



THE LATIN PATRIARCHATE OF JERUSALEM

Conclusion Report

Upgrading and Restoring LP School in Taybeh

GA 391/23



General Administration
Projects Management Unit
March 2025

Background

Nestled in the heart of the West Bank, 30 kilometers from Jerusalem, lies the village of Taybeh. Perched at an elevation of 920 meters between biblical Samaria and Judea, this ancient settlement commands stunning views of the desert wilderness, Jordan Valley, Jericho, and the Dead Sea. Dating back to the Bronze Age, Taybeh is referenced in the Old Testament as Ofra and is identified as Ephraim, where Jesus sought refuge with his disciples before his Passion. The village's rich Christian heritage is evident in the ruins of the original Church of St. George, built by the Byzantines in the 5th century and later reconstructed by the Crusaders in the 12th century, which stands on the eastern outskirts. Today, Taybeh holds the unique distinction of being Palestine's only entirely Christian village, with its 1,300 residents maintaining their faith despite being surrounded by Muslim villages, Israeli settlements, and military checkpoints. The community takes particular pride in their cultural heritage, expressed through their vibrant folklore group and choir.

Education has been central to Taybeh's development since 1869, when the Latin Patriarchate established its second school in the village. Initially separated into boys' (25 students) and girls' (15 students) divisions, the school became co-educational in 1966. A significant milestone was reached in 1978 when it expanded to include secondary education, opening its doors to students from neighboring villages. The modern facility now spans two floors and features dedicated spaces for sports, including basketball, volleyball, and handball courts. The school provides comprehensive education from kindergarten through secondary levels, offering both literary and scientific streams. The current faculty consists of 37 teachers, complemented by two religious sisters who oversee religious education. Students have access to a well-equipped library housing over 1,500 volumes in both English and Arabic, reflecting the school's commitment to bilingual education and academic excellence.

Project Description

For many years, Taybeh School struggled with inadequate and unsafe outdoor recreational facilities that failed to meet the basic needs of its student body. The deteriorating playground conditions resulted in numerous accidents and injuries among children, raising serious concerns among parents, teachers, and school administrators. The existing facilities lacked proper safety surfacing, adequate fall zones around equipment, and sufficient space for organized sports activities.

The Latin Patriarchate recognized that this deficiency was particularly problematic during an era when children were increasingly drawn to sedentary activities, especially with the proliferation of smartphones and social media usage. Educational research had consistently demonstrated that outdoor play and physical activity were fundamental to students' holistic development, contributing significantly to their cognitive growth, physical health, social skills, and emotional stability.

In response to these challenges, the Latin Patriarchate developed a comprehensive renovation proposal. The plan aimed to transform the existing space into a modern, multi-purpose recreational area that would:

- Install impact-absorbing surfaces to prevent injury
- Create designated areas for different age groups
- Incorporate innovative play structures that encouraged both physical activity and creative play
- Establish proper drainage systems to prevent water accumulation
- Add adequate lighting for evening activities
- Install safety barriers and protective fencing

The renovation initiative was particularly crucial given Taybeh School's role as a community hub. Beyond serving its student population, the school functioned as a vital community center, hosting various activities including cultural events and festivals, scout training programs, religious gatherings and prayer services, community sports tournaments, family recreation activities, youth development programs and educational workshops.

The deteriorating playground conditions had limited the school's ability to fulfill this broader community role effectively. Local families, particularly those with young children, had fewer options for safe, supervised outdoor activities. This situation was especially challenging during weekends and holiday periods when community gathering spaces were most needed.

This endeavour represented both an infrastructure improvement project and an investment in the community's social fabric and the physical and mental well-being of its youth. The planned upgrades were designed to create a safe, engaging environment that would encourage children to reduce screen time and increase their participation in physical activities, while simultaneously strengthening community bonds through shared recreational spaces.

The project included the following works:

Site Preparation and Infrastructure:

- Demolition of existing unsafe structures and surface materials
- Extensive excavation and ground leveling operations
- Professional removal and disposal of construction debris
- Installation of new drainage systems, including replacement of aging rainwater pipes
- Implementation of underground electrical and plumbing infrastructure
- Preparation of stable basecourse foundation for new installations

Structural Development:

- Construction of reinforced concrete foundations meeting international safety standards
- Installation of architecturally designed staircases with proper rise-to-run ratios
- Creation of decorative stone basins and integrated seating areas
- Implementation of traditional Palestinian stone masonry and cladding
- Application of protective stone sealants and weatherproofing treatments
- Installation of proper substrate and gravel bedding for tiling systems

Utilities and Essential Services:

- Installation of modern plumbing systems with water-saving features
- Implementation of safety lighting throughout the facility
- Installation of security doors and access points
- Construction of ADA-compliant handrails and safety barriers

Sports Facilities Enhancement:

- Complete rehabilitation of the main playground surface
- Installation of professional-grade basketball facilities including regulation-height basketball stands with breakaway rims, fiberglass backboards and non-slip court surface treatment
- Professional court painting, marking and striping.

Support Facilities:

- Construction of modern bathroom facilities including all mechanical and electrical requirements

Aesthetic Improvements and Finishing:

- Gardening and landscaping works
- Application of weather-resistant exterior paint
- Replacement of deteriorated wooden elements
- Installation of decorative lighting features
- Final surface treatments and protective coatings

Quality Assurance Measures:

- All work performed according to international safety standards
- Materials selected for durability and low maintenance
- Regular quality control inspections during construction
- Environmental impact considerations in material selection
- Implementation of proper drainage and erosion control measures
- Adherence to local building codes and regulations

Beneficiaries

The project will directly benefit the school students and kindergarten of Taybeh (394 students), the youth and the parishioners that will all enjoy a safe and appropriately furnished playground for the different social and sports activities in a Christian environment and puts enormous positive impacts on their physical and cognitive development and learning (1,300 parishioners).

Financial Summary

Project Name
**Upgrading and restoring the playground at Al-Taybeh Latin Patriarchate
School - Palestine**

Project Code
30138

Reported Period
Expectation Period

05/11/2023 - 28/02/2025
05/11/2023 - 28/02/2025

Currency
USD

Project Statement of Activity

<u>Donations</u>		
	Grand Magesterium - German Lieutenancy	\$74,352
	Total	\$74,352

<u>Expenditures</u>		
	Civil Works	\$64,827
	Electrical Works	\$4,396
	Management & Supervision	\$5,129
	Total	\$74,352
	Surplus/Deficit	\$0

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Director of Finance



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Chief Executive Officer



Budget VS Expenditures

Project Name

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Project Code

30138

Reported Period

05/11/2023 - 28/02/2025

Expectation Period

05/11/2023 - 28/02/2025

Project Budget VS Expenditure

Currency

USD

Donations				
		Actual	Budgeted	Variance
	Grand Magesterium - German Lieutenancy	\$74,352	\$69,375	-\$4,977
	Total	\$74,352	\$69,375	-\$4,977

Expenditures				
	Civil Works	\$64,827	\$68,681	\$3,854
	Electrical Works	\$4,396	\$694	-\$3,702
	Management & Supervision	\$5,129	\$0	-\$5,129
	Total	\$74,352	\$69,375	-\$4,977
	Surplus/Deficit	\$0	\$0	



Sau El-Yousef



Before



During



After





LATIN PATRIARCHATE
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