



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

Ramallah Office

PRESS RELEASE

2018/18

Ramallah, 6 December 2018

Celebration of the rehabilitation of Amer School in the Old Town of Hebron



Hebron, 6 December 2018 – Today, the end of the rehabilitation works and the opening of the “Amer School” in the Old Town of Hebron was celebrated by school students and their parents, residents of the city and its institutions, including the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, the Hebron Rehabilitation Committee and the Municipality of Hebron.

The Amer School was rehabilitated within the framework of the project “*Local Development through the Rehabilitation and Revitalization of Historic Environment in Palestine*”, funded by the Government of Sweden and implemented by UNESCO. This historic building, which dates back to 18th century, has been restored to provide children from grade one to eight with a safe and suitable learning environment, and contribute to improving their access to education. Moreover, the project contributed to the preservation of a historical complex located in the center of the Old Town.

Preserving this historical building will contribute to improving the quality of life of the Old Town. The opening of the school will significantly enhance the socio-economic situation of the neighbourhood through the generation of permanent employment opportunities for teachers and other school staff, in addition to a considerable number of temporary job opportunities set-up during the implementation of the rehabilitation works.



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H.E. Sabri Saidam, the Minister of Education and Higher Education, expressed his pride of establishing this school in the heart of the Old Town of Hebron, assuring that *the Ministry will continue to provide spaces of hope to improve the quality of education in Palestine.*

Mr. Jibreen Al-Bakri, the Governor of Hebron, thanked the partners and stakeholders for their support and contribution in the rehabilitation of this important project, *especially the Amer family, who offered the property for rehabilitation and public use.* He called upon other residents of Hebron *to take inspiration from this project and donate their abandoned historic buildings to institutions that can bring life back to them.*

Mr. Junaid Sorosh-Wali, Head of Culture Unit of the UNESCO Ramallah Office, said that *because of its rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, the historic building being used now as a school is a perfect representation of UNESCO's mission and principles, in which the support to education and the protection of cultural heritage are integrated and combined,* he added.

The *Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town* was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in July 2017. More information about the site is available at <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1565>

For more information on UNESCO's activities in Palestine, please visit www.unesco.org/ramallah and visit us on : [Unesco Ramallah Office](https://www.facebook.com/UnescoRamallahOffice)

For more information on this event, please contact: Junaid Sorosh-Wali, Head of the Culture Unit at the UNESCO Ramallah Office, at j.sorosh@unesco.org