

## WHY NOW?

**Grassroot groups are the traditional pillars of Palestinian society, and investing in them is the best hope for withstanding the ongoing systematic devastation of political and civic life.**

Communities already have the creativity and knowledge to solve local problems. Yet, post-Oslo development and top-down funder-driven agendas have created a culture of dependency and unfairness, while sustaining the occupation and normalizing colonization.

*In a fresh alternative to business-as-usual development and aid, Rawa Fund is simple, effective support for creative solutions to everyday problems facing Palestinian communities.*

Global philanthropy research suggests that communities now more than ever need **social connection** (not fragmentation), **collaboration** (not competition), and **democratic access to local resources** (not concentrated wealth in a select few institutions).

They also need to be the power-holders when it comes to the decisions that impact their future—not simply the beneficiaries of the international community's shifting priorities and charity.

## WHAT IS RAWA?

*Rawa is much more than a new fund—we connect people to each other and to the resources they need*

### Simple

We work with communities throughout historic Palestine—removing obstacles like registration restrictions, grant themes, and endless paperwork. Our structure is flat, low-cost, and flexible, allowing us to respond to community needs.

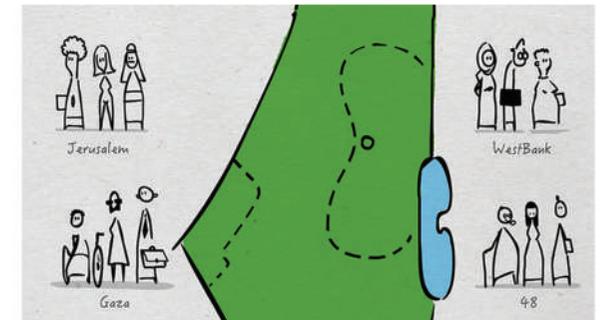
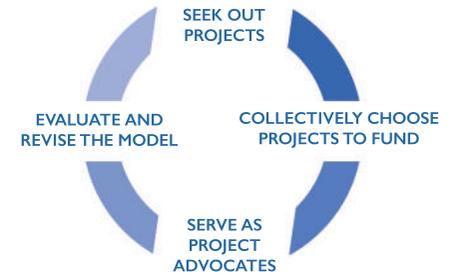
### Community-Led

Rawa's primary decision-makers are community members working in youth and women's movements, advocacy, arts and culture, sustainable and economic development, agriculture, human rights, civic engagement, and more.

### Grants for Creative Community Development

Community members identify and democratically choose local initiatives. We are built to fund innovation and brilliant ideas, with few conditions. Palestinian groups leading diverse social, cultural, and/or economic initiatives may use a wide range of tools to creatively address community development: social enterprise, cultural campaigns, building infrastructure—the possibilities are endless!

**Each grant cycle year, community members:**



### Support Beyond Grants

With tailored trainings and a Rawa community representative advocating for them, projects are more likely to succeed. The lessons learned and partnerships formed through Rawa's funded projects build knowledge on the ground and strengthen social networks.

### #ShiftThePower

Rawa is part of a global movement advocating to democratize philanthropy and reclaim organic, grassroots-led community development. Our simple approach connects people on the ground to supporters in a way not previously possible, and more urgent than ever.



# #SupportThe26

## Join the movement building resilient Palestinian grassroots communities

Join the 26 grassroots community members from across Palestine at the heart of Rawa Fund as they inspire community engagement, collaboration, and creative uses of local resources to grow a sustainable, united, and resilient grassroots movement. **Read more** about the 26 and how you can join at [www.rawafund.org](http://www.rawafund.org).

### WHY JOIN?

Like our current friends and supporters, you want to **bring hope and invest trust in Palestinian grassroots groups** at a critical time, when many in the world are turning their backs on Palestinian communities. Join us in widening the circle of support for Rawa Fund and the 26 community decision-makers at its heart, because revitalizing grassroots community work in Palestine needs more than financial capital to succeed—it needs to be a shared **initiative that connects people, inspires, and builds hope.**

*“A breath of fresh air in an eco-system of rushed donors and mechanical outputs...a powerhouse approach to returning dignity back into community philanthropy.”*

- Sam Bahour, Palestinian-American entrepreneur

### HOW TO JOIN

#### Stay Posted

Follow the 26, share our stories, and join the conversation. Head to [www.rawafund.org](http://www.rawafund.org) to join our mailing list and follow us on social media. Amplify the voices of support for Palestinian communities by re-posting, commenting, and sharing—**do you have 26 friends you can share this #SupportThe26** campaign with over email and/or social media?

#### Contribute

Your donation—we suggest **\$26, \$260, or \$2,600** for **#SupportThe26**—goes directly toward the first round of grants in spring 2019. Donate now at [www.rawafund.org](http://www.rawafund.org) via our US fiscal sponsor (Middle East Children's Alliance) or contact [colleen@rawafund.org](mailto:colleen@rawafund.org) for additional options.

#### Join the Rawa Family

Rawa Fund is built on the value of social capital and connection between people. Email us at [info@rawafund.org](mailto:info@rawafund.org) if you want to: organize a fundraiser; introduce us to people we should know, volunteer or inquire about joining our tea

*“Rawa’s leadership is grounded in a blend of philanthropic know-how and community. Its participatory structure...has exciting potential to shift outcomes.”*

- Jen Bokoff, Foundation Center

رَوَا

صُنْدُوقُ  
المَبَادِرَاتِ  
المَجْتَمَعِيَّةِ  
الفَلَسْطِينِيَّةِ  
المَبْدُوعَةِ

رَوَا  
RAWA

Creative Palestinian Communities Fund

Palestinian grassroots-led development  
Part of a movement to **#shiftthepower**  
to communities