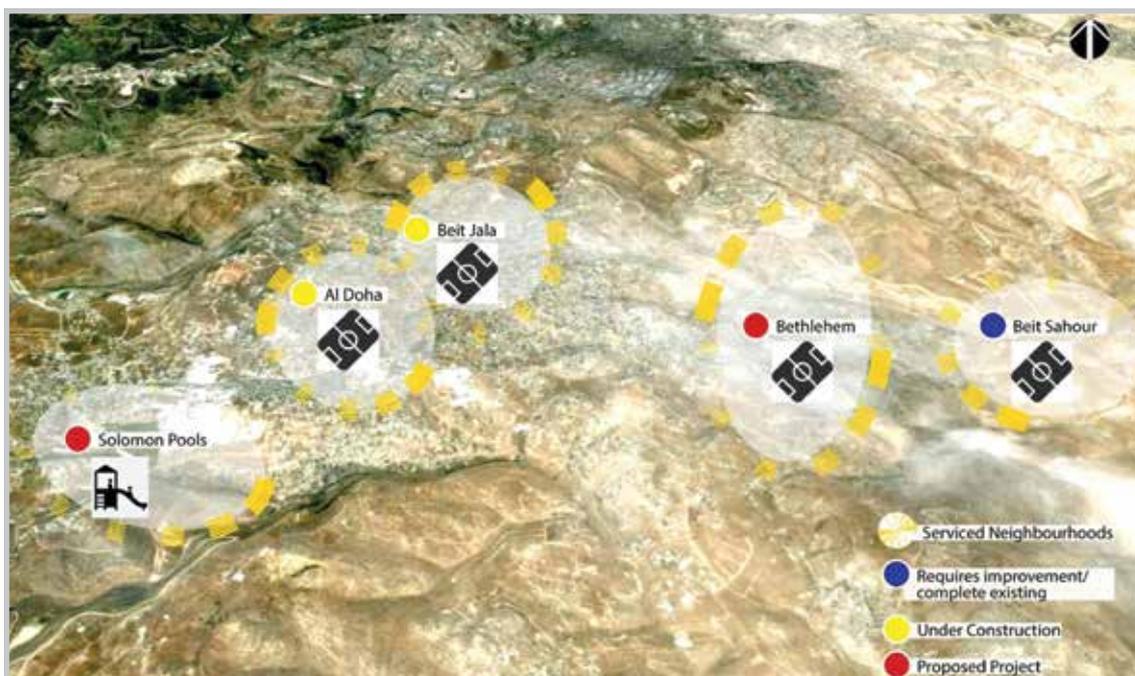
Objectives and Benefits

1. Increase the number of open spaces that provide the opportunity for social interaction.
2. Enhance the communal facilities in the Bethlehem Governorate and build four 5x5 football stadiums and children's playgrounds that serve children and youth in Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Doha and Al Khader/Artas area.
3. Creating 10 to 12 jobs on the long term for maintaining and supervising the playgrounds.

Scope of Work

BDF is sponsoring the following projects:

1. Complete the mini soccer field for Bethlehem Municipality
2. Rehabilitation and upgrading of the municipal soccer field in Beit Sahour.
3. Complete the 5x5 soccer stadium for Al-Doha Municipality
4. Support the completion of the Sports Complex in Beit Jala
5. Upgrade the children's playgrounds at the Solomon Pools Family Garden to cater for the Al Khader/Artas community.



DECORATING CHRISTMAS TREE AND MANGER SQUARE

Hundreds of visitors and pilgrims gathered at Manger Square for the annual tree lighting ceremony, which marks the start of the Holy season.

BDF, for the third year in a row, commissioned the lighting of a large Christmas tree at Manger Square with the help of a highly qualified and internationally renowned decorating team from the UK, The Christmas Decorators.

Decorating Manger square and the surrounding municipal buildings in 2104 was accompanied by the rehabilitation and beautification project donated by the late Mr. Said Khoury the cofounder of CCC and Founder of BDF.

To date, BDF with CCC support has donated 17,500 meter length of lighting strings with 175,000 light bulbs and more than 8,000 baubles to adorn the Christmas tree.

Decorating the Christmas tree and the surrounding municipal buildings gives a glamorous touch to Manger Square and the Nativity Church. This intervention attracts more tourists and visitors to Bethlehem and gives them a special experience during this holy time of the year.



Photos by: **Elias Halabi**

CHRISTMAS HYMN FLASH MOB



The Bethlehem Development Foundation in cooperation with Bank of Palestine presented a Christmas Hymn Flash Mob at Manger Square.

Bethlehemite singers; George Thaljiyeh, Yacoub Shaheen, Steve Hanna, Amjad Khair and Fouad Muobassaleh recited hymns and people enjoyed the Christmas spirit.

Photos by: *Salam Ibrahim*



SOLID WASTE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

Awareness campaigns entitled “Towards a cleaner and more beautiful environment in the Bethlehem Governorate” were conducted.

The first was held on the 1st, 2014 by the Bethlehem Municipality and the Bethlehem Joint Service Council for Solid Waste Management, in coordination with BDF.

The campaign included a tribute to the health workers on the occasion of Labor Day.

The other workshops were held at Beit Jala Municipality, targeted women organizations and movements, sports clubs, scouts in addition to the tourism and business sectors in Palestine.



TOURISM WORKSHOP



The BDF Initiative to develop Bethlehem singles out tourism as the main factor leading to economic prosperity in Bethlehem. BDF supports the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in its continuous strive to boost tourism.

BDF hosted a workshop at Solomon Pools on April 29th, 2014, which included major players in the tourism industry.

BDF presented a selection of proposed tourism projects like the Christmas Procession Routes Projects, a project in the Herodian area and at Solomon Pools.

The Quartet presented their initiative for boosting the Palestinian economy through tourism.



RIGHT TO MOVEMENT PALESTINE MARATHON 2015



The Bethlehem Development Foundation has sponsored the Right to Movement- Palestine Marathon 2015 for the third time.

In March 2015, Palestine held its third annual marathon in the Bethlehem. With nearly 3,100 local and international participants. Personal goals were achieved, categories of prizes awarded, and records broken.

The Palestinian marathon was a symbolic step towards breaking the control over movement. The race started at the Church of the Nativity in Manger Square, passed the Separation Barrier, and entered the two refugee camps of Aida and Dheisheh.

The closing ceremony was held at the historic Murad Castle in the Solomon Pools Complex.



events & coordination

BET LAHEM LIVE FESTIVAL 2014



The Bethlehem Development Foundation sponsored the Bet Lahem Live Festival for the second year in a row. The Festival, a first of its kind, explores the intersections of culture, justice and faith in our communities.

The festival which was organized by the Holy Land Trust, a local Christian NGO, was a resounding success as it brought local and international attention to a neglected part of the birthplace of Jesus and the old city.

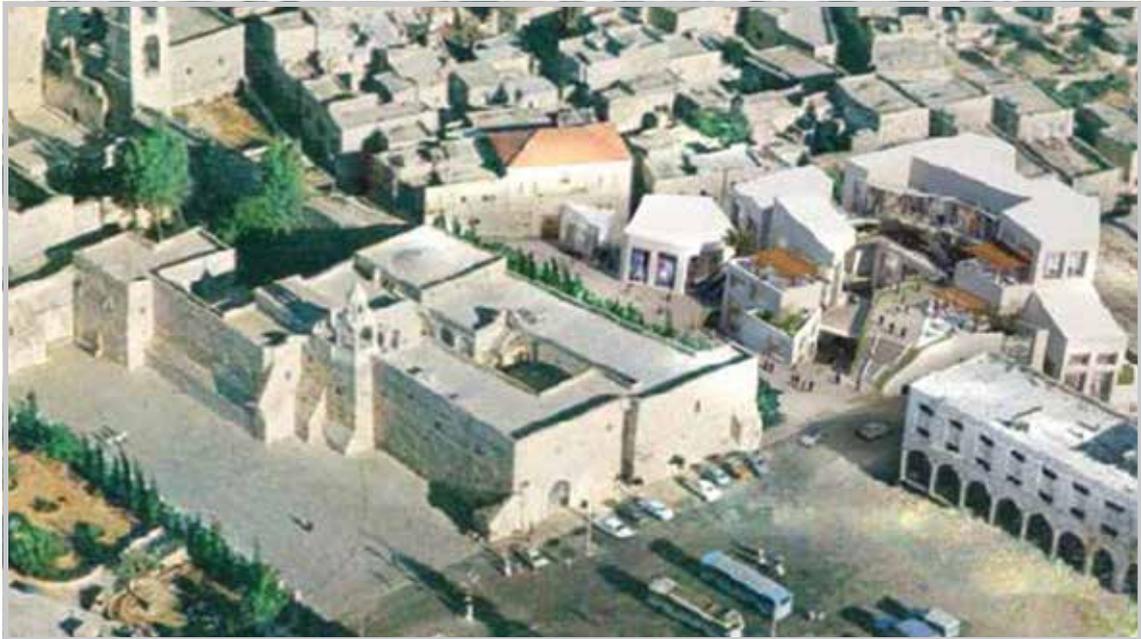


Activities were held throughout the old city's Star Street, reviving a once jubilant, now forgotten historic part of the city through mixing music and entertainment.

Such festivals strengthen the steadfastness of Palestinians and minimize immigration by reviving the economy.



THE VILLAGE AT MANGER SQUARE



The processional route is highlighted at night with special dimmable flood lights that visually highlight the historical route which begins from Jerusalem Gate via Star Street, passes by Omar Mosque and Manger Square, to connect with the Church of Nativity, emphasizing a message of peace and integration.

Objectives and Rationale - City Center Project

- Located at the southern border of Manger Square, we propose the integration of a multipurpose automated parking building with the existing slope.
- It will host commercial activities built around an inner courtyard aligned with the neighbouring buildings.
- Outdoor cafes and courtyards will be integrated into the design overlooking the old quarter.



sample potential projects

THE VILLAGE AT MANGER SQUARE

Overview

Bethlehem is widely recognized as an important historic center as well as one with significant religious distinction. The tourism sector reflects one of the key economic sectors in Bethlehem since it alone is responsible for significant foreign currency inflows which, with knock-on effects, improve the prospects of other sectors (i.e., economic engine of growth).

Being the focal point of the Bethlehem Development Initiative (BDI) interventions, the Manger Square and the surrounding area will be the heart of this major regeneration and development project. According to the BDI Master Plan, Manger Square requires traffic management and pedestrian circulation integration. This project endeavors to streamline traffic in the square and surrounding streets and provides ample automated parking areas, drop-off zones, a commercial centre with stores, cafes, planted/ shaded areas and community.

Project Description, Location and Proposed Program

Located at the southeastern corner of Manger Square, the proposed site, owned by the Armenian Patriarchate, covers a footprint of approximately 3,200 square meters.

The land is currently used as a parking lot with the capacity of approximately 100 car spaces. The current proposed design calls for a ten floor multilevel complex. Each of the levels will be at differing elevations and will encompass seven levels of commercial, entertainment, public spaces and traditional parking facilities.

The bottom three levels (below ground) will accommodate a space saving efficient automated parking facility.

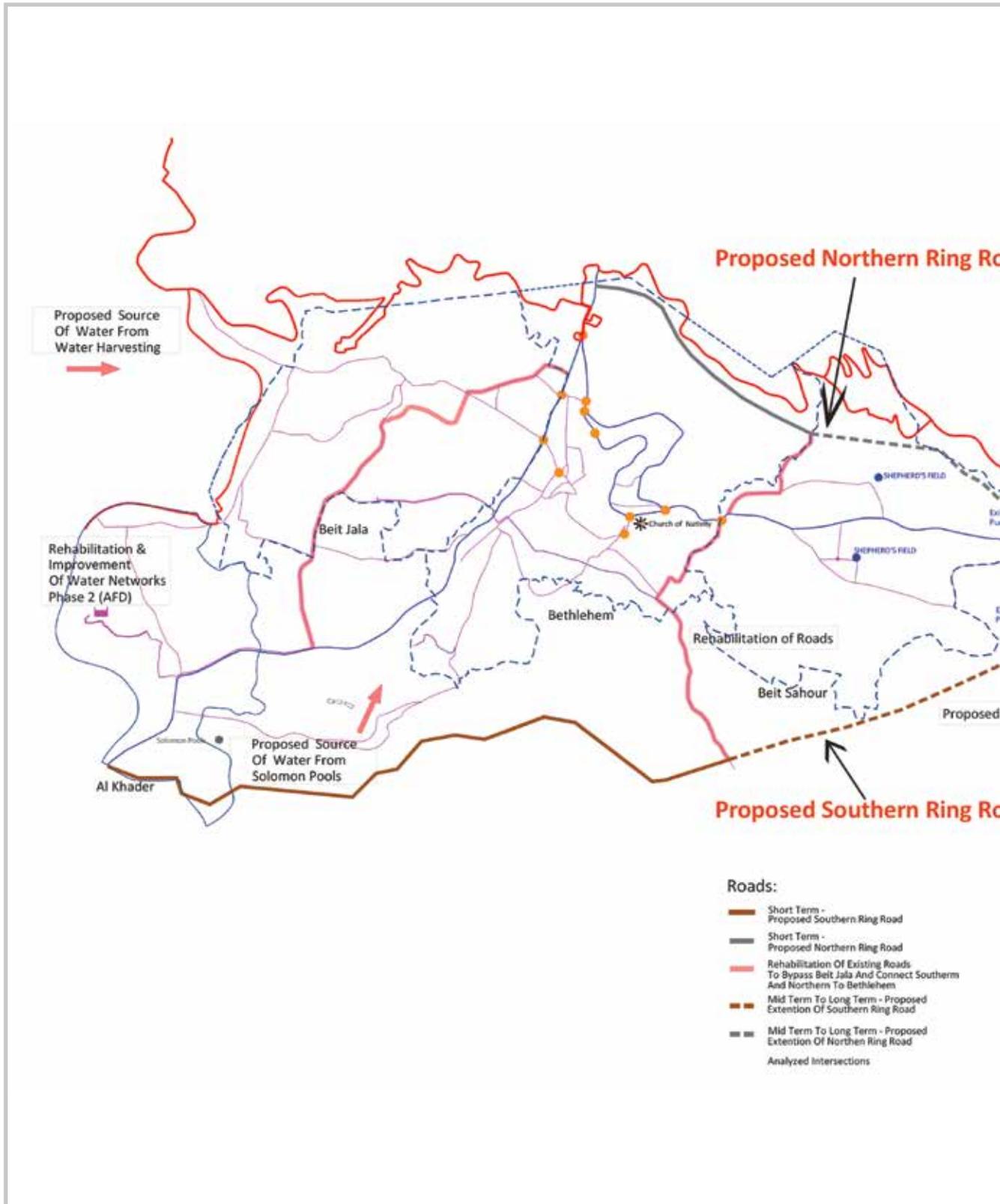
The parking facility will provide spaces for over 300 cars. Total built up area of the complex is expected to be approximately 16,000 square meters. The allocation of a significant portion of the project to automated parking facilities will help mitigate the severe parking shortage and traffic flow problems.

Benefits to The Region

The Multipurpose parking will be the only available parking in the area of Manger Square. By building the commercial center with additional parking spaces, it will mitigate the areas congestion and parking shortage. The parking will offer safe and secure spaces for individual visitors, especially during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

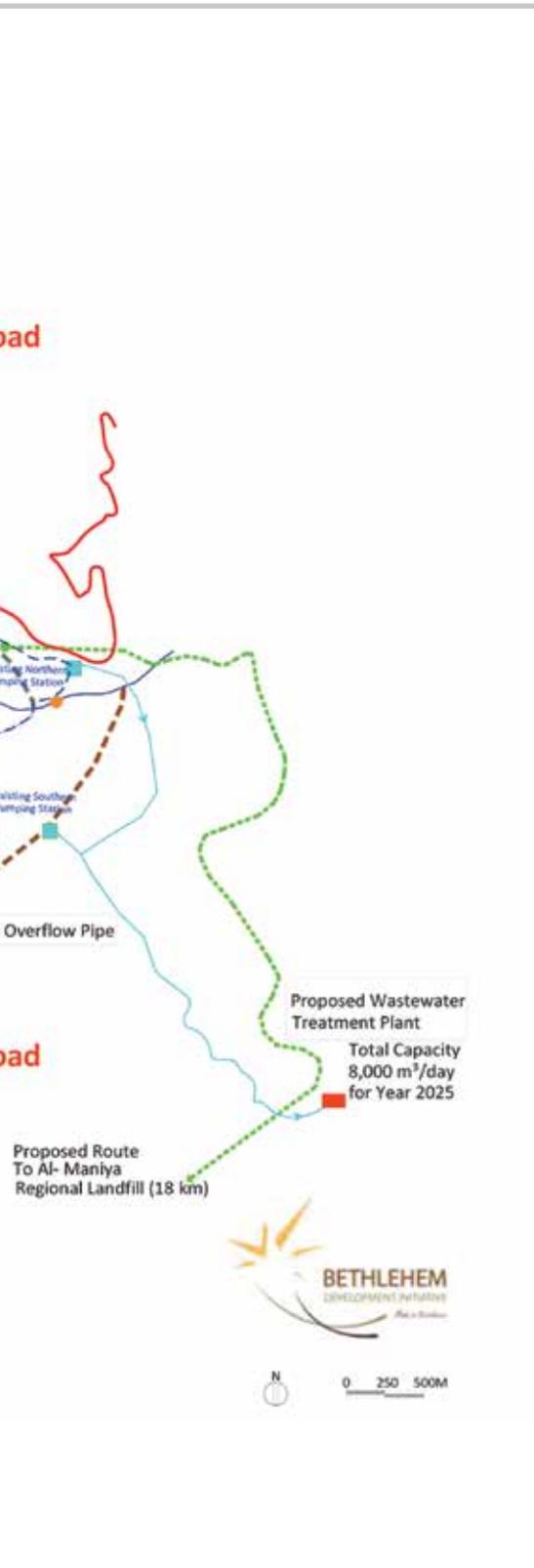
The project will improve the good quality of life with ample public space. Moreover the project will offer a safe pedestrianized, car-free environment with an increase in natural air quality. Trees and vegetation contribute toward beauty of nature, converting CO₂ to oxygen, and providing habitat for birds and other wildlife. In addition the automated parking system can use 66% less surface area compared to a conventional garage to fit the same number of parking spaces with less vertical space (2.1m to 3.5m).

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN RING ROADS



sample potential projects

NORTHERN & SOUTHERN RING ROADS



Northern Ring Road

Bypass road from Beit Sahour to the north of Bethlehem City.

This road will ultimately reduce traffic from the centre of Bethlehem and at major intersections.

The corridor can be established in the undeveloped properties; however, quick action must be taken before development spreads in the vacant properties.

At this phase, this road will be connected to the rehabilitated Ararat- Wadi Shaheen- Al Khleifat road to reach the core of Bethlehem.

Southern Ring Road

This road serves traffic heading from the south to the centre of Bethlehem bypassing Hebron Bethlehem main road.

Random parts of the road are excavated to serve land owners. At this phase, this road will be connected to the rehabilitated Iskan road to reach the core of Bethlehem.

Objectives and Rationale

Extension of the Northern and Southern ring roads to bypass Beit Jala, in line with the future growth to relieve the core area of Beit Sahour and Bethlehem.

Project Scop

Regarding the touristic aspect, there are two important sites along the proposed ring road that can serve as potential touristic destinations in line with the BDI strategy and these include the Solomon Pools and the Artas Monastery.

Because the southern bypass traverses Artas Valley earmarked to become a natural heritage site, it is important to minimize the environmental impact of the road on the site, and most importantly to prevent development on both sides of the road in order to preserve Artas Valley.

Similarly, the northern bypass traverses the terraces located west of Shepherd's Fields that will be preserve as part of the natural landscape. It is therefore recommended to minimize the environmental impact of this road and to prevent development on both sides. The two bypasses are envisioned to be scenic routes traversing the natural landscape with no development on both sides.

TRANSPORT MASTER PLAN

Project Description

The Transport Master Plan aims to develop an integrated strategy of a sustainable multimodal transportation system that enhances pedestrian connectivity in Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and Beit Sahour, and encourages the use of public transport. In order to assess the traffic operations and physical conditions of the road network and the transport modes, data will be collected regarding the roads and intersections. Detailed investigative studies and analyses will be produced to describe in depth the state of each transport component, the underlying causes of failing traffic operations, as well as recommendations to alleviate their effects.

Objectives and Rationale

The National Development Plan 2011-2013 has common goals with the proposed transport strategies: to establish a national transportation network connected to international transportation gateways by land, sea and air, and infrastructure at border crossings that will ensure the secure and efficient movement of goods and people. Moreover, the NDP tends to promote the development of a sustainable public transportation system in Palestine, and implement systematic road maintenance and making program across Palestine.

On the other hand the BDI sector strategies focus on the mission of the Ministry of Transport (MoT) to develop a distinctive transport sector, which provides necessary services to regulate a high-quality transport industry in order to contribute to developing and sustaining the Palestinian economy. Also to provide road and railroad networks that connect cities and villages to industrial estates as well as archaeological, tourist and religious sites. These will also achieve effective links with the neighboring countries on equitable and sovereign grounds.

Expected Results

The long term strategic plan aims to reduce congestion in Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour cities and limits the entry of through-traffic to these cities. Moreover, to reduce travel time and to provide by-pass away from these cities. Thus, at this stage, the Consultant recommends the construction of the following:

- Proposed underpass at two intersections (Murrah and Bab Izkak intersections) on Highway 60, Jerusalem- Hebron Road.
- Extension of the Northern and Southern ring roads to bypass Beit Jala, in line with the future growth to relieve the core area of Beit Sahour and Bethlehem.

Positive Impacts of the Project

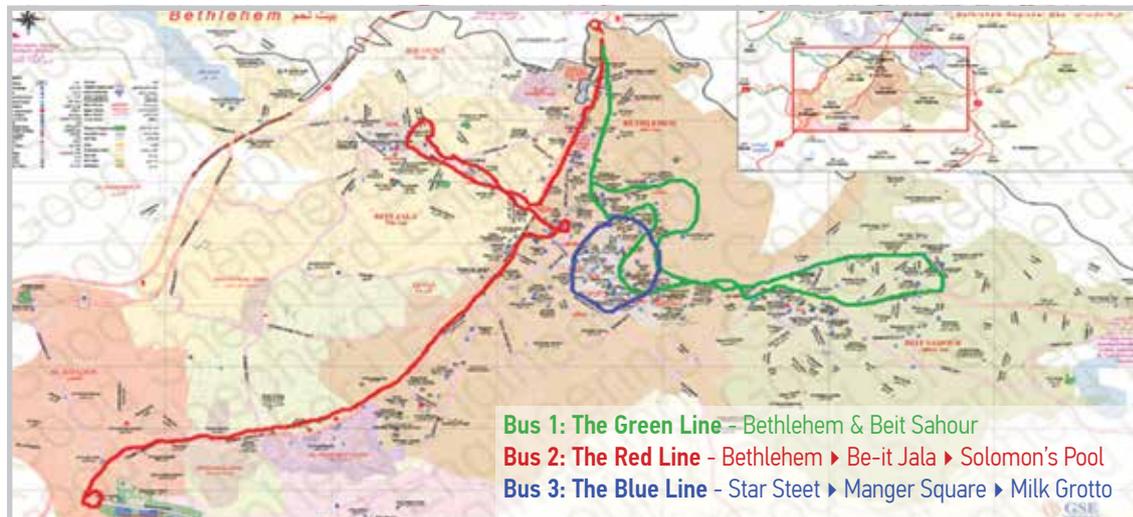
Social Impact: Transport improvements reduce poverty not through increased consumption of transport but through improving the quality and security of access to work, markets, and services, and through release of scarce resources for consumption and production.

Economic Impact: These impacts can be divided to short and long-term impacts. The short-term economic impacts are the expenditures on labor and materials. As for the long-term economic impacts are the gains from increased capacity, mobility, and accessibility. Moreover, promotes commerce and employment opportunities.

Environmental Impact

Balance the need for new roadways with other alternative modes of transportation (cycling, walking, transit, etc.), maintain and improve the health and safety of our residents, and protect and enhance the natural environment.

HOP-ON, HOP-OFF TOURS



Overview

Bethlehem is a hub of Palestinian culture and tourism. Bethlehem is known around the world as the birth place of Jesus Christ. It is inhabited by one of the oldest Christian communities in the world. And it has been a major site of Christian pilgrimage since the construction of the Church of the Nativity in the 4th century AD.

The town has a great number of interesting attractions and landmarks, where visitors can admire the beauty of many significant monasteries and their natural surroundings and spend time shopping in the finest gift shops.

The Bethlehem Bus Tours (HOHO) will provide visitors (foreign and domestic) with audio guided tours throughout the Governorate. Built along the Hop on Hop off concept the tours will also encourage more community based tourism development at key locations and sites along its designated route.

Our Euro 5 bus services use the cleanest engines available and offer unbeatable passenger comfort and customer service along with frequent services and unrivalled reliability and punctuality. The 2 buses are at 50-55 seat capacity each.

Project Description

The HOHO will aim to increase the geographical spread and economic benefits of tourism to more remote and neglected sites within the area. The tour will include a state of art multilingual audio guided bus tour with key drop off and pick up locations distributed throughout the area. In addition to enhancing the visitor experience, the Hop on Hop Off tours will provide easy and safe transportation for the visitors and encourage them to visit sites outside the traditional beaten track. Tourists using the TOUR will be able to disembark at any of the drop off points and tour the area at their leisure. The HOHO will primarily target the thousands of Foreign Individual Travelers (FITs) and organized groups of visitors arriving and staying overnight in the Bethlehem & Jerusalem.

The Bethlehem Development Foundation is a Non-Profit Organization registered under Law No. (1) On Charitable Associations and Civil Society Organizations, Ministry of Interior.

NGO Registration Number

BL-3347-SD

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