

Al-Shabaka Annual Report

Spring 2023—Spring 2024



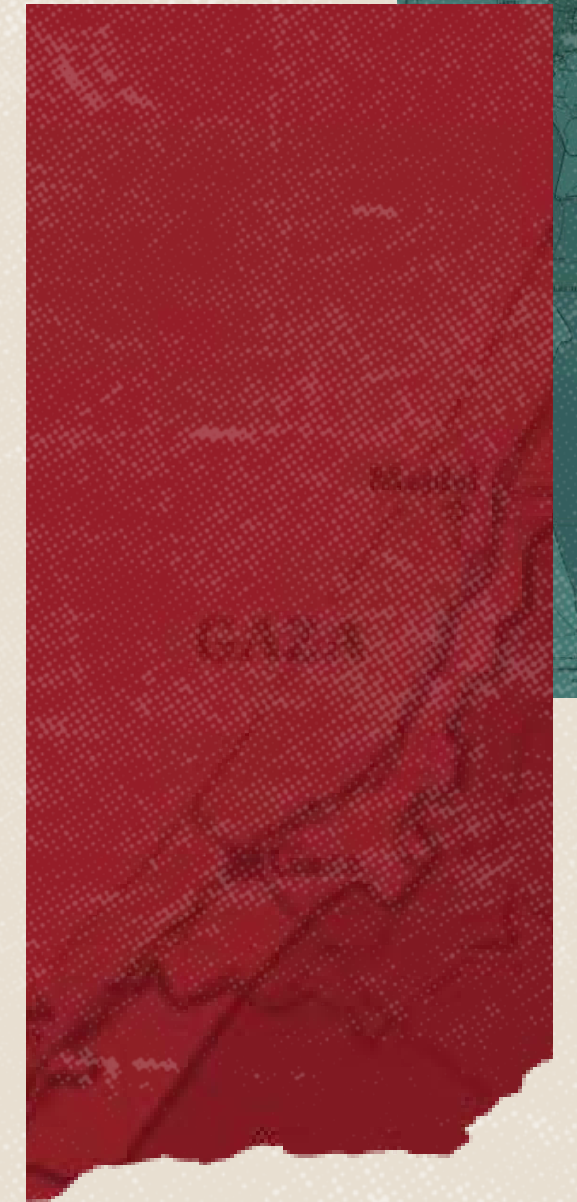
Table of Contents

<u>2</u>	<u>A Year of Unprecedented Loss and Solidarity.</u>
<u>5</u>	<u>Mission & Vision</u>
<u>6</u>	<u>Who We Are</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>Institutional Shifts</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>Analysis</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>Outreach</u>
<u>12</u>	<u>A Post-October 7th World</u>
<u>17</u>	<u>Financials</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>Our Valued Supporters</u>

A Year of Unprecedented Loss and Solidarity

The past 11 months have been unprecedented as Palestinians in Gaza face the first live-streamed genocide in history, with Israel unleashing horrific violence aimed at obliterating Palestinian life in all its forms. The staggering death toll of Palestinians, the majority of whom are civilians, has proceeded alongside the destruction of hospitals, mosques, churches, graveyards, schools, bakeries and other infrastructure of daily life. The murder of writers and scholars has amounted to "scholasticide," the killing of children has turned Gaza into "a graveyard for children," and the utter destruction of the environment has precipitated an "ecocide." On Gaza, Israel and its allies are experimenting with the means to obliterate unwanted populations.

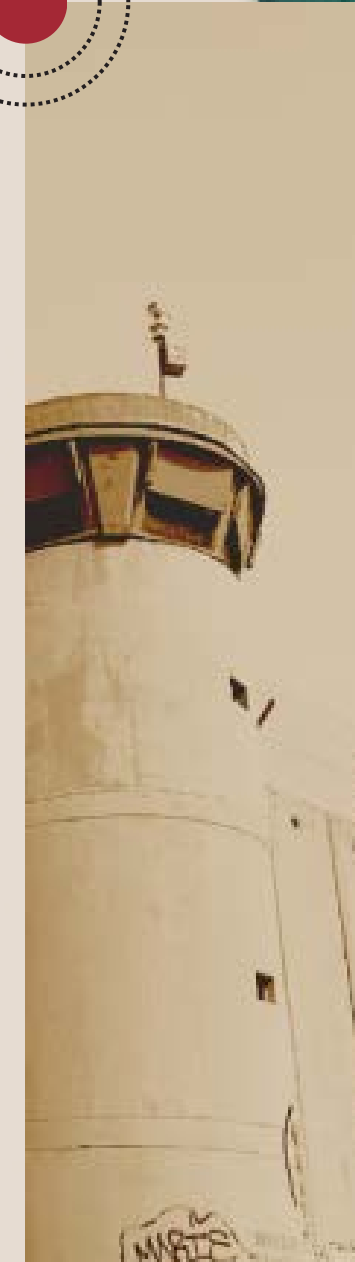
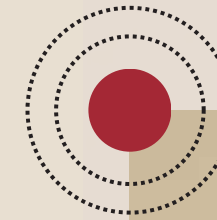
Palestinians have long understood that the success of Zionism is predicated on their erasure as a people. The ongoing Nakba has, for the past 76 years, shown how every Palestinian encounter with Zionism is one fraught with the possibility of death, expulsion, incarceration, and general oppression. Israel's current genocidal violence against Palestinians in Gaza is the logical endpoint of settler-colonialism. While this continues in its various manifestations against Palestinian communities wherever they exist, across Palestine and abroad, the obscene violence in Gaza is where the nature of Zionism can be seen most clearly.



Where Gaza is the laboratory for the powerful, it is also the epicenter of resistance to oppression—and it has mobilized the globe. On the one hand, institutions of international law and governance—the UN, the ICC, the ICJ—have been more forthcoming than ever before in their denunciation of Israeli violence. Allies such as South Africa, Colombia, Namibia, and Ireland, among others, have acted in admirable solidarity with the Palestinian people through the use of international law mechanisms.

The mass mobilization of people globally has reaffirmed that the cause of Palestine continues to be one that is central to multitudes—and that Palestine is deeply intertwined with other causes for liberation and justice. It is difficult to deny today that there can be no path for decolonization and justice on the global level without a free Palestine. The movement for isolating Israel and turning it into a pariah apartheid state is stronger than it has ever been.

On the other hand, many states—particularly in the West—remain unabashed about their support for Israel. The US is an active participant in this genocide. Countries such as Germany and the UK horrifically justify the mass death of Palestinian civilians while taking measures against their own people to suppress dissent and democratic opposition. Academic institutions like Columbia and Harvard, newspapers such as the New York Times, and cultural institutions including PEN America have all undermined their own commitments to liberal values—including free speech—to stifle support for Palestinians and maintain an agenda that is nakedly pro-Israel.



The struggle for Palestinian liberation has become the lightning rod for a global conversation about rights, justice, and freedom, and what these values mean not just for Palestinians, but for everyone.

In that sense, the responsibility of Palestinians themselves has never been greater. We are facing an existential battle. In terms of casualties, this genocide has far surpassed the Nakba. We should be under no illusion that the end goal of the Zionist project is to finish the job that began more than a century ago. Our duty now is not solely one of self-defense, but rather of pushing through this historic rupture to advance our project of liberation—for Palestinians, and for a more just global order.

The work of organizations like Al-Shabaka—those that center Palestinian voices, push for a decolonial agenda, challenge the injustice embedded in the frameworks of policymaking and international law, hold themselves accountable to Palestinians, and convene them in spaces where they can advance a political sensibility that can hold the movement—is crucial. At this moment of unfathomable grief, we recommit to our mission, and to advancing the struggle to bring justice to every victim of Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Tareq Baconi

Al-Shabaka Board President



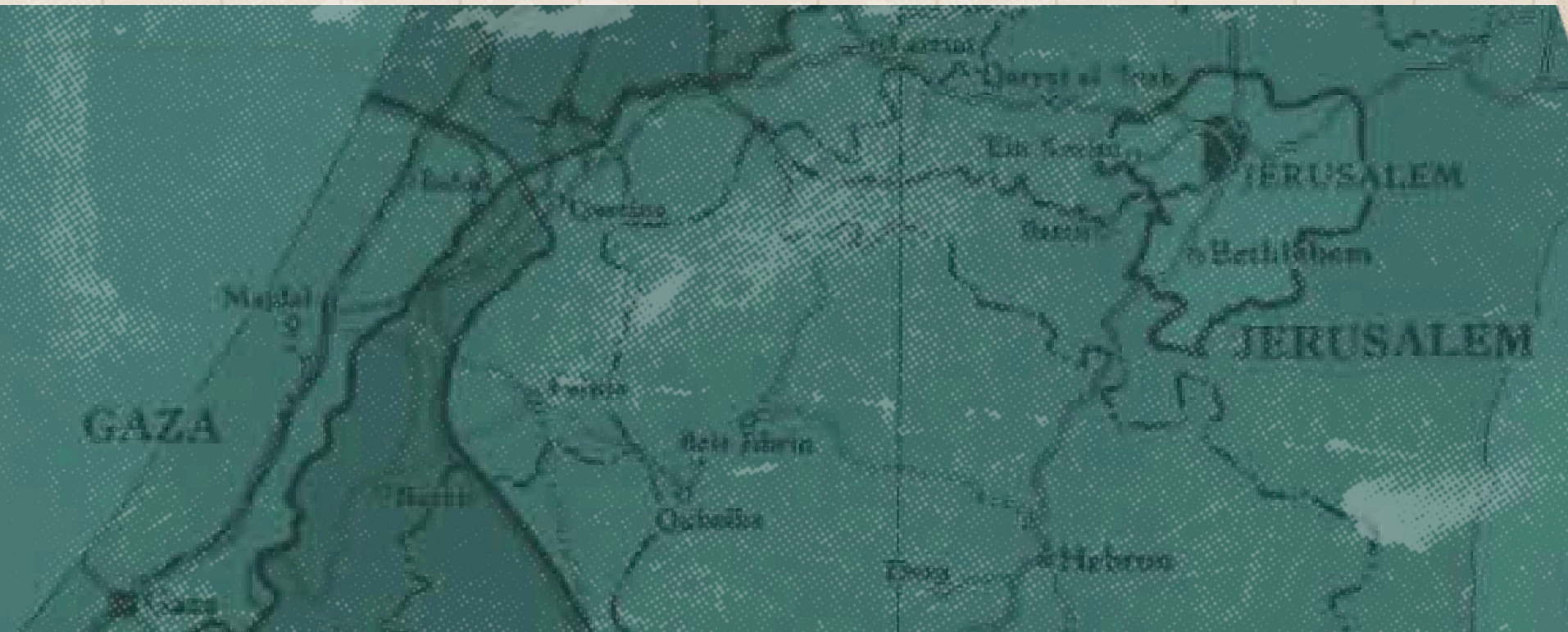
MISSION & VISION

Our Mission

Al-Shabaka convenes a multidisciplinary, global network of Palestinian analysts to produce critical policy analysis and collectively imagine a new policymaking paradigm for Palestine and Palestinians worldwide.

Our Vision

We envision the Palestinian people articulating and determining the contours of a liberated future.



WHO WE ARE



MEGAN DRISCOLL
Co-Director



MOHAMMED HAMARSHA
Communications
Specialist



YARA HAWARI
Co-Director



HANAN HUSEIN
Member & Communications
Coordinator



TARIQ KENNEY-SHAWA
US Policy Fellow



FATHI NIMER
Palestine Policy Fellow



SAINATEE SUAREZ
Finance &
Administration Officer



LAURA THOMAS
Development Manager



ALAA TARTIR
Policy Advisor



INSTITUTIONAL SHIFTS

The past year saw a number of institutional growth points for Al-Shabaka, each of which moved us into a more mission-driven position and into better alignment with our collective values.

Shared Leadership

Al-Shabaka transitioned into a shared leadership model in August 2023, with Managing Director Megan Driscoll and Senior Analyst Yara Hawari taking on the new roles of co-directors. Megan and Yara bring a combined 14 years of past work with Al-Shabaka into their new roles, including six years of collaboration with one another.

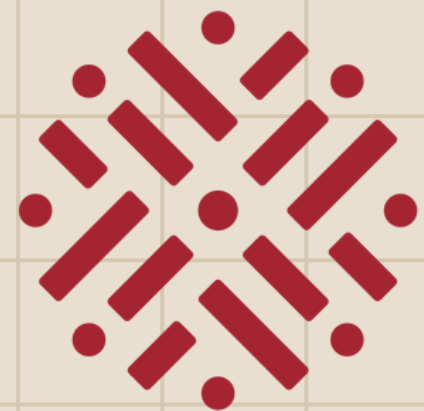
This move marks the first time in Al-Shabaka's history that the director role is shared among two individuals. It further speaks to the organization's continued evolution and commitment toward reimagining what leadership can look like outside the boundaries of dominant white-supremacist capitalist frameworks.



INSTITUTIONAL SHIFTS

A New Look for Al-Shabaka

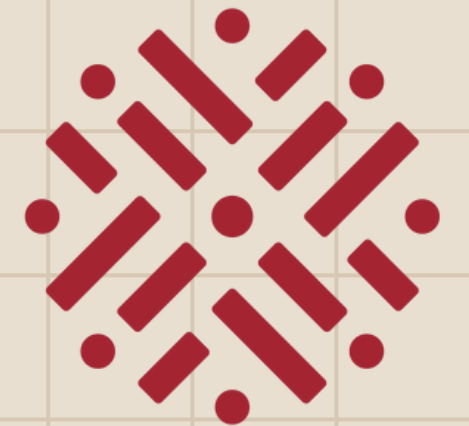
In March 2024, we proudly launched a new visual identity for Al-Shabaka—including refreshed branding and a new website. The end products were the result of a seven month-long endeavor to effectively integrate our revised institutional language into our current public image as a Palestinian-centered movement-based think tank. We also sought a more streamlined website to highlight the critical works of Palestinian analysts across the globe. The culmination of these efforts is a new look for the organization that centers our role as a hub for Palestinian strategic thinking and knowledge production in service of collective liberation.



Al-Shabaka

The Palestinian Policy Network

الشبكة
شبكة السياسات الفلسطينية



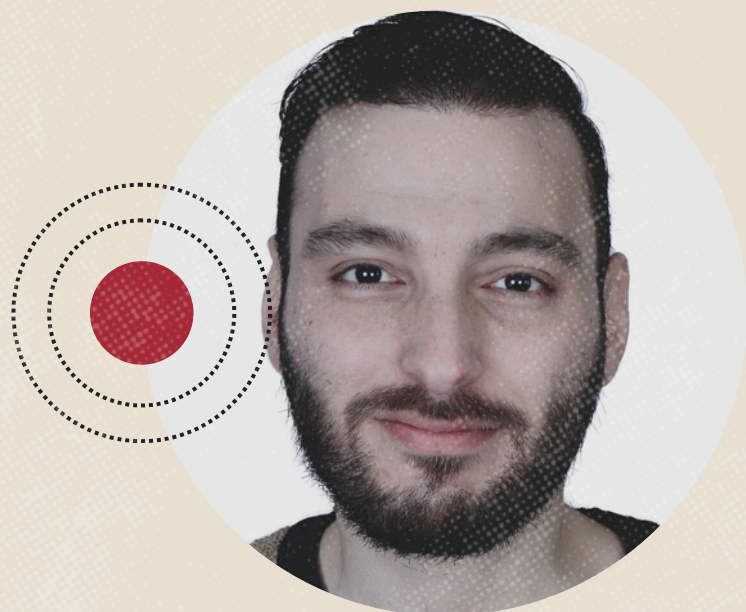
INSTITUTIONAL SHIFTS



New Additions

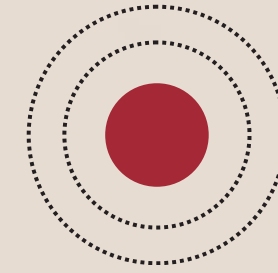
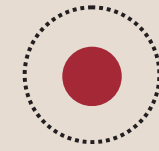
Thanks to funds raised in 2022, we recruited for two new positions within the organization.

[Hanan Husein](#) joined Al-Shabaka in May 2023 as our first-ever member and communication's coordinator. In this role, Hanan is responsible for stewarding our 200+ member policy network. To date, she has convened our monthly online member discussion group, organized skills training workshops for members, and reactivated Al-Shabaka's membership committee, among other feats.



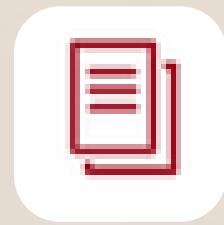
[Fathi Nimer](#) joined Al-Shabaka in August 2023 as our incoming Palestine policy fellow. Fathi brings a wealth of knowledge to the role, having previously worked with the Arab World for Research and Development, Birzeit University, and the Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies. Fathi is also the co-founder of DecolonizePalestine.com, a knowledge repository for the Palestinian question. His current research revolves around food sovereignty, agroecology, and the resistance economy in Palestine.

ANALYSIS



Publications

Over the past year, Al-Shabaka released **19 publications with contributions from over 40 analysts** from our network. Topics include liberal Zionism, Christian Zionism, Israeli disinformation, and UNRWA. In total, Al-Shabaka published four policy briefs, two policy memos, six commentaries, four roundtables, and three policy focuses.



Policy Briefs



Policy Memos



Policy Focuses



Commentaries



Roundtables



Scenario Matrix

OUTREACH



Al-Shabaka has published **six policy labs** and **12 podcasts** over the past year. Staff and members took part in **nine public events** and conducted **11 meetings and briefings** for diplomatic and civil society representatives. Al-Shabaka analysts have published **50 op-eds** and made **dozens of appearances** in global media outlets. Our publications have been cited in academic and scholarly journals and Al-Shabaka has been listed as a movement resource by both Palestinian and international institutions.



3.9m reached on
social media



Policy Labs



In the News

Al-Shabaka in a Post-October 7th World

Hamas's Al-Aqsa Flood operation on October 7th, 2023, followed by Israel's continuing genocidal assault on Gaza, has inescapably shifted the landscape of Palestine movement work—including for Al-Shabaka. The moment demanded a reordering of our strategic priorities, resources, and energies, and compelled us to reflect on the role of Al-Shabaka during this devastating time.

"The violence we've witnessed in 2023 is nothing more than the **unleashing of a brutality** that had always set the foundation for Israel's engagement with Palestinians generally, and **with those in Gaza specifically.**"

Tareq Baconi, Al-Shabaka Board President

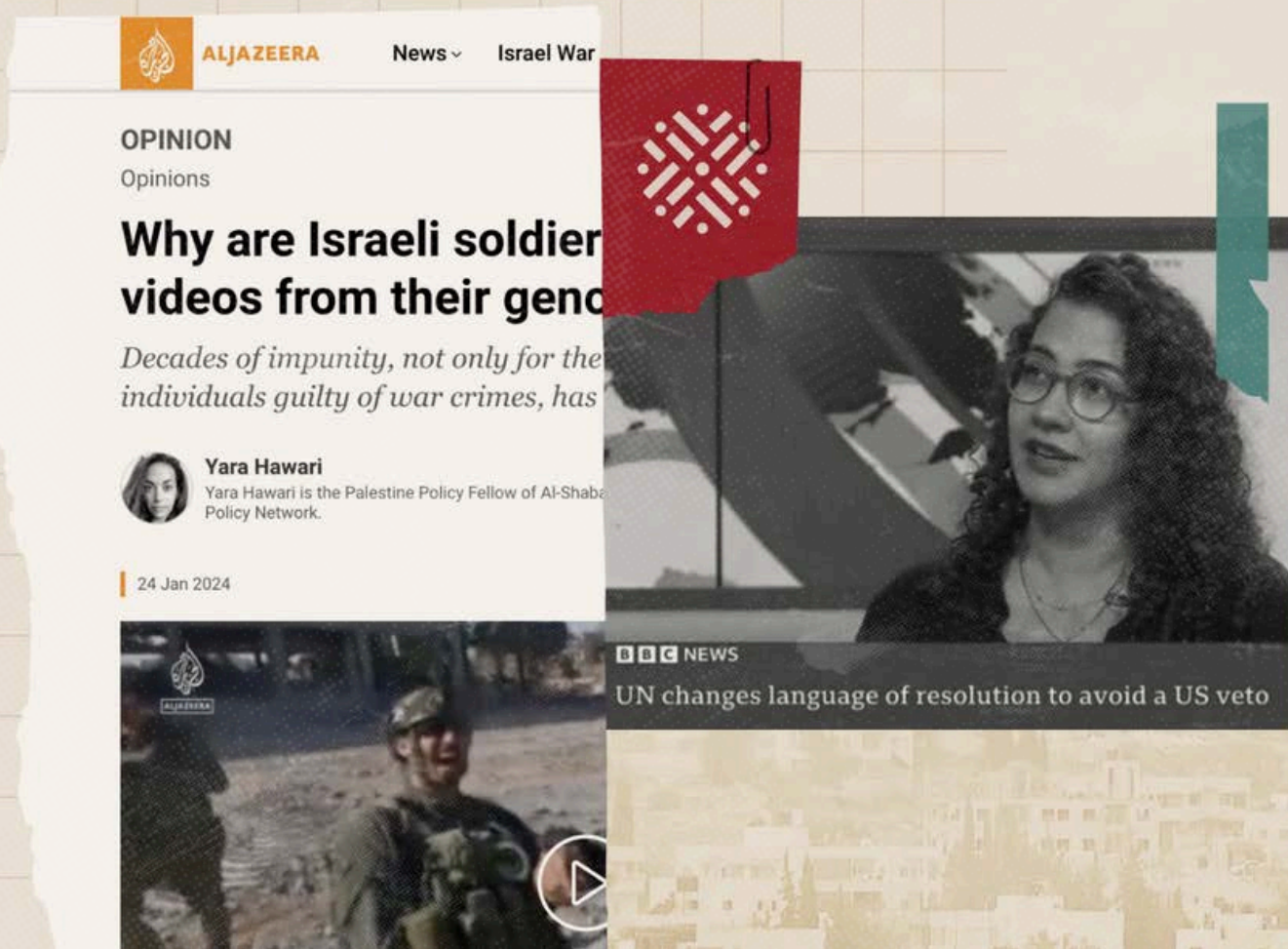


A POST-OCTOBER 7TH WORLD

Grounded Analysis

Immediately following October 7th, a key priority for Al-Shabaka was to challenge dominant anti-Palestinian narratives and anchor developments within the framework of [Israeli settler colonialism](#).

In the weeks following Al-Aqsa Flood, we produced a [syllabus](#) to help readers ground their understanding of the current moment within its proper historical context. Al-Shabaka Board President Tareq Baconi [examined](#) the Flood as a point of rupture for the partition framework, while US Policy Fellow Tariq Kenney-Shawa wrote of Israel's ongoing [disinformation campaign](#). Policy Member Shatha Abdulsamad also called for an end to the [tireless scapegoating](#) of UNRWA. In the early months of 2024, we likewise produced roundtable discussions on the [overlooked assault](#) on the West Bank as well as [rising tensions](#) between Israel and Iran.



A POST-OCTOBER 7TH WORLD



Media Engagement

Between October 2023 and January 2024 alone, Al-Shabaka analysts made 90 appearances across 55 different media outlets. We drew on the expertise of over 20 of our policy members throughout this time, who in turn spoke with news channels and publications across the US, UK, Canada, Chile, Turkey, Palestine, Greece, Kazakhstan, Serbia, France, Norway, Italy, Singapore, Brazil, and Australia.

Civil Society Outreach

Members of Al-Shabaka's policy network collaborated with an array of civil society groups and institutions to help broaden the reach of Palestinian analysis and strengthen the foundational knowledge of vital organizing efforts. These included numerous university convenings—including at Harvard University, the American University of Beirut, Georgetown University in Qatar, and the University of the Western Cape—as well as public events with grassroots initiatives.

A POST-OCTOBER 7TH WORLD



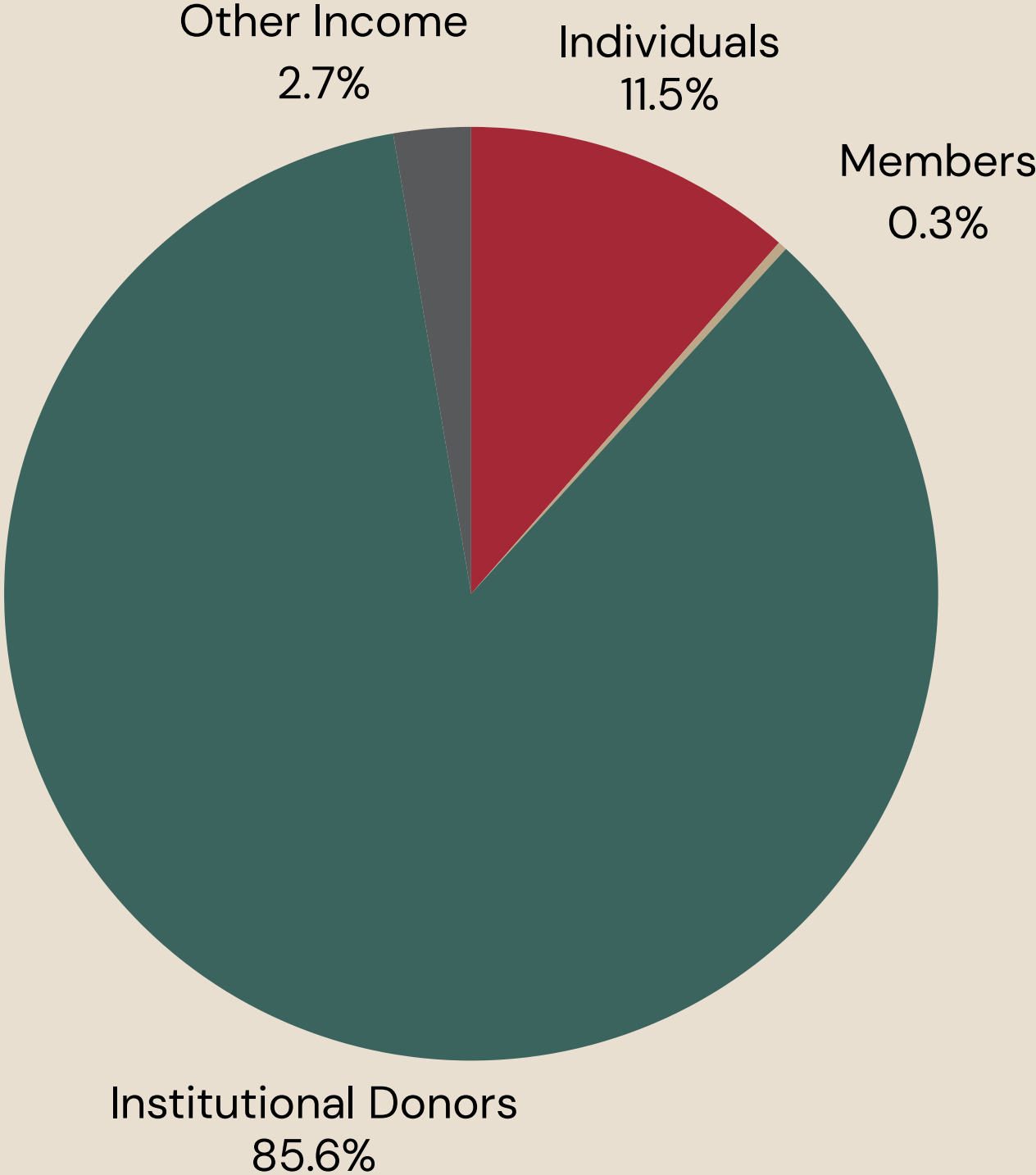
Additionally, Al-Shabaka organized a panel event at the 2024 Annual Palestine Forum, hosted by the Institute for Palestine Studies and the Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Doha, Qatar, in February, 2024. The panel, titled “Imagining a Palestinian Future,” was moderated by Co-Director Yara Hawari and included contributions from Al-Shabaka members Leila Farsakh, Muhannad Ayyash, and Nour Joudah. Yara also contributed to a keynote panel during the forum, presenting on media complicity in the Gaza genocide.

Serving Our Network

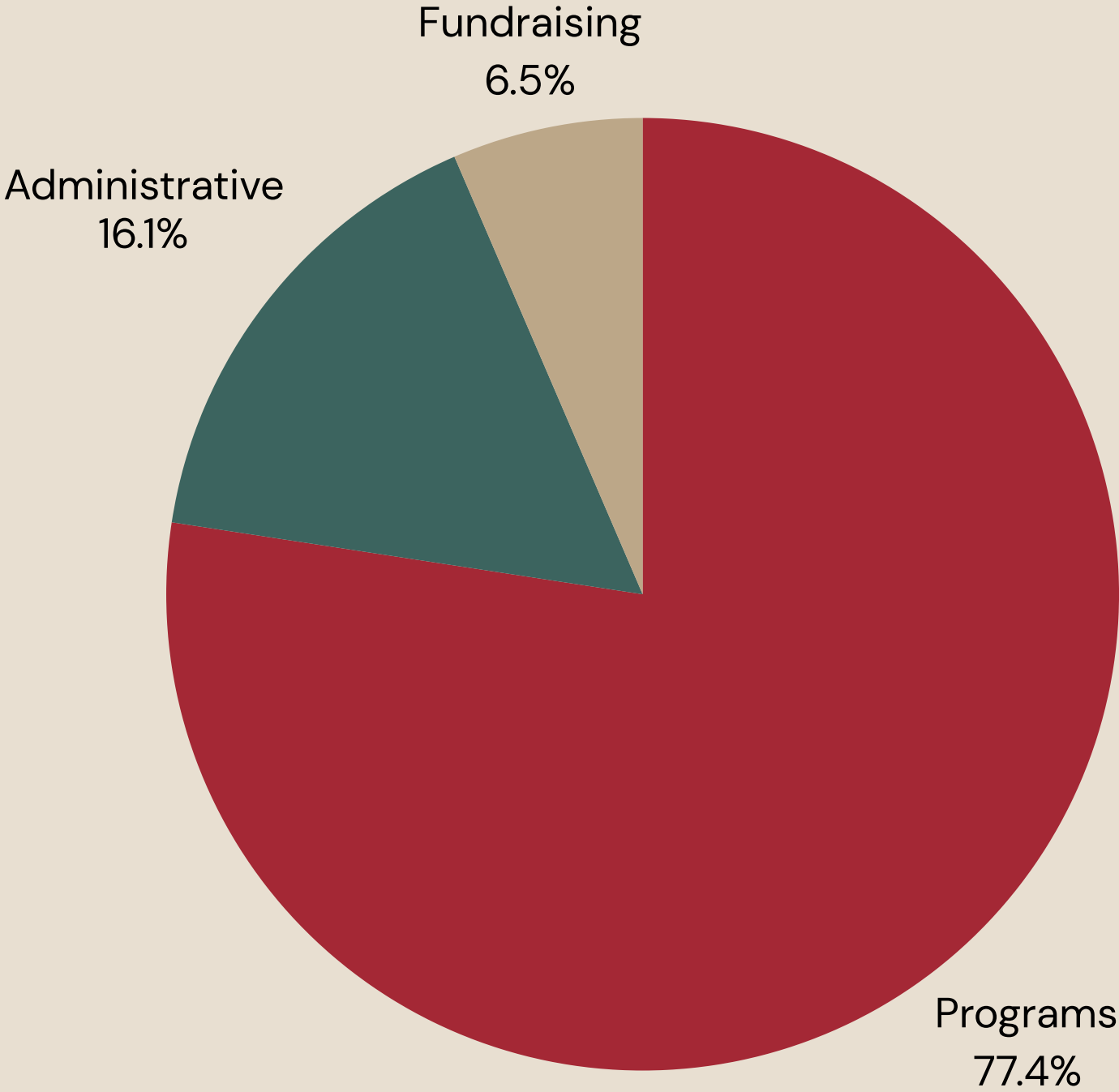
At the core of our work is a network of over 200 Palestinian analysts. During this remarkably difficult time, we sought to create recurring opportunities for our members to convene in a safe and private online space, in order to process and strategize together. We likewise organized a skills-building workshop for members, focused on broadcast media interviews in hostile environments, and hosted an in-person member gathering in Ramallah in April 2024.

FINANCIALS (FY2023)

Revenue



Expenses



OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS (FY 2023)

The Al-Shabaka staff and board express our deepest gratitude to the following supporters, as well as to those who wish to remain anonymous.

Institutional Funders

Foundation for Middle East Peace
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Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Open Society Foundations
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Aline Batarseh
Lynora Williams & Paul Chaat Smith
Iwan El Wann

Tareq Emtairah
Manal Fakhoury
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Frederick Hadeed
John Hargesheimer
Zaha Hassan
Nadia Hijab
Larry Hothem
Khaled Hroub
Wael Jabi
Usama Jacir

Brigitte Jaensch
George Khoury
Huda Kitmitto
Lara Langley
Omar Mahdawi, Hilda Dunn,
& Arwa Mahdawi
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Maha Nassar
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Mary Yelenick

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