



AMMAL

Newsletter

December 2006



The tour of the President and General Director of the Health Work Committees in Europe and East Asia.

Enhancement of the international solidarity, And new horizons for friendly support and collaboration.

Throughout the last month, the Health Work Committees (HWC), represented by its president Mrs. Shatha Odeh and its general director Dr. Ahmad Maslamani, and in cooperation with tens of supporting organizations, individuals, and friends, has organized an international tour that included Spain, Gobierno Vasco, Belgium, Holland, and Philippine. This tour aimed at enhancing and strengthening our relations with the supporting institutions for our organization and our struggle, and consolidating the collaboration and technical support to our programs and goals.

Series of solidarity meetings in Europe

In the Gobierno Vasco, Mrs. Odeh and Dr. Maslamani have met with the Vasco Government and its parliament, in addition to other supporting institutions. These meetings have been verified the cooperation possibilities with HWC, and organizing activities that aim at supporting the Palestinian struggle. On the other hand, the delegations that met with our representatives have affirmed their solidarity with the Palestinians' struggle for their rights, and on their decline of the apartheid wall and the necessity to respect the international legitimacy decisions.

In the Spanish capital, Madrid, our delegation met with many organizations, such as, Manus Unidas, ACSUR, Solidarity International, and many other organizations. During these meetings, the discussion was on how to enhance the Spanish solidarity with our people. The Spanish delegations have valued the attitude and activities of HWC in Palestine on the national and developmental levels.

In the Generalitat de Catalunya, specifically in Barcelona, the HWC's representatives have met with Catalunya government, and other municipalities and organizations. Both sides have agreed upon the necessity of communication and continue lobbying to force the Israeli occupation to respect the international legitimacy decisions. They also discussed the possibilities to improve the support of the HWC and its programs.

In Belgium, Dr. Maslamani has participated, as Palestine representative, in the strategic planning for INTAL organization (International Solidarity for People's Liberation). Planning - in participation of Palestine, Cuba, Congo, and Philippine - included finding a strategy to strengthen solidarity and support for the struggle of those countries against imperialism, hegemony, and external interference, taking into consideration that each country of the above mentioned lives under certain circumstances that have been examined through the strategic planning (Palestine is under the Israeli occupation, Cuba is under the imperial siege, Congo is under external interference that consumes all its resources, Philippine is under the U.S hegemony). The support strategy was put till 2013, in cooperation with volunteers and members of the Belgium Labor Party. This strategy contains advocacy and lobbying campaigns to

support the Palestinian struggle, financially and morally.

On the periphery of the strategic planning in Belgium, Dr. Maslamani met with Solidar organization (coalition of 34 democratic \ socialist institutions), and solosoc organization. During the two meetings, Dr. Maslamani presented deep analysis about the recent developments in the Palestinian territories, under the occupation manifestations, plans, and unfair siege imposed on our people.

With Oxfam organization \ Belgium, Dr. Maslamani discussed the cooperation relations on the basis of a clear developmental vision, aims at supporting the Palestinian people, and empowering the poor and marginalized groups.

Moreover, two meetings with the students of Lueven and Liej Universities in Belgium were organized. During these meetings, students were updated about the recent



Palestinian situation, with focusing on the apartheid wall and the siege imposed on Palestinians. On the other hand, an agreement was made with the students to create a

framework to lobby for the Palestinians in Belgium.

In his meeting with the Belgium-Palestinian Solidarity Committee, Dr. Maslamani was familiarized with the committee efforts through networking with Parliamentarians, and organizing demonstrations in front of the Israeli embassy against the Israeli practices in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In the meeting with the Union of the Palestinian Doctors and Pharmacists in (colon\ Germany) - who came to Belgium to meet with Dr. Maslamani -, concrete issues and in-kind donations have been discussed; like medical missions in Palestine, and equipment and medicines donations.

Finally, Dr. Maslamani has met in Holland with a delegation from the international league for people's struggle, headed by Professor Jose Sison chairperson of the International Coordinating Committee (ILPS). The meeting mainly focused on the enhancement of solidarity with the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation and the U.S policy in the region. Another meeting for Dr. Maslamani with the adherence committee for the Palestinian and Iraqi people in Holland was organized.

East Asia International Conferences against the U.S aggressive

Dr. Maslamani was a guest on CHD organization (Philippines Council for Health and Development). The visit included a tour on the hospitals and medical centers, to learn about the council's experience in establishing local health committees. Dr. Maslamani also was familiarized -through CHD organization - with the deteriorating health situation in Philippine, in terms of the spread of epidemics under the current political situation including the military dictatorship and U.S hegemony.

Dr. Maslamani's visit also contained a meeting with the Health alliance action for Human Rights, Medicine Students' Coalition in Philippine, Gabriela women Organization, BAYAN Coalition, Coalition for public Philippines organizations (students, women, research centers, developmental organizations.....), and Hospital Managers.

In Philippine also, Dr. Maslamani participated in a conference against the U.S military actions under the slogan of "War on Terror" to justify its military existence in Philippine. 34 countries were participated in this conference.

In addition, Dr. Maslamani participated in the consultation conference about East Asia and the Pacific Ocean. This conference gathered solidarity groups with people's struggle for liberation and democracy, and against War and Imperialism.

Dr. Maslamani presented in the two conferences papers about the Palestinian situation and the aggressive U.S policy in the region. Two statements about the conferences were issued, affirming on the necessity to oblige the Israeli occupation to respect the international legitimacy decisions. On the occasion of the conferences, Dr. Maslamani has met representatives from several countries (Vietnam, Bangladesh, Pakistan, China, North Korea, South Korea, Indonesia, Norway), and agreed with them on activities to enhance cooperation on the international level.

Strategic Planning - 2007 - 2010

Wide Participation of Employees and Public Dissemination of Results

By the time this issue is out, the organization would be on the verge of concluding its strategic plan for the years 2007-2010, which it worked on throughout October. All centers, programs and projects within the organization worked intensely during that month, with the participation of employees from all levels of administration as well as the beneficiaries.

In an effort to ensure the broad participation of all employees in the affairs of the organization, and to ensure an internal democratic process, the work on strategic planning was divided into a number of stages starting with evaluating the previous plan 2004-2006, analyzing the internal and external environments (SWOT), revisiting its objectives and strategies, and then setting goals and strategies for the years 2007-2010, and concluding with the finalization the work plans and the detailed strategy for the same years.

First Phase: evaluating 2004-2006 Plan:

All employees participated in this stage, based on the division, program or project in which they worked. The participants looked at the 2004-2006 plans, and analyzed their outcomes as well as shortfalls. Some beneficiaries participated in these evaluations through focus-group meetings with the employees. In addition to employees and beneficiaries, a number of partner organizations who had cooperation and coordination relations with the Health Work Committees were also part of this phase.

Second Phase: SWOT Analysis:

BoD members, directors of the centers and programs and area directors and department staff (primary healthcare, development, finance, and public relations) were part of this phase, in which they were successful at identifying the nature of internal and external environments, and then identifying the main challenges of the coming period and the expected scenarios on the political, economic and social spheres in Palestine.

Third Phase: Drafting the Mission Statement and Goals for the Years 2007-2010:

Based on the previous phase, a discussion on the mission and the goals of the organization for the year 2007 took place; and giving the proposed amendments to the BoD for endorsement was approved in the meeting since that is the body entitled to make changes to the mission and goals. Among the main proposed changes is to include in the mission an item about targeting the poor and with the marginalized sectors of the population, and to add to the mission objectives the empowerment of the Palestinian people as a goal to enhance their steadfastness. As for the previous goals (7 goals); it was suggested in the meeting that those goals be merged into 4 intensive goals that reflect the development and health projects of the organization, and aiming to build up quality performance in the work of the organization.

In its meeting on 13 October 2006, the BoD approved the proposed mission and goals, which will be the guidelines for work of the organization until the year 2010.

Forth Phase: Setting Work Plans, Frameworks and Implementation Strategies:

Based on the general goals and strategies, the centers, departments and programs put together the implementation plans for each of their specific fields, aiming to have the general implementation plan for the coming years put in place at the end of this process.

Upon concluding this long but fundamental managerial process, two meetings will be conducted to disseminate the results. The first meeting will be with representatives of the INGOs, donors and organizations supporting the Palestinian people. The second meeting will be with representatives of Palestinian official bodies, community based organizations and NGOs. The aim of these two meetings is to put the representatives in the picture of the goals and strategies through which the Health Work Committees will work in the coming four years, and to find means of cooperation and coordination in common fields for the benefit of the developmental mission of the organization.



Statement Issued by Palestinian NGOs Condemning Israel's War Crimes in Gaza and Lebanon

"No to normalization; yes to international boycott of Israel; an appeal to the spirit of resistance."

August 17, 2006

Representatives of various political parties, groups and Palestinian and non-governmental organization convened in Ramallah upon the invitation of the Palestinian Non-governmental Organizations Network (PNGO). The meeting discussed current conditions in light of the blatant Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the atrocities that are being committed by Israeli troops against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, and the serious escalation in the region in general following the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

Participants declared that the goals of the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip and in Lebanon are evidently much broader than a mere reaction to the capture of Israeli soldiers during military operations by the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance.

On the Palestinian front, the Israeli military operation comes in the context of a comprehensive integrated policy to destroy the infrastructure of the Palestinian society. It is another attempt to weaken the Palestinian entity and sabotage any hope for development. The Israeli invasion came specifically at a time of Palestinian political conciliation, as reflected in the signing of the National Conciliation Document, which translated the Palestinian consensus into concrete terms. The current atrocities committed by the Israeli military during this invasion demonstrate yet again how far Israeli disregard for Palestinian human life can reach. More than 90 people have been killed and hundreds (mostly women and children) have been injured. In addition, there has been an all-out destruction of vital Palestinian infrastructure, including the main power plant, which has brought Gaza onto the verge of humanitarian disaster in terms of shortages in basic food items and medical supplies.

On the Lebanese front, the barbaric Israeli aggression shows the complete picture, since the goals of that aggression are embedded in the conditions and dictates the Israeli government wants to impose on the region so that it submits to Israeli-American hegemony. All international attempts to secure an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon failed as a result of US vetoes of all UN resolutions; only days ago the US vetoed a UNSC resolution aimed at ending Israel's attack on Gaza. Simultaneously, the Israeli government's intransigent position against engaging in any negotiations over the fate of its captured soldiers has made conditions worse, despite attempts by several parties to reach a negotiable solution.

In light of all these developments, the question is raised on whether the political frame that has been endorsed in Oslo and at a later stage through the Road Map of the Quartet is still valid as the peace process has been rendered obsolete by the war crimes committed by Israel, through actions of indiscriminate killings, massive destruction of infrastructure, and inflicting humanitarian disaster on the civilian population at large. This is especially true in view of a weakened Palestinian Authority that does not have significant control on the ground, and at a time when the Israeli government has illegally arrested a large number of the democratically-elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and of the Palestinian government.

Within this context, the application of the Fourth Geneva Convention in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip, requires the call for the provision of immediate international protection for the Palestinian people.

The decision of the G8 regarding Israeli aggression in Lebanon and Palestine proves again the clear bias of these countries towards Israel and their unconditional acceptance of Israel's narrative. This demonstrates, again, the need for a political framework based on international legitimacy, United Nations resolutions and within the frame of the United Nations charter.

A just solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict must guarantee the interests of all peoples in the region and must be based on international legitimacy, through which the conflict can be resolved and stabilized. In this respect, an immediate ceasefire is needed, and a halt of aggression in Lebanon and Palestine should be applied. Diplomatic efforts must be given an opportunity to find ways of addressing the real causes of the problem in order to end the current crisis.

The participants emphasize the need for the Palestinian political forces and civil society organizations to formulate a common program that would include the following principles:

1. Ensuring the implementation of the clauses stated in the National Conciliation Document on the need to revive the PLO so that it can develop and lead the implementation of a common, agreed-upon resistance strategy against the Israeli occupation.
2. Confronting Israeli aggression and reinforcing the spirit of resistance and steadfastness among the Palestinian people in confronting the Israeli occupation and rejecting all unilateral Israeli dictates.
3. Requesting that our partners in Arab civil society organizations increase their effective solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and exert pressure on their respective governments to stop dealing with the state of Israel at all levels.
4. Mobilizing solidarity campaigns at the international level and demanding a full boycott, divestment and the imposition of sanctions against Israel, until it fully complies with its obligations under international law by ending its occupation, oppression and racial discrimination.
5. Taking the necessary measures at the Palestinian level to stop all normalization with Israel, particularly any projects between Palestinian and Israeli organizations, unless they are based on a common political stance of rejecting the occupation and recognizing international legitimacy, including the international resolutions pertaining to the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.
6. Coordinating the efforts of Palestinian organizations that focus on Israeli violations of international law, with the objective of advocating a boycott against Israel.
7. Calling on the all signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention to hold an urgent meeting to discuss specific means of enforcing the Convention in the occupied Palestinian territory.
8. Declaring next Friday, 21 July 2006, a day of solidarity with the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and confronting Israel's aggression by calling on all NGOs in the Arab countries to organize massive marches on that day.
9. Demanding that the PLC drafts a special law on boycotting Israel and approaches international parliaments to push towards imposing sanctions on Israel in response to its flagrant and persistent violations of international law and international humanitarian law.

Civil Society Organizations
Occupied Palestinian Territories
August 17, 2006



Healthcare for Camps and Training for Students:

Training and Health Activities for Qalqilia Health Center

Special report for Amal

Throughout last June, Qalqilia Health Center completed many social and healthcare activities in Qalqilia and its surrounding villages in order to promote the Center's social and healthcare responsibility and to offer services for all the Palestinian people, including the poor.

For healthcare activities, a medical day was organized for the children of the summer camp in Kufur Lakef village. This activity was organized by the development program in Qalqilia which is a part of the Health Work Committees. A female doctor and a female nurse from Qalqilia Health Center performed complete medical checkups on 100 children between the ages of 4 - 14. Furthermore, the center provided first-aid kits to Jayoos summer camp and for the mobile summer camp of the Social and Psychological Counseling Center, in the children village (SOS); this in light of the fact that Qalqilia Health Center is used to fulfill all summer camps needs since Qalqilia is operating many summer camps this period.

In order to fulfill the goal of cooperation with and the delivery of services to other institutions, three students from the business field were accepted for training in the reception and accounting divisions, whereas twenty students from Alrawda College were accepted for training in emergency and clinics divisions for a period of three days.

Finally, we note that Qalqilia health center is one of the effective health centers in the city as it receives about (3000) patients monthly. Furthermore, a daily surgery division will be opened very soon in order to promote qualitative healthcare services in the city.



Unified Vaccination Campaign in Jerusalem Schools

Myasar Abu-Teer
School health care program directors

HWC is participating in the National Unified Vaccination Campaign because of its commitment to providing health care services for school children; this campaign is approved by the Palestinian ministry of health through the health care program for schools. HWC focuses on this program in particular because of the health conditions in the occupied capital caused by measures taken by the occupation administration.

The vaccination program covers the following diseases: Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Polio (for the first grade males and females), German Measles (for the sixth grade females only), and finally Diphtheria and Tetanus (for the ninth grade males and females). The total number of schools included in the campaign is 62, with a total of 4854 students (first, sixth and ninth grades) of an overall total 5046 for the previously mentioned grades; i.e. a percentage of 96%.

A Pronged Plan of Preparation for the Campaign

The school healthcare program embarked on a series of coordinating and planning activities in order to make the campaign successful such as the coordination with concerned institutions that included the Ministry of Education and the Palestinian Health Directorate in Jerusalem. In addition, many administrative and logistic arrangements were made in order to guarantee the success of the campaign; these include training and qualifying school healthcare personnel, providing vaccines and all logistic preparations and other technical tools, supplying schools with all needs in order receive the vaccination team, preparing all students and their families for the campaign and finally, setting a timetable for carrying out the campaign - starting October 2005 and ending in May 2006.

Difficulties Facing the Campaign

Despite the achieved progress (vaccinating 96% of the targeted grades), the campaign was faced with many difficulties. The continuous closure of the Palestinian territories and the isolation of Jerusalem caused a delay in receiving vaccines from the Ministry of Health. Moreover, the medical personnel were often prevented by the checkpoints from reaching schools, other than the difficulties the students sometimes had in reaching their schools to receive their vaccines. We also observed that the schools were not ready for the vaccination campaign; i.e. organizing the school day in accordance with the vaccination campaign as previously arranged.

The vaccination campaign is one of the most important health campaigns on the national level and must continue to cover no less than 98% of all school children. The campaign must also support its objectives with various educational campaigns, including health leaflets, printed materials and media information, which calls for a broader coordinating network with relevant Jerusalem institutions.



Rehabilitation Program in Hebron Community Survey of Disables in Five Villages

Lana Al-Bandak
Rehabilitation Program Director/South

The Community-based Rehabilitation Program has completed a special community survey in order to identify people who have difficulties and disabilities in five villages of west Hebron: Beit Kahel, Beit Ola, Tarkomia, Ithna and Deir Samet.

The goal of this community survey was to reach all homes in the five villages by using the house-to-house methodology in order to locate and assess people of all ages that have difficulties and various disabilities, whether sensual (sight, hearing and speech); mental (severe, learning difficulties, slow learning) and psychological and behavioral problems.

The rehabilitation program used the same methodology that is being used in World Health Organization in evaluating people's needs and capabilities. As a result, the program's recommendations were to refer people with special needs to medical and rehabilitation services and to train them in basic survival skills.

Before commencing the community survey, preparations were made with local society institutions in those villages, especially with the local councils, to guarantee the cooperation of those institutions as a means of ensuring the success of the process. The results will be announced in the coming weeks through local meetings that will be held for this purpose with the participation representatives from the community and different institutions on behalf of people of those villages.

Initial results of the five locations were as follows: population 50587, 1227 households with disabilities and difficulties, 1535 persons with disabilities.

Since the beginning of October the program began reviewing, classifying and setting a detailed plan that will help meet the various needs identified in the survey. This plan includes a detailed community plan to assure the achievement of community awareness regarding disabilities in general, reasons, ways to deal with people with special needs, and general awareness in the handicapped law and rights.

Hosting "Cinderella" in Soreef

The Community-based Rehabilitation Program in HWC has organized a show of the "Cinderella" play in Soreef, in cooperation with Al-Kasaba theatre in Jerusalem and Soreef Youth Association on Thursday 5/10/2006.

The show focused on the rights of the disabled and was attended by 1200 children from Soreef and many disabled children (13 males and 27 females).

The show intended to merge the disability issue in the well-known story of Cinderella, framing it in a modern context and benefiting from the protagonist's attraction of audiences to raise the disability issue.

The show was remarkably successful, with huge number of attendees and their interaction with the play's events that highlighted the importance of disabled children's rights.



HWC in Nablus during August and September

Various Health and developmental activities

Report by Tayseer Shtayer
Administrative Manager of Medical Center in Nablus

The past months of August and September were full of various activities by HWC in Nablus. The number of patients in the previously mentioned months reached 9229 visitors, 12% of which was exempted from fees because of the difficult economic situation. Moreover, two free medical days were organized: the first one was in cooperation with Jamaeen village council from which 300 patients benefited. The second one was in cooperation with Palestinian Progressive Youth Union and Palestinian Women Committee in Skaka village where 200 patients benefited. Usually, medical days bring in various specialists (Orthopedist, Obstetrician / Gynecologist, Pediatrician and Dermatologist, etc.) and free medicine was given for patients who needed it.

In terms of education and awareness programs, 20 health and pregnancy lectures were organized, where 413 citizens attended. Furthermore, two first-aid sessions were organized: the first one in cooperation with International Solidarity Organization and the other with Salfect Women Center, with 40 people attending.

In programs for support and promotion of institutional relations locally and internationally, the center hosted a delegation from the Bask Province in Spain and informed them about the committee's activities in the area and about the difficult economic conditions in Nablus as a result of the blockade.

In order to promote the general role of members of the institution, a meeting was held for 47 members. As a result of the meeting, a support committee was formed to enhance the institution's role in civil society. The committee members are: Ismat Shaksheer (BoD member), Sana Abu-Zarour, May Miri, Kamal Jawabre and Mohammed Jameel Abdo (GA members).

The Director of the Medical Center urges the relevant authorities to take on their responsibilities.

On the other hand, Dr. Waleed Kaderi, the Union's director, and on behalf of the medical center, urged the relevant authorities to take the Palestinians financial circumstances into consideration, among which are the bad health conditions; since the poor cannot pay for treatment of any family member, which leads to health disasters. Kaderi speech came as a result of the closure of many health clinics and the strike of public health employees. Kaderi has also confirmed that the tough economic situation has led to an increase in the number of patients who are treated for free, noting that the institution's policy is to waive even the symbolic fees for the poor, martyrs families and prisoners families.

Ramallah: East to West

Centers and Clinics Serving Tens of Thousands

The Health Work Committees programs and plans are various, and so are its activities in Ramallah district. These activities extend from the east to the west of Ramallah, focusing attention on the heavily populated areas and those far from the services of the city, but most importantly, the areas affected by the Apartheid Wall.

Al-Mazra'a Al-Sharqiya (east of Ramallah and Al-Bireh): the medical center in the village, which has 11 full-time health workers and a number of specialized doctors, is considered one of the important centers established by HWC because of the needs of the area, because of the nature of the services offered and because of the big accomplishments in terms of community relations.

Specializations and Programs along with the Health Services

The center includes a general health clinic and fully-equipped emergency clinic. The clinic opens 9 hours daily. As for the emergency clinic, and as a result of the deteriorating conditions, HWC decided to assign a resident GP, a nurse and a dentist to the clinic in the village, in order to deal with the emergency cases. This decision positively affected the lives of the people, for this emergency clinic now opens 24 hours; in addition to the availability of a laboratory in the clinic, equipped to run all forms of medical tests.

"This decision to offer specialized health care" says the director of the center Dr. Omran Tahayneh, "comes in accordance with the HWC's quest in 2004 to deliver quality health care to people in need..." The Center today includes specializations of NTE, dermatology, child surgery, orthopedics, and finally a dental clinic which opens for two shifts totaling 9 hours daily.

A Plot of Land Donated by the Local Community

The center in al-Mazra'a al-Sharqiya is a demonstration of the level of coordination and communication with the local community, both individuals and organizations. The center has exceptionally good relationships with the people of the village and its organizations, including the municipality, al-Mazra'a al-Sharqiya Charitable Organization, the Mazra'a al-Sharqiya Women's Society, the Mazra'a al-Sharqiya Forum, the Youth club, as well as schools, kindergartens and the center for the teaching of the Koran.

These relationships with the community have resulted in several developments in the work of the center. This is evidenced in the latest act of good-will displayed by the community, namely, the donation of a plot of land on the main road of the village, and upon which health center will be built. The center will be two-story high with 800 square meters of internal space.

Fifteen Thousand People Benefit from Kufur Ne'meh Center (west of Ramallah)

The Kufur Ne'meh Health Center was established in the early 90's in cooperation with the Ministry of Education. Its purpose is to sever a large number of villages located in the west of Ramallah/el-Bireh District, which includes the villages of Bil'in, Deir Bzee', Ras Karkar and Saffa, with a population of around 15 thousand people.

The center is open for patients twice daily, from 8a.m. to 2p.m., and again from 9-5p.m. A daily average of 1300 people visits the center to be seen for general medical problems and emergency treatment. In addition to those specialities, the center offers once-weekly health services to women, Osteoporosis (bone) treatment, ENT (ear, nose and throat) services, Pediatric surgery, in addition to a dental clinic that opens 3 days a week day time and 6 days a week in the evening.

the participating children physical examinations as well as holding health education and awareness lectures.

The Mobile Clinic Reaches Patients at Home and in Remote Villages

The Mobile Clinic is one of the oldest and most essential health service projects for the center. "The objective of the project," says Dr. Husam Rimawi, Director of the Central Region, "is to reach marginalized and isolated groups that are unable to get to health services or cannot afford the expenses like transportation, doctor fees, medicines and laboratory tests."

Therefore, the clinic is most active in areas far away from Ramallah and close to the Green Line, which is a rather troublesome mission as these remote areas are fraught with check points and many are located near or along the Apartheid (Separation) Wall. Villages such as al-Lubban al-Gharbi, Rafit, and Ras Karar are some of the places that are hard to reach because of those obstacles. Nevertheless, the services provided to these villages are not limited to general health, but also include health services for women as the



The center also conducts health education and awareness activities, as do others of our center across the country. These programs inform the public on health issues for women and children and general public health in schools.

Dr. Mazen Da'na, Director of Kufur Ne'meh Health Center, explained that within the primary health service offered by the center, namely women's health, the center cares for expectant mothers and post-natal women - services that are part of the mother and child health programs. He added that the center also oversees the general health conditions in three local high schools and several kindergartens.

The center also conducts programs in health education and training for women - one such activity was the first aid training session held in cooperation with the local women's society, and included 23 women participants; another was the supervision of general health conditions at the summer camp held by Ayyam Zaman Club, giving

Mobile Clinic, has a female Obstetrician and a midwife on staff, and who use modern technology to examine pregnant women.

The women of those areas are also given education and awareness sessions dealing with women's health, menopause and breast cancer.

In addition, the clinic's health worker goes on home visits for the women of the villages who are unable reach the clinic's location in order to check on their well-being and follow up on their treatment.

The schools around that area also benefit from the services of the clinic since the medical team often organizes visits to these schools to conduct physical and dental examinations and organize educational activities for teachers and students.

Finally, the number of people in those areas benefiting from the service of the Mobile Clinic now stands at approximately 7000.

Health Work Committees participates in the third annual conference for Palestinian refugees in Diaspora

A delegation from the Health Work Committees participated in the third annual conference for Palestinian refugees held in Asturias Province. The conference invited Palestinian children delegates from Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, but the Lebanese children couldn't participate.

This participation was the first for 14 children from Palestine, Syria and Jordan. Their ages ranged from 11 to 19 and all of them are children of refugees.

The presence and participation of the Palestinian delegation, which was headed by Omar Hamoude, was remarkable as it is the only delegation that comes from the homeland Palestine. The delegates included children of refugees and prisoners, whose parents will remain in Israeli prisons for 18- 30 years.

Various sessions were held during the conference with local municipalities in Asturias Province, the Spanish local community institutions, and parliament members with groups representing the parliament.

The Palestinian delegates explained the importance of the right of return for refugees by telling the stories of children and their families during 1948 and 1967 exodus.

Moreover, they focused on the apartheid wall and its harmful effect on Palestinian life in all aspects, social and economic; also how it is detrimental to the general health of the population as well as devastating to the agricultural sector.

The children of prisoners focused on their parents' suffering and the dreadful conditions of their confinement. They also clarified the importance of the prisoners' issue to the Palestinian people in general and to Palestinian children in particular, refuting the Israeli tale of the kidnapping of Israeli soldier in Gaza, and stressing that he is a soldier on active duty, participating in attacks on Gaza Strip citizens and children, and therefore, he is a prisoner of war.

The Attack on Lebanon Prevents the Palestinian Refugees from Traveling.

The Israeli attack on Lebanon deprived the Palestinian refugee children in Lebanon from participating in the conference in Spain.

"They were from Sidon, Tyre, Tripoli and Shatila. Those areas were under attack and Israeli aggression. Although the children had all necessary documents, they could not reach the airport," commented Marya Orora Soarif, the head of a solidarity committee with Arab issues in Asturias Province, adding that the attack on Lebanon targeted the airport specifically. Soarif also stressed the importance of the role of camps and their support by NGO's in Spain.

"The purpose of this conference is to go beyond human motives to reach politics because the situation in the Palestinian camps is difficult," said Rafael Platheos, Cooperation Director in Asturias province. Furthermore, he said that the cooperation department had allocated 340,000 euro for development and cooperative projects in Palestine.



Nablus Checkpoints

Continuous Oppression and Provocation against Medical Aid Staff and Clinics

Wael Hawash, ambulance driver with HWC

The Israeli checkpoints placed between West Bank cities undoubtedly cut all inter-connection between those cities and cause extreme hardship to Palestinians, which is a part of the occupation's arrogant and aggressive policy.

Obstructing the passage of ambulances and the work of medical aid teams on the checkpoints of Nablus and Tubas is one of the most oppressive and inhumane actions practiced by the occupation forces. Those practices are in directed violation of all international laws and conventions, which compel the occupier to facilitate the work of all medical personnel operating in occupied territories.

On October 10th, at the North Aseera checkpoint, Israeli soldiers forced the ambulance team to get out of the vehicle and forbade them from entering Nablus. Furthermore, they ordered them to turn back even though they all had special identification cards proving that they are employees of an institution that provides health and medical services.

The next day, October 11th, and on the same checkpoint outside Nablus, institution employees, Ala' Abu-Sood, Yaser Al-Zein and Shifa Hmedan, were also forced to get out of the ambulance and then denied entry and ordered turn back.

These oppressive practices on checkpoints have a direct and detrimental effect on the health status of the people since medical services become unattainable for those who need them, especially in Nablus area. The population of Nablus is suffering as a direct result of these oppressive practices on the checkpoints; and according to the United Nations report, the checkpoints around the city have double in number since last year.



80 Children Benefited from Nidal Center's Camp Annual Activity to Qualify Future Youth Leaders

Rukaya Al-Masri
Children's Club Coordinator Nidal Center

The Children's Camp ended upon the issue of this report. The camp was organized by Nidal Center, a division of HWC in the old city of Jerusalem. The camp started on 1 July, 2006 and ended on the 31st. This camp, which included 80 children of both genders, is an annual event held by Nidal Center's activities and programs that target children living in the Old City. The overall percentage of participants for this year was around 70%. Two supervisors and nine advisors of both genders were responsible of the camp all of whom were volunteers.

This year's camp objectives were set through the organization of entertainment and intellectual activities for the children, and by training a new youth group in leader roles. The Center also organizes a series of educational activities for the youth that aim to enhance their skills in social leadership.

Various Activities

The children participated in various educational, social, artistic and entertainment activities. The educational activities included activities dealing with relevant issues such as the problems of the youth, their problems within the family, future goals, the current political situation and some activities in emotional counseling.

The artistic activities included handicrafts, theater, folklore dance, expressive dance, singing and percussion. It is expected to bring the camp to a close with an exhibit for photos and handicrafts made by the children during their participation in the camp - in addition to a folkloric dance performance by members of the Nidal Center.

The social activities included four entertainment/educational trips and the hosting of groups from summer camps inside and outside the Old City such as: Al-Shyah Center, Hope Camp, Old City Center Camp and Burj al-Laklak Center. All sessions and visits included joint activities one of which was the performance of a theatrical play dealing with children's rights.





Important Declaration of International Organizations In West Bank and Gaza Strip

In response to the calls of Israel, the United States and the European Union to bypass the Palestinian Authority by dealing with the NGO's as mediators to channel support to the Palestinian territories, which is part of the strategy of the economic blockade following the formulation of the new Palestinian Authority, some international organizations working in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have joined the position of Palestinian NGO's, announcing their refusal to become an alternative to official government channels.

The following is the text of that announcement:

Statement by International Developmental and Humanitarian Relief Organizations

25.9.2006

The following international development and humanitarian relief organizations that work in the occupied Palestinian Territories, and who know very well the devastating impact of the freeze in funding to the Palestinian Authority is having on the Palestinian people, would like their partners and the Palestinian public to know that they are working hard to ensure their governments' resumption of direct assistance to the Palestinian people, including to the administrative institutions that provide essential public services.

We further emphasize that the administrative, management, and coordination responsibilities of public sector institutions cannot be replaced with services from NGOs or UN agencies, We hence call upon the international community to immediately resume funding of the institutions responsible for providing services to the Palestinian people.

ACSUR
American Friends Service Committee, Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP)
Diakonia
Gruppo di Volontariato Civile - GVC
Italian Consortium of Solidarity (ICS)
Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
MAP UK
Medico International
Merlin
Movimondo - Italy
Oxfam International
Save the Children Alliance
Swedish Cooperative Center (SCC)
Unity and Cooperation for Development of Peoples (UCODEP)
World Vision Jerusalem

The tour of the President and General Director of (HWC)
Solidarity Activities in Europe and East Asia



Development Policies

Development for the People: No to Private Investments



Wissam Rafidi
Development Advocacy

It is necessary to examine developmental policies, or more to the point, to consider "who to develop". In other words, it is necessary to determine which groups are to be targeted and what values to instill within these groups in order to best serve the developmental objectives.

The answer to these questions becomes problematic as a result of the conflict between social and political interests of various stakeholders involved in the specific development policies. Obviously, development is about social benefit, and the various positions of the beneficiaries are, undoubtedly, reflected in this conflict.

Before attempting to answer the question of who to develop, the differences between development and economic growth must be defined. It is clear that the major players in the globalized international capital, namely, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization, supported by Neo-Liberal ideologies, have succeeded, to an extent, in deliberately obfuscating the two terms in an attempt to make development equal to economic growth - which of course can be measured using known statistical indicators such as growth in the gross national income, rise in the value of exports, privatization and stability of local currency. Thus, the question becomes: who benefits from economic growth? Through the study of current history of economics, it is now known that achieving economic growth does not necessarily mean attaining prosperity for the vast majority of the population who are the farmers, laborers and low-income groups. In fact, the opposite results were observed in several countries around the world where achieving economic growth actually resulted in a rise in poverty and impoverishment rates, while economic growth was limited to the capitalists connected to the global market.

Economic growth is thus defined in specific terms relating to the development of individual skills that enhance the ability of the beneficiaries to manage and operate profitable projects. Hence, it is the individual and not the production group who are at the core of this economic policy. Therefore, the objective is enhancing the capacity of individual economic activity, meaning developing profitable entrepreneurship. The West Bank and the

Gaza Strip are now satiated with such projects that are mostly funded by the Americans and by some Europeans. Even though these projects seemingly improved the conditions of the individuals involved, they actually resulted in the convolution of the development concept and are nothing more than relief schemes rather than economic development projects.

What is somewhat disconcerting is the growing spread of the private sector mentality among individuals; this same mentality that has been proven in the study of modern history of economics a failure at achieving any real development in the third world since it contradicts its own interests in the first place.

Contrary to what is taking place here, the definition of development in the public democratic sense must target the productive citizen, not the individual seeking personal gain; real development targets the individual who is part of a group or sector wherein he contributes to improving his standard of living.

This kind of development depends on several fundamental premises:

- The people are the decision-makers in development; they define their needs, choose their leaders and build institutions. This is what gives this concept of development a genuine democratic character.
- This development, even if it intended to achieve economic growth, is not to boost the profits of the private sector, but to realize socio-economic prosperity for the majority of the people. The first goal of development is advance the capabilities and resources of the people to attain economic and social development.
- The approach for this kind of development is to focus on the productive social sectors (agriculture and industry), elevating the capabilities individuals, enhancing their political role associated with the development process, building developmental organizations that oversee the general process to ensure the participation of the people, and finally, through building public awareness and enhancing the supporting values of the developmental process.

This how the concept of development becomes inclusive and could then be truly defined as "a process of development."



To Put Our Wheels on the Right Track



Dr. Ahmad Maslamani
General Director (HWC)

Finally, the Palestinian President has announced the early elections decision, presidential and legislative, after the failure of the negotiations to form a national unity government. The goal of this introduction is not to be part of a media or political argument to accuse a certain part of responsibility of this failure, or to release another part from the burden of responsibility on the same failure. The real and current dilemma of the Palestinian political system is affecting not only the daily bread of Palestinians and their right to get proper treatment and health services, but also this situation is affecting the national project for independence.

When saying what has been said, we completely believe that the negotiations that took place to form a national unity government have entered new paths and addressed issues that do not put our people on the right track. What really can put us on the right track is the revival of the national project for independence, raise the unfair and imperial siege and starvation, return the Palestinian struggle to its track, and strengthen the internal front to stand to the current needs. Nowadays, a new rumor is on the air about Olmert's initiative for a political agreement leads to "The Viable

State" on the basis of demolishing refugees' right to return, and on the basis of the apartheid wall that surround the "Intended Israeli State" supported by the U.S policy.

Accordingly, the national negotiations (basically between Fateh and Hamas) to distribute the main portfolios among themselves was ironic!! Which main portfolios are they talking about?? About the financial portfolio that is pledged by the donor's political conditions. These conditions that reach - without an official confirmation - asking for the resume of each candidate for a portfolio, so Condoliza Rice can decide whether to appoint him/her or not. Are they talking about the interior portfolio that depends mainly on the agreements with the occupation and its state??

Total deterioration is affecting the Palestinians on all levels. The health situation is declined. Artificial kidney unit in hospitals is deteriorating. Pregnant women health is worsened. The siege is affecting health situation badly, and the services of the Ministry of Health are seriously declined.

The latest call for early elections is definitely not going to solve the crisis of the internal Palestinian situation, political, social, economic, or national problems magically. The early elections will also not be able of addressing the needs of the Palestinians to strengthen the internal front against the occupation and its manifestations.

Our people need more than a government. They need more than elections. Our people need to revive their national dream for independence. The entrance for achieving this dream is the reconstruction of the Palestinian institution on popular and democratic basis, starting from the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and ending in the smallest club in the most remote village in Palestine. In parallel, our people and our cause's interest need a political speech, and a political movement that bring the Palestinian cause as a liberation organization back, after the its transformation - because of the enemies - into an issue of salaries and human needs, and into an internal issue of struggle on authority. Ironically, all the stubborn facts indicate that there is no authority to struggle for.



For more information

Contact address:

Mrs. Shatha Oden President
Dr. Ahmad Maslamani Director General
Dr. Majed Nassar Executive Director

Main Office:

Shuhada Vardan Street - Sateh Marhaba - Al-Bireh
Tel: +970 2 2407518/9
Fax: +970 2 2407517
P.O.Box: 3966, Al-Bireh

e-mail: uhwc@palnet.com

with the support of ICCO-Netherland

www.hwc-pal.org