
من اجل أن تبقى المؤسسات العربية قائمة، من اجل أن تبقى القدس عربية فلسطينية إسلامية مسيحية

"اشتر زمنا في القدس"

February 2023

Infrastructure Needs of the Palestinian School in Jerusalem

All schools working under the Palestinian Umbrella in Jerusalem, urgently need ongoing periodic maintenance in order to maintain their durability, whether by carrying out rehabilitation work for their infrastructure such as walls, floors, windows, doors, sanitary units, laboratories, libraries and playgrounds. Schools also need to provide basic needs for serving and providing safety for their students such as safe access and appropriate facilities for students with special needs (these are not available in approximately 82.19% of schools according to 2020 statistics), fire alarm and extinguisher systems (not available in 15% of schools according to 2020 statistics), and shaded areas (not available in 26.03% of schools according to 2020 statistics).

Status of existing buildings

According to the international design standards of model schools, ventilation and natural lighting must be provided by directing classrooms on the north side of the building. Schools should allocate an average of 2 square meters per student

within the classroom, and a classroom area of 65 square meters for an average of 30 students. As a general average, schools need to have 12 sanitary units per 250 students, 5 drinking points per 100 students and a laboratory with an area of at least 75 square meters. Schools should also provide suitable size areas for courtyards and playgrounds to serve as a safe outlet for this number of students.

Jerusalem's schools are mostly residential buildings that have been adapted to be used as schools, and do not have all the specifications for the model school.

According to data provided by the Directorate of Education prior to the 2019/2020 academic year, the student area in the classroom in Public Endowments schools is approximately 1.60 square meters, compared to 1.52 square meters in private schools. Of the total 146 schools, only 96 have a science laboratory with an average area of 48.31 square meters, and only 121 have a computer laboratory with an average area of 44.60 square meters. The 146 schools have a total of 1,825 sanitary units, compared to at least 2,200 health units that must be available for the total 45,850 students. In terms of drinking water, there is a total of 1,623 drinking taps, compared to 2,292 drinking taps that must be available in those schools to be sufficient for the number of students. The number of needed drinking taps would become higher if we use the global standards for schools counted in the previous data that have shortages. Indeed, 83 schools (or 56.85% of schools) need to provide an additional 947 drinking water taps and 716 additional sanitary units, while 50 schools (or 34.25% of schools) need to provide an additional 242 sinks. Given the needs reflected by 79 schools in a needs survey conducted during August (2020), 61 of

the schools (77%) that responded to the survey indicated that needed an additional 519 drinking taps. 35 (44%) of the schools that responded to the survey need an additional 252 sanitary units.

The FHF conducted another comprehensive survey on school needs during 2022, where 64 schools responded. The survey reflected different types of needs and showed that 66% of the schools don't have maintenance employee or team. 56% of the schools reflected weakness in their electricity infrastructure which could be dangerous. 61% need emergency exits. 31% of these schools were built more than 50 years ago which reflects comprehensive renovation works including change of tiles, rehabilitation of bathrooms, playgrounds, classrooms among others.