

## The Welfare Association (WA)

The Welfare Association (WA) is an independent non-profit organization established in 1983 by a group of Palestinian business and intellectual figures to provide development and humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank including Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, 1948 Areas, and the Palestinian communities in Lebanon.

The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Programme (OCJRP) was established by the Welfare Association in 1994 with primary funding from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in order to achieve sustainable development and renewal of Jerusalem's much neglected Old City. The goals of OCJRP is to improve social, economic and environmental conditions in the Old City of Jerusalem; protect the historic architectural heritage of this unique city (inscribed on UNESCO World Heritage List in 1981); build capacity of professionals and workers in the field of conservation while encouraging the community participation in the revitalisation process.

## WELFARE ASSOCIATION

### OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM REVITALISATION PROGRAMME

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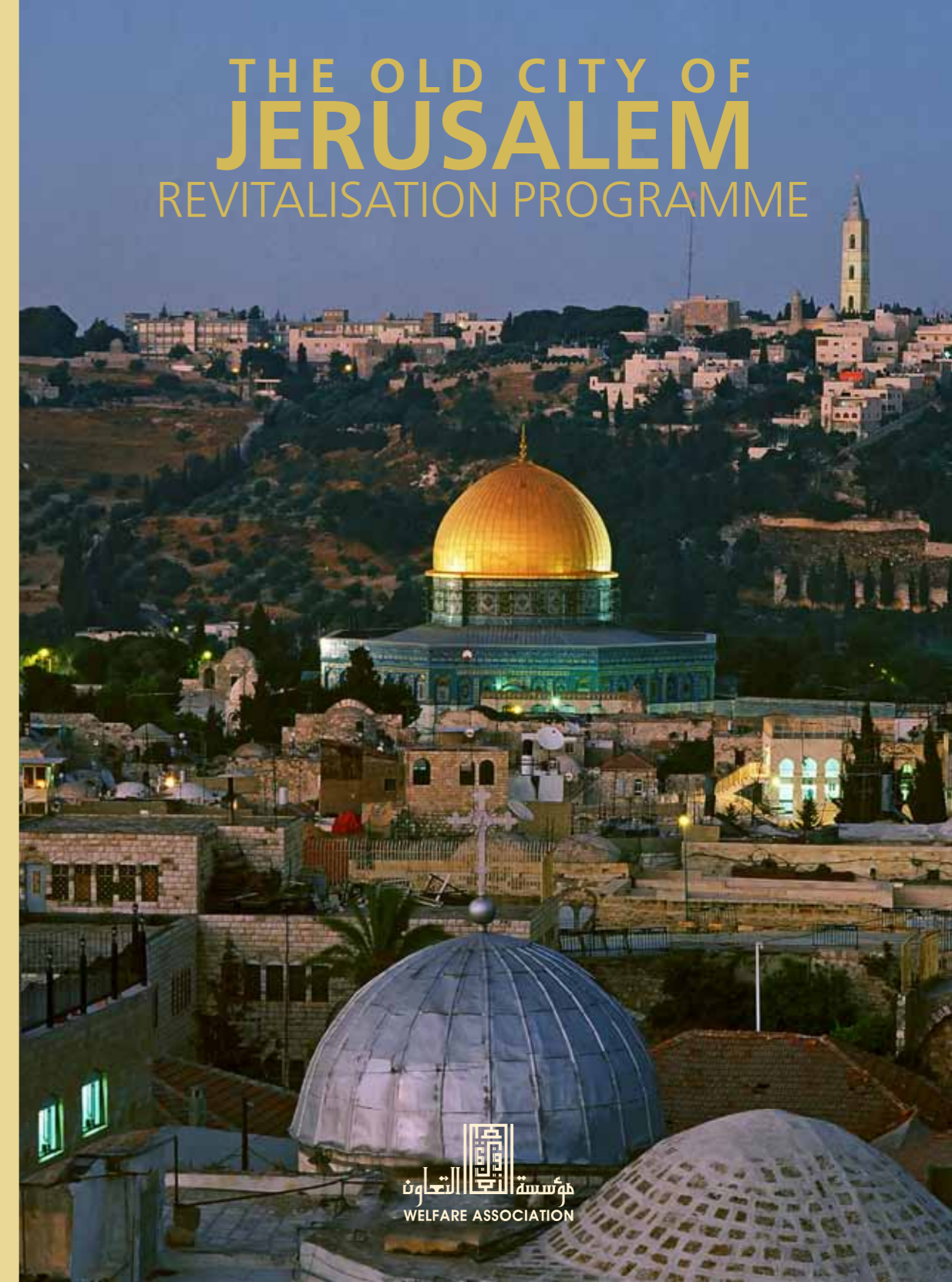
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# THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM REVITALISATION PROGRAMME





## The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalisation Programme:

In 1995 WA established a Technical Office to implement various OCJRP components through an interdisciplinary technical team of urban planners, architects, engineers and historians with well trained experience team of over 21 members of staff in addition to specialized experts..

The OCJRP is the only professional body carrying out a comprehensive revitalization programme in neglected areas of the Moslem, Christian, and Armenian quarters of the Old City. Its purpose is to help protect Jerusalem's cultural heritage, applying international conventions and the highest professional standards, for the direct benefit of residents, building users and visitors to the Old City as well as for future generations.



## OCJRP Main Components:

The OCJRP comprises four main components which are implemented in parallel to achieve a comprehensive and integrated revitalisation process that goes beyond the restoration and rehabilitation of the historic buildings and monuments. By improving living conditions for residents through housing renewal and adaptive reuse of historic buildings for institutional use , resulting in jobs created in this field , and by providing training and capacity building in the field of heritage preservation, and engaging the community in the protection of the architectural and cultural heritage, OCJRP aims to achieve a development goal as well as a cultural objective. The main OCJRP components also include an information and documentation and publication unit which established comprehensive databases for the old cities of Jerusalem and Nablus, prepared and published developmental revitalization plans for both the Old Cities of Jerusalem and Nablus based on extensive research and field surveys. The unit carries out research and surveys in the field of conservation and revitalization and produced a number of specialized technical publications over the years.



## Revitalisation of the Old City of Nablus:

In 2006, OCJRP expanded and replicated its activities in Jerusalem to the Old City of Nablus including housing renewal, adaptive reuse of historic building for institutional use, training and capacity building as well as research, surveys and publications.



## Establishment of An Institute for Preservation of Architectural Heritage in Jerusalem:

After many years of accumulated experience in restoration of historic buildings and monuments in Jerusalem, the OCJRP developed its original programme to enhance and expand the training component by establishing a specialized body that would provide a wider and more varied "applied" training directly linked to the quality of the restoration projects. Therefore, in 2007, a new project was launched to create an Institute for architectural heritage preservation. The 1st Phase of the project was implemented with funds from the EU in partnership with UNESCO (2007-2011) and in collaboration with a number of international and local experts and organizations.

The aim of this project is to institutionalize training in conservation for practitioners and professionals in the field, and offer capacity building and applied training for engineers, architects, contractors and skilled labour involved in conservation. Furthermore, the project intends to engage and cooperate with local and regional universities and colleges to encourage the inclusion of heritage preservation within their education programmes.

With further funding from Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the European Union, the Welfare Association plans to finalise all the legal requirements for the establishment of the Institute by 2015. The WA objective is to integrate and merge, all the OCJRP components and activities with the Institute components to form a special Institute for Preservation of Architectural Heritage that becomes an "Arab Center for Expertise", the first of its kind in the region.

