



Activity &

Achievements Report

2018

Acting on Royal instructions and under the personal guidance of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco, chairman of Al-Quds Committee, The Bayt Mal Al-Quds Asharif Agency sets as objectives for which it was established, with the blessing of the leaders of Islamic states who agreed to set up among Member-States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation an organization that will:

- *Salvage the holy city of Al-Quds;*
- *Bring assistance to Palestinian inhabitants and institutions in the holy city;*
- *Preserve Al Aqsa Mosque and the other holy sites in the city, as well as its religious, cultural and architectural legacy and civilization*

BMAQ

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Acting on Royal instructions and under the personal guidance of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Bayt Mal Al-Quds Al-Sharif Agency (BMAQ), the executive and operational arm of Al-Quds Committee, an affiliated body of the OIC, carries on with its mandate to protect Al-Quds and support its people in their steadfast dedication to their Holy City.

The Agency's Statute provides for taking the necessary measures to pool funds for the projects and programs covered by the Agency's five-year plan of action, adopted by the Agency's deliberative bodies: namely, the Trusteeship Committee and the Board of Directors. Adequate governance mechanisms are set out to ensure optimal management and disbursement of funds, following a participatory approach, involving Jerusalemite people and institutions and complying with the principles of integrity, transparency, follow-up, accountability and assessment.

Despite limited funds, which come from voluntary contributions of OIC Member States, along with donations from both institutions and individuals, the Agency is maintaining an annually steady level of achievement, which places it at the forefront of institutions operating in Al-Quds.

Operating expenses for the Agency are secured from the annual support (US\$1 million) provided by the Kingdom of Morocco.

In this regard, the Agency carried out eleven (11) projects for the fiscal year 2018, with a budget of US\$ 3.7 million. These projects covered the following vital sectors: Preserving the cultural and architectural heritage of Al-Quds; delivering social aid to help Al-Quds residents remain steadfast in their city; promoting the city's cultural outreach and preserving the Palestine National Archives.

First: Cultural and Architectural Heritage Preservation Projects.

The Agency launched the second phase of the restoration and renovation work for the Moroccan Cultural Centre in Al-Quds (Bayt al-Maghrib), with an overall budget of US\$ 1.115 million covering maintenance and Moroccan style renovation works, along with annual operating and guarding expenses.

Also significant, Morocco funded the acquisition of this historical building with US\$ 5.4 million. The edifice, stretching over a surface area of 2100 square meters, is strategically located in the heart of the old town of Al-Quds, at the intersection of Al-Âlâm street and Al-Ghawanmeh street. Now that renovation works are over, the Centre will be soon inaugurated with the mission to serve as a transmitter of the Moroccan culture and universal values of peace and coexistence.

Second: Social Aid Projects to Help Residents of Al-Quds remain Steadfast in their City.

- **Al-'Aish Al-Kareem (Decent Living) program:** It consists in distributing an average amount of ten (10) loaves of fresh bread to 2,500 poor and needy families in Al-Quds. The program helps boost trade activity in the city, benefiting 19 bakeries across the various districts of the city. The program has an overall annual budget of US\$1.3 million.

- **Kafalat Al Yatim (Orphan Care):** The program provides care for 214 orphans. A monthly sponsorship program of US\$80 is dedicated to each orphaned child, to provide good material, social and moral support. The Agency budgets US\$240,000 a year for this program.
- **Summer camps program:** The Agency offers an annual two-week summer camp in Morocco for the children of Al-Quds. With an annual budget of US\$ 100 000, the summer camp, placed under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, Chair of Al-Quds Committee, offers fifty (50) Jerusalemite boys and girls a variety of artistic and cultural activities offering a rich experience of fun, recreation and socialization with Moroccan peers.
- **Scholarships:** The Agency gives US\$ 80 000 a year in scholarship funds awarded to university students from Al-Quds admitted to Palestinian and Moroccan universities as well as higher-education institutes and schools. The program gave a total of 38 scholarships for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Eligibility criteria on which scholarships are based include social status and marks. The scholarship fund covers tuition fees and pays, in some cases, a living expenses allowance for university students in need.

The scholarship program funds annual enrollment expenses according to the following disciplines:

- **Science disciplines: US\$3,000.**
- **Literary disciplines: US\$2,000.**
- **Other disciplines: US\$1,500.**

Third: Promoting the city's cultural outreach and preserving the Palestine National Archives.

- **Publishing and Archiving Projects:** The Agency continued to co-fund documentation activities for the preservation of the city's cultural heritage. The project consists in collecting historically valuable records from the Palestinian National Archives and conserving them at the Agency's Library in Rabat, to keep them away from the variety of threats to which they might be subject in their place of origin. The overall cost for the project reached US\$66 000.

Moreover, with the aim to preserve the Palestinian collective memory in Al-Quds, the Agency has released several studies on the Sacred City, making them accessible to researchers in the field. It costs an average of US\$12,000 to author, print and publish each of these studies.

- **Communication and Outreach Projects:** The Agency has been building and sustaining contact and links with partners to publicize its achievements. An instrumental tool in building common Arab and Muslim stand with Al-Quds, the Agency leverages its website (www.bmaq.org) and utilizes press and social media

platforms to bring to light the challenges the Sacred City has been facing, and to highlight the need for support and assistance for its people.

- To this end, the Agency takes part in countless conferences on Al-Quds, in Morocco and beyond. The latest of these events, the Fifth International Conference on Al-Quds, took place in Rabat, on 26-28 June 2018, with the joint cooperation of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP), the OIC and the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- Also significant, the Agency organized a photo exhibition on the theme “The Closest Place to Heaven on Earth”, in association with a number of Moroccan research institutions and universities. There was also an important symposium themed “Al-Quds, the City with Universal Spiritual Significance to All Three Monotheistic Faiths”, which brought together a host of intellectuals from Morocco, Palestine and Lebanon. The symposium, organized in cooperation with the Moroccan Ministry of Culture and Communication, will have its proceedings and an event summary published soon.

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