



Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Works

Annual 2012 RePort

International Christian Committee P.O.Box 19195 Jerusalem | Tel: +9722-6288858 | Fax: +9722-6287054 iccjer@netvision.net.il | www.iccjerusalem.org

<u>Table of Contents</u>		<u>Page #</u>
1.	Executive Summary	2-4
2.	Organizational History and Structure	5
3.	Mission and Vision Statements	5
4.	Identity, Culture and Values	5-6
5.	DSPR West Bank Area Committee	6
6.	NECC-ICC Overall Goal	7
	6.1 Community Development Program	
	6.1.1 Food Security project	
	◇ Introduction	7
	◇ Problem statement	8-9
	◇ Target area	9-11
	◇ Project description	11-14
	◇ Target Group	14
	◇ Impact	15
	◇ Sustainability	16
	◇ Most Significant Change	17-18
	6.1.2 Education Sector's Project	
	◇ Introduction	19
	◇ Problem statement	20
	◇ Target area	21
	◇ Problem justification	22
	◇ Project Description	23
	◇ Pictures	24-26
	◇ Impact	26
	◇ Sustainability	26
	◇ Challenges	27
	6.1.3 Water	
	◇ Introduction	28
	◇ Problem statement	29
	◇ Target area	30-32
	◇ Problem Justification	32
	◇ Project description	32
	◇ Impact	33
	◇ Sustainability	33-34
	◇ Challenges	34
	6.1.4 Advocacy	
	◇ Introduction	34
	◇ Problem statement	35
	◇ Justification of approach	36-39
	◇ UCC actions adopted at GC41	39-41
	◇ Future direction	42
	6.2 Loan Revolving Fund	42
7.	Acknowledgement	43

1. Executive Summary

Political Background

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continues to witness a major wave of change depicting a new “Sykes-Picot” that will redefine and reshape the MENA region. Palestinian dream towards sovereignty and statehood remains to be undermined by Israeli State occupation with control over Palestinian people, land and resources. Israeli occupation practices persist through geographic and demographic changes in the occupied Palestinian territories (**oPt**), with focus upon Area C, which is 60% of the West Bank, furthering defragmentation of occupied territories rendering them non coherent and non viable, imposing a defacto contextual reality.

Contextual analysis

The United Nations UNCTAD agency issued a gloomy outlook for the Palestinian economy arguing that tougher Israeli Policies and settlement expansion were pushing the occupied territories into poverty. UNCTAD reported the impact of the Israeli occupation since 1968 on the productive base of the Palestinian economy and especially its once-flourishing agriculture, “has been devastating”. The Economy has lost access to 40 % of West Bank land, 82 % of its ground water, and more than two thirds of its grazing land, UNCTAD report said.

The situation has been aggravated by a sharp drop in foreign aid, in addition to number of barriers to movement of Palestinian people and goods within and out of the West Bank by more than 500 checkpoints, road blocks, earth mounds, trenches, gates and brisk settlement intensification and growth. These physical obstacles aim to maintain segregation and separation policies over more than 2.6 Million Palestinians and form an integrated and coherent system that restricts movement of people to their basic services.

Poverty in the West Bank

UNCTAD reported that across Palestinian areas there was “continued severe poverty and chronic food insecurity” on the West Bank food insecurity which affected 66% of the population. The UNCTAD comment was underpinned by another statement from the U.N’s International Labour Organization (ILO) which puts the jobless rate at 26% of the work force. “Israeli restrictions on movement, faltering aid flows, a paralyzed private sector and a chronic fiscal crisis cloud the horizons, UNCTAD declared. Amid persistent high unemployment, it added, “one in Two Palestinians is classified as poor”.

Programmatic performance

The organization **programmatic performance** is guided by policy documents for all types of intervention. Policy implementation is translated into four phases representing actions with their timeline. The **first phase** represents the final selection of target area and target group with a mapping of actors and area profiling, the **second phase** comprises of the fulfillment of legal documentation and bidding process which is culminated by contractual agreements, **the third phase** is

designated to the execution with supervision and the **fourth phase** represents the handover procedures with internal assessment and reporting.

Throughout the project cycle, the Near East Council of Churches-International Christian Committee (NECC-ICC) is keen upon **relationships** with appropriate Ministries, local governance authorities, relevant cluster forums and beneficiaries to ensure effective cooperation in prioritized designated areas and avoid drain of resources and duplication.

Monitoring and Evaluation is being performed at various levels of the management and governance structures of the organization.

The NECC-ICC direction in **Service provision** focuses upon Community development through the sectors in education, access to water and food security. **Capacity building** direction is integrated in the food security program and **advocacy** focused upon the right to water and illegal settlements in the **oPt**. Objectives were realized with the full support and cooperation of local communities who were forthcoming throughout planning and implementation stages, demonstrating a high sense of responsibility and ownership.

With the service provision direction The **right to education** is constantly hampered by lack of foundational standards as set by Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies INEE related to "Access and learning environment" whereby our aim is to enhance the education facilities and promote the safety and well-being of learners, teachers and personnel who are linked to health, nutrition, psychosocial and protection services. Despite harsh economic constraints, yet we made a drastic difference towards providing a healthy education environment at Qabalan girls' school through maintenance and renovation works of 6 classrooms and construction of a sanitary block in Beita girls' school.

Revitalize water pipelines in Burkin/Jenin district, suffering from a very old transmission pipeline, an old internal network and 30% of the community not connected to the internal network. Accordingly losses account for 51 % of water supplied to the village, thus affecting individual share and economic burden.

The new network of 6.0 kilometers, enhanced supply to reach 110 l/c/d for domestic and agriculture consumption, for an area suffering from chronic disruptions and deteriorating efficiency in the supply of water.

Food security The strategic direction to divert from the emergency efforts of food staples towards community development remains to be sought through the food security program which had tremendous success for the third year whereby inputs introduced are becoming productive rendering beneficiaries self sufficient. It was addressed through the provision of 33 domestic farms in the village of Far'on, suffering from land confiscation and lack of access of farmers to their land. The project targeted most vulnerable group, with farming skills and whose sole source of income is welfare support from UNRWA, WFP and Government Social support, thus living in extreme poverty. The target group became self sufficient and productive with a monthly yield of at least USD 280 per household per month.

Capacity Building direction focused upon affected farmers in Far'on village addressing farm management. The training comprised of theoretical and practical stages. A "Model Farm" was introduced to beneficiaries where they conducted all the physical training and application of the theoretical material with required standards and specifications. An evaluation of the program was performed and input received from beneficiaries, which will be integrated in the next cycle of implementation.

The human rights-based approach remains to be a strategic direction through advocacy emanating from our community development program with focus upon the issue of "Water and settlements". The program became actively engaged in a highly complex issue but managed to emerge solid and steadfast amongst the challenges ahead.

New Loan policy is in application with tremendous recovery rates. Efforts continue to **recuperate loan working capital portfolio** to enable the organization activate its strategic direction of the loan program. The program was launched in 2012 and from its initiation had issued 28 loans processed in compliance with the revised policy.

One of the core values of the organization underlines the **learning culture** practiced throughout the project cycle. Moreover, this year's highlight was the setting of the future new directions that will guide our performance throughout the strategic cycle of 2013-2015. Accordingly, we were able to set a strategy that is long term, ensures sustainability with clear directions in a very complex environment, achieve the value added of the organization by **tapping upon its resources to fulfill stakeholders expectations on the baselines of vision, mission and values of the organization.**

Despite the chronic status of the conflict and worsening living conditions yet, we were able to realize our community development objectives and maintain strategic directions towards ecumenical performance and witness in cooperation with local governance authorities and communities.



Ramzi Zananiri
Executive Director

2. Organizational History and Structure

The Near East Council of Churches-International Christian Committee (NECC-ICC) is a Humanitarian Ecumenical Church Related Organization established in 1949, when four Americans residing in Jerusalem, wired the World Council of Churches requesting immediate support for the Palestinian refugees who sought refuge in the West Bank.

NECC-ICC has a rich experience in working with the poorest of the poor and the marginalized communities within the Palestinian society. It has evolved from a relief based organization to one with rural based grass roots development strategy that included mother and child centers, infrastructure development, land reclamation, access to education and water, social work and training in nutrition and gender awareness as well as vocational training. Through over sixty years of work and experience with the Palestinian people, NECC-ICC has positively affected over 520 rural villages.

Structurally, NECC-ICC operates as the area committee for the Department of Service to the Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), which is a service department of the umbrella organization Middle East Council of Churches (MECC). MECC is an international organization, which acts as an ecumenical forum of service for all Christians of all denominations in the Middle East.

3. Mission and Vision Statements

The Near East Christian Council Committee for Refugee Works is the only Ecumenical Service arm of the Churches in Jerusalem and the West Bank, reflects the Christian core values in its Witness and Diakonia to foster and advance socio-economic conditions of Palestinians through the active contribution to improve living conditions and realize basic human rights.

The organization sees its vision towards a Palestinian society which guarantees pluralism and equal opportunities for all its citizens based on the ideals of justice, equality of rights, opportunities and freedom.

4. Identity, Culture and Values

Identity

The fact that NECC-ICC is an ecumenical body, representative of the local Church, with its executive membership comprising of local Church leaders, we are called as Christians to serve in humbleness and self-sacrifice, putting our own pride and agendas aside to meet the needs of the marginalized and oppressed in society.

Culture

There has been a continuous Christian presence in Palestine for the last 2000 years, testifying to the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, events which all took place in this very land. The NECC-ICC responded to the first Nakba and has been sincere in its Diakonia towards serving the Palestinians on the baselines of our Christian beliefs and understanding.

Values

Diakonia and unity (ecumenism) are naturally intertwined, strengthen and encourage one another. **This is most evident when churches come together across denominations to provide relief and assistance to those in need.** At the same time, assuming a position of servant hood while lifting up and encouraging fellow Christians is a spirited expression of both ecumenism and Diakonia derived from our Christian beliefs that proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ as hope for the suffering and to teach love and justice according to God's will.

Values upon which our Diakonia is based.

- **Human beings are created in the image of God** underlines the equal values of ALL irrespective of race, color, sex or creed.
- Expressing **Christian witness in an ecumenical spirit.**
- **Community's involvement** in defining their needs, aspirations and priorities to bring about change in their lives.
- **Enhancing ownership** through the active involvement and engagement in the early stages of planning and implementation which ensures sustainability.
- **Learning culture** is practiced, experienced and shared with local communities and governance to empower them and promote self reliance.
- **Transparency, credibility and accountability** are emphasized locally and internationally.
- Ensuring **gender** integration and balance within actions.
- Encourage **voluntary** spirit and practice.

5. DSPR West Bank Area Committee

The four Church families have equal share distribution for the nomination of their respective delegates to each Area Committee. The committee comprises of 12 members who serve for a term of 4 years. The constitution throughout its representation embodies a diversity of professionals and volunteers in various fields. Youth and gender issues were considered in this composition.

Area Committee Board Members

Mr. Ibrahim Maliha (Chairperson)	Dr. Mary Komsieh (Vice Chair)
Mr. Ghassan Mustaklem (Treasurer)	Mrs. Tala Duwani (Secretary)
Mrs. Sandra Khoury (Member)	Mr .George Sahhar (Member)
Mr. Samer Shehadeh (Member)	Ms. Naela Rabah (Member)
Mr. Maurice Younan (Member)	Ms. Elham Salameh (Member)
Mr. Sobhi Makhoul (Member)	Father Antonios AlOurshalimi

Core Staff Members

Mr. Ramzi Zananiri (Executive Director)	Eng. Luna Siniora (Projects Manager)
Mr. Hanna Khoury (Finance Officer)	Ms. Hiyam Salameh (Loan Officer)
Mr. Thaer Abdel Qader (Field coordinator)	Ms. Susan Dahdal (Secretary).

6. NECC-ICC Overall Goal

NECC-ICC is implementing the third cycle of its strategic directions building upon previous experiences and contextual needs and priorities. Guided by the organization mandate and values, we remain committed to reflect change. Capitalizing upon more than 60 years of experience, NECC-ICC was able to identify the appropriate strategic goals for its future performance in the various localities and sectors.

NECC-ICC has carefully defined its **Overall Goal** that is an extension of its long standing mandate which is in line with the intended results of **Community Development Programs**. **This Overall Goal is as follows:**

To improve and protect vital economic and social infrastructure by enhancing basic services, socio- economic conditions and support economic growth for Palestinians living in refugee camps and elsewhere.

In the absence of a political scope coupled with growing frustration, agony and hopelessness, emphasis was given to the set goal through community development program that was successful in identifying the appropriate forms of intervention that contribute partially in easing up the ongoing chronic crisis in sectors of water, education and Food Security, with capacity building and advocacy solidifying sectors' direction. The loan revolving program policy revised and became accessible to applicants.

6.1 Community Development Program

6.1.1 Food Security

Introduction

According to the new undernourishment numbers released by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the number of hungry people is decreasing, however; one out of every eight people suffering chronic hunger is still an unacceptably high figure.

The vast majority of people suffering from chronic undernourishment live in developing countries; this number is higher compared to the nineties which in turn is a proof of the failure of humanity to protect, respect and achieve one of the most important human rights, the right to food.

Although the right to adequate food was first formally recognized by the United Nations in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights from 1948, as part of the right to a decent standard of living, further interpreted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), a global estimation of 100 million children under five years of age are underweight, moreover, 2.5 million children die every year from malnutrition, thus, eradication of hunger remains a major global challenge.

The prevalence of hunger threatens human existence and affects the learning capacity of humans, their political, social and economic participation, and effective contribution to socio-economic development among their communities in addition to the economic performance of their countries.

The food insecurity situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (oPt) is special compared to other regions of the world as it is of a political nature; though food is generally available, access is limited due to physical and economic reasons, for example restrictions on the movement of people, goods and agricultural products, land confiscation and settlement expansion, separation wall in addition to high unemployment caused an increase in vulnerability among households.

With growing unemployment and poverty, food security in the oPt has significantly deteriorated over the past few years; with 58% of the Palestinian people living under the poverty line, food insecurity is a reality for about 40% of the population.

We at ICC are keen to reflect Christian Witness and Diakonia through active contribution to improve living conditions of Palestinians in addition to fostering their basic human rights.

Throughout our food security program, we thrive to protect, respect and achieve one of the most important human rights, the right to food through contributing to the improvement of rural livelihoods of vulnerable Palestinian communities by ensuring availability and access to basic foods.

Problem Statement

Food insecurity is directly linked to the on-going political and economic crisis faced by Palestinians. It is estimated that 38% of the population; almost 1.6 million persons are food insecure in the oPt, out of which 25% are in the West Bank (WB), in addition to 11% of the Palestinians living in the WB vulnerable to food insecurity. (FAO/WFP *Food security & vulnerability analysis report 2009*).

The economic access is mainly constrained due to **restrictions on mobility of people and goods** imposed by the Israeli occupation which in turn has led to high food prices and low incomes. Another factor affecting food security is the **drought**; Cumulative rainfall from the last 10 years has deteriorated to only 55% of the expected amount.

Most of the food insecure households are chronically food insecure. A survey conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2008 shows that about 39% of the households' total expenditures are dedicated to food, the majority resort to changes in their food consumption patterns (coping mechanism) in order to decrease food expenditures.

Socio-economic fact sheet published by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) shows that female-headed households representing 7.8% of all Palestinian households are ones of highest recipients to food aid and other humanitarian assistance since poverty amongst these households is higher

than those headed by males. In a female-headed household, there is usually only one parent, and the job of caring for children is often done at the expense of engaging in income-generating activities.

Nutritional vulnerability surveys have documented the reduction in consumption in general, and of the more expensive foods as well as significant reductions in total energy, protein, carbohydrates and fat intakes by children, and in all age groups of reproductive aged women. These reductions are expected to lead to increased levels of malnutrition as well as micronutrient deficiencies. Substituting expensive nutritionally rich foods carries long-term nutrition risks. The most vulnerable households have mostly been substituting nutritionally rich foods as they are too expensive. This coping strategy carries long term implications to the health and well being, especially for children and lactating women.

There are indications that malnutrition is becoming a public health problem. So far nutritional indicators are not conclusive, but there is evidence that nutritional status is under great strain and therefore increased vigilance to closely monitor the nutritional situation is being called for.

Consequently, humanitarian assistance is essential not only to prevent further deterioration of food insecurity, but also to prevent vulnerable households from becoming food insecure as well.

Target Area

The northern districts of Tulkarm, Qalqilia and Jenin are selected as target areas for the food security project with 37% of the agricultural land in the West Bank located in these districts. According to the strategic plan, this year's intervention focused upon Tulkarm district.

Tulkarm's economy mainly depends on agriculture, but with the great damage to this sector due to the Israeli occupation measures of confiscating and isolating agricultural land, Tulkarm district is considered as one of the most impoverished areas in the West Bank that is in urgent need for food security interventions.

With coordination with the ministry of agriculture-Tulkarm Directorate and according to surveys' outcomes and reports conducted by the ministry in addition to mapping exercise conducted for other actors working in the same field, few villages were nominated as priorities. Initial needs assessment was conducted in addition to area profiles; therefore, Far'on village was selected.

Far'on village is a small border village with about 5400 population experiencing difficult living conditions. Like many other border villages, Far'on is isolated from neighboring villages within the Green Line; as a result, families were separated from relatives and extended families.

Massive agricultural land confiscation; 70% of the village's land is planted with olive and citrus trees and thyme, out of which half of the most fertile land in addition to green houses and pastures for livestock were damaged by the measures imposed by the Israeli occupation; 1000 dunums confiscated, 340 dunums leveled for the construction of the separation wall which is 5000m length with a 60-74m variable width in the area, in addition to 3000 dunums isolated behind the wall.

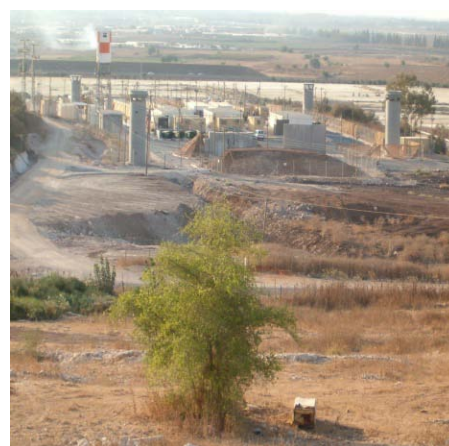
These measures have had negative implications on people, about 400 farmers were deprived their sole source of income and left suffering in getting permits from the Israelis to access their land, in addition to about 300 workers lost their work within the Green Line therefore increasing unemployment to reach 28% with 37% of the community living below the poverty line.

Far'on is surrounded by 4 military obstacles; checkpoint #22 on the bypass road, 2 agricultural gates in the separation wall; gate #708 (always closed) and #753 used for farmers with permits to access their isolated land in addition to Ephraim terminal which is the commercial crossing into Israel with the Liaison Office and a military post that is constructed on the confiscated land of Far'on.

Furthermore, Far'on has had its share of house demolition with 8 houses out of 12 with demolition orders have been already demolished. Besides, 200 refugees suffering from the implications of the Israeli occupation measures as well by damaging their plants, leveling their land, demolition of their houses and burning of their crops and property.



On top of that, Far'on is one of the most marginalized villages as for the last 10 years it was not targeted by any international or local NGO and was not privileged with any development intervention.



Area profile:

Village name:	Far'on, 3Km from Tulkarm city
District:	Tulkarm (areaB)
Altitude:	150m ASL
Location:	East; Shufeh West; Green line North; Tulkarm & Irtah South; Taybeh (within Green Line)
Average Annual Rainfall:	600mm
Population:	5400 (900HH)
Total land area:	8000 dunums
Built-up areas:	340 dunums
Agricultural land:	6850 dunums
Confiscated land:	4000 dunums
Village Council:	9 members
# of Houses:	650 houses
% of females:	51%
% of children (< 18yrs):	35%
% of female headed HH:	1%
# of Refugee HH:	150 HH (900 individuals)
% of HH below poverty line:	37%
Economy:	400HH, agriculture 30HH, work in Israel 120HH, government jobs
Unemployment Rate:	28%
AID dependants:	70HH, Social Welfare

Project Description

Considering the main reason behind Palestinians' food insecurity being of political nature, what remains is a limited range for intervention; humanitarian relief and/or livelihood support. According to FAO/WFP 2009 Report, one of the possible response options that combine humanitarian relief and longer-term livelihoods was **encouraging the production (including home garden).**

We adopted this approach to enhance household food security through **33 home gardens** which is considered as one of the easiest ways of ensuring access to a healthy diet. With safe and easy access to land and water, these home gardens can be well-developed not only for households' sufficiency of daily food needs but as a source of income in the long run as well.

The project comprises of two components; Plant production and animal raising (livestock). The plant production element comprises of planting of 5 productive trees of 4-5 years of age for each home garden with adequate space area, (total of 65 trees). Species were carefully selected to enhance



household's food security situation with significant focus on expensive nutritionally rich types that poor households can't purchase.

Furthermore, the climate in the area in terms of temperature and rainfall, availability of water in addition to the planting season was considered when the plants were selected as well. **The types are avocado, lemon, orange, guava and nectarine.**



The local contribution took the form of preparing the land for planting the trees in addition to preparation of barracks for the second component of the home garden that is animal raising (livestock) in accordance to specifications.



Tenders were performed for the supply of each item in compliance with technical and legal specifications and standards. Moreover, all inputs were delivered to the gardens in accordance to a set timeframe on the basis of accomplishments of agreed upon phase distribution.

Each home garden is provided with sheep and laying hens with their cages in addition to their feed in a quantity that is sufficient for a period of 100 days; 200 kg of concentrated feed-18% protein per home garden for sheep, in a total of 6,600 kg. in addition to 100 kg of concentrated feed-18% protein per home garden for hens, in a total of 3,300 kg. The total amount of feed supplied to the beneficiaries of the project is 198 bags weighing 9,900 kg in total.



This year we supplied cages with the 12 laying hens for each home garden to ensure them a healthy environment which positively affects their productivity. Each cage consists of 4 slots, and each slot can accommodate up to 3 hens, contains troughs for feed and water. According to specifications each hen was 120 days old upon delivery with required identification papers and records from the hatchery. A total of 396 laying hens were delivered with an expected daily productivity of 11-12 eggs per home garden.



For the sheep, 2 heads of pregnant sheep were delivered for each home garden in Far'on to enhance food security in addition to the economic situation of households. 66 heads of sheep were selected by the veterinarian on the basis of quality from a known source of supply, and then blood tests were performed at random and

analyzed by the laboratories of the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture, vaccinations in addition to the ultrasound for pregnancy were conducted by the veterinarian.

After delivery of the livestock, 2 visits per home garden were conducted by the trainer with the project coordinator in a set timeframe in order to provide counseling services in livestock and technical guidance to beneficiaries.



Additionally, these visits were accompanied by 4 visits per home garden conducted by the veterinarian to check on the livestock and provide guidance and technical advice to beneficiaries in addition to any veterinary treatment required as well as 6 visits conducted by the project coordinator for counseling services in plant production .



Capacity building: We believe that strengthening the households' abilities to manage their home garden successfully is a must to ensure best achievement of goals in addition to sustainability of project.

Trainings were held in both **theoretical and practical** dimensions; 12 training hours were distributed throughout 2 days for the theoretical training on livestock and 1 day for the practical one with an average of 4 hours a day.



The training material was reviewed, updated and prepared in a power point presentation format in addition to handouts prepared for the beneficiaries highlighting the main points of the training, the village council contributed by providing the adequate space for the training to be held at. Besides, an ideal barracks in the village was selected for the practical training with full acknowledged facilitation from the owner.

The beneficiaries' high interest was reflected with full participation; 33 direct beneficiaries attended the 3 days in addition to 7 more from the village who showed interest in the topics of the training modules. Moreover, all participants were very active in the training, as reflected in the trainer's report, which in turn stretched each session for an additional half an hour.



The training addressed different topics that are very important for the management of the home garden. The approved modules covered the following:

- Types of sheep and barracks with specifications.
- Livestock management and the importance of using records.
- Breeding and fertility; sexual and physical maturity.
- Pregnancy, delivery, pre and post delivery.
- Vaccinations and diseases.
- New born and feeding at different stages.
- Lighting programs for laying-hens.



An assessment that was conducted by the trainer reflected satisfaction of about 90% of the participants with the topics handled providing them with new information and the means of presentation that was clear and easy. About 80% of them noted that the timing and duration of training sessions were very good. Consequently, it is clear that the training was successful.

Target Group:

In full coordination with Far'on's village council, **the project was announced within the community** in several ways; publications were hung in the village council premises, schools, grocery stores and main places in the village, in addition to an announcement through the village council's page on face book. The announcement was hanged for 7 days and entailed the project criterion for applicants:

- Household's with no/low-income.
- # of individuals per household not less than 4.
- Adequate space of home garden.
- Willingness to contribute to the project.
- Commitment to the project's requirements of training.

Consequently, the head of the village council designated an employee for filling applications at its premises; **the registration period lasted for 7 working days with a total of 75 applications filled.**

A plan was developed by our technical team for conducting the **socio-economic survey** for all registered names by visiting each one and filling a **questionnaire** with all information regarding the social and economic situation of the household. The technical team **initially filtered** questionnaires according to an updated grading matrix on the baseline of the set criterion for eligibility and selected 35 names accordingly.

The selected names were invited to a **collective meeting** with our technical team for orientation about the project as well as fulfilling of all legal prerequisite

documentation. Therefore, **33 beneficiaries** signed contractual agreements and started preparing their gardens.

The socio-economic survey conducted, revealed the following outcomes:

- About 50% of the households have 4-6 individuals whereas about one third have 9 individuals and more.
- 60% of the households have children at schools whereas about 30% have children at universities.
- About 70% of the breadwinners are farmers/workers whereas the rest are unemployed.
- More than 60% of the targeted households' monthly income doesn't exceed USD 260.
- About 76% of the beneficiaries have had their agricultural land confiscated; this land represents about 8% of the total confiscated land in Far'on.
- About 50% of the benefitting households depend on aid from UNRWA and Social Welfare.

Impact:

Home gardens offer great potential for improving targeted households' food security through **direct access to a diversity of rich nutritional food** that couldn't be purchased before and **alleviating nutrient deficiencies**.

Furthermore, it will enhance their economic situation by **increasing the purchasing power from savings on food expenditures** and **income from sales of garden products**.

The expected results of the project are as follows:

- The average total **egg production** during the production season that lasts for one year is expected to reach 3600 eggs per home garden at an average price of **USD 480**. Considering the average number of individuals per household, each one has got an egg a day all through the year.
- The average number of **new born sheep** within one year is 3 sheep which increases the number of heads of sheep per household up to 5 that is worth **USD 2,280**.
- Dairy production of **210 lt. of milk** per household during production season that is worth **USD 420**.
- The average **production of trees** is estimated to reach 15 kg (3 kg per tree, with 5 trees per household) at an average price of **USD 12** a year.



Thus, the first year's yield value per household is USD 3,192 with expenses reaching USD 1,300. Net return per household is at least USD 1,892 yearly representing about USD 160 per household a month.



Sustainability:

To ensure sustainability of the project, the following actions were taken:

- Since it is a home garden, within the vicinity of the house, this encouraged all family members to engage in the caretaking of the garden.
- Capacities of beneficiaries were enhanced through theoretical and practical training conducted by specialized technical team, enhancing their knowhow and knowledge for effective and efficient management of their home gardens.
- The two sheep provided were pregnant for at least 90 days opting to accelerate return. Additionally, provision of high quality of feed for a period of 100 days ensured a smooth delivery.
- A promissory note of one year was signed by the beneficiaries against sheep; this note guarantees no sale of heads of sheep provided for a period of one year ensuring delivery and bonding with families.
- All livestock provided to beneficiaries in Far'on were registered by the Ministry of Agriculture for continuous follow up and vaccination schemes.
- After delivery of all inputs for the home garden and for a period of 3 months, the trainer, the project coordinator in addition to the veterinarian extended their services provided for the beneficiaries through regular site visits to all home gardens for following up and consultation.

Most Significant Change (MSC):

As Far'on is one of the marginalized communities that lacked community development projects since a long time, the entire community was very excited for our presence in their village and were very supportive and cooperative. Moreover, the directly targeted households were very committed to the project and its requirements; they were very active and eager to get their home gardens ready as soon as possible.

Throughout the project and during our site visits, many expressed their happiness and satisfaction in addition to their thankfulness for all who made this dream come true to many of them. Furthermore, and especially during the site visits conducted by the technical team for counseling and follow up, many of the beneficiaries raised so many questions about ideas they have in mind for future development of their gardens. Some of the most significant changes are;

- **Kamal Kamel Atieh Sa'ed:** is a 74 year old man living with his family of 7 members in a very old house that was built in 1951. He lives there with his wife and 5 sons all under the age of 20. Kamal has diabetes and high blood pressure, so Ibrahim, his eldest son works sometimes as a laborer in the village to support the family, in addition to the aid the family receives from the social welfare, about USD 180 every three months. Kamal had 10 dunums of land planted with olive trees confiscated. **Abla; Kamal's wife** contributes to the family income through homemade pastries. She expressed her satisfaction with the project,

- *"my husband is an old man and cannot work, I am the breadwinner of my family through my work in making homemade pastries and my husband helps me in baking I am satisfied a lot with the project especially now that I can secure*



some raw materials used in my work like eggs and milk in addition to margarine and cheese, which I am used to make at home... and Ibrahim, since he is unemployed he takes care of the sheep, chickens and trees".

- **Ahmad Sa'id Mohammad Odwan:** He is 51 years old, unemployed and suffers from heart problems whereby he had an open-heart surgery. He lives with his wife and two sons, the breadwinner is the eldest who is 19 years old and works in a restaurant in Israel without a permit and the other one stopped studying because of the very bad situation of the family and looks around in the village for any work to help his family.



When we arrived to his house without prior notification, we found him sitting next to the barracks watching his sheep. We sat next to him and he started expressing his high interest in the project and his aspirations for livestock breeding in the future, where he said, *"Since I am a heart patient and I cannot work, my work is taking care of my sheep and hens, every day after having breakfast, with the help of my wife, I start cleaning up the sheep and feeding them, taking care of the trees and watering them, monitoring light intensity and duration for the hens as we have learned throughout the training... so you can say that I have my hands full."*

The wife said, *"Since my husband is a sick person, he could not attend the training courses, so I attended them on his behalf, brought him the training material with handouts and explained him everything. Today we apply everything we learned... ..we even have an old balance that we now use to weigh fodder for sheep and hens."* In the visit he showed us the basin that he made himself for the fodder of sheep and he said, *"I have many ideas, but the financial situation prevents application at the present time "and added," I am very happy when I work with my sheep because I consider them a gift from God and it would be shameful if I don't take good care of them."*



- **Mohammad Mustafa Husein Bdair:** He is 45 years of age; he lives with his wife who has cancer, 2 sons and 3 daughters, all attend school. The agony of this family started when they lost their land. Mohammad was considered as one of the richest farmers in Far'on owning 29 dunums of agricultural land; he used to sell his products to the neighboring villages within the Green Line, adjacent to his land.
- After the second Intifada, the Israeli occupation destroyed all his plants and **confiscated his land for the construction of Ephraim terminal** which is the commercial crossing into Israel with the Liaison Office and



a military outpost. Mohammad, once a land owner became unemployed and the family is now very poor and depends mainly on aid from social welfare. Today, Mohammad owns, as he said, *"2 heads of sheep and 12 laying-hens that I am looking forward to increase their number and improve my standard of living."*



6.1.2 Education Sector's Project

Introduction

Education, in its general sense is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills and habits of people are transferred from one generation to the next, and as defined by the European Court of Human Rights, education is the whole process whereby, in any society, adults endeavor to transmit their beliefs, culture and other values to the young.

Since education is the corner stone for development and educated people are vital for the economic development of their communities, the challenge remains to make education global accessible for everyone particularly the poor and disabled. Provision of free and quality education ensures that everyone is to be treated with dignity and entitled to fundamental human rights.

At the Palestinian level, education has a unique status. Although Palestinians have always valued education which empowered them throughout history, education under occupation remains to be threatened by many factors that render investing in future generations burdened with many obstacles.

While Article 50 of the Fourth Geneva Convention enshrined the right to education; it states that, 'The Occupying Power shall, with the cooperation of the national and local authorities, facilitate the proper working of all institutions devoted to the care and education of children.' Nevertheless, the Palestinians living under occupation for more than 60 years have always been deprived from their basic human rights and education is one of these fundamental human rights which has great significance as a baseline to freedom and a precondition for the exercise of other human rights.

Each school year, thousands of Palestinian school children in the oPt continue to face a number of challenges in accessing education; lack of classrooms, sub-standard school infrastructure, poor quality of facilities and restricted access to educational facilities.

We at ICC are keen to reflect Christian Witness and Diakonia through active contribution to improve living conditions of Palestinians in addition to fostering their basic human rights. Throughout our education program, we thrive to protect, respect and achieve one of the most important human rights, the right to education through contributing to the improvement of conditions and access to basic education by enabling students continue their basic education in safe and healthy environment.

Problem Statement

The importance of education lies in its direct relationship to the human inspirations, values and loyalty to the community and homeland. Throughout the Palestinians' long history, education has played an influential role as it has always been considered as the one prerequisite not only for nation building but also for achieving a genuine and sustainable peace.

Although education is free and government-funded, educational development in the oPt is a challenging experience, funding for the education system comes from the government budget through the Ministry of Finance; government expenditure on education as percentage of the total government expenditures is less than 20%, the remaining funding comes from donors and international organizations.

Since the Palestinian Authority (PA) has been suffering from financial constraints on its development budget, the achievement of the Education Development Strategic Plan 2008-2012 of the MoEHE was affected negatively; only 70% of the targets of the MoEHE first goal which is related to access were achieved in addition to about 40% of the targets of the MoEHE second goal related to quality were realized.

According to the MoEHE data for the school year 2011-2012, about 74% of the total number of schools in the West Bank and Gaza are government schools and under full responsibility of the MoEHE. Most of these schools in the West Bank in general face difficulties; access to schools is primarily constrained by physical conditions and movement restrictions, insufficient investment in upgrading education which in turn has led to crowding and deterioration in the learning environment, moreover, the limited services for students with special needs has become evident.

Many students and teachers face physical threats and obstructions on their daily route to school from settler violence and checkpoints across the West Bank. According to OCHA Monthly Humanitarian Report, *during the first six months of 2012, there were 16 documented incidents of damage done to schools, education interrupted, or direct injury inflicted on Palestinian school children by Israeli military forces or settlers. Furthermore, the PA Ministry of Education has identified 183 schools, with approximately 50,000 students, as located in vulnerable areas.*

Furthermore, MoEHE assesses that over 50% of the Palestinian government schools lack minimum acceptable water and sanitation (WASH) facilities that are essential in promoting good hygiene behavior and general health which in turn leads to improved school attendance and performance.

Consequently, funding from donors and international organizations is essential for developing the education sector to be available, accessible, acceptable and adaptable (concept of 4A's) and as part of the continuous national effort to build what has been destroyed by the Israeli Occupation.

Target Area

One of the most important issues for education is the creation of an effective learning environment which is essential for enhancing the achievement of students and their positive attitudes toward education.

Within this year's initiatives, and with full cooperation with the MoEHE, we focused on *enhancing the learning environment for girls' schools as every child should have a right to an environmentally safe and healthy school that is clean and in good repair.*

To ensure the provision of environmentally safe and healthy schools, two schools were selected with priorities placed on improving facility and environmental conditions; **Beita Basic Girls School and Qabalan Secondary Girls School.**

Beita Basic Girls School: This is one of the oldest schools in the village; the first five classrooms of the school were constructed in 1953. Later in 1977, these classrooms were demolished and a ground floor was constructed by the community. In 2007, an additional floor was constructed by the municipality with the support of an international organization to provide a school of 18 classrooms in addition to administration rooms, labs and library available for 565 girls from 1st grade to 8th grade with 24 teachers, principal and two counselors.



Problem justification: The girls have had no access to suitable sanitation facilities for a long time; the sanitary unit's structure lacked proper lighting and ventilation, rusted doors that do not lock and non-working openings resulting in improper waste disposal in addition to constipation and incomplete bladder and bowel emptying amongst girls.



According to the national standards for WASH in schools, the government standard for pupil per toilet is 40 pupils /toilet. The existing sanitary unit has had 6 openings with one non-working; that is with an average of 113 girls per opening.

Moreover, only 4 wash basins has been available with an average of 141 students to 1 wash basin. However, the government standard for students per wash basin is 30.



Qabalan Secondary Girls School: This is one of the oldest schools in the village; part of its structure was constructed in the 1920s which comprises of 6 classrooms. The school is from 7th grade to 12th grade with 294 students and 17 teachers.



Problem justification: The school suffered many school abstentions amongst girls especially in winter due to the unhealthy environment of the 6 classrooms (old structure), where the girls had suffered enough from the humidity and stinking odor resulting from the effect of water leakage into the rooms from the roof and openings in the floor tiles, in addition to insects that come out of the wall which in turn resulted in lack of focus of the girls in class.

Moreover, many injuries amongst the girls were due to the windows which were very old windows made of steel, many of them were non working and with broken glass in addition to a very old and weak electricity network resulting in electricity disruptions especially in winter.



Project Description

On the basis of our values upon which our Diakonia is based, community's involvement in defining the needs, aspirations and priorities to bring about change in their lives is essential. In this context, we were always keen to involve the community in the various stages of the project.

At the early stages of planning, the MoEHE was directly involved in defining the needs of the education sector and prioritizing them in compliance with its five-year development plans to guarantee reaching the most needy and avoid waste of resources, overlap and duplication with other actors working in the same field, out of 6 schools prioritized within our scope of work and target area, the first two were selected.

The first project was construction of sanitary unit with a septic tank for Beita Basic Girls School and the second was maintenance works for 6 classrooms at Qabalan Secondary Girls School. The directorate of education of South Nablus area took its role in coordinating with the local governance bodies, furnishing them with their specifications in addition to their supervisory role on implementation and handover of all phases of project.



The municipalities of Beita and Qabalan were involved, this involvement took the form of partnership where each municipality signed a contractual agreement and contributed with more than 35% of the overall cost of its project in cash, providing a site engineer for supervising the implementation of the project on site, preparing tendering documents, engineering plans and specifications as well as execution of other unforeseen works that came up throughout implementation.

At another level, and through implementation, teachers and students were involved in some of the finishing works; like choosing the color of painting and the design of protection bars.

Pictures:**Beita Basic Girls School: Construction of sanitary unit with a septic tank***Excavation works & septic tank**Structural works**Finishing works*

Qabalan Secondary Girls School: Maintenance works for 6 classrooms

Tiling works



Plastering works



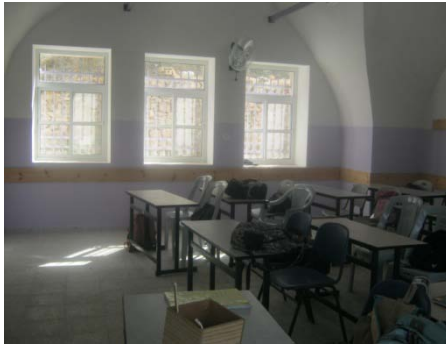
Electrical works



Wooden & painting works



Aluminum works



Impact

The maintenance works in addition to the construction of the new sanitary unit had positive impact on both the schools' image and students; **there was a decrease in the problems the girls faced regarding access to suitable school classrooms and sanitation facilities. These endeavors improved significantly the schools' environment.**

The simple fact that they now have **healthy toilets** resulted in **proper waste disposal and decrease in constipation and incomplete bladder and bowel emptying amongst girls.** Moreover, the **6 classrooms are now healthy;** no water leakage, humidity, insects or stinking odor resulting in **decrease in absences and injuries amongst girls in addition to no electricity cuts.**

Thus, **enhancing the academic performance of the girls** as now they don't have to worry about the place to satisfy their biological needs and they can better focus in the new healthy classrooms with better interaction between teachers and students.

Consequently, and as the projects were maintenance, finishing and construction works, that is all works required labor, therefore, **temporary jobs were created amongst skilled and unskilled labors within the two communities throughout the execution of the projects in addition to enhancing the local commercial market through material suppliers, factories and machinery.**

Sustainability

The issue of sustainable development is a key concern and remains a major challenge for us; various endeavors were made to ensure sustainability of projects.

The projects responded to the **MoEHE's priority,** moreover, they are socially accepted since they were selected as per the **communities' priorities** for which they **contributed significantly.** That in turn **guarantees continuous follow up and supervision** which with no further evidence enhances **local ownership** of projects.

The **technical team was flexible** in its approach allowing **design modifications to enhance the lifetime of the schools in addition to future expansion** according to the increase in the number of students enrolled.

The issue of **future maintenance and repairs of the structures** are guaranteed through a **one year maintenance warranty** represented in 5% of each project's total cost deposited by the contractors with the municipalities.

In the absence of a sewer networks, the community in Beita use cesspits to get rid of their sewage, which in turn constitutes a pollution threat to the natural resources of soil and water. In this project, soil and water are protected from pollution by construction of septic tanks to the school's sanitary unit for the **preservation of the natural environment** which is essential for maintaining community sustainability.

The projects not only provide assistance to disabled people, but integrate them within the school family; few adjustments to the school buildings and services were considered to ensure that the needs of **disabled persons** were not overlooked, to the contrary, improving their quality of education.

Challenges

A **major challenge** faced throughout implementation was the **timeframe** which was really tight considering the starting of schools in early September. Certain delays were faced in the first phase while preparing the plans, specification and tendering documents as Ramadan (Muslims' feast month) came in August, as a result, schools started with the first phases of implementation of projects.

Accordingly, certain measures were taken, with full coordination with the Directorate of Education of South Nablus area, the project in Qabalan was divided into three phases, with the first and second phases comprising of all internal works related to 3 classrooms each and the third phase of all external works, accordingly, the girls were relocated to resume their classes in the library and labs until their classrooms were finished.

As for the project in Beita, with the starting of the school, all demolishing works related to the existing sanitary unit were postponed to the final phase of implementation in order to keep a sanitary facility for the girls to use until the construction of the new one accomplished.

It is worth mentioning here that the directorate of Education of South Nablus area and the two municipalities' mayors and engineers were highly cooperative and worked hard to make this dream come true to more than 850 girls.

6.1.3 Water

Introduction

Water is one of nature's most important gifts to mankind. It is essential to life and a key component in determining the quality of our lives. Although water covers more than 70% of the earth, only 1% of it is available as a source of drinking.

More than 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation and hygiene-related causes with nearly all deaths, 99%, occurring in the developing world. Moreover, more than one in six people worldwide-894 million people lack access to improved water sources.

Worldwide, water is scarce and this problem is growing; people either lack enough water (quantity) or lack access to safe water (quality). **Having access to safe and sufficient drinking water and sanitation is central to living a life in dignity.** Yet, billions of people still do not enjoy this fundamental right.

Human rights demand a holistic understanding of access to water and sanitation, the right to water and sanitation requires that these are available, accessible, safe, acceptable and affordable for all. However, physical access to water is limited in many regions in the world in addition to unequal distribution of resources in many others.

In the oPt, the Palestinians suffer physical and economic water scarcity; access to water is limited as the oPt is a water-scarce region in addition to Israel's discriminatory water policy which maintains unequal allocation of water between Israelis and Palestinians.

Water is the Palestinians' most precious resource. However, Israel controls 85% of the water resources in the West Bank; hence the Palestinians are forced to rely on the Israeli occupation for access to their own water which in turn undermines any possibility for sustainable development and violates their right to water. While the Palestinian water use doesn't even meet the minimum daily standard of 100 lt./c/d as recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Israelis use the greater amount of the region's total water.

Moreover, the most reliable resources were confiscated by Israel for their own use, the Israelis use the Palestinian water and what is left is then sold back to the Palestinians at a higher cost. Yet, the Palestinians have a right to access their own water resources and it's their right for an equitable distribution of water resources.

We at ICC are keen to reflect Christian Witness and Diakonia through active contribution to improve living conditions of Palestinians in addition to fostering their basic human rights.

Throughout our water program, we thrive to protect, respect and achieve one of the most important human rights, the right to water through supporting Palestinian communities to better manage and preserve natural resources by enhancing ownership and access to water resources.

Problem Statement

Water is a major issue in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Although in the Oslo II Agreement of 1995 Israel recognized Palestinian water rights, the water issue was left to the final status negotiations which were to begin in 1996 but have not yet started.

Accordingly, a Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) was set up, Israel maintained control of the total flow and volume of water to the oPt while PWA took the role of allocating the limited supply made available by Israel with no ability to manage water resources.

Israel has taken sole control of the water resources in the area; it effectively controls 100% of the Jordan River basin, more than 80% of underground water resources from the Western (mountain) aquifer and uses 85% of groundwater resources available in the West Bank. Consequently, the State of Israel and Israeli settlers get continuous water supply all year round while Palestinians face continuous scarcity and access to water.

- **Irregular water supply** across the West Bank particularly during summer months; when supplies of water are low, the Israeli water company (Mekorot) closes the valves which supply Palestinian towns and villages so as not to affect Israeli consumption. That could be seen with the settlers having their swimming pools topped up and lawns watered while the Palestinians not having enough water even for drinking.
- **Water distribution network losses of 30-50%** as a result of deteriorating networks and leaky pipes that are in bad need of repair in addition to about one third of the West Bank households with **no piped water** at all.
- Many Palestinians **have to buy their water**, either from Mekorot which makes them pay a price about 4 times higher than that charged to Israeli settlers in the West Bank, or from private suppliers selling expensive and unregulated trucked water.
- **Ban on Palestinians developing water resources in the West Bank;** Palestinians are forbidden from drilling new wells or rehabilitating old ones and even transmission pipelines connecting wells without permits from the Israeli authorities. Such permits are difficult or even impossible to obtain.
- **The average water supply to 57% of the Palestinian communities is about 63 lt./c/d, in 7% of the communities, the per capita is less than or equal to 30 lt. in addition to 36% with supply that ranges between 30-50 lt./c/d.**
- **Ongoing pollution of the ground water of the Mountain Aquifer;** about one-third of the settlements' wastewater, 5.5 MCM/year as well as 10 MCM from Jerusalem Municipality undergo no treatment and flow directly as raw sewage into the environment in addition to more than 90% of Palestinian wastewater (50MCM/year).

Thus, the water problem remains to be continuous and efforts should focus on improving the situation by providing sustainable solutions.

Target Area

The **Jenin Governorate** is located in the northern part of the West Bank. The area of the Governorate is approximately 583 Km² and forms about 10% of the West Bank area. The population of the governorate is estimated at 288,511 with some 80 communities out of which 28 communities denied the service of a piped water supply. These communities depend on water collected in cisterns during winter and on buying water by tankers from private agricultural wells or springs in the area.



Drinking and domestic water supply management in the Governorate is carried out through municipalities, village councils and the joint water services council for the northwest Jenin villages. The service providers are supplied in bulk by the West Bank Water Department (WBWD).

The main sources of water supply in the Governorate for all needs are springs, wells and purchased water from the Israelis. However, these sources do not meet the real needs of the communities. The Governorate is supplied with about 6.4 MCM/year for domestic purposes with an average water supply of less than 62lt./c/d.

Consequently, the **Governorate of Jenin is considered one of the poorest and most vulnerable governorates with regard to water supply and accessibility** compared to other governorates, about one-third of the water in the system is unaccounted for water (UFW) with an annual water deficit of more than 8 MCM/year.

Within this year's initiative and with full cooperation with all relevant bodies, we focused on **improving the average rate of drinking and domestic water supply to Palestinian communities through rehabilitating and expanding existing internal water networks to reduce the percentage of loss and serve the unserved, accordingly, Burkin village in Jenin District was selected.**

Burkin is a town with 6500 population (about 1083HH), located 4 Km west of Jenin city, rising about 270m above sea level and situated on hills and mountains combining three different environments: land plains, mountains relatively high compared to the city and valleys.



The village's urban structural plan that has been proposed to the Ministry of Local Governance for approval comprises of 5000 dunums, yet the village mainly depends on agriculture where the agricultural land amounts thirty seven thousand dunums out of which 11 thousand dunums are planted with olive trees, 18 thousand dunums

cultivated land by farmers from the village in the plain of Marj Ibn Amer in addition to 8 thousand dunums in Arraba plain.

In Wadi Burkin, there was a spring of water that was used for drinking and irrigation of crops but it dried in the early eighties. Furthermore, another two springs in Marj Ibn Amer and Arraba plains dried up a long time ago.

There are several small industrial enterprises in Burkin; plastic pipes, stone, brick and concrete small workshops, domestic gas filling station, a facility for olive oil and organic products, 2 manufacturers for pickling vegetables in addition to 3 modern olive presses.

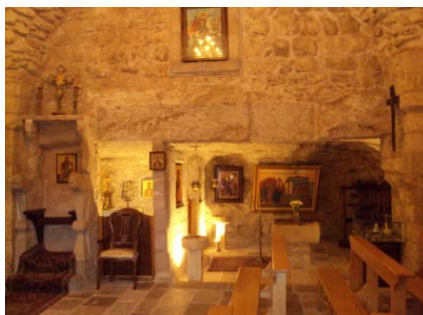
Burkin's community is very active; there are several charitable and agricultural societies, youth centers and clubs in the village which in turn reflect the community's effective interaction in public life.

Burkin has a religious significance for being mentioned in the Bible as the place that witnessed the famous miracle of Jesus Christ healing 10 men of the disfiguring and contagious skin disease leprosy during His journey from Nazareth towards Jerusalem.

The story begins in Gospel of Luke 17:11-13: *"Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village (Burkin), 10 men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have pity on us!'"*

Burkin has several archaeological sites but the most important of all is St. Gorgeous Church that has been built in the place where the miracle happened in the era of King Constantine and his mother Helena about 1500 years ago. The church is considered as the fifth sacred place in the world for Christians and the fourth oldest church in the world after church of Nativity, the church of Annunciation and the Holy sepulcher.

The church comprises of two parts, the church structure and the cave that is carved into the rock with an area of about 20m² and topped by a circle window; according to historical novels was used to take down the food for the ten men with leprosy who were put in there as quarantine.



Problem justification: Burkin's water sources are five privately owned production wells out of which four are agricultural wells whilst the fifth is owned by the municipality. Three of the agricultural wells are owned by farmers from the village with limited productivity throughout winter season and no productivity during summer season (May to October).

Thus, the village depends mainly on the fourth agricultural well that is owned by a farmer from Qabatia (a neighboring village) with productivity of 20m³/hr in addition to the one owned by the municipality with productivity of 10m³/hr.

The municipality buys 22000 m³/month in total mainly for domestic use at a rate of USD 0.7 /m³ and sells it to the people in Burkin at different rates: The first 10 m³ consumption per HH for USD 1.3/m³, from 11 - 30 m³ for USD 1.8/m³ and from 30m³ and more for USD 2.6/m³.

All the water supplied to the village is transmitted to a reservoir of 1000m³ in capacity and then distributed to the community through a water distribution network that is ineffective:

- The network is more than 30 years old and devastated with leaky pipes.
- the losses in the network reach 51%; (it is assumed that the average consumption is 112.8 lt./c/d, instead it is 55.3 lt./c/d)
- the network serves about 80% of the community.

The municipality with the support of different government and non government organization rehabilitated and expanded part of the existing network throughout the years 2008-2012. **Yet, 18% of the existing network is still in need for rehabilitation in addition to about 20% of the community not connected to the network and fetch water through plastic pipes from unlicensed agricultural wells with no control over the water's quality.**

Project Description

Burkin is in need of 9250m pipes of 2" in diameter for extending the existing distribution pipe network to cover the 20% of the community which remains to be unserved in addition to 2650m length of old pipes in the existing network which are in need for rehabilitation for having an effective network with 15 years expected lifetime.



Within a contractual agreement signed with the municipality, the project comprised of two phases; the first phase was our responsibility of providing the municipality with 6000 m length of 2" in diameter pipes with all needed accessories of valves and fittings and the second phase was the municipality's role in installing them in the agreed upon locations.



These pipes were divided as follows: 2880m (48%) of the supplied pipes were used for rehabilitation of some lines within the existing network serving 113 HH and the rest, which was 3120m (52%), was used for expanding the network, thus serving 31% of the unserved community, about 59HH.

The total cost of the project reached USD 166,165.8 out of which 57.8% was the local contribution which took the form of supplying all house connections and installing all pipes with their fittings. Additionally, the municipality's contribution was preparing all technical documents needed for implementation of plans and bills of quantities.

Impact

With the replacement of the 2880m of pipes in the existing water network, **the overall network is rehabilitated serving 678 people directly in addition to 4522 people indirectly.**

With the expanding of 3120m of pipes, 59 new house connections are added **servicing 354 people (27%) from the previously unserved part of the community that lacked a safe water source for a long time.**

The existing network is now effective with minimal recognized losses, the uncounted for water (UFW) that has reached more than 50% will be drastically reduced thus enhancing the average consumption and boosting it from 55.3 lt./c/d to reach 112 lt./c/d which in turn improves their hygienic practices.

Additionally, 85% of the community in Burkin has safe, sufficient, affordable and accessible water through an effective internal water network with a lifetime of at least 10 years.

With our initiative in the water sector for this year, Burkin's community's needs were fulfilled thus **improving their standard of living.**

Sustainability

Developing the internal water network will increase its lifetime to 10-15 years with proper maintenance and follow up which is guaranteed by the very efficient technical team at the municipality.

Challenges

We faced many challenges until we reached to this year's initiative, these challenges were mainly as a result of the **different reference bodies for water in the area**; the West Bank Water Department (WBWD), Palestinian Water Authority/Project Management Unit (PWA/PMU), The Jerusalem Water Undertaking (JWU) in addition to the projects department in the Ministry of Local Governance.

Furthermore, **these bodies lack effective coordination amongst each other and their financial resources are limited** which has made prioritizing the needs within the communities a very difficult mission to accomplish.

Moreover, **the limitations imposed by the Israeli occupation** on some of the initiatives in the water sector have added to the pressures that we faced throughout planning and implementation of this year's project.

As a result, prioritizing the needs by itself was very difficult and more efforts had to be conducted in order to assess, prioritize the needs and then select the project with a contingency plan prepared for any surprises or unforeseen issues that may pop up.

6.1.4 Advocacy

✧ Introduction

"Lack of access to adequate, safe, and clean water has been a longstanding problem for the Palestinian population of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPt). Though exacerbated in recent years by the impact of drought-induced water scarcity, the problem arises principally because of Israeli water policies and practices which discriminate against the Palestinian population of the oPt.

This discrimination has resulted in widespread violations of the right to an adequate standard of living, which includes the human rights to water, to adequate food and housing, and the right to work and health of the Palestinian population."

Amnesty International, Troubled Waters - Palestinian's denied fair access to water (2009)

International human rights law

According to international human rights law, access to water and sanitation is a human right. This right is enshrined in a number of international treaties which are legally **binding on states that have 'ratified' them**. These include:

- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

Israel has ratified the above mentioned treaties and is obliged to implement them in all territories under its jurisdiction, including the occupied Palestinian territory.

Israeli Obligations: Israel ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) where the right to water is enshrined. In September

2010, the UN Human Rights Council affirmed for the first time that the human right to water and sanitation is legally binding. **Israel however is one of three countries that have not recognized both of these rights.**

International humanitarian law

As an occupying power, under international humanitarian law, Israel is responsible for the welfare of the civilian population. The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949) states that an occupying power is responsible for maintaining public health and hygiene services in an occupied territory which necessitates the provision of clean water and adequate sanitation. The Fourth Geneva Convention also prohibits indiscriminate military attacks on civilian property and infrastructure including drinking water installations and sanitation infrastructure.

Furthermore an occupying power must protect the resources of an occupied territory and not use them for the benefit of its own population.

Israel's Obligations: Israel is the Occupying Power in the West Bank and Jerusalem. Under international humanitarian law, an occupying power is responsible for the welfare of the civilian population and must ensure that civilians are provided with or allowed to secure the basics for survival including food, water, medical supplies and shelter. Palestinians are guaranteed access to drinking water, water for personal hygiene and sanitation under the Geneva Conventions.

✧ **Problem statement**

"Where the basic service has not been achieved, hygiene cannot be assured and consumption requirements may be at risk. Therefore, providing a basic level of access is the highest priority for the water and health sectors". *World Health Organizations," Domestic water Quantity, service level and health" page three.*

In accordance to the International Law and the International Humanitarian law, Human beings should have **safe, sufficient, affordable and accessible water**.

- **Sufficient water:** An adequate and continuous water supply must be available for personal and domestic uses. The World Health Organization recommends on average 100-150 litres per capita per day to ensure all basic health needs are met. Once personal and domestic needs have been met, adequate quantities of water should be available to secure livelihoods and ensure food security.
- **Safe water and sanitation:** Water must be free from hazardous substances that endanger human health, and possess an acceptable color, odor and taste. Water sources should be protected to ensure safe water for present and future generations. Sanitation should be hygienic and not pose a threat to the environment and able to effectively prevent human, animal and insect contact with excreta and transmission of disease. Toilets must ensure privacy, dignity and safety for the user with excreta and waste water removed or disposed of safely.
- **Physically accessible water and sanitation:** Water and sanitation facilities must be within safe physical reach, in or near the household, school, work place or

health facility and minimize threats to physical security, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children. The World Health Organization recommends that water services should not be located more than 1,000 meters away from the home in order to ensure easy access to minimum quantities of water.

- **Affordable water and sanitation:** Water and sanitation infrastructure, services and ongoing operation and maintenance must be affordable. The cost should not reduce individual or household capacity to acquire other essential goods and services, such as food, housing, health care and education

☒ **Justification of approach**

NECC-ICC will continue to face up to the ongoing suffering of people affected by occupation practices not only through a specific response to aid **but also intervention that denounces unjust practices that are often root causes to human sufferings**. Accordingly, advocacy has become an **integral strategic component** in the organization directions towards tackling head on injustices. NECC-ICC is always keen in reflecting **positive change** in the lives of people we serve and is constantly challenged with problems that we felt could not be addressed through service provision and capacity building. This relates to the address of basic human rights of Palestinians with **focus upon Water**.

Nature of approach comprised of an International and National dimension.

1. *The National approach aimed to mobilize affected community towards building up and making their own case and pursue it with the appropriate authorities towards change of policy and practice.*

Unfortunately the National campaign was not addressed due to financial constraints.

2. *As to the international approach our aim is geared towards global Church structures to demand and pressure Israel to change policy and practices in order to comply with international law and respect Palestinian human rights through a solidified position to affect change.*

The NECC-ICC has become a member of the International Reference Group IRG to the WCC/Ecumenical Water Network. Our representation is the only one in the region and we look forward to capitalize upon that membership to reflect high exposure of the water issue in the region and in the oPt in particular, with focus upon Israeli occupation and right to water for Palestinians.

This has culminated in the incorporation of biblical reflections to the WCC campaign upon Water and Just peace throughout the seven weeks for water designed by the Ecumenical Water Network/EWN.

Also, we were able to highly profile the disastrous water situation in Gaza and the International Reference Group endorsed to share a documentary(prepared by life source) to be presented at the WCC General assembly in Korea.

Another value added is our participation and membership within the Emergency Water and Sanitation/Hygiene (EWASH) and Water and Sanitation/Hygiene (WASH) clusters and active members of the Advocacy Task Force, ATF.

Advocacy with Global partner-United Church of Canada(UCC)

The United Church of Canada (UCC) is a partner of the Near East Council of Churches since decades ministering for the Palestinian refugees and most vulnerable communities in various fields. Throughout this partnership UCC not only enabled us minister to physical needs, but contributed to making the lives of refugees and most vulnerable communities more bearable, by nurturing a limited measure of hope and sustaining our faith in fellow brothers and sisters.

The climax of this partnership and relationship is reflected through the formation of a 9 person Partner Advisor Council drawn from each of the designated global regions of the United Church of Canada. **The underlying principles of the Partner advisory Council are:**

- To give partners access to the decision making structures of the United Church
- To enable partners' voices to be heard at all levels of the United Church
- To affirm the role of partners in accompanying the United Church in its commitment to live out God's mission in Canada and Globally.

The group meets annually face to face and members serve for three years with one half expected to be elected for a second term to ensure continuity.

The Partner Advisor Council met in Ottawa to attend the 41st General council of the UCC throughout the period 09-20th of August 2012.

The meetings comprised of two phases:

- **Orientation period about the GC 41 for 2 days.**
- **Participation in the GC41 held between 11-19th of August 2012.**

The general Council # 41 was attended by more than 600 United Church Members representatives from all districts. GC 41 file was circulated to all, inclusive of the Partner Advisory Council. It is close to 600 pages covering many issues that are elaborated upon with recommendations towards their translation into policies or decisions guiding the future direction for the next 3 years of the UCC various structures.

Of these many issues is one particular policy related issue which taps upon the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The 40th General council 2009 directed the General Secretary to engage in consultation, dialogue and study with relevant partners and other interested parties concerning implications of past and future actions to end the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories and enter into conversation as to how to move the two peoples towards reconciliation, and to report back to the 41st General Council 2012.

In May 2010 the General Secretary, asked the Executive of the General Council to appoint a policy working group to help her in this task. The working group was composed of 3 members of the executive:

- David Guiliano (past moderator of the United Church of Canada)
- Thom Davies (Member of the Executive of the General Council)
- Barbara White (Member of the Executive of the General Council)

Nora Sanders, General Secretary, worked closely with the working group throughout its process. They were supported by lead staff Bruce Gregorson (General Council Officer, Programs for mission and Ministry).

The General Secretary submitted her report reflecting upon the outcomes of the Working Group's deliberations, to the General Council in Ottawa, for its consideration and guidance. The report is a 26 paged document with recommendations to be considered by the GC41.

Once the report was circulated to all concerned in the regions and Canada, it triggered a serious debate with pro's and con's of the report. Parliamentarians got involved, media, Zionist lobbies, other Jewish voices for Peace, Canadian Arabs, Palestinian CRO's...

Accordingly, it has become a very hot issue on the Agenda with a great deal of polarization and pressures at different levels through campaigning and mobilization to affect policy directions.

Such campaigns focused upon a specific approach related to economic sanctions and kept hammering the issue. It took the form of Postcards, articles, letters interviews, orientation sessions...

Furthermore, there was background material circulated to all GC41 members of the responses received, which does not represent the position of the church, but reflective of the sensitivity of the heated debate and deliberations.

- Response from Kairos Palestine
- Response of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
- Response from Westminster United Church the only Christian church in Canada that jointly owns and shares a centre with a Jewish congregation
- Response from the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center
- Paper from Professor Gregory Baum
- Letter from Canadian Lawyers and Jurists for World Jewry
- Response from Arab Canadians
- News announcement containing a letter from United Church members of the Senate of Canada and the response of the Working Group
- Response from the Jewish Community Centre of the Eastern Townships
- Letter from the Canadian Rabbinic Caucus
- Response from Independent Jewish Voices-Canada
- Response from United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel
- Letter from Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers)
- Letter from Quakers Canada

- Response from the Roman Catholic participants in the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation
- Letter from Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East
- Letter from Canadian Rabbis
- Commentary by Stephen Scheinberg, co-chair of Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Within this huge gathering, there has been a great number of side events that were conducted to elaborate upon the contextual challenges, to either educate, share, elaborate upon occupation.

The report with its recommendations was discussed throughout 2 days, for at least 8 hours. Finally the recommendations, were received, clarifications addressed, recommendations and amendments were approved to become the UCC policy.

In conclusion the 41st General Council actions adopted were the following:

- 1) *Receive the report of The Working Group on Israel/Palestine Policy;*
- 2) *Direct that United Church policies and actions, in relation to Israel and Palestine, reflect the content of the report as these have been affirmed in the motions number 3 through 13 and recommend the report and its policies to its members for study, prayerful discernment and personal action.*

Direct that United Church of Canada policy in respect to the conditions necessary for peace:

- 3) *Continue to call for rejection of all forms of violence and of incitements of violence and hatred by all parties in the conflict.*
- 4) *Continue to identify the end of the occupation as necessary for peace in the region by:*
 - a. *continuing to name the occupation as a major contributor to the injustice that underlies the violence of the region;*
 - b. *identifying the end of all settlement construction by Israel as a necessary step in entering into good faith negotiations toward ending the occupation;*
 - c. *calling on Israel to dismantle settlements within the occupied territories;*
 - d. *calling on Israel to dismantle the separation barrier in all sections where it crosses over the Green Line;*
 - e. *identifying equitable access to water as a critical factor in a just settlement of the conflict;*
 - f. *urging the Canadian government to provide leadership among nations advocating for the end of the occupation.*
- 5) *Affirm that non-violent resistance to the occupation is justified and should be supported by all who seek an end to the occupation.*
- 6) *Acknowledge with deep regret the past policy of the General Council calling on Palestinians to acknowledge Israel as a Jewish state as a prerequisite to peace.*
- 7) *Affirm the importance of a just resolution of the rights of refugees throughout the world and the Palestinian Right of Return by continuing to uphold the legal rights of all refugees to return to their home, affirm that in the situation of Israel/Palestine this right extends to both*

Jewish and Palestinian peoples, and support a negotiated settlement to the Right of Return for Palestinian refugees that maintains the demographic integrity of Israel.

8) *Address the critical role that some forms of Christian theology have played in legitimizing the occupation by:*

a. challenging Christian beliefs that theologically justify the occupation and Israel's possession of a greater Israel that includes the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza;

b. requesting that the Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee explore the implications of theologies and beliefs that support the occupation.

Direct that United Church policy in respect to action to be taken:

9) *Call on United Church members to take concrete actions to support the end of the occupation by:*

a. directing the Executive of the General Council to give high priority to establishing a church-wide campaign of education and economic action directed against one or more settlement products that can be identified as produced in or related to the settlements or the occupied territories;

b. identifying the goal of the campaign as building awareness of United Church members of the illegal settlements' unjust continuation of the occupation and its impact on the lives of Palestinians and Israelis;

c. supporting the campaign through accompanying resources such as this working group report, the Kairos Palestine document, and others that are clearly directed toward an end to the occupation;

d. directing the Executive of the General Council to explore the wisdom of divesting in companies that are profiting from or supporting the occupation;

e. encouraging members of the United Church to avoid any and all products produced in the settlements;

f. requesting that the Canadian government ensure that all products produced in the settlements be labeled clearly and differently from products of Israel;

g. requesting that the Canadian government ensure that products produced in the settlements not be given preferential treatment under the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement;

h. inviting the participation of other Canadian churches in the campaign.

10) *Identify the importance of trust-building programs between Palestinians and Israelis by:*

a. encouraging stronger connections between United Church programs and organizations that build understanding between Palestinians and Israelis;

b. exploring and supporting initiatives for increasing connections in Canada between Palestinian Canadians and Jewish Canadians.

11) *Emphasize the importance for all Christians, and in particular members of the United Church, of visiting and engaging directly with Palestinian Christians by:*

a. encouraging United Church people to respond to the call from Palestinian Christians to come and see the Holy Land through their eyes, encouraging support of Palestinian-based tourism, and providing materials to United Church members for supporting ethical travel in the Middle East;

b. encouraging positive economic action in support of the Palestinian economy and making available to United Church members information on programs and services like the Alternative Tourism Group and the Olive Tree Campaign:

c. continuing to support the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program for Palestine and Israel and encouraging United Church members to participate.

Council affirmations:

12) The United Church of Canada expresses a hope and commitment to be able to contribute to justice, even in a small way, that leads to peace in Israel/Palestine.

An even more compelling hope is that we might contribute to dignity for all peoples in the region and respect for the particular calling of the land of Israel/Palestine.

General Council proposes that the 41st General Council directs that The United Church of Canada policy in respect to the conditions for peace in the region include:

a) Naming that the ongoing aggression and incitement to violence towards the state of Israel and its people is an important contributor to the injustice that underlies the violence in the region.

b) Denounce the ongoing aggression and incitement to violence towards the state of Israel and its people by many and diverse parties, individuals and governments in the region and around the world. Denounces all questions of Israel's right to exist or that seek to undermine its legitimacy as a state.

In order to do this justice, peace and human dignity work, call on United Church members to continue to deepen and strengthen their relationships with the Jewish community and with the help of the 2003 resource Bearing Faithful Witness. And to continue to deepen and strengthen their relationships with the Islamic community and with the help of the "That We May Know Each Other" 2006.

13) The United Church of Canada also denounces the ongoing violence towards and promotion of hatred for residents of the occupied territories by some settlers and others.

This ongoing violence and hatred causes great harm to our ecumenical partners in Israel and Palestine who have asked us and others for support at this time.

We appreciate and value United Church of Canada, who did not only demonstrate that it is a vibrant Church, but a committed Church to Christian values of Love, Peace and Justice.

A big thank you is ad due to our colleagues at UCC who have spent many long hours towards rendering our orientation and participation a smooth and successful mission.

Future directions

We are keen upon linking the global actions undertaken with the developing local/national action plans as an organization or a forum. Since we are the only faith based organization in the local forum, and members of the WCC/EWN global forum, we will thrive to make good use of the global/regional opportunities to raise awareness/visibility of the water conflictive nature.

6.2 Loan Revolving Fund

During 2012 the organization maintained pursuit of receivables with the clear objective to recuperate the working capital to make it useful and **in compliance with the strategic direction towards revising the Loan policy**. We have scored success in recovering working capital reaching 89%.

The Organization has thoroughly conducted a mapping exercise of other actors dealing with credit and analyzed their experiences, aims and objectives, mechanisms and guarantees, target groups and risk factors. A new direction for the loan revolving fund is being strategically considered with a complete change in policies. This change coincides with the evaluation recommendations and Area Committee directives. The area committee has finalized the policy document in line with the strategic direction and activation of the program in 2012.

An official announcement was made and circulated amongst ALL congregations of all Churches during Sunday services. We have started to receive applications in line with the new policy and its applications.

A loan officer was recruited and the NECC-ICC has presence and outreach to communities since they cannot all access Jerusalem. In this endeavor we would take this opportunity to register our appreciation to the Coptic Orthodox and Catholic Churches who graciously have provided us with the workspace once a week for public relations.

During 2012 ICC issued 28 loans in compliance with the new policy, 17 housing, 5 for higher education and 6 small businesses. Loans value is at USD 124,500 with 100 % repayment rate. A sample of the loans released is Abdalla D. a skilled craftsman who simply needed raw material to let go of his innovative skills. Following is a sample of his products, successfully marketed to pilgrims.



God's blessings and sincere thanks to:

All international partners for their faith and trust in us,

All local partners for their continued support,

*All beneficiaries for their cooperation
&*

All those who were directly or indirectly engaged

In making the dreams of many people come true!