

# NDC NewsLetter

NGO Development Center

July 2011

## Strategic Retreat for NDC Staff in Jordan

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The retreat raised and discussed many important issues such as NDC's Strategic Plan 2010-2014 and the future of NDC.



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## On International Women's Day

NDC sponsors a forum entitled, "Reflections on the situation of Palestinian Women's Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory"

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## Denmark joins NDC's Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat

The government of Denmark joined and signed a funding agreement with NDC to support the Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat



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## Contacts

**Head Office**  
Mujahid Building, Al Ram, P O Box 2173, Ramallah, Palestine  
Tel: 02 234 7771-5 / Fax: 02 234 7776

**Gaza Office**  
Al Haitham Building, 3, Rashid Street, Al Rimal, Gaza  
Tel: 08 282 8999 / Fax: 08 284 9921  
Email: [info@ndc.ps](mailto:info@ndc.ps)

مركز تطوير المؤسسات الأهلية الفلسطينية  
NGO Development Center

## Towards a main mechanism of direct funding to the NGO sector

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## Success story: Developing Library Books for the visually impaired

The Graduates' Union for the Visually Impaired in Gaza succeeded in upgrading their current talking library thanks to a grant from the World Bank totaling US \$93,500.

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# Towards a main mechanism of direct funding to the NGO sector



Despite the adverse circumstances in the occupied Palestinian territory of the West Bank and Gaza, including Jerusalem, the NGO Development Center (NDC) has started the implementation of the fourth phase of the Palestinian NGO Project to further support and develop civil society in Palestine. It is advancing with efficiency, and a clear vision towards achieving the goals set forth in its strategic plan for the upcoming years.

NDC continues to assist the poor and marginalized groups of Palestinian society, and strives to reach the largest number possible especially in the Gaza Strip. It continues to pledge funding and direct it in an appropriate manner. Many donors have worked with NDC as a main mechanism to direct funding to the NGO sector. During the last few months, NDC signed an agreement for a new fourth phase of the NGO Project, to be implemented during 2010-2013, with co-funding from the World Bank and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) for a total amount of US \$8 million.

In addition, the Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat progressed in its second phase, after NDC's signature of an agreement with four European countries namely Switzerland, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden to manage the Secretariat for a total amount of US \$16.2 million. Since the onset of this agreement, NDC signed core funding grants with 28 NGOs working in this sector for an amount

of US\$7.7 million and \$.5 million dollars with another 13 NGOs working in the same sector through the Small Grants Facility.

Under the framework of the Code of Conduct Program, NDC signed supplementary agreements with 30 NGOs in the West Bank including Jerusalem. Currently, more than 570 NGOs have signed the Code of Conduct and over 700 NGOs have signed up on Masader, the Palestinian NGO Portal, which allows them to maintain contact and exchange information.

Through its role to develop civil society, NDC has provided the necessary technical assistance, studies and research to enable it to play an effective and influential role in Palestinian society. NDC has completed a study on NGOs and the private sector that sheds some light on possible cooperation and partnership between these two sectors.

This newsletter reflects our achievements during the past few months, and focuses on our significant role and profound impact in supporting civil society institutions in the occupied Palestinian territory.

NDC hopes to see cooperation and partnerships prevail among all various sectors of Palestinian society in order to contribute towards state building on the basis of sound social, economic and political grounds.

**Ghassan Kasabreh**  
**NDC Director**

# Funding agreement between NDC and AFD for the amount of € 5 million for the NGO sector

NDC signed a funding agreement for a total amount of €5 million with the the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). This agreement is the result of joint and extensive efforts undertaken by both the AFD and the World Bank to provide operational support to Palestinian NGOs through NDC and with close cooperation with the PA. The implementation of this project will cover four years. These efforts aim at coordinating donors' funds to NGOs and ensuring complementarity between the NGOs and their projects alongside the developmental role of the PA, and taking the



necessary measures to enhance the efficiency and quality of the support provided to NGOs and to the direct beneficiaries.

## On International Women's Day: NDC sponsors a forum entitled

### “Reflections on the situation of Palestinian Women's Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory”

The Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat managed by NDC, held a forum on International Women's day, March 8th 2011. The forum, entitled “Reflections on the situation of Palestinian Women's Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory” included speakers from human rights, civil society, and women's organizations in Palestine and from donor countries.

Increased suffering has been inflicted on Palestinian women in the wake of occupation, which has formed a blatant violation to all international conventions and agreements on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. Palestinian women constitute the first victim to the occupation's practices in occupied East Jerusalem, which includes house demolitions, expatriation of land,



expulsion, and separation of families due to the Separation Wall. Palestinian women share alongside men the social, economic and political burdens of occupation, and thus it is essential to provide full protection to Palestinian women against these violations.

The conference included two sessions; the first “Reflections on the situation of Palestinian Women's Rights in the occupied Palestinian territory” tackled violations to Palestinian women's rights and violations to International Humanitarian Laws in the oPt. The second session “Reflections on the situation of Palestinian Women's Rights in Jerusalem” addressed the impact of the Separation Wall on women's rights and the struggle to obtain these rights, as well as first hand testimonies from Palestinian women who have endured these discriminatory acts.

## Denmark joins NDC's Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat

The government of Denmark joined and signed a funding agreement with NDC to support the Human Rights and Good Governance Secretariat. This new agreement, totaling \$4.6 million, brings the total amount of funds for the Secretariat to \$16.2 million and will extend the program until June 2013. Denmark was a founding member of the Secretariat in the first phase, which started in 2008. This funding is in line with Denmark's support to the human rights sector in the occupied Palestinian territory.

This recent funding for the second phase of the program coincides with funding from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the Swedish International Development Agency and the Dutch Representative Office in the occupied Palestinian Territory. These co-funding partners have already contributed a total amount of US \$12.6 million for three years to protect and enhance human rights and good governance and support NGOs working in this sector. The program aims at improving



and enhancing both sectors through three main mechanisms, including, direct funding, strategic development, and activating policy dialogue on sector-related issues.

## Inauguration of Al Khawass building and park in Bani Zeid villages

In February 2011, NDC participated in the inauguration ceremony of Al Khawass building and park in western Bani Zeid; which benefits six surrounding villages including: Deir Ghassaneh, Beit Rima; Kufur Ein; Qarawah bani Zaid; Nabi Saleh and Kufur Deek.

This event reflected complementarity in community participation in which citizens, local

institutions, NGOs, INGOs and the private sector all participated in its implementation. This project includes a general hall for social and popular events; a park and garden for children; resting areas; family recreational facilities and an archeological site, which would serve as a mosque for visitors. The project also benefits women from Deir Ghassaneh who will be able to hold their various meetings



and workshops in this location. The project was implemented by NDC through the Arabic Center for Agricultural Development, and funded by the AFD.

# PM Fayyad inaugurates new sections of the Vocational Rehabilitation Center for the Hearing Impaired in Nabi Elias

On March 3rd 2011, Prime Minister Salam Fayyad inaugurated new sections of the vocational rehabilitation center of Al Amal Society in Nabi Elias in the Qalqilya district. Event participation included the French Consul General, NDC Director, and representatives from the Norwegian Union for the Deaf, government officials and representatives of the NGO sector.



This project falls in line with efforts exerted by NDC, NGOs and the Palestinian Authority to fund projects that contribute effectively to the provision of vital services to children and youth with disability; responding to their immediate needs, and working on creating professional teams within this marginalized category. This project, which is being implemented by the Al Amal Deaf Association, enables this marginalized group to integrate within society, through rehabilitation and training programs, provision of communications means and ensuring the use of sign language.



The Vocational Rehabilitation Center for the Deaf is the only center in Palestine dealing with youth between the ages of 15-20. It has strived during the past few years to rehabilitate and develop the skills of those with special needs and has provided quality services that reflect the high values of Palestinian society. The new sections, which benefit fifty students, include a computer lab, a blacksmith area, and internal works funded by the AFD for a total grant of Euro 85,400.



## Strategic Retreat for Members of the Board in Cairo



Members of the NDC Board attended a strategic retreat in Cairo organized for both West Bank and Gaza members on January 12th and January 13th, 2011.

The retreat raised and discussed many focal issues such as NDC's strategic plan for 2010-2011 ;2014 plan; its budget, in addition to NDC's

relationship with partners mainly the Palestinian Authority; the networks; and the NGOs. Various recommendations and decisions emanated from the retreat, including: Developing NDC's visibility; focusing on Jerusalem through signed agreements; diversifying funds and enlarging the number of general assembly members, in addition to internal matters.

## Strategic Retreat for NDC Staff in Jordan

Members of NDC's management and staff attended a retreat in Jordan organized between March 8th-11th, 2011.

The retreat raised and discussed many important issues such as NDC's Strategic Plan

2010-2014, future of NDC, its added value, niche and has identified indicators to measure NDC's performance. The staff retreat was also an opportunity for NDC staff and management to collectively participate in team building activities.

# Ninety-five NGOs Benefit from the Technical Assistance Program

The NGO Development Center (NDC) held a two-day workshop for the evaluation of the technical assistance program for the Code of Conduct.

The workshop was attended by many NGOs, which have benefited from this program during the Palestinian NGO

Project III funded by the World Bank. During the program, NDC completed technical assistance to fifty NGOs under the first and second phases of the project, a communication strategy and resource kit for the Code of Conduct, and discussions on implementation, efficiency, and the possibility of its application in reality.

Results indicated a drastic improvement in the adherence to the Code's principles from NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza. Concerning adherence to the Code of Conduct principles of transparency, accountability and administrative and financial practices, all results indicated significant improvement. In addition, many participating NGOs received accounting programs as part of the ongoing phases of the program.

NDC also implemented the European Union program, which provided technical assistance to an additional fifteen NGOs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Through this program, NDC also distributed eight computers and fifteen accounting programs to NGOs who needed immediate assistance in the area of financial administration.

Under the framework of the Palestinian NGO Project IV, NDC signed supplementary



agreements with 30 NGOs in the West Bank including Jerusalem in February 2011. This program foresees a two-phase implementation: The first phase, which will span over a two-month period, will define the needs of the beneficiaries and prepare development plans. The second phase will see the implementation of these development plans (providing actual technical assistance and implementing both mid-term and final assessments) which will extend over a 12 – 18 month period.

The Code of Conduct includes the aims of NGOs, its efforts to achieve the aims linked to the values and principles of good governance; its role in social development and contributes towards achieving the aspirations of the Palestinian people to freedom and independence. The Code is built on the principle of pluralism in Palestinian society, democratic principles, participation and full right of establishing institutions. Its principle is that NGOs are the main pillar for achieving the rights of society. The Code Coalition, which includes the umbrella networks, prepared the Code of Conduct; in a consultative process with 200 NGOs in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Currently, more than 570 NGOs have signed the Code of Conduct.

# Success Story:

## Developing Library Books for the visually impaired

The Graduates' Union for the Visually Impaired in Gaza succeeded in upgrading their current talking library thanks to a grant from the World Bank totaling US \$93,500. This grant contributed towards the provision of schoolbooks to the visually impaired by uploading more than 3000 books on the website and providing training on the computer, internet and website through talking-software programs. This upgrade and training has led to a relatively easier integration of this marginalized group and has provided it with opportunities for further education.

### The story of Dalal Mohammed Al Taji

Dalal was born completely blind in Lebanon in 1974. She completed her higher education at Al Nour and Al Amal Schools in Cairo in 1995. Upon her return to her homeland, she joined the faculty of literature/English language department in Al Azhar University and was employed by the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) as a translator until 1999. In 2002, Dalal completed her Master's degree (Edinburgh/England) in social science and was employed as the head of the English Department at PRCS. Dalal faced difficulties in using the computer due to the lack of vocal programs. She heard that the Graduates Union for the Visually Impaired was offering computer courses through vocal programs.



She attended these courses, and was able to perform new tasks. With numerous books uploaded onto the website, Dalal was able to complete and even type her dissertation.

Dalal explains: "I would like to seize this opportunity and

thank everyone especially those who implemented this project. The e-library on the website, computer training, and computer development has enabled a large number of beneficiaries who are visually impaired to benefit greatly, and has opened doors for them".