

Tatweer

NGO Development Center

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مركز تطوير المؤسسات الأهلية الفلسطينية
NGO Development Center

A message from the Director



2010 marks NDC's fourth year of supporting and developing the Palestinian NGO sector. NDC is moving forward with greater efficiency and clearer views toward achieving the goals laid out in its strategic plan, developed for the upcoming five years. NDC's vision is focused on reaching an efficient Palestinian NGO sector which contributes toward the development of a sound civil society. It strives to do so by fulfilling its aspiration to become a key address for supporting and developing the NGO sector and its individual organizations. Thereby, it responds to community needs and provides quality services that adhere to Palestinian development priorities. NDC supports the NGO sector as it becomes more active and involved in creating policies and developmental plans, as well as oversees their implementation.

This newsletter reflects the Center's accomplishments and achievements over the past few months. During this time, we have been focusing on NDC's distinguished role in supporting NGOs in the Gaza Strip. NDC has consolidated its contribution in the area of rehabilitating, rebuilding and developing the Strip. It has also worked toward meeting increasing social needs through projects in specialized health care, agriculture, physiological and social services, and rehabilitation of persons with special needs. These actions complement additional activities being implemented by active local NGOs in Gaza, in regards to documenting human rights violations and advocating human rights principles, defending children's and women's rights, and enhancing youth participation in public life, and offering them platforms of self expression.

As part of its role in developing the NGO sector, NDC provides NGOs with the needed technical assistance; studies; and research, to enable the NGO sector to play a pro-active and influential role in Palestinian society. Thus, NDC launched the study "Tracking External Funds to Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations in the West Bank & Gaza 1999-2008" in order to shed the light on this aspect of NGO operations, since the sector relies heavily on donor support, which, in turn, threatens the sustainability of NGOs and the enhancement of their vital community role.

NDC hopes that the current political and economic situation will take an upturn and contribute toward the continuation of its active role in serving the NGOs sector while achieving its developmental goals. It also anticipates a continuation of the work and vision of its board of directors, its staff, beneficiary NGOs and donors in an effort to better serve the Palestinian community.



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43% of NDC's budget allocated to the Gaza Strip



Side of the ceremony.

US \$3 million for Gaza in Additional Funding

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NDC plays a leading role in supporting the NGO sector in Gaza and enhancing its efforts to reconstruct it. Indeed, NDC's vision is reflected in its constant and vital support to the NGOs in Gaza. To this end, NDC has signed 12 Grant Implementation Agreements amounting to US \$3 million, funded by the World Bank as additional financing for the Palestinian NGO III Project.

Eight of the projects fall under the Empowerment Grants, which supports NGOs with experience in providing social services to the poor and vulnerable. This is done in an effort to help overcome the dire conditions of the Palestinian people. The grants also help NGOs build their capacity and become more empowered through their involvement in identifying needs and implementing projects. Organizations benefiting from these grants are: the Palestinian Environmental Friends Association, Basma Society for Culture and Arts, Palestinian Alnakheel Association for Progress and Development, the Palestinian Farmer Association, the Agricultural Engineering Association, Al-Mawassi Agricultural Cooperative Association, Ard El Insan Palestinian Benevolent, and Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children.

Two additional organizations are benefiting from a mentoring grant, designed to create partnerships between smaller-scale organizations with modest experience with larger more experienced organizations working at the national level. Partner organizations will be able to improve the quality and efficiency

of their services while also improving funding opportunities among partner organizations and acquiring expertise from the larger organization in various fields such as project management and program design. The organizations benefiting from these grants are: Save the Children Palestine in partnership with the Rehabilitation and Development of Palestinian Home's Society, the Palestinian Student Care Association, Deir el-Balah Association for Community Development and Childhood, and Maghazi Cultural Center, Nour El Marifa Charitable Society. The Culture and Free Thought Association in partnership with the Palestinian Environment Supporters Association, Watan Benevolent Association, Youth without Borders Forum, Society of the Care of Disabled Families, and the Rafah Service Club, and Al Foukhary Association for Culture and Development.

The other projects come by way of the Specialized Health Services Grants, which help support NGO hospitals. Their goal is to provide complementary quality healthcare services to those available in the public healthcare system. Receiving these grants are the Public Aid Society, and the Ahli Arab Hospital.

The signing ceremony took place on 30 January 2010 at NDC's main office in al-Ram, with a video conference link to the Gaza office. It was attended by representatives of social development organizations from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, along with senior management.

NDC Publishes a Study on Tracking External Funding for Palestinian NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza 1999 - 2008

Based on its key role in developing the Palestinian NGOs sector, and in a step that is considered to be the first of its kind, NDC conducted a thorough analysis on funding directed to NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, during which available literature on the amount of this funding was reviewed. NDC found that there was a significant gap in the information available concerning the amounts of funding, their mechanisms, types and sources, and a lack of information concerning the geographic and sectoral distribution of these funds.

Consequently, NDC took the initiative to carry out a comprehensive study on tracking external funds for NGOs during the period 1999-2008. The study was implemented by the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), in coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development. During the process, two surveys on the funding sources and areas of disbursing were conducted; one by the donors and the other by the recipient NGOs.

Besides the interesting findings of this study, it gives significant indicators that the available support for NGOs has not exceeded ten percent of the total external aid over the past ten years, of which the European Union provides 70%, and is believed to be the largest donor to the Palestinian Authority and to non-governmental organizations.

Taking into account that external support comprises 60% of the Palestinian national income; the reliance of NGOs on such financial support is higher and reaches 78% of its revenues. Such reliance is accompanied by a decrease in local funding provided to NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The study clarifies the linkage between the

political reality and sectors that receive support. Non-governmental organizations participating in activities that are based on human rights, for instance, receive a greater share of external support, followed by other sectors.

In its turn, NDC disseminated to NGOs, donors and the government, the findings of this study, and discussed possible areas of cooperation with the Ministry of Planning and Development. A conference was held for this purpose on 15/2/2010, at the Palestinian Red Crescent hall in Ramallah and Gaza, attended by more than 100 persons representing the various NGOs, donors and ministries.

During the conference, NDC Director Mr. Ghassan Kasabreh pointed out to the great dependency of NGOs on external funding, despite the significant role the sector plays in the Palestinian development process.

In turn, Dr. Estephan Salameh, Special Advisor to the Minister of Planning and Administrative Development, affirmed the importance of utilizing funds of donor countries in effective and sound ways in order to achieve the developmental goals. He also noted the importance of monitoring those funds in light of the lack of information at the Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development regarding the entire sources of external funds and how they are disbursed. He also highlighted the importance of working in a complementary manner between the government and the NGO sector.

During the conference, the study's main findings and recommendations were presented by Mr. Andrew Hunter, the researcher at the Palestinian Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS). To obtain a soft copy of the study, please visit NDC's website: www.ndc.ps



Mr. Ghassan Kasabreh giving his speech.



The speaker's Panel.

NDC Extends a Helping Hand to Patients in Gaza

Ambulance driver Farid al-Sha'er was regularly suffering from pain in his hands but it never occurred to him that he might become paralyzed. With time, the hands that were helping patients be transported in his ambulance became a source of recurrent worry. Farid approached his doctor, as a patient this time, to ask him about the source of his pain, and answers appeared gradually.

Like other Gaza residents, Farid is aware that specialized medical cases cannot be treated within the Gaza Strip and here came the unpleasant surprise: after 57 days, his condition deteriorated drastically, and was asked by the neurologist to undergo an MRI. The image showed immense pressure on the spinal cord in the neck, which might lead to a semi-emphatic state of paralysis, requiring a surgical intervention not available in Gaza Strip hospitals.

Farid's name was added to the list of hundreds of other patients applying for medical referral abroad. Under siege, Farid and his family were waiting for the Rafah crossing to open while fearing imminent total paralysis.

It is in this context that NDC's project of developing brain and neurosurgery services in al-Wafa' Hospital, funded by the World Bank, facilitated the arrival of brain and neurological specialist Dr. Jamal Ghosheh to the Gaza Strip. Dr. Ghosheh's participation in the project aimed at improving al-Wafa' Hospital performance in medical diagnoses and surgical interventions. It was a shimmer of hope, when Dr. Ghosheh operated the first of its kind operation in Gaza, made possible after receiving



Dr. Jamal Ghosheh & Farid after the surgery.

support from the World Bank which helped in facilitating the delivery of some of the required medical equipment. Shortly after, the surgical operation took place and the pressure on the spinal code was released by removing some cartilages and replacing them with artificial ones. The spinal cord in the neck area can move normally and in all directions. After the operation, Farid was able to move all his body limbs, and returned to lead a normal life.

Farid's case is not unique. Dr Ghosheh examined more than 80 cases of brain and neurological disorders during his visit, and also conducted three surgical operations. He has also trained the local staff to carry out similar surgeries in the future.

A Grant to Establish a Clinic Specialized in Brain Injuries brings success

Gaza's Al-Wafa' Hospital was relieved of a pressing burden when a grant of US \$148,000 was awarded for the establishment of a clinic specializing in brain and spinal cord injuries. The acquisition of this grant attests to the NGO sector's successful contribution toward the improvement of health-sector services. These services have been focused specifically on the most needy and vulnerable areas affected by Palestine's difficult political and economic conditions. Through this grant, NDC played a significant role in facilitating procurement of medical supplies and equipment for the intensive care ward and supplies and equipment for the bone surgery ward. NDC also facilitated the visit of expert Dr. Jamal Ghosheh, a specialist in brain and neurosurgery, who built the capacity of the local medical staff through specialized scientific lectures and on quality surgeries.

The project contributes towards empowering local medical staff through the implementation of a theoretical and practical capacity building program. Simultaneously, it serves to improve medical diagnosis and subsequent surgical interventions. It also decreases the Ministry of Health's long list of patients needing referral abroad, which has heavy financial implications. Additionally, the project reduces hardship for patients who need to travel, wait for long

periods of time, and cross through the check points.

Facilitating Dr. Ghosheh's entrance to the Gaza Strip required direct intervention by NDC and the World Bank to the specialized authorities to acquire the needed permits, along with the urgent dispatch of certain necessary surgical instruments, to carry out his mission.

During his visit to al-Wafa' Hospital, Dr. Ghosheh assessed the capacity of the neurology and spinal cord surgeries department. He prepared a list of necessary supplies; the available material, along with a list on the experience of the medical staff available, training needs, and examined the suitability of storage space and equipments.

Furthermore, Dr. Ghosheh held a number of lectures which included:

A lecture on epilepsy & surgery, attended by over 40 brain and neurosurgeons from throughout the Strip.

A lecture on surgery for brain injuries, attended by more than 70 students from the Medicine School of al-Azhar University.

Lectures in al-Wafa' hospital surgery rehabilitation ward on pre- and post-surgery care as well as surgical intervention. More than 10 members of the technical and nursing staff in al-Wafa' Hospital participated in this training course.

To Support the Agricultural Sector

41 Water Wells Rehabilitated in Gaza

In January 2010, after nine months of continuous work, NDC completed the rehabilitation of 41 destroyed water Wells in the Gaza Strip. This project is part of its ongoing efforts to support the agricultural sector, made possible through a grant funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation for US \$900,000.

The significance of this project lies in its notable impact on Palestinian farmers. The Wells are jointly owned by 245 farmer. Furthermore, a total of 1,715 individuals benefit directly from these Wells. Based on the Wells registration certificate, issued by the Palestinian Water Department, these Wells irrigate around 2,451 dunums.

NDC rehabilitated the water Wells in an attempt to alleviate, as much as possible, the impact of war on the agricultural sector in Gaza. To implement this project, NDC chose three partner NGOs namely the Palestinian Hydrology Group, Ma'an Development Center and the Union of Agricultural Work Committees. After conducting a needs assessment study, 41 water Wells were selected to undergo renovation in Gaza City and northern parts of the Gaza Strip.

The rehabilitation process included: disposing



In the process of rehabilitating one of the wells.

of destroyed Well parts; digging in areas where Wells were totally destroyed; installing metal pipes, new pumps and electric switchboards; constructing chambers and lids to protect the Wells; quality testing; and transferring the Wells to farmers – in an effort to improve their living conditions.

Training Workshop on the Best Use of the NGO Portal “Masader”

Upon the establishment and set up of the Masader portal, NDC has started to introduce this portal to the various NGOs in an effort to show case this platform of dialogue and information exchange to the NGO sector.

Within its efforts to activate this portal, so that it becomes a main reference of information, NDC is training NGOs on how to best use its services. The training takes the shape of workshops the latest of which was held for 14 NGOs from various locations in the West Bank, in an effort to assist them, especially those who do not have an established websites yet, to use the services of the portal to make their information public and consequently increase the community's

awareness on NGOs role. Public information includes the mission statement, vision, annual reports, and project updates. The workshop was held on 15 February 2010, where NGO representatives acquired technical training on using the portal after a presentation by the Portal Coordinator, Hasan Hamarsheh, on its available services. This was followed by a practical training session on updating the Portal's various sections; creating new accounts and registering NGOs within the Portal. The workshop took place at Birzeit University Center for Continuing Education in Ramallah and was conducted in coordination with Al-Sahel for Institutional Development and Communications.

“For Our Children”

A Charity Dinner for Gaza Children

“For Our Children”, who are so precious, was the motto for the charity dinner organized in December 2009, the proceeds of which will support NGOs providing psychological and social services for children, specifically those affected by Israel’s attack on Gaza in 2009.

NDC organizes a charity event every year to raise funds to serve the Palestinian NGO sector and its community services. It believes in enhancing an active social responsibility within the private sector and increasing networking with the NGO sector.

This is its second charity dinner since 2008, when it organized the first during the holy month of Ramadan, under the motto “The Meal of Hope”, which came within the Center’s efforts to extend a helping hand to hundreds of marginalized and poor children in the Gaza Strip. The benefits from that event were allocated to purchase equipment and supplies needed for kindergartens rehabilitated through one of NDC’s developmental programs in the Gaza Strip. The proceeds contributed effectively toward improving the quality of pre-school teaching.

This year’s charity dinner was funded by the Telecommunications Institution for Community Development within the framework of “The Hope of Gaza Fund”. It was launched by the institution to support the children of Gaza, and organized at the Grand Park Hotel in Ramallah on 13 December 2009.

Under the auspices of Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad, national and formal participation included guests such as: Minister of Social Affairs Majida al-Masri; chairperson of NDC’s board of directors Mr. Zahi Khouri; several NDC board members, the Telecommunications Institution for Community Development Deputy CEO Mr. Kamal Abu Khadijeh;

and Director General Mrs. Samah Abu ‘Oun Hamad. Also in attendance were several officials and representatives of NGOs and international institutions operating in the Palestinian territories along with a number of diplomats and other distinguished figures.

“NDC’s initiative manifests partnerships we seek to establish and nurture in order to enhance our actions within national and social affairs. It is coherent with the government’s approaches and its decision to establish partnerships between all sectors, especially in the area of social services.” stated her Excellency Minister Majida al-Masri. She went on to express her gratitude for this initiative and announced Prime Minister Dr. Salam Fayyad’s generous donation, and that of the Palestinian Government of US \$50,000 for Gaza’s children. She also affirmed that the partnership between the government, the NGO sector and the private sector; is beneficial to our people and to national programs.

The event was attended by more than 120 persons and included musical performances by students and instructors at the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music. Attendees offered a financial contribution towards this initiative. In addition to funding the charity dinner, the Telecommunications Group announced its donation of US \$10,000 to NDC, to be allocated for the children of Gaza.

At the end of the ceremony, prizes for the first competition on the Palestinian NGO sector were given according to merit. This competition was published on the portal during Ramadan. Gifts were awarded to students who participated in musical performances by the NDC board’s chairman, Mr. Zahi Khouri and its director, Mr. Ghassan Kasabreh.





Side of the ceremony.

US \$950,000 for Land Rehabilitation

NDC believes in the importance of improving Palestinian farmers' livelihoods. It works, through its projects, to create employment opportunities in the agricultural sector and strives to ensure water resources for agricultural purposes. Additionally, NDC focuses on increasing the area of productive agricultural lands in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

To fulfill its belief of supporting NGOs operating in the agricultural sector, NDC signed grant implementation agreements for land reclamation and rehabilitation projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The grant, funded by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, come under the Emergency Program for

Supporting the Palestinian People-Phase Five. It is managed by the Islamic Development Bank, supervised by the Welfare Association and implemented by NDC. The total amount of this grant is US \$950,000, and projects will be implemented over a period of 18 months.

The signing ceremony, which took place on 11 January 2010, was held at the NDC office in Al-Ram and through "video conference" with its office in the Gaza Strip. Agreements were signed by Mr. Ghassan Kasabreh and representatives of beneficiary NGOs. Mr. Fayez Daoud and Mr. Mohammed Abu Khater also attended the signing ceremony on behalf of respectively the Islamic Bank for Development and the Welfare Association.

The NGOs benefiting from this grant are:

NGO Name	NGO location	Grant Amount
Qalqelia Farmers Association	Qalqelia	91,000
The Palestinian Farmers Association	Tulkarem	97,630
Juhoud for Community and Rural Development	Tulkarem	92,213
Kufur Thuluth Charitable Society	Kufur Thuluth Town -Qalqelia	97,500
Cooperative Association for Development of Livestock	Qalqelia	84,900
Qalqelia Farmers Association	Qalqelia	94,835
The Palestinian Farmers Association	Tulkarem	82,922
Juhoud for Community and Rural Development	Tulkarem	89,000
Agricultural & Environmental Development Society	Gaza	75,000
The Palestinian Center for Organic Agriculture	Khan younis	75,000

NDC IN PICTURES



«For our Children» Charitable dinner.



معالي وزيرة الشؤون الاجتماعية ماجدة المصري مع السيد زاهي خوري.
Her Excellency Majida Al Masri, Minister of Social Affairs and
Mr. Zahi Khouri, Chairperson of NDC's Board of Directors.

جانب من العشاء الخيري «من اجل اطفالنا»



السيد زاهي خوري والسيد غسان كسابرة يكerman معهد ادوارد سعيد للموسيقى.
Mr. Zahi Khouri and Mr. Ghassan Kasabreh award the Edward Said Conservatorium at the Charitable Dinner «For our Children»

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مركز تطوير

World Bank visit to the organizations benefiting from the phase three of the Palestinian NGOs project



Visit to the Edward Said Conservatorium in Nablus

خلال زيارة البعثة لمعهد ادوارد سعيد في نابلس.



Visit to the Union of Charitable Societies in Nablus..

س.



خلال زيارة اتحاد الشباب في قرية عابود.
Visit to the Union of Youth in the village of Aboud



١٦ آذار ٢٠١٠ - جانب من ورشة العمل التعريفية لبرنامج حقوق الانسان والحكم الصالح في رام الله
16 March 2010 - A workshop in Ramallah for NDC's human rights and good governance project