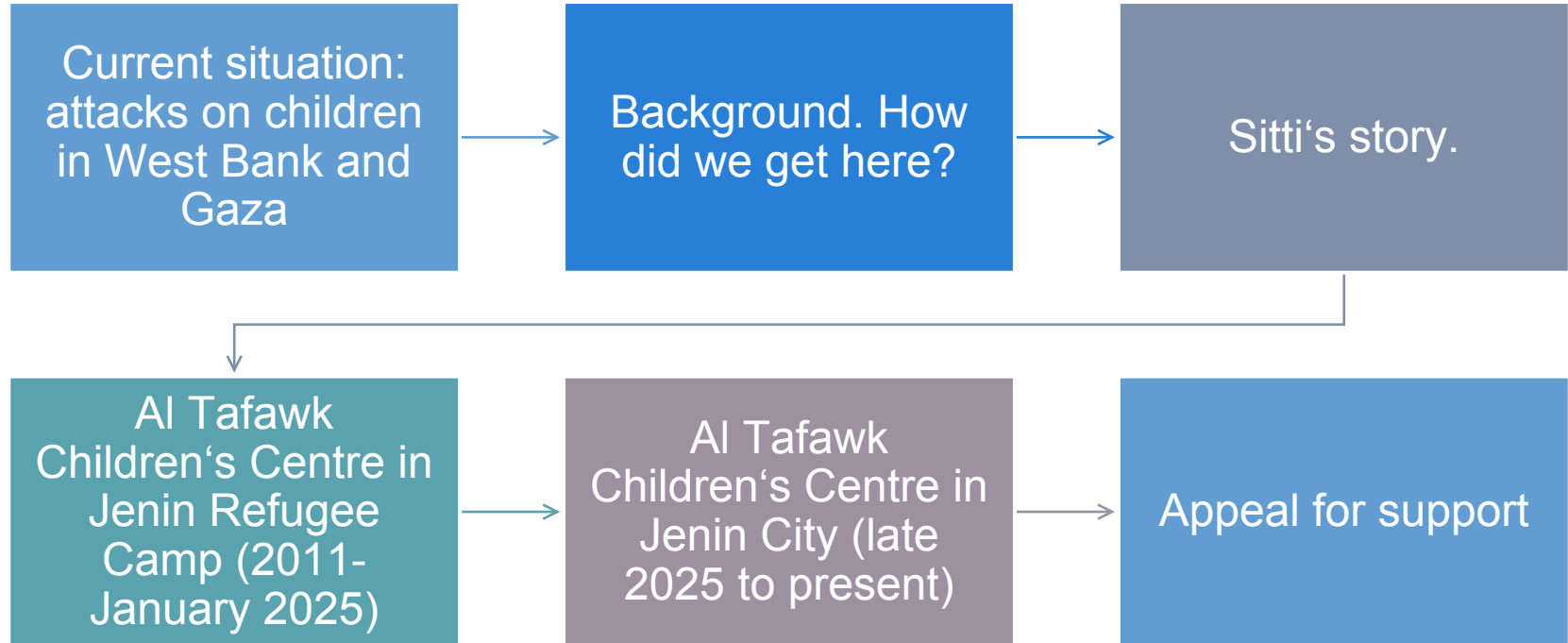




Support Al Tafawk

A Center of Excellence for Children in Jenin, West Bank

Overview of Presentation



Current situation:
The Essence of
Childhood has been
destroyed (UN)



Israel targets children for killing and arrest in the West Bank and Gaza (United Nations, June 2026)

Gaza: Israeli security forces - actively incited by Israeli officials, including the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu - have caused serious physical and psychological harm since 7 October 2023 resulting in the death of at least 20,179 children, and injury to 44,143 children. Children are directly targeted through shots to their vital organs.

West Bank: Israel is legally responsible for failing to protect Palestinian children from being targeted by Israeli soldiers and settlers in the West Bank. Documented evidence of torture includes sexual and gender-based violence. Palestinian children, especially boys, are subjected to systemic mistreatment in detention, including forced stripping, beatings and food deprivation.

Israeli soldiers mock symbols of childhood like toys. They attack critical infrastructure essential to children, such as healthcare facilities, schools and orphanages.

Source: "The essence of childhood has been destroyed": Israel's deliberate targeting of Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 7 October 2023. UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (Human Rights Council) <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/coi-report-23jun26/>



„In Jenin,
there are
no
innocent
children“

Despite the absence of general hostilities the Israeli security forces killed 213 Palestinian children (206 boys and seven girls) in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, between 7 October 2023 and 20 October 2025. Boys are systemically targeted as future terrorists. Girls are shot within their homes. There is no safe space for Palestinian children.

“We back our soldiers at any cost, regardless of the outcome... In Jenin, there are no innocent children. Those who were born in 2006 during the expulsion [disengagement] of Gush Katif are the Nakba of 2026 ... I have no, even for a little, any sense of compassion for my enemies.” - Israeli Knesset member Yitzhak Kroizer (from Itamar Ben Gvir's Otzma Yehudit party) during Knesset session on 25 March 2026.

Source: “The essence of childhood has been destroyed”: Israel's deliberate targeting of Palestinian children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since 7 October 2023. UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (Human Rights Council)
<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/coi-report-23jun26/>

How did we get here?

Palestine was never a „land without a people“

- Palestinian Arabs inhabited Palestine for millennia, co-existing peacefully with Jewish and other communities.
- 1896: Viennese journalist Theodor Herzl publishes *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State) which lobbies for a Jewish national state in Argentina, Uganda or Palestine.
- 1917: Balfour Declaration. Britain „gives“ Palestine to Zionists for a Jewish national state. Simultaneously secretly promises self-rule to Arab leaders (McMahon–Hussein Agreement, 1916) in Palestine.
- 1947 UN Partition Plan: The UN propose splitting Palestine into separate states, leaving Jerusalem and Bethlehem under international control.
- 1948 War & Green Line: War breaks out. Egypt controls the Gaza Strip and Jordan administers the West Bank.
- 1967 War: Israel captures the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem.

Source: https://www.un.org/unispal/history2/origins-and-evolution-of-the-palestine-problem/part-i-1917-1947/#Origins_and_Evolution_of_the_Palestine_Problem_1917-1947_Part_I

„While the people
of Palestine lost
their land, they
refuse to lose their
history“ Johnny
Mansour.

Photographs
taken 1896-1919

<https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/photographs-of-palestinian-life/>



...aza, lowland stronghold of the Philistines, from
...ast, Palestine, Copyright Underwood & Underwood, U.S.



GATHERING OLIVES



1948. The Nakba - The Catastrophe: 750,000 Palestinians expelled from their homes. Massacres in Deir Yassin, Tantura and other villages

Al Ramla, awaiting expulsion by Israeli forces

Refugees on the road

The expulsion of Palestinians is continual

1917. Pre-British Mandate



1948. Nakba
750,000
Palestinians
expelled by
Zionist forces



1967. Israel
illegally
occupies
West Bank
and Gaza



Today. Up to 750,000
Israeli settlers live in 290
illegal settlements in West
Bank and East Jerusalem



Sitti's Story. Survivor of
the Nakba and co-
founder of Al Tafawk



Sitti's Early Life and Displacement

Who was Sitti?

- Born in 1915 in Nuris, a village near Nazareth in Palestine.
- Eldest of five sisters; her father was a teacher known for his healing abilities.
- Grew up during Ottoman rule and the upheaval of World War I.

Life Before Displacement

- Married Mohammed around 1935 and raised a family while farming their land.
- The family enjoyed a stable life and had three children: Nagea, Ahmad, and Naja.

The Catastrophe, The Nakba - 1948

- Following the creation of the State of Israel and the Arab - Israeli War, Sitti and her family were expelled from their village.
- Forced to flee to the mountains, becoming refugees overnight.
- Their infant daughter, Naja, was snatched from the family before being reunited.
- Their home, land, and possessions - including her father's books - were lost.



Hittin. A Village like Sitti's in 1948 and 2025



Resilience, Refugee Life, and Hope

Life in Jenin Refugee Camp and Displacement

- After receiving shelter from residents of Zababdeh, the family moved to Jenin Refugee Camp.
- What was meant to be temporary accommodation became a permanent home.
- During the Six-Day War (1967), the family was displaced again and spent three months living in a mosque before returning to the camp.

Loss, Destruction and Perseverance

- Mohammed died in 1999.
- During the Second Intifada (2000-2005), the family home was destroyed by the Israeli army.
- Sitti lost treasured possessions, including the key to her original home in Nuris - a symbol of memory, hope and her Right to Return.

Founding Al Tafawk: A Place of Hope

- When the family home was rebuilt, they chose not to live there.
- They created Al Tafawk, a community centre for children and young people.
- Al Tafawk stood as a symbol of resilience, community, and hope for future generations.

Sitti's Wish

Sitti's one wish was to return to her beloved Nuris where she was born, grew up, married, had children and saw her future.

Sadly, Israel denied her Right to Return and Sitti died in 2020, never seeing her homeland again.



Al Tafawk Children's Center (2011-2025) Jenin Refugee Camp

Jenin Refugee Camp (1953-2025)



Background

- Established in 1953 for Palestinians displaced during the Nakba
- Located in Jenin city, near the Jezreel Valley (north) and Jordan Valley (east)
- Families of original refugees lived there up to 2025

Living Conditions

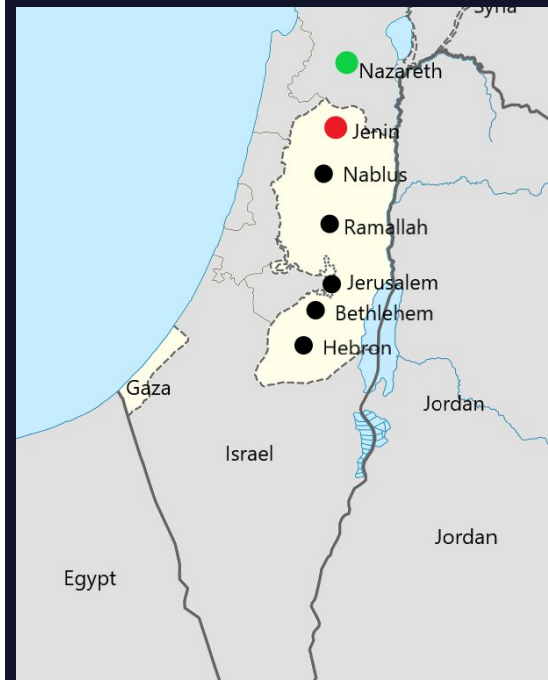
- Overcrowding and extreme poverty
- Frequent water shortages
- Constant fear due to military incursions
- Families experienced arrests, raids, and trauma

Lack of Facilities

- No parks, playgrounds, libraries, or safe play spaces for children

Despite hardship

- Strong family bonds, community support, warmth, and resilience



"The waiting gate for the return" - the entrance to Jenin Refugee Camp

2019



Al Tafawk Children's Center

Purpose & Origins

- Established in 2011 to support education disrupted by violence and displacement
- "Al Tafawk" means "Excellence"

What it provided

- Only kindergarten in Jenin Refugee Camp (mornings)
- Afternoon support: homework help, English lessons, safe space for children
- Volunteers supported children's learning and aspirations

Conditions & Challenges

- Severe lack of resources: few toys, minimal materials, overcrowding, one toilet
- Despite this, strong focus on dignity, care, and education

Children's experiences

- Many showed trauma: anger, withdrawal, anxiety, exhaustion
- Staff recognised them as children living under extreme stress, not "difficult"



Attacks on Al Tafawk: Violence, Impact & Aftermath

- Israeli soldiers raided Al Tafawk multiple times
- Toys destroyed, furniture broken, walls damaged
- Children once sheltered during 7-hour military incursion
- **Wider conflict**
 - By 2023, Jenin Refugee Camp widely described as “Little Gaza” due to destruction



Al Tafawk, July
2023



Jenin Refugee Camp 2024

Operation Iron Wall, 2025

Forced Expulsion

Entire Jenin Camp forcibly evacuated by IDF

Al Tafawk Center destroyed

Residents displaced again, many living in temporary shelters or forests

Ongoing commitment

Staff remain determined to continue supporting refugee children despite destruction

Al Tafawk
February 2025

Leaving the camp
February 2025

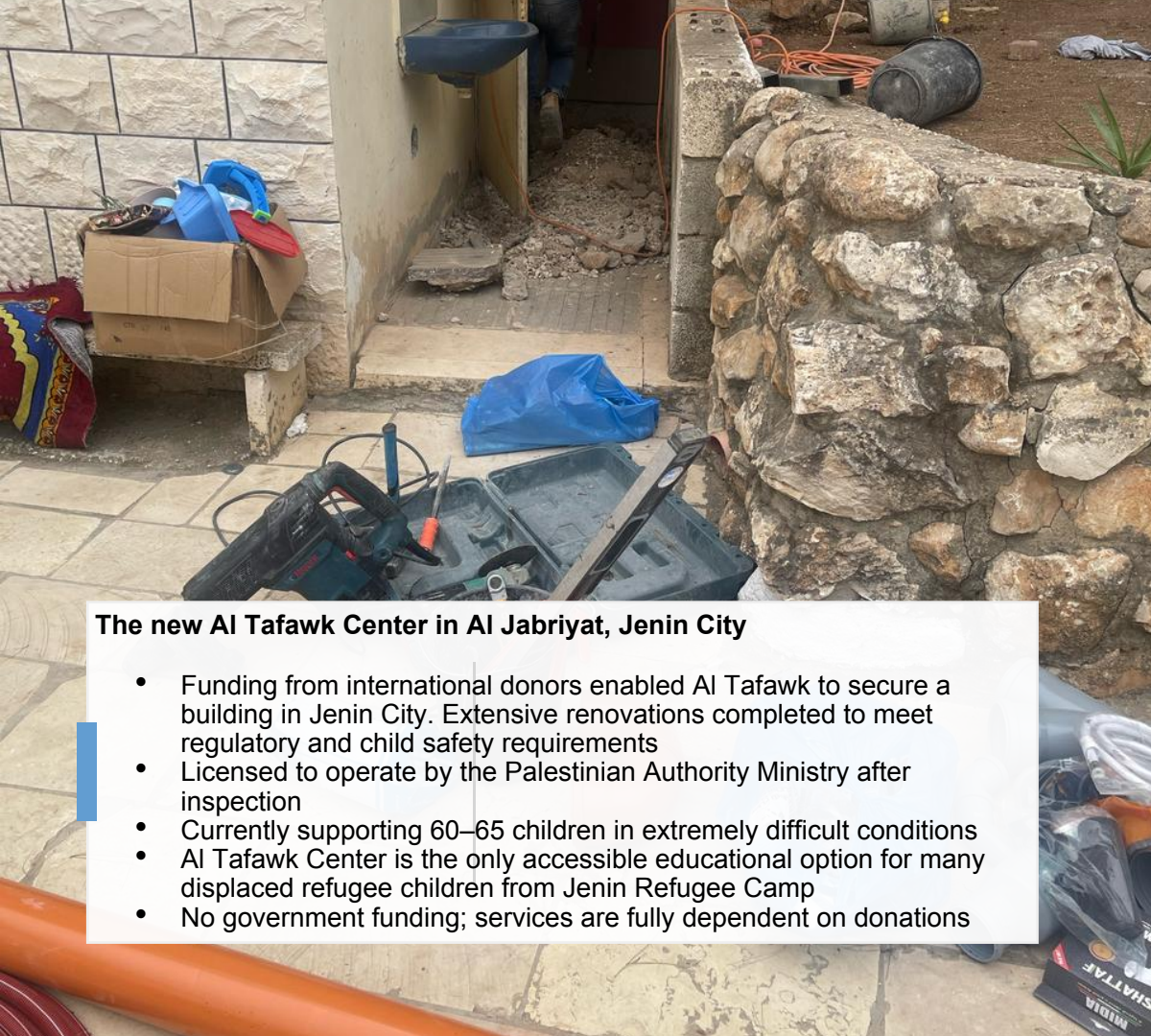




Impact of Displacement on Children & Families

- Families displaced into either unsafe, overcrowded and temporary housing or to live in the open countryside
- Little access to food, water, healthcare, or income
- Poor living conditions and rising health risks (illness, scabies, animal dangers)
- No practical access to education or online learning
- New settlement increases insecurity and uncertainty
- Daily life marked by fear, stress, and trauma

The new Al Tafawk Children's Center (2025-) Jenin City



The new Al Tafawk Center in Al Jabriyat, Jenin City

- Funding from international donors enabled Al Tafawk to secure a building in Jenin City. Extensive renovations completed to meet regulatory and child safety requirements
- Licensed to operate by the Palestinian Authority Ministry after inspection
- Currently supporting 60–65 children in extremely difficult conditions
- Al Tafawk Center is the only accessible educational option for many displaced refugee children from Jenin Refugee Camp
- No government funding; services are fully dependent on donations



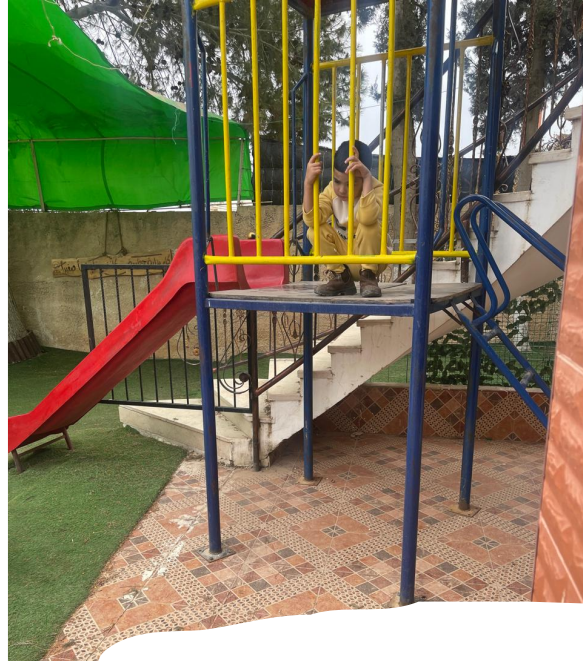
Why Al Tafawk Center matters

- Children arrive with significant unmet basic needs and signs of trauma.
- The centre provides essential care, stability, and emotional support.
- Staff deliver basic literacy education and opportunities for play.
- A safe, nurturing environment helps children learn, grow, and experience childhood.

Al Tafawk - Resilience and Resistance in Action

The new Al Tafawk Center is attempting to offer a small cohort of forcibly displaced Palestinian children the opportunity of a normal childhood filled with learning, play and laughter despite the oppressive occupation being imposed on them by the State of Israel in the West Bank. The conditions under which it operates are worsening day by day.

Al Tafawk's work is a demonstration not only of Palestinian resistance and resilience in the face of ongoing inhumane state oppression but more so a total commitment to the refugee children of Jenin for whom Al Tafawk wishes to offer a better future.



Photographs of Al
Tafawk (2026)

Help Keep Hope Alive

- Share Al Tafawk's story
- Connect the Centre with support organizations
- Support fundraising efforts
- Help sustain educational services
- Keep hope alive for Jenin's children



“Nothing about us, without us”

Donate to Al Tafawk and find more information:

<https://chuffed.org/project/121096-help-keep-open-jenins-al-tawfawk-centre>

The director of Al Tafawk obtained permission from the parents/relatives to show you the photographs of their children.