



البشير للتنمية والإبداع  
Al-Basheer for Development & Creativity

## BALAD Achievements

2006-2008

## BALAD Anticipated Projects and Activities

2008-2009

## Introduction

Balad was established in June 2006. Throughout the activities conducted in the West Bank by Balad during the past two years, Balad aspiration was to establish a well-organized, strong and reliable resume of achievements via conducting activities that serve different sectors of the Palestinian society and endeavoring to establish credibility among the public.

Till the moment, Balad has succeeded to serve the targeted sectors in the different regions and districts of the West Bank at all levels: politicians, women, youth, school students, civil players, and local organizations...etc. The number of beneficiaries from Balad Activities exceeded thousands of people, as the summary below of Balad achievements will illustrate.

The sources of funding Balad activities were mainly contributions and funds from prominent national figures, Fateh members, contributors and other local sources. This is due to the fact that most international and major donors fund/prefer to fund only those institutions and organizations that are active and operating at least for two years, which constraint Balad's flexibility and trend to conduct more and effective programs in the Palestinian arena.

By applying the attached proposals, **Micro Intervention Programme (MIP)**, we hope that our first cooperation will be with the Belgian Ministry of Cooperation and constructive inauguration to a remarkable working bond in order to serve the Palestinian community and reinforce sustainable development in the region.

The following summary of Balad achievements is divided into two major sections:

- **First Section: Balad achievements 2006-2008**
- **Second section: Balad Anticipated Projects & Activities 2008-2009**

# **First Section: Balad Achievements 2006-2008**

## **A. Training Courses and Workshops**

### **1. The Role of the PLC's Member (July, 2006)**

Post the Palestinian Legislative Elections 2006 that resulted in the Victory of Hamas Movement, Fateh for the first time has become in the Opposition Bloc in the Palestinian Legislative Council. Thus, Balad opted to hold a workshop targeting the new parliament members of the Opposition Blocs to introduce them to the role and main responsibilities of the Parliament members, mechanisms of producing and dealing with legislations, ethics of the parliament work, parliamentary follow-up in addition to other important issues.

The workshop was held on July, 2006 and lasted for two successive days. 36 parliament members attended the workshop.

### **2. How to Deal with Mass Media for Parliament Members (July, 2006)**

As a continuation of the workshops that target the new members of the P LC and since Media plays a significant role in disseminating the performance of the PLC members to the public, Balad held a workshop about “How to Deal with Mass Media for Parliament Members”.

The 2-day workshop was divided into sessions; each session tackled different but interrelated issues, most important issues were:

- Introduction to mass media: its mole and main domains of interests and concerns
- What are the common areas between the parliamentary and mass media
- The impact of the word on the public
- The role of the journalist and freedom of journalism
- Personal credibility and risks of lying to the media
- How to establish a bond/relation with the media
- How to react and respond to the journalist inquiries, explanations and provocations
- Who to respond to the news and event post occurrence
- Preparing for the news prior occurrence
- How to choose and determine the answers/replies
- How to deal with the negative questions
- How to influence of the inquiring journalist or reporter

The workshop was attended by the Parliament members targeted in the previous workshops ranging from (20-30) parliament member.

### 3. Four Months after the Appointment of the 10<sup>th</sup> Palestinian Government: Evaluation its Performance (August, 2006):

This workshop aimed to:

- Establishing and developing a work plan for the public sector and the public institutions in order to offer the best and most efficient services to the citizens.
- Dropping off the financial burden and costs on the public budget>
- Increasing the competence and efficiency of the public sector>
- Adopting the principles of accountability and transparency and combat corruption and favoritism.
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The key topics highlighted in the workshop were:

- The realities and facts of the Civil Service by the end of 2005.
- The Administrative Reform programs developed between 2002 & 2005
- Case study: Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- The defiance and violations that took place in the public Administration and civil Service areas/domains in the governmental institutions and ministries
- The Formal Performance at the level of the Diplomatic Work system/ Reform of the Diplomatic Body and work in the international organizations

The main speakers in the workshop were:

- **Dr. Ghassan Al-Khateeb:** Facts and Realities of the Public Administration and Civil Service in Palestine- Introduction
- **Dr. Nabeel Qassis:** The Administrative Reform Programs developed in 2002-2005
- **Dr. Hasan Abu Libdah:** Procedures/Changes and Re-formation of the Organizational Structures and Duties; the New Appointments by the Current Government in the Public Administration and Civil Service domains and their impacts on the construction of the public institutions
- **Dr. Ibrahim Khreishah:** Case Study: the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Dr. Nasser Al-Qudwa:** The Formal Performance on the diplomatic work system and the reform of the Palestinian diplomatic bodies and work in the international organizations

The workshop was concluded by an open discussion ended up with specific recommendations to be submitted to the involved parties and disseminated through

the different mass media. The attendance was quite remarkable in terms of numbers and who attended. There were Palestinian Ambassadors, Heads of PLC Committees, General Directors, Directors in the Cabinet and the Presidential Office, Fateh Members, Foreign Representatives, Representatives of Ministries and Civil Society Organizations.

#### 4. The Political Parties Work and Performance: Mechanisms of Development and Reform (August, 2006)

In cooperation with Frederick Ebrecht, the German Institution, Balad held a political meeting with prominent and active members of Fateh from different levels and organizational frameworks (seniors, field activists, politicians, parliament members...etc) in the West Bank to discuss the status of the political parties in Palestine with the presence of the General Secretary of the Democratic Communist Party in German and the political advisor of the party.

During the workshop, the attendants discussed the work mechanisms of the political parties and movements in Palestine and how to develop ways for reinforcing involvement and participating in the construction of the structure of the political parties.

The attendants were also acquainted with the experience of the German Party and its role in the political life of Germany and how Fateh movement can benefit from their experience for re-structuring the Fateh Organization and embrace all the generations.

#### 5. Reinforcement of Parliamentary Education among Youth (December, 2006):

In cooperation with the Students' Forum in Bethlehem, Balad held a training course targeting the Palestinian youth under the title "**Reinforcement of the Parliamentary Culture among Youth**", where the participants learnt about the legislative process and the parliamentary work over the period (16-18/12/2006).

The number of youth participated in the training was 100 participants (males and females) from Bethlehem District and it tackled several issues that interest youth in general to know in depth how the legislative process flows in the Palestinian territories. The main topics and activities in the training were:

#	Activity
1.	Introduction to the event and its objectives
2.	The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC)- Historical and Political Background
3.	The PLC Management & Organizational Structure
4.	Drafting and Accreditation of the PLC Budget

5.	The Parliamentary Functions
6.	The Parliament Entities: Chairmanship, Committees, Holding PLC Sessions)
7.	Selection Of Information & Data
8.	<b>Practical Activity:</b> 8.1 Electing the Council Chairmanship board (Nominations and Electoral Campaign)
	8.2 Holding the Elections and sorting the votes
	8.3 Formation of Committees and electing the Heads and rapporteur of the Committees
	8.4 Holding the Committees' sessions and preparing for the PLC Session
	8.5 Holding the PLC Session
9.	An Open Meeting with Azzam Al-Ahmad, Spokesman of Fateh Parliamentary Bloc and number of PLC members
10.	Graduation & Certificates

## 6. The Constitutional and Political Dimensions & Procedures Post 14/6/2007 Coup and the Accessible Options (July 2007)

After the shock caused by the bloody coup by Hamas Movement in Gaza Strip in the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007 , the Palestinian people were uncertain of the situation and the future for them was vague.

Balad, in compliant with its objectives, sought to clarify to the public and explore the details, manifestations and impacts of the military coup that took place in Gaza Strip how it would negatively influence the image of the Palestinian in front of the Palestinian people in the first place and in the eyes of the Arab countries and the international friends and the whole world.

Balad coordinated with different interested political players and civil organizations to hold a workshop so as to contribute to comprehending and understanding what happened in Gaza in an attempt to figure out the next steps and how to contain this issue nationally and what the available options are; constitutionally, procedurally and legally.

On 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, Balad held the workshop under the title “The Constitutional and political procedures and dimensions post 14/6/2007 Coup in Gaza and the Accessible Options”.

The workshop agenda was divided into two main sessions:

## Session I: The Legislative and Political Options and Prospects

Session Facilitator: Dr. Hasan Abu Libdha

Speakers:

**Mr. Bassam Al-Salhi:** Parliament Member/ Al-Badeel Bloc (People's Party)

**Mr. Mahmoud Al-Aloul:** Parliament Member/ Fateh Bloc

**Dr. Ahmad Majdalani:** member of Politburo of the Popular Struggle Front and Instructor in Bir-Zeit University

**Mr. Qays Abdel Kareem:** Parliament Member/ Democratic Front

**Ms. Khalida Jarrar:** Parliament Member/ the Martyr Abu Ali Mustafa Bloc/ Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine

## Session II: The Constitutional and Legal Options and Procedures available and accessible in the current circumstance

Session Facilitator: Dr. Firas Milhem

Speakers:

**Dr. Ali Sartawi:** former Minister of Justice, and Instructor in An-Najaha National University/ Law Faculty

**Dr. Azmi Al-Shu'aibi:** CEO of Amman Institute- A former Parliament Member and Minister

**Dr. Ali Khashan:** Secretary of Palestinian Constitution Drafting Committee and Dean of Law Faculty/ Al-Quds University.

The workshop was highly interactive and a heated discussion followed each session since the issue was very tensed and crucial to the Palestinian context. The attendance was also good and ranged from people with no political background to politicians and active figures in the Palestinian political, human rights and social aspects.

The issue of the inactive paralyzed Palestinian legislative council was also tackled particularly during the second session and the legal status of the caretaker government headed by Salam Fayyad and the laws enacted by presidential decrees.

A major question was addressed by one of the speakers in the closing comments of the first session upon which Palestinians should react: Is it vital to contain the political Islam within the Palestinian political system or not?

There was absolute majority on condemning the acts and military overthrow of the executive authority and the sequent bloodshed of Palestinians by Palestinians. Nevertheless, there was also conformity on calling for reform of the PLO and end the corruption within the Palestinian authority entities and institutions as well as focusing on preserving the national unity of the Palestinians.

## **B. Programs**

### **1. Supporting Local Non-governmental Societies Program (SLNSP) (March 2007)**

This program was initiated in March 2007 designed to support and assist the non-governmental institutions in Palestine: youth centers, social, cultural or sportive clubs and women societies in order to enhance their performance and enable them to execute programs and activities that reinforce and support the cultural, educational, social, political and scientific aspects of life as well as foster notions of democracy, respect of the other, effective participation, communication and dialogue.

According to the program terms, Balad is committed to provide support to projects that are sustainable and encourage the development and capacity building of individuals (both sexes). The main objective of the program is to promote the creative and constructive ideas and innovations that meet the needs of the small local communities with limited and scarce developmental sources.

Progressively, at Balad's approval of the proposal presented by the applicant (institute), it will provide the applicant with the equipment and materials required to initiate the project in a way that guarantees partnership and realization of the developmental objectives and goals taking into consideration that Balad will not give monetary assistance instead it will provide the tangible requirements and materials. Both parties are liable to an agreement signed by them to ensure proper execution and follow-up.

#### **The Program Outcomes:**

Since the initiation of the program, Balad succeeded in inaugurating three computer labs in different areas, and received more than 35 applications, that are still in the process of studying and pending till the evaluation of the performance of the three centers.

The computer labs are:

#### **1. Qeira Societal Center "Baladna"/Salfeet District:**

The center was opened in 3/4/2007 after signing the agreement with the representative of Qeira Volunteers Committee/Red Crescent Society. The Center was equipped with 6 computers, printer scanner and other office equipment.

Qeira Societal Center is mainly a group of volunteers under the umbrella of the Red Crescent Society who are trying to serve their local community in Salfeet. They are gathered to reinforce the voluntary and social work among youth. The committee of Volunteers was established in 2000 after developing from a group to a committee, since the number of youth exceeded 128.

The Committee, and therefore the Center, is interested in the cultural, educational, social, environmental and health activities in addition to the Palestinian Folklore. They have conducted many summer camps, educational courses, social guidance meetings and other events by the efforts of its volunteers and remarkable



support of the local community and the operating organizations and local entities in Qeira.

The Computer Lab was provided to Qeira Center to support them and offer more diverse services to diverse sectors as well since it will help the students in the schools and universities to print their papers, assignments, researches...etc, and learn new computer skills.

One of the latest activities of the Lab Computer is the coordination with two schools in the village to send the students from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade to learn more about computers and as a complementary practice for Technology curricula.

## **2. Palestinian Child Club/ Thinnaba/ Toulkarem District**

The center was opened in 12/5/2007 after signing the agreement with the representative of the club. The Center was equipped with 8 computers, printer scanner and other office equipment.

The application of the Palestinian Child Club was approved by Balad after considering the activities and work achieved since establishment in 1992. The idea of this club was evolved due to the urgent need to dedicate more efforts and attention to the children especially in the northern areas of the West Bank due to the constant closures by the occupation and the economic hardships of its residents.

The club was an initiative by a group of young boys and girls who believe in social and voluntary work, then the Woman committees for Social Work embraced their initiative to establish the Club. The Club was involved in different cultural, social, sportive and artistic activities in Toulkarem and they managed to have their own specialized library for children from age 6-14 years.

The computer lab was a further asset to the Club and contributed to affiliating more children to learn computer skills. The Club also contacted the five schools in the town in order to send the students to the Club to fortify the bonds between the students and the Center and to enhance their knowledge of computer and how to use it for different purposes.

They also targeted the mothers of these students in order to reduce the computer illiteracy among women and also to enable the mothers to help their children for their homework pertaining to computer and technology.

## **3. Kafr Al-Deek Center for Young Women (Sabaya) / Kafr Al-Deek/ Salfeet District:**

The center was opened in 12/7/2007 after signing the agreement with the representative of the club. The Center was equipped with 8 computers, printer scanner and other office equipment.

Kafr Al-Deek Center was established in 2006 by a support from UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) in order to empower women in the

region via implementing small projects and holding workshops and training courses to develop their intellectual, cultural and social knowledge and skills.

The Center also targets youth and children in its activities as well as supporting and reviving the Palestinian legacy and Folklore such as broidery, needlework...etc.

As for the guidance and educational services for women; the center held several programs such as: Legal Guidance, Psychological Guidance, Social Guidance and Academic Guidance. While it also targeted students by holding Sustaining Education lessons.

Once provided with the computer lab, Kafr Al-Deek Center held two training courses (International Computer Driving License) for men and women, the total number of participants are 44, and they are working for holding a third course for ICDL.

## **2. Empowerment of Young Female Leaders Program "A Bridge for the Next Generations" (BNG) (May 2007)**

"A Bridge for the Next Generations" was mainly designed to be the first step and pilot project to reinforce the role of woman and enable her to attain leading positions in the different aspects of life to ensure the optimum interests and welfare of all the societal sectors. Balad by implementing this project is giving the participants a unique chance to learn, acquire new skills, interact and influence their peers. The Program was mainly divided into four stages:

### **▪ Intensive training courses**

It started on 22/7/2007 and concluded on 11/9/2007. The conducted training courses included crucial and various topics that are essential for women to excel in any field; such as: human rights and gender, civil society and democracy, projects management and writing proposals, fundraising and recruiting resources, time management, conflicts management and negotiations skills, networking, dealing with the media, communication skills...etc. the phase lasted for 130 hours and delivered by competent and qualified trainers.

### **▪ Interactive meetings & field visits**

It was the phase where the participants met with leaders (men and women) who are prominent and well-known as well as respectable figures in their field of specialty. Balad believes it is always right to learn from the experiences of others and show them how we all respect and value their personal and national achievements. During this phase, the participants met 12 leaders (3 men and 9 women) who excelled in journalism, economy, education, politics, human rights, researches, arts,...etc. the phase was conducted over the period (18/11-30/12/2007).

Moreover, Balad sought to get the participants more aware of the work and performance of the different organizations in the west bank. Three field visits were conducted to: Bethlehem, Jericho and Toulkarem where they visited more than 11 organizations and societies and learnt more about the facts, statistics, activities, obstacles and achievements of these organizations.

- **Initiatives**

Personal initiative proposed by each participant in which she tackles a dilemma, need or innovative idea to be implemented in her own local community. The participants will use the information and skills learnt through the first phase; conduct assessment study, do researches and contact involved parties, write a proposal, look for local community bodies for funding, discuss the initiative in front of Balad personnel and then implement, follow up and submit reports to the administration of Balad who will fund the initiative in a ration of 50%-75% of the overall costs.

Balad is working now on the implementation of two initiatives for the participants: Make-up and Hairstyling training Course for a group of 25 participants in a village near Ramallah and establishing a Children Library that will be run by the participant and a group of young women in the village.

- **Study Tours (Exchange Experiences)**

In order to broaden the horizons of the participants, Balad is contacting different parties and organizations to organize an exchange program in which a group of these Palestinian women visit the country and get introduced to the experiences and challenges women face in different region.

Still, this stage is in the process of coordination and contacting parties to organize the study tour.

### **3. The Sustaining Education Program (SEP) (September 2007)**

In the Palestinian education system the students undergo a lot of pressure and need more attention to achieve better grades. Thus, Balad sought to be part in mitigating the financial and learning burdens by initiating the Sustaining Education Program.

Balad has launched the SEP for High School Students on the form of supportive lessons for Tawjihi (high school) students in more than 37 villages throughout the west bank districts with a total of 3358 students, 37 local community organizations, and 371 teacher. Balad endeavors via this activity to share with the students and their parents the challenges and thrill of success and to be present and encouraging for the promising young efforts and hard works with an efficient and distinct coordination and cooperation with the parents and civil society organizations.

This activity with Tawjihi students will give them the opportunity to enhance and reinforce their competence and command in the main and significant topics in the curricula such as English, Mathematics and Physics due to the difficulty of the material or the relatively high percentage of the overall grade. The supportive lessons will provide the student with the time and chance to cover all the areas he/she has not comprehended or understood at school.

In this context, the focus of this project will be on the Palestinian rural remote areas due to the urgent demands and high rates of Tawjihi students in these regions of the West Bank.

The first phase of the project has started on 15/9/2007 and ended on 20/3/2008; the targeted areas are all the districts of the West Bank, rural areas in particular. By the end of the first phase, more than 3358 students benefited and participated in this program and more than 371 teachers were involved and gained an additional source of income.

Balad, for the purpose of proper execution of this program and for close follow-up, is networking and coordinating with the operating local community institutions and bodies (37 partners) to promote for the project; address Tawjihi students and look for qualified teachers and instructors.

The students, in order to take part in this program, are only requested to pay one shekel/hour (1NIS/hour), which will constitute part of what the teacher's payment while Balad will pay the remaining amount.

For the purpose of following-up process and verification of proper implementation of the program in each site, Balad opt to organize filed visits to all the sites and ensure to have all the financial, technical and operational reports, in order to keep informed of all progresses, obstacles and time schedules.

After the conclusion of the first phase of the program, and studying the applications submitted to Balad for extending the program in many sites, Balad decided to hold additional courses for the students for the centers and sites that were remarkably committed to the program and their performance as well their evaluation was encouraging. Thus, the second phase of sustaining education will end by the end of April 2008.

The number of the students participating in this program (3,358 students) constitutes almost 9% of the overall number of Tawjihi Students in the Palestinian Territories.

Nonetheless, according to these students' performance and grades in the school, it is expected that 15% of them will have 90% average and more in the official exams, and 30% may score 75%- 89%.

Balad currently is seeking to contact all the national prominent figures, Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Palestinian universities and Colleges, Businessmen and major companies and corporate to guarantee scholarships for the excelled students who earn more than 90% in Tawjihi exams to enable them choose the majors they prefer.

Scholarships are very crucial for the disadvantages students with difficult economic situations especially in the first year, because most of them cannot afford to pay the high fees. Thus, by granting those scholarships at least for the first semester the students will be able to earn internal scholarships by their own performance and high grades. In sum, Balad seeks to lead them to the path and then these students will continue their way by themselves.

#### **4. The Palestinian Heritage Program "Our Heritage" (PHP) (October 2007)**

Balad, by implementing this campaign, aims to reinforce the trend of preserving and protecting our national heritage by teaching women the traditional embroidering and handicrafts and to revive the Palestinian heritage and folklore and embody the Palestinian history over different eras and decades through their products and works. On the other hand, it will enable women to learn a skill that may yield an income to their families.

The program was initiated on 20/10/2007 and ended on 15/3/2008. Each training course at each site lasted for 1.5 month, and each participant paid 1NIS/hour which will be part of the trainer's payment and Balad will pay the remaining. The targeted areas are women in the different districts of West Bank; Balad contacted with the interested parties and coordinated with them all the details of the program.

In summary, 1096 women, 73 trainers, and 34 local community organizations were involved in this program.

A Central Embroideries Exhibition is to be held in the City of Ramallah next summer in order to promote the products of the participants and find buyers locally, regionally or internationally. The revenues of this exhibition will be totally dedicated to the participants. Moreover, Balad purchased two best pieces of the participants' products in each site as a remuneration and appreciation of their work and achievements.

## **C. Campaigns**

### **1. Summer Camps Campaign (SCC) (July 2007)**

Balad held 7 summer camps in: Ramallah, Jerusalem, Hebron, Toulkarem, Jenin and Salfet during the year 2007. The camps were held over the period "10/7-20/82007". The summer camps targeted children of ages (6-16) years and one of the summer camps targeted handicapped children and organized activity to integrate them with the other children and the society.

The role of Balad in these camps was to provide the organizers with all of the basic requirements of the camp such as: t-shirts and caps, various games, painting tools and stationeries. BALAD also funded a trip at the end of the camp and the closing ceremony with remunerations for the trainers, volunteers and guides.

In summation, in the SCC 7 major camps, 1005 children, 119 field supervisors, and 7 local communities were involved in this project.

### **2. School Stationeries Campaign: "The Coming Generation" Campaign (CGC) (August 2007)**

With the difficult suffocating conditions the Palestinian people went through, and still, the preparations for the new school year have become a major burden for the families and parents. Thus, Balad organized this campaign to make it easier for both parents and students to find all they need for the new year of studying in one place with non-profitable prices.

The CGC was coordinated with 10 local community organizations in the districts of Salfet, Jenin, Ramallah and Hebron. 10 school stationery exhibitions were held in which almost 16,300 beneficiaries and 50 volunteers were involved. The campaign lasted for 13 days over the period (7-20/8/2007).

Balad used to provide all the administrative work and paid the costs implied in the process of coordination like paying the staff on the field, transportation and other implicit costs.

### **3. Ramadan Campaign "Ramadan Nights"( RNC ) (October 2007)**

Balad during the Holy Month of Ramadan targeted the students in universities and colleges in the West Bank to contribute in fortifying the Palestinian unity among the most effective and the largest sector in the Palestinian community. Students who are away of their families were the major target of the RNC.

Balad held 11 collective Fast-Breaking meals in the following Palestinian universities and educational institutions: Annajah University (Nablus), Bir-Zeit University (Ramallah), Al-Khodouri University (Toulkarem), Al-Quds Open University (Toulkarem), the Arab American University (Jenin), Bethlehem University, Educational Sciences College (Ramallah), Qalqilyah, Nablus, Arras Secondary School (Toulkarem).

An overall sum of 6307 Students from 11 educational institution participated in this campaign in which a special night were organized after the meal. Students' unions and committees were involved in organizing this activity which was held in the campus of each

educational institution. Balad succeeded in providing funds for the meals and expenditures for the musical ceremonies. The activity was held between (4-12/10/2007).

#### **4. Supporting the Police Forces in Ramallah Campaign (SPF) (December 2007)**

To reinforce the youth and volunteers role in restoring order and raising the people's awareness to the necessity of behaving in accordance with the police directions especially the traffic men, Balad organized a one day campaign to encourage the public in Ramallah & Al-Bireh District to observe law and respect the traffic rules and regulations.

The camps was carried out 5/12/2007 where 17 volunteers participated in distributing leaflets and brochures in all suburbs, main streets, cars, people and drivers and even they shared the police forces in directing the flow of cars within the mentioned cities.

### **D. Commemorating Events**

#### **1. Sponsoring the Graduation of Veterinary and Agriculture Faculties Students, An Najah University/Nablus (March 2007)**

Under the patronage and sponsorship of Al-Basher for Development and Creativity (Balad), The Students' Youth Movement organized the Honoring Ceremony for Veterinary & Agriculture Graduates 2007 on 28/4/2007; 20 veterans and 23 graduates from Agriculture Faculty were honored. The attendance was remarkable and included a number of prominent national, popular and academic figures in addition to the parents and families of the graduates.

#### **2. The Commemoration of the Excelled Tawjihi Students/ Salfet District (August 2007)**

As a continuation of Balad's activities launched since the beginning of the scholastic year to foster students by targeting, developing and encouraging their activities and initiatives; Balad sought to honor the excelled students in the High School Exams in Salfet District to celebrate with them and their families the joy of success and beginning of new stage in their lives.

Balad held an activity to honor the students, to show appreciation and gratitude for the teachers' efforts and for all they gave for the benefit and quality of our students. The event was organized in cooperation with the Teachers' Union within the General Union of the Ministry of Education. The Commemoration was held on 23/8/2007 where 53 students were honored and 53 schools were also accorded gifts.



## **Second Section: Anticipated Projects & Future Plans in 2008-2009**

Since establishment, in June 2006, Al-Basheer for Development and Creativity (Balad) seeks to reach all the societal sectors in the most disadvantaged and needy areas for projects and developmental efforts.

The Headquarters of Balad is in the City of Ramallah, but recently, Balad established its own branch in Salfeet District to be able to conduct its activities and projects with proper coordination and follow-up in the northern regions of the West Bank.

The branch was opened in 7/4/2008, furnished and equipped by contributions from local figures. The branch plans to conduct three English language training courses for the school students and other courses and activities that ensure the sustainability of the branch as well as coverage of its operational costs.

Balad Branch in Salfeet will conduct some of the anticipated projects in 2008-2009 and assist the headquarters to diversify the activities and reach areas and destinations that haven't been reached before.

During 2008, Balad is planning to work on several projects, among which are:

### **1. Rehabilitating Kindergartens' Libraries**

In Palestine, we have a problem concerning reading and attachment to books especially among youth. This is according to recent statistics concerning the production of books and reading tendencies among the youth and the community in general. So, Balad is attempting to address the dilemma by focusing on the children.

There are nearly 690 kinder gardens spread in the West Bank, most of them lack an ideal library for children. Balad will work with the licensed, proper facilities for the children and premises for library kindergartens. Balad, after receiving an application, conducting a field visit, approving the application and the premises, will provide the library with books, child stories, entertaining and enlightening toys and games, and other books that will promote and encourage children to read and reinforce this trend. The targeted sector in this program are children of ages (2-5.5) years.

Balad is planning to pay the 70-80% of the costs implied in the rehabilitation process of the library; 20-30% of these costs is to be paid by the owner of the kindergarten. A follow up procedures and specific preconditions are to be set to assure the best outcomes and the favorite use of the materials provided.

### **2. Youth Creativities Project**

This program will foster the gifts and talents of the Palestinian people, the youth particularly in different aspects and fields of art and creativity such as: painting, writing novels, short stories, poetry ...etc. A Committee will be formed to judge the talents consisting of qualified known and respected people, and the winners will be accorded awards for their distinction.



### **3. University Students Support**

The idea of this project is based on helping the students in the universities to buy their textbooks by paying trivial prices since books in universities curriculum are expensive in most of the cases. Balad will provide these books (a copy) for the students and pay 50%-70% of the overall cost while the student pays the remaining amount. This will be applied by distributing coupons to the students in coordination with students' movements in the universities.

### **4. Palestinian Students Parliament**

The main idea of the project is to develop students' abilities to address and discuss the accessible solutions for their problems within a parliamentary and democratic framework. Other major objectives are:

- 1- Consolidating the values of democracy, parliamentary work, tolerance, and accepting the other.
- 2- Increasing youth ability to influence the local communities via putting an executive work plan that includes a list of policies and regulations pertaining to the students youth work.
- 3- Tackling the most crucial issues in the Palestinian society such as supremacy of law, the security disorder, equality issues, students right, violations of human rights, harassments, violence inside educational institutions, corruptions and the like>
- 4- Raising youth awareness of the democratic process, the youth political participation and the parliamentary work.
- 5- Unifying their efforts to produce a draft of students law and rights and submit it to the Legislative Council.

### **5. Palestinian Needy Students Fund**

Due to the current economic situations, BALAD is planning to launch the "Palestinian Needy Student Fund" Program (PNSF). The PNSF is a serious attempt and endeavor not to let any student leave the schools for financial reasons. For this purpose, the Student Fund is to be established to support needy and distinguished students to enable them fulfill their academic objectives and continue their path in life. The (PNSF) aims at supporting needy and distinguished students to enable them fulfill their academic objectives and continue their path in life empowered with education and reinforce the fact of equal opportunities of education.

### **6. Youth Center**

This is a huge project in which Balad is attempting to open an inclusive youth center in each district that offers its services to both males and females equally. We are ambitious to open a youth center in each district and then bring the youth together in a central event. The center will offer cultural, musical, computer, sportive, educational ...etc services to all youth (6-24) years old.

### **7. "Your Health & Safety Matter to Us": Health Educational Campaign**

This campaign comes corresponding to the increasingly emerging phenomena within the Palestinian markets related to massive use of expired and invalid products and goods (medications, floor, food cans...etc). Thousands of products were confiscated by the Ministry of Health because they are unsuitable for human use.

Balad will hold “Train of Trainers” for qualifying 15 persons so they will conduct educational workshops in different areas to:

- 1- Raise the public’s health and consumptive awareness in some of the marginalized villages>
- 2- Highlight the necessity to be aware of the Public Safety principles and conscious dealing with the different types of medications and foods.
- 3- Support the efforts of the Ministry of Health in combating the Expired foods and products phenomenon.
- 4- Deploy the public to overcome these serious violations.

If the workshops proved its efficiency, Balad will extend the workshops to include most of the villages and towns of the districts in the West Bank (Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem, Qalqiyah...etc). **(A Detailed Proposal is attached)**