



International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC)

Institutional Profile



2019

GENERAL INFORMATION

Full name: International Peace and Cooperation Center (IPCC)

Legal Status: A non-governmental non-profit organization

Date of registration: 03/08/1999

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About IPCC

IPCC is a Palestinian NGO, policy research think tank, and an expert in urban planning and development that has been established in East Jerusalem since 1998. Through years of experience, IPCC has gained a comprehensive understanding of the urban planning process from the technical, political, and legal aspects. IPCC's aim is to enhance the capabilities of Palestinians so that they are able to meet the challenges of building a democratic and participatory civil society, and support the development of a highly informed, competent, and active Palestinian civil society capable of defending its social, economic and political rights. Towards achieving this goal, IPCC has developed and employed an integrated approach comprising of research, urbanism, as well as community engagement and training.

Mode of Operation

Our work is carried out through the implementation of the following activities: developing visions, options, policies, plans and priorities seeking to shape concepts regarding public agenda that support the political, social and economic transformation processes; and, building capacities and empowerment of local communities seeking to shift the Palestinian society away from conflict and towards peace and democracy.

In executing projects, IPCC typically partners with other stakeholders in Palestine's future. They include: NGOs, civil society and community based organizations in Palestine. Additionally, we link with international organizations that are interested in peace in the Middle East, as well as in other areas of conflict resolution.

Goals

- Shape public agenda(s) that support urban transformation of the Palestinian society and enhance its civil participatory culture.
- Function in a leadership and advisory role in urban planning, community development, and urban leadership training.
- Support the urban rights of Palestinians in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank.

Strategy

IPCC's strategy is premised on two main components: the right to participation and supporting the development of a Palestinian public agenda.

Right to Participation. IPCC is the first Palestinian organization to initiate an urban planning process that is envisioned, implemented, and guided through Palestinian planners, architects, and engineers in East Jerusalem and area c of the West Bank. IPCC is the first to consider and integrate proper and real public participation with Palestinian involvement in urban planning, and has thus become a known and respected actor in the Palestinian communities in area c and East Jerusalem.

IPCC has been supporting and training civil society, community activists, informal leaders and businessmen at the national and local level through a variety of programs. IPCC has organized workshops and provided courses on critical topics of urban development, including planning concepts such as public space, planning processes, local development, community awareness, lobbying, pressure groups, integrity and transparency.

PARTNERS

Local/regional:

Local councils, joint services councils, municipalities, grassroots organizations, and civil society organizations

National:

Ministry of Local Governments (MoLG)

International:

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), UNDP, UN -Habitat, UNDF, Zurich Institute of Technology, Cambridge University, University College London, and Folke Bernadotte Academy.

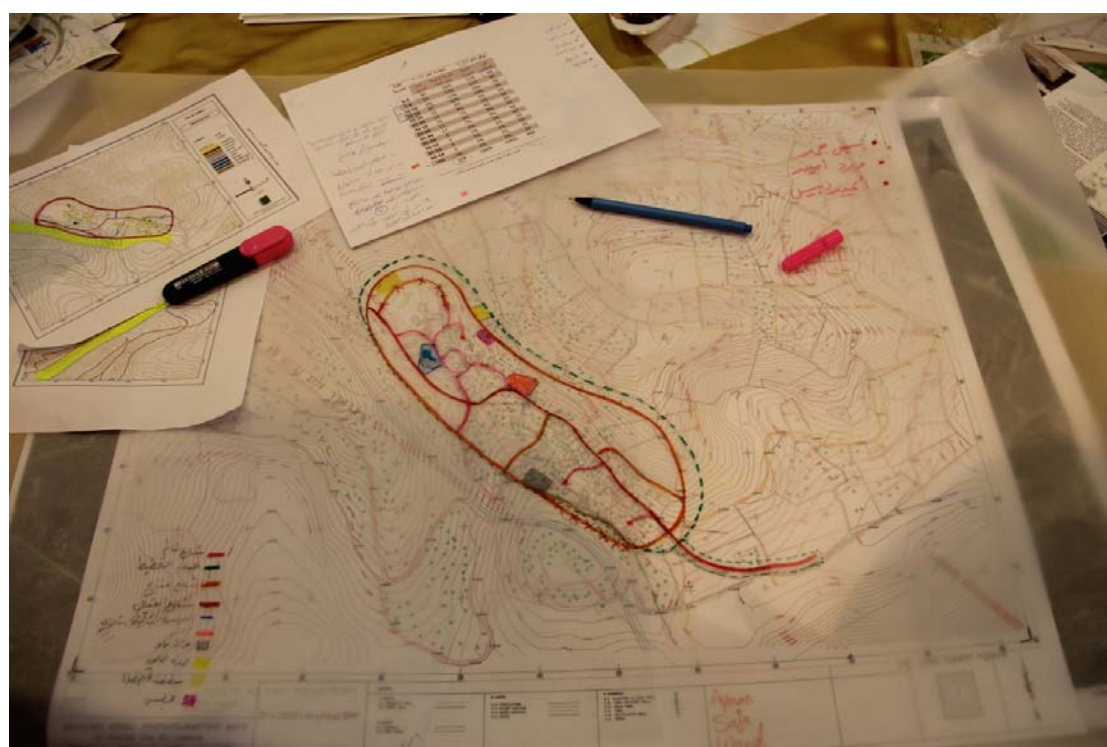
IPCC PROGRAMS: ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Urban Research

IPCC has been working on urban issues since its inception, beginning with research and advocacy projects. IPCC has been monitoring the urban, political, economic, geographic, and social developments in Jerusalem and the West Bank for over a decade. The organization's database consists of books, policy and position papers, maps and images, and guidelines for sector development. Focus issues include demography, urban function and management, land-use and land ownership, housing demand, spatial design, economic development, environmental quality and transportation networks. IPCC today has 24 publications, 18 of which belong to a series on Jerusalem Strategic Planning. Publications include thorough analyses on East Jerusalem's urban and social fabrics, Israeli urban policies carried out in Jerusalem, and the geopolitical scenarios concerning Jerusalem. This is in relation to our local population projections and growth expectations, housing needs, available lands in each neighborhood, and margins/potential for development.

Urban Planning Program

IPCC has formed the first multidisciplinary Palestinian planning team to deal with strategic and urban planning issues in East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank. IPCC's network of planners, architects, and engineers, as well as its extensive database has enabled the organization to implement work in physical planning, zoning and development.



East Jerusalem

Through projects funded by the EU, the British Consulate General in Jerusalem, and the Government of Belgium, IPCC has engaged in planning interventions and development in 18 neighborhoods in East Jerusalem. These projects have enabled us to establish community planning programs by creating physical plans at the outline and detailed levels. In total, IPCC outline planning helped to freeze

5,000 demolition orders against residential units, and has also enabled the potential for developing about 4,500 new residential units in East Jerusalem. IPCC has also succeeded in gaining approval from the Jerusalem Municipality to open files for 6 neighborhoods.

Our partnerships and affiliations with FES, MEPI, and the Finnish government have empowered IPCC to conduct support activities such as training workshops for young architects, planners, lawyers, and civil society leaders, as well as creating multiple urban design studios. Further, our partners have provided consulting support enabling us to publish reports on various matters.

The main accomplishments of IPCC in East Jerusalem are demonstrated by **the approval that was granted by the Jerusalem Municipality to change land-use in five areas from “green” status (where building is prohibited) to development areas under the Jerusalem Master Plan of 2020**. These areas include: Ein Al-Lozeh and As-Sawahreh Al-Gharbiyeh (north-east Jerusalem), Ras Al-Amud and Al-Mintar (south-east Jerusalem), Al-Addasseh (north-west Jerusalem), and Khallet Al-Ein (east Jerusalem).



Area C

Through the many projects funded by the EU, the British Consulate General in Jerusalem, the French Consulate, the Belgium Government, and the Department for International Development (DFID), IPCC is engaged in urban planning interventions in 78 localities in Area C. The projects provide planning programs and physical plans at the outline and detailed level. In total, IPCC has frozen demolition orders for against 10,000 residential units, and has enabled the potential for the development of around 15,000 new residential units in Area C. **IPCC has also succeeded in gaining approval from the Israeli Civil**

Administration (ICA) for 5 master plans, which include Imneizel, Wadi An-Nis, Khirbet Ras Al-Tireh and Ad-Dab'a, Tinnik, and Izbet Tabib localities. **Additionally, there are 12 other plans that are at an advanced stage.**

Through our affiliations with FES, UNDEF, and the French Consulate, IPCC has been able to conduct training programs, raise awareness of council members, and prepare reports regarding Palestinian Bedouins situated in the E1 area, as well as planning in Area C (which have been published through support from FES).

Public Space Implementation

IPCC implemented two projects: a kindergarten in Jiftlik, and a playground in Fasayil.

Awareness and Training Programs

Training and capacity-building of Palestinian professionals through awareness-raising workshops, meetings, and open days are of the most important keys to the success and sustainability of IPCC's efforts in addressing urban challenges in East Jerusalem. IPCC aims to empower local Palestinian communities to defend their urban rights through awareness-raising campaigns. Awareness-raising activities include community consultations, meetings with landowners, public awareness



campaigns in several neighborhoods in East Jerusalem and Area C, arranging open days where IPCC's experts provide solutions to planning-related problems, holding workshops for local councils on how to plan their localities, as well as training and capacity-building of professionals in architecture, urban planning, and law.

To date, more than 5,000 community members have engaged in activities organized by IPCC.

Urban Design Studio

IPCC established a design studio to provide expert urban design services for planning projects in East Jerusalem, with a particular focus on housing and open public space.

The studio offers training programs for young local Palestinian professionals and students specialized in the fields of architecture, planning, and urban design by engaging them with international professionals and students at leading universities and world-renowned architecture firms.

The design studio develops partnerships with leading international institutions involved in urban issues, in order to share and disseminate knowledge and practical experience in planning, urban design, and education.

Urban design studios have become a tool adopted by IPCC in order to empower the local community, strengthen their sense of right to the city, and to create alternative physical plans.

Thus far, 8 design studios have been held by IPCC.



PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED BY IPCC SINCE 2017

SPACES OF HOPE:

Neighborhood Open Space (NOS) in East Jerusalem (Beit Hanina + Silwan) (2017-2018) Funded by the Community Resilience and Development Programme (CRDP)

The aim of this project was to build a playground with facilities and activity spaces for all age groups, including for the different activity levels of the local community in the neighborhood of Beit Hanina. The Beit Hanina Local Charitable and Educational Association (BLCEA) had donated a piece of land for this project.



This project also offered the immediate rehabilitation of a playground in the neighborhood of Silwan.



FACTS ON THE GROUND: COMMUNITY PROJECTS FOR PALESTINIANS IN EAST JERUSALEM (2018-2020)

Funded by the EU

The main aim of these projects is to support the capacity of the community to enhance their living space and advance their urban rights through advocacy campaigns, interactive training, and community initiatives.

During the first year of the project, IPCC implemented a city park in Beit Hanina, a park in Silwan, and an urban axis and public space between the neighborhoods of Jabal Al-Mukabber and Silwan.



“YOUTH FOR CHANGE AGENTS: BUILDING CAPACITIES TO DEFINE PUBLIC SPACE IN PALESTINE“(2017-2019)

Funded by UNDEF

The project seeks to address the problem of low participation and recognition of local youth in the decision-making processes in the West Bank, specifically in shaping the design of urban and rural public space, through capacity-building trainings, social audits, and small-scale community initiatives.

Through this project, 11 groups have been created where each group has worked on community initiatives designing 11 public spaces in the north, central, and southern West Bank, in which the 3 best projects chosen will be implemented on the ground.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

2050 Strategic Plan: Between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River (2017)

2050 Strategic Plan: Between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River report was jointly prepared by Palestinian and Israeli teams. After working together for nearly three years (from April 2014 to March 2017), both teams came to realize the crucial need for such a plan for the region.

By 2050, the population in this area will have grown from 13 million in 2016 to between 24 to 32 million. This growth in population will eventually lead to heavy pressure on public resources and the environment, and will compel the two parties to cooperate on issues critical to both groups.

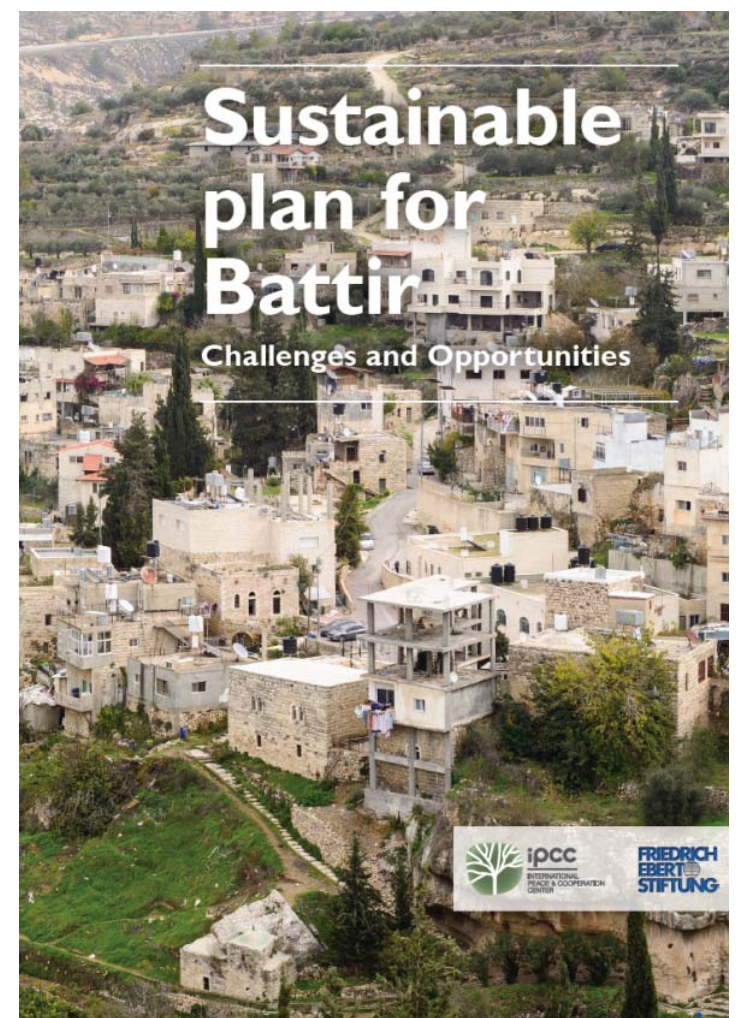
Furthermore, this cooperation will provide support for a political solution, initially by providing the incentives that pave the road towards this solution and, subsequently, after the agreement is signed, by providing dividends that will ensure that the two-state solution is sustainable. This strategic plan for the year 2050 is a bottoms-up initiative.



Sustainable Plan for Battir: Challenges and Opportunities (2018)

Supported by FES

The main aim of this study was to create a comprehensive plan in an environmentally sustainable way for the village of Battir based on a participatory approach that included the different social, economic, cultural, and environmental aspects in order to achieve comprehensive development lines that are capable of revitalizing, preserving, and improving the quality of the whole area of Battir village. Further, to increase international investment and local community support and awareness about the importance of implementing such sustainably developmental plans.



Conflict in Jerusalem: Urbanism, Planning and Resilience: Palestinian Community Initiatives to Promote Urban Rights (2018)

Supported by FES

This report has shed light on Israeli policy in East Jerusalem, including parts of the West Bank that were annexed to Jerusalem in compliance with Israeli law, and in violation of international humanitarian law, to document the urban history of Jerusalem since the 19th century, as well as the role of the Arabs, Jews and Christian Europeans in the emergence of the current city.

This report has also reviewed the legal status of East Jerusalem, as well as reviewed and analyzed the current structural plans under examination by Israeli planning authorities. It also documents IPCCs planning experiences, challenges and lessons learned during their work in urban planning, since commencing work in 2007.

