

The Middle East Council of Churches



مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)



Annual Report 2016

Improving the lives of Palestinians across the Middle East

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Cover photo: Children playing during a psychosocial activity, organized by the psychosocial support program of DSPR-JCC Lebanon.

Foreword

We remain in the midst of transition in our Middle East region. As such there are many conflicts, wars and effects and wounds of memories of the past and the present that need to be tended to heal. Our annual report of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) is a reflection of our commitment as an indigenous ecumenical Christian body to bear witness to the afflictions and tribulations of our societies and their diverse people. We remain steadfast in identifying with our brothers and sisters, the refugees of the 1948 war and the 1967 war but we are also welcoming the strangers amongst us who arrived as a result of the Syrian civil war. I only wish that our annual report would only reflect the joys of our peoples and societies but we need to touch base with the realities in order to help people overcome them and remain triumphant with their dignity and hope for the future. Thank you each and every one for making DSPR work and witness possible.

Dr. Audeh Quawas, Chairperson DSPR.

The year 2016 continued to be a problematic one for our region. While our work together with the participation of our partners spelled hope, the regional situation and the lack of progress on the political sphere in many of the strife-torn countries made our work even more necessary. We need to keep going on and to help our Brothers and Sisters the refugees, irrespective of their nationality or background, in order that they may have life and live it with dignity. Needless to say that our work would not be possible without the presence, active involvement and support of our partners and their back donors. Our colleagues and staff members in the five Areas worked hard to effect the local partnerships with our beneficiaries. To all of them my personal appreciation.

Dr. Bernard Sabella, Executive Secretary, DSPR Central Office.

DSPR Beginnings, Raison d'être and Vision

'DSPR' emerged as an ad-hoc group from 1948 as locally formed groups and Area Committees responded to the first wave of Palestinian refugees. In 1951, the creation of NECCRW (Near East Council of Churches for Refugee Works) provided a formal regional organizational 'umbrella' with central office to which six Area Committees were affiliated (Egypt left in 1980). DSPR was registered in Cyprus in 1970 and became part of MECC (Middle East Council of Churches) when it was established in 1974.

DSPR's raison d'être persists. Continuing conflict, recurring emergencies and repeated displacement together with natural

population growth of Palestinians has meant the refugee issue and related concerns has not only been unresolved but continued to grow over this period.

The vision of DSPR is based on *diakonia* applied to sustain the efforts of Palestinians to lead dignified lives and to strengthen their communities. Services are rendered on the basis of need; refugee youth, women and children have been the priority focus groups throughout, but other marginalized categories have also been assisted. The DSPR program has evolved from earlier relief distribution (still required for new emergencies) to service delivery and development. The special identity and traditions of DSPR set it apart from most voluntary agencies working with the Palestinians. It remains a distinctive ecumenical joint endeavor of international and local churches. DSPR has evolved differently in each Area throughout its lifetime.

DSPR and its Five Area Committees

DSPR has evolved differently in each of the five geographic areas throughout its lifetime. Each Area has its own Committee (Area Committee) whose members are nominated by the respective Heads of Churches that constitute the Four Families of Churches joined together in the Middle East Council of Churches. These Area Committees are:

- The International Christian Committee (ICC DSPR – West Bank).
- International Christian Committee in Israel (ICCI DSPR - Galilee).
- The Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon (JCC – DSPR Lebanon).
- The Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work (NECCRW DSPR - Gaza).
- The Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work (NECCRW - Jordan).

Right of Return Basic Human Right

DSPR believes that the right of return is a basic human right of for all Palestinian refugees and that they should be part of the decision-making process to resolve their refugee status, in line with United Nations resolutions. DSPR's vision is of a pluralist Palestinian society, and similarly of the Middle East, which guarantees equal opportunities for all citizens, based on the ideals of justice, equality of rights, opportunities and freedoms. DSPR's mission is to promote the socio-economic development and just rights of Palestinian refugees and needy communities in the Middle East.

Enhance the wellbeing of Palestinian mothers and children – Primary Health Clinics and Health Education in Jordan Gaza Strip and Lebanon

Health Program

DSPR Jordan and Gaza are engaged through five clinics in providing health services to over 46,292 direct beneficiaries' primarily Palestinian refugees but also Syrian refugees in Jordan. In Lebanon, there was health education outreach to over 530 women in three refugee camps.

In Jordan, DSPR the Primary Health Care Clinic in Madaba reached out to 4500 direct beneficiaries half of whom were Syrian refugees and the other half Palestinians. Besides, an intensive program of health education touched based with almost 2000 refugees, including some of the Syrian refugees.

The health services offered include monthly health awareness sessions on a variety of medical, hygienic and nutritional topics with each of the sessions attended by at least 30 women. The holding of free medical days took place as in previous years at the DSPR Vocational Training Centers in Husn and Madaba ,Souf ,Amman refugee camps and other Palestinian and Syrian Refugees gatherings.. These 13 days covered gynecology, optometry, pediatrics and general medicine, among other medical needs of the population. They were attended by over 1000 women and other people seeking medical advice and assistance.600 Syrian refugees were referred for further medical treatments throughout the year.



DSPR Jordan – During a Free Medical Day at Baqa camp

A hundred Syrian refugee women and children on monthly average were checked at the clinic free of charge.



DSPR Jordan – Free Medical Day

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)

Enhance the wellbeing of Palestinian mothers and children – Primary Health Clinics and Health Education in Jordan Gaza Strip

Shija'ia, Darraj and Rafah Primary Health Clinics Run by DSPR Gaza

DSPR Gaza has for long maintained a health program that provides high quality Primary Health Care services. The three clinics operate in poor, overpopulated and remote areas that have inadequate or no health services. Two of the clinics are in the greater area of Gaza City itself; Shijaia and Daraj clinics reached out to close to 50,000 direct beneficiaries while the Rafah clinic in the most southern part of the Gaza Strip served over 17,000 patients. The three clinics operate in a network like functionality whereby the pharmacy and laboratory are connected to the doctors' computers and the prescriptions or referrals given are automatically transmitted to the laboratory, pharmacy and relevant personnel within the clinics. Referrals of high risk patients and those with special needs are ensured and followed up. The high population density of the Gaza Strip and the pressures on medical facilities of both UNRWA and the Government make the three primary health care clinics of DSPR Gaza a value-added proposition. These clinics help relieve some of the pressures experienced by the health system and contribute to providing high quality medical attention to a relatively large population.

The professionalism and the high quality of medical care given by the DSPR Gaza clinics leave their impact on the overall health conditions of the direct beneficiaries. Follow up studies show that mothers who frequent the clinics are more aware of the hygienic requirements for the preparation of babies' food and for taking care of the essential needs of a growing child.

Gaza – A DSPR nurse is weighing a baby in an assessment of growth.



The Gaza clinics run by DSPR contribute effectively to better quality of life for hundreds of Palestinian families and thousands of their members. In particular the access of expecting mothers and infants to a primary health care system that follows them step by step, pre and post-delivery, is a significant contributing factor to good health. In addition the educational programs that go alongside the provision of health services and that are supplemented regularly with routine screenings further contribute to quality of life.

Due to the poverty and the unemployment rates that are induced by the political situation DSPR Gaza subsidizes the visits to the clinics so as not to put any hindrance to seeking primary health care when it is needed.

Health Education in Gaza

DSPR Gaza Staff conduct health education sessions for women attending family health care centers. To promote healthy practices, health education was provided to families in need particularly to caregivers. The primary objective is to increase awareness of the concerned population on topics related to hygiene,



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Enhance the wellbeing of Palestinian mothers and children – Primary Health Clinics and Health Education in Jordan Gaza Strip and Lebanon

breast feeding, environment, etc... Participants in health education sessions included expecting mothers, women, new pregnant mothers, grandmothers and significant family members. Also health education materials were distributed either inside the centers or at home visits. Malnutrition is a serious problem for Gaza children and hence special attention is given to this topic in the health education curriculum. Almost all of the women participants reported a better understanding of malnutrition and steps and measures to counter it in their children. DSPR Gaza conducted 1540 health education sessions in 2016: 854 in Shijaia Clinic; 438 in Daraj Clinic and 248 in Rafah Clinic. Over 11,735 caregivers received health education on nutrition, hygiene and sanitary requirements and measures to be adopted at home and in the workplace.

Home Visits & Referrals

DSPR Gaza Staff are actively engaged in Home Visits as 2016 witnessed 3840 such visits in the three areas covered by the DSPR clinics. Home visits focused on the newly born, expected deliveries and defaulters, among others. 241 cases were referred for further treatment and medical attention from the three DSPR clinics.

The **Dental Clinics** attached to the Primary Health Centers saw a total of 8725 beneficiaries in 2016. Among these were 2061 children screened and 1996 expecting mothers in the three Centers operated by DSPR Gaza. Besides, there is a mobile dental clinic which offers its services in the communities when needed.

Gaza - Visit to the friendly dentist



Laboratory Services

A laboratory is based in each one of the clinics. A variety of essential blood tests are carried out some with the cooperation of Ahli Hospital and the Thalassemia Association. Laboratory tests conducted in 2016 have reached 28919 patients; Shijaia Clinic 11968; Daraj Clinic 10989 and Rafah Clinic 5962.

The extensive health services offered by DSPR Gaza reach out to thousands of families in the Gaza Strip thus ensuring quality of life and providing these families with needed support to maintain an acceptable standard of health. The system created over the years offers a holistic and integrated approach thus gaining the confidence not only of the patients and their families but also public recognition and that of other organizations working in the field.



Gaza – Woman to Woman Dentist at Work

Empower marginalized Palestinian youth and women to improve their own economic conditions in Lebanon, Gaza, Jordan and Galilee

Economic Empowerment Program

Three of DSPR Area Committees, **Lebanon, Gaza and Jordan** are engaged in Vocational Training programs that aim to enhance the prospects of trainees in securing employment or starting own small business. While in Galilee attention is paid to school dropout girls and they are assisted in the ACRE Center to either go back to school or to start learning a skill that would enable them to start their own business or to seek employment.

In Lebanon, DSPR undertakes Vocational Training programs in Hairdressing and Beauty Skills and Electronics & Computers in Sabra refugee camp; Barber and Secretarial Skills in Sidon refugee camp and Agriculture in Tyre. Over 140 youngsters, both female and male, benefits from courses that last between 4 months to 9 months each, depending on the topic.

Vocational Training	Centers	Beneficiaries	Duration
Hairdressing	Sabra	24	6 months
Beauty Skills	Sabra	20	4 months
Barber	Sabra, Sidon	17	4 months
Electronics & Computers	Sabra	18	9 months
Agriculture	Tyre	37	4 months
Tutoring & English	Sidon & Ein El-Hilweh	78	Ongoing
Teacher Training	Sidon & Ein El-Hilweh	30	One Week

Learning a skill, no matter how simple or complicated, is the way to help trainees find and realize their own potential, develop their self confidence in looking for jobs, establish their own small business, at-home or in the community. This is especially important at a time when Palestinians in Lebanon are not allowed to work in at least 70 occupations and professions and face constraints in accessing the Lebanese labor market. Special mention is of the Agricultural course at the Tyre farm where trainees are introduced to the good earth and develop their own farming skills. Seeing the produce of work on the land and tasting it is an encouragement to practice farming and to appreciate the bounties that come from hard work on the land.



DSPR Lebanon TV School

In Gaza DSPR offers quality three-year courses in the Gaza City Vocational Training Center that target disadvantaged boys aged 14-16 who have dropped out of school. They can choose to train in carpentry and furniture making or metal/aluminum works and welding and are provided with theoretical skills topics including Math, Arabic, industrial studies, Engineering Drawing, in addition to sport and library classes. The Vocational Training Center at El Qararah conducts two-year courses in general electrician skills and motor and transformer rewinding that is offered to young men aged 16-23 who finished grade ten.

#	Program	Duration (Year)	Graduates (2016)	Current Enrolment			Total Number of Existing Students (December 2016)
				1st Y	2nd Y	3rd Y	
1	Carpentry and Furniture making	2	22	25	22	20	67
2	Metal and Welding Works	2	12	18	16	15	49
3	Aluminum Works	1	0	17	0	0	17
4	HVAC	2	0	20	0	0	20
5	General and Electricity and Motor Rewinding	2	22	26	24	0	50
	Sub Total (Males)		56	106	62	35	203
6	Secretary and English Language	1	22	22	0	0	22
7	Advanced Dress Making	1	21	24	0	0	24
	Sub Total (females)		43	46	0	0	46
	Total		99	152	62	35	249

Empower marginalized Palestinian youth and women to improve their own economic conditions in Lebanon, Gaza, Jordan and Galilee

DSPR Lebanon offers a well-integrated course in Electronics and Computers 18 youngsters have benefitted from this course in 2016 and the enthusiasm they showed as they learned attest to what the course signifies to them in terms of personal accomplishment. As they go through the intricate details of electronics they also learn the assembling and maintenance of computers. The skills earned enable them to find jobs in a highly competitive market.

DSPR Gaza continues to offer at its Secretarial Studies and English Language Center a one year intensive course to young women who have finished their secondary studies (Tawjihi) to prepare them for secretarial positions. The course starts with an intensive English Language course running for 3 months. The 22 women enrollees in 2016 were provided with high quality secretarial skills that cover theoretical and practical lessons in the areas of English language, Simple Bookkeeping, Management Principles, Arabic Correspondence, Office Practice, Arabic and English languages, and Typing. The quality of education in this program was maintained as in previous years and its success is shown by the employment rate of our Secretarial Studies course.



Gaza – Students at the AutoCAD Course



Gaza - Students of Dressmaking and Secretarial Studies Receiving their Degrees

The Advanced Dress Making Center offered a one year course to 24 young women in 2016. The graduates usually go on to support their families and to become financially independent. The students are provided with comprehensive Course covers theoretical and practical subjects including Measurement, preparing patterns and sewing of all kinds of dresses for children and adults mainly for women and produce well-prepared pieces.

Secretarial Center

The vocational training programs offered by DSPR Gaza are praised by the community for their high training quality and excellence. This explains why in a labor market that sees a high rate of unemployment reaching 45%, almost two thirds of our graduates are employed or self-employed within one-year of graduation, increasing their ability to be self-sufficient and effectively contributing to the livelihoods of their families.

In Jordan, DSPR undertakes vocational training for women in four Centers within refugee camps. Over 50 young women were trained in 2016 in the Husn, Talbiah , Jerash and Souf Centers in Sewing, Embroidery, Trico and Cosmetics beside a course in Non Formal Education. These textiles particularly the folkloric ones have evolved historically in both Jordan and Palestine and in the region in general sustained by the older generation of grandmothers who kept faithful to the tradition. With the changes taking place all around and in all fields, there is fear that this tradition would be lost. Our program teaches women trainees the skills of producing traditional and folkloric pieces of textile that have potential of being functional in today’s market, whether they are marketed collectively or at the individual woman’s preference. DSPR Jordan has a showroom where the folkloric and other products by women are exhibited. Whenever there is an opportunity the products are exhibited in touristic sites in cooperation with local businesses.

Our Women Empowerment program in Jordan focuses on educating women on the legal, social, economic issues that affect their lives and those of others in the community. Over 1280 women benefited from the program in 2016 as well as (80) girls received ICDL computer training in Irbid Center which allows them to improve the likelihood of their employment in an office.

With partnership with Church World Service – New Zealand, DSPR Jordan is aiming to train over 3000 women in the various refugee camps in Jordan in Health Education; Vocational Training and Holding of Free Medical Days. In 2016 there 50 activities undertaken that reached out to over 2000 women; 630 benefitted from Health Education; 450 from Vocational Training and 953 from Free Medical Days. The impact of these activities cannot be overestimated but the participation of women and their follow up after the activities testify not only to interest in the activities themselves but also to a sense of empowerment and self-reliance. In parallel with the program offered to Palestinian refugee women, the Church World Service – New Zealand grant for 2016 to support Syrian refugees enabled DSPR Jordan to reach out to over 1700 Syrian refugee women in awareness raising on issues related to sexual gender based violence and to psychosocial support. 100 Syrian women were enrolled in a course on how to “Start Your Own Business.” 16 Children Forums were set up in 2016 for 640 Syrian refugees aged 8-12 years.

DSPR Galilee continued its support and involvement in ACRE Center for school dropout girls. 82 school girls were reached and they were cared for in the center together with enabling them to learn vocational skills that would boost their self-respect and morale. Most of the girls in 2016 rejoined their schools but some opted to become independent and to chart a course of establishing their own business.



DSPR Galilee Empowering Young Students with Skills at ACRE



DSPR Lebanon Dbayeh Refugee Camp



DSPR Lebanon Tyre Farm

Department of Service to Palestinian Res (DSP

Loans Giving Opportunity

As is the practice for many years, four of the five Area Committees provide interest-free loans. University students in Galilee and Jordan are the primary beneficiaries as these loans see them through their university or college years. The Area Committees are aware of the higher costs of university education across the region and accordingly adjust the sum of the granted loan to compensate in some measure to the increasing costs of a university education. DSPR Jordan, West Bank and Nazareth offer also some business loans particularly to those who seek either to improve their own business prospects or have been suffering from unemployment and or some form of disability. DSPR West Bank offers housing loans as well. The loans give students, small businessmen and families a push to realize their hopes and improve their economic, educational and living prospects. Hundreds of university students and their families have benefited from this project. Some could not have made it at all without the financial support that the loan for three academic years provides. Many of the recipients have become active professionals, teachers, public servants and in private enterprises.

Type of loan	Area Committee	No. of loans in 2016	Amount per loan (\$)	Total (US\$)	Period of loan (years)	Recovery previous loans
University/College	DSPR ICCI Nazareth	83	1000	83000	1	95-98%
	DSPR NECCC RW Gaza	79	750 – 1,000		1	100%
	DSPR NECCC RW Jordan	60	1300	77853	1	90-95%
Business & Housing	DSPR ICCI Nazareth	5				95-98%
	DSPR ICC West Bank	4	5000	20000		100%

Environment Resource Management

Food Security Program of DSPR West Bank

Supporting Vulnerable Palestinian Communities to Better Manage and Preserve Available Natural Resources

Food Security program

DSPR West Bank focused in 2016 upon the most affected areas in North West and North East areas in the West Bank, as these show some of the highest food insecurity levels. In the West Bank, the humanitarian situation is greatly affected by the construction of the Separation Wall and movement impediments denying farmers access to market. The governorate of Tubas in the North East is chosen as the project location because 37 percent of all the agricultural land in the West Bank is located in these areas and is considered the agriculture hub of the West Bank. Furthermore it is situated in area “C” which is under total control of Israeli military who have military training camps adjacent to residential and populated area.

Despite the setback of forced migration of 700 persons from their locality which was declared a military area, Tubas district and Al Aqaba in particular have the potential to increase their production output, which can help alleviate the level of food insecurity for the targeted farming households. This governorate is also known to be a traditional agricultural area, and many of the markets in the West Bank depend on their products. The main gap is access to market which discourages agriculture growth. This project will address this gap by encouraging farming especially amongst women who will grow 12 types of herbs. In Tubas we have supported a herbal factory which suffers from the absorption of raw products in appropriate storage space, by establishing storage space of 350 sq. meters for Herbs.

Problem Statement

AL AQABA is a Palestinian village in Tubas Governorate which is located 5 km north east of Tubas city, in the north eastern part of the West Bank. The total area of Al Aqaba village is 2600 dunums; 100 dunums are classified as built up area, out of 2500 dunums of arable land only 962 dunums are cultivated, which means that 61.5 % of the arable land is not utilized. Israeli

forces have confiscated a large area of village land and villagers farmers were prevented from accessing their agricultural land. extension centers, agricultural markets and agricultural machines, and 4) lack of funds and governmental subsidies.

Project description

With the involvement and participation of the village community it was decided that the best contribution to the economic and environmental conditions prevailing is to add a storage space to accommodate the production of various herbal tea packages. Accordingly and after field studies and assessments, a storage space of 350 square meters was added.

Impact

Al Aqaba factory herbal product is a unique brand from Palestine which has great potentials with limited resources. The factory is there, rural women society highly cooperative and active. Factory has a limited absorption and production capacity. Market demand is available with limited market supply. The project is implemented at 2 stages the first being the provision of storage and working space and the second would be to enhance agriculture production in the same locality. Rural women society share contribution was 14 % of the total actual cost of the project, contributing to a 380 m² for the preparation phase of herbs as well as storage of the final product. The additional space will enable absorption capacity of the delivered raw product, enable increased production, thus creating additional job opportunities. This will enhance the herbal value chain of a Palestinian brand for internal and external markets.



DSPR West Bank Al Aqaba Village Herbal Space

Water Program

The project of rehabilitation of the agricultural well in Nwe'meh area involved supplying and installing all accessories and completing all works needed for an effective and efficient functioning of the well. The well delivers 80m³/hr. of water which in turn will enhance the resilience of about 80 individual refugees headed by 10 breadwinner farmers in their land. The well lies in Zone "C" that is adjacent to bypass road 90 and its surrounding land is at risk of confiscation. Furthermore, water pumped from this well is sufficient for irrigation and for the livestock owned by the farmers as well, thus, contributing to their food security.

Problem Statement:

The farmers originally drilled the new well at their own expense and couldn't accomplish the works needed as they were financially overburdened. The urgency was highlighted by the Palestinian Ministry of Agriculture which highlighted the need to provide farmers with a reliable source for irrigation water in that dry area. Water is needed for irrigation of 350 dunums of land planted with various types of vegetables, palm trees, citrus and guava trees. In addition to irrigation, the villagers themselves highlighted that water is essential for their livestock of 30 cows and about 50,000 chickens. The construction of the well would also contribute to expanding the agricultural land by 100 dunums or 20 acres.

The ownership of the well project has been enhanced through local contribution from the farmers benefiting from the well; in addition to drilling the well at their own expense, throughout rehabilitation, the farmers contributed to the project by performing video surveying and verticality test, cleaning the well before installing the casing and removing all debris, in addition to construction and finishing of a room for the eclectic board.

Impact:

The main change has been preventing the land from being confiscated as it lies in a hot area in Zone C and adjacent to bypass road. Now with an additional 100 dunums cultivated, a total of 450 dunums have been protected. The total cultivated land is provided with a reliable source of water for irrigation which is essential for agricultural production.

In addition, the prompt intervention prevented losing the well due to



DSPR West Bank Farmer at Nwe'meh Village



DSPR West Bank Pumping Station at Nwe'meh Village

collapsing its sides and the well is functioning efficiently and effectively at pumping capacity of 80m³/hr.

Since the pumping capacity is high and the test proved high quality of water. Another success was the interest shown by other organizations in the project, although not all have been materialized. UNDP by now delivered 1500 pipes for the irrigation of the additional 100 dunums in addition to all their accessories and will be connected soon. This accelerated observing a tangible change as the additional 100 dunums are now being planted after less than two weeks of handing over the well. Additionally, another organization that is interested in environment is in the process of assessing the project for potential future intervention of operating the well using solar energy.

Social and Economic Justice

Empowerment Programs Youth, Children and Mothers in Jordan, Galilee and Lebanon

DSPR Jordan conducts programs for youth and children empowerment. As these programs seek to enable the individual youth and child to overcome the constraints and challenges facing them, they aim to endow youth with leadership skills and to sensitize them to the drug problem and its dire effects. They also aim to provide children in a refugee camp environment with tools and skills that would enable them to develop their thinking skills, keep up with their personal hygiene and to become aware of their rights as children.

Youth and children are two age groups at higher risk than other groups in the society. Youth find themselves in a transitional status when it comes to dealing with issues of their future and to find their proper place within the community and the society at large. Gaining leadership skills is an effective way to deal with individual issues while placing oneself in the larger context. Youth in particular experience tremendous social and peer pressures; drug abuse could become an option that would close off possibilities of personal development and of productively engaging with the larger community and society. Children have their own problems as they live with high population density and limited space, both physical and social. Often children end up being expendable whether in the way they are treated especially with larger families or if they are forced to go to work at a very early age. The tools and skills provided through children empowerment help them cope and overcome some of the constraints and hurdles facing them.

Altogether some hundreds of youth and children, of both gender, benefited from these programs in 2016. Childhood Development was the focus of activities in the Refugee camps of Jordan. Focusing on Syrian refugee children 16 Forums were established that reached out to 640 children aged between 8 to 12 years. There were also 24 training workshops conducted on the promotion of girls' education that were attended by girls and their mothers as well.



Girls in ACRE learning Togetherness



DSPR Tutoring and Caring

Interfaith and Arab and Jewish Professionals in Galilee

Youth Leadership Program in Cooperation with Notre-Dame School in Mee'lya village – DSPR Nazareth

DSPR Nazareth undertakes is the Youth Leadership Program in Cooperation with Notre-Dame School in Mee'lya village in Galilee. As is the case in most Arab villages in Israel, the community faces a shortage in frameworks and activities which address the problems and challenges facing Palestinian-Arab youth. Through the cooperation with Notre-Dame School in Mee'lya, DSPR Nazareth carries out a program for youth to ensure their integration in their community institutions.

This project has also a preventive approach that aims to prevent youth from sliding into drug abuse and other self-harming practices. This is done by helping students develop their social skills as increasing awareness to the challenges of their community, better communication, conflict resolution, planning and organization, managing a meeting, and co-working with others at school and in the community.

The pupils enrolled in this program are 30 students of 9th grade who seek to develop and acquire skills of leadership by accepting social and community assignments. Weekly sessions are held at the Notre Dame for up to 120 hours yearly in addition five small projects or initiatives are developed and one overnight session is held together with two outings to visit communities throughout Galilee.

A majority of student attendees are volunteering in school and community work. Students are more open to others of different backgrounds as friendships develop across the divides. Participating youth are active in seeing that the small scale projects in which they are involved are successfully implemented.



DSPR Galilee In Mee'lya Village with future leaders

Interfaith in Galilee: “Knowing the Other by Knowing his Holy Sites”

An intervention program was conducted for 22 teachers in order to reduce stereotypes, preconceived ideas, and to promote more understanding and respect across different religious groups.

The teachers and principals represented schools from mixed Arab villages in Galilee: Cana and Reineh besides the town of Nazareth. The sessions were held at The Franciscan School in Cana. An intensive course of 30 hours started on end of October till December. The course included 4 theoretical sessions 4 hours each, and 3 full day visits, 6 hours each to holy sites of Christianity, Islam, Druze and Judaism. The course was approved by the Ministry of Education- Northern District. Follow- up: during the year 2016-2017 the school teachers who participated in the program will convey this knowledge to their students.



DSPR Galilee Interfaith Activity

Intergroup in Galilee: Coming together to Discuss Issues and Concerns

The main goal of our proposed project is to help bring about understanding and to evolve a Culture of tolerance between Arabs and Jews in the Holy Land, as a means for the achievement of Equal rights for the Arab Palestinian minority.

90 doctors, ministry of health representatives, public figure, religious leaders, and representatives from social change organizations came together for a one-day conference in December at the Galilee Medical Centre in

Nahariya, a town at the furthestmost northern part of the country. The topic focused on Children Safety mainly of the Arab society. The Conference included 6 lectures that dealt basically with awareness raising, statistics, medical perspective, and a personal story together with a panel discussion with representatives of medical staff and social change organizations.

The Conference was a success by all means as it led to exchange of knowledge and to sensitizing some in the medical, civil society organizations and professionals in various fields, both Arabs and Jews, to the special challenges facing Arab children in the country.



DSPR Galilee Intergroup Audience in the December Conference

DSPR Lebanon of Social Empowerment

Enhancing the overall well-being of the Palestinian refugees and their community through developing important health and relational skills as well as providing opportunities for children to learn outside of school.

Life in the refugee camps is very difficult and it can lead to feelings and actual disempowerment and demoralization of young and old, including in the areas of health and social ties. The empowering activities of DSPR Lebanon are varied from the Library at the Dbayeh Camp to Sports, Tutorials, Literacy Classes and the Thrift Shop that has become the focus of community organizing in the Camp and the neighboring communities. Follows a long list of the activities undertaken by the DSPR Lebanon that reflects the hard work of volunteers and activists involved in sustaining hope and dignity to the community.

Activities Undertaken by DSPR Lebanon in the Dbayeh and Sabra Camps during 2016

General Programs	Centers	No. of beneficiaries	Duration
Health Awareness Workshops	Dbayeh, Sabra	Communities of two camps	Ongoing
Summer Camps	Dbayeh, Sabra	110	2 months
Moral education	Dbayeh	45	Ongoing
Art and music	Dbayeh	35	Ongoing
Sports	Dbayeh	30	Ongoing
Lectures Workshops and Trainings	Dbayeh	445 women, men and youth	10 months and Ongoing
Study and Story Reading	Sabra	85	9 months and Ongoing
Tutorials	Dbayeh	55	9 months
Literacy Children on the Move and Elderly	Sabra	138	9 months
English and Computer	Sabra	34	6 months
Classes for Secondary Level	Sabra	110	9 months
Library Community Center	Sabra	Community	Ongoing
Gymnasium	Dbayeh	45	Ongoing
Thrift Shop	Dbayeh	Camp and Neighborhood	Ongoing
Health Awareness Workshops	Dbayeh	Communities of two camps	
Summer Camps	Dbayeh, Sabra	110	Ongoing
Moral education	Dbayeh, Sabra	45	2 months
Art and music	Dbayeh	35	Ongoing
Sports	Dbayeh	30	Ongoing
Lectures Workshops and Trainings	Dbayeh	445 women, men and youth	Ongoing



DSPR Lebanon the Children of Sabra Refugee Camp Kindergarten

As the above list details, hundreds of participants in a variety of activities that offer health lectures, discussion, workshops and trainings to women, men, and youth on a wide variety of health-related topics including, healthy eating, the effects of smoking, alcohol, and drugs, causes and caring for diseases, sex education, hygiene, dental care and emotional health.

A Summer camp open to children over age eight to learn and play together throughout the summer, also aided by youth volunteers. Moral education projects made available for young people ages five to eighteen, including curriculum based on stories, parables and lessons from the Bible and an opportunity to serve with a residential program for mentally disabled young people for two weeks.

Art and music classes offered to children as teachers are available. Sport opportunities for young and old, including the repairing of an old playground and space for football and basketball as well as the creation of a gymnasium complete with exercise equipment.

The variety and extent of the workshops, activities, and opportunities do lead to an improvement in the holistic well-being of the individual and the community. Beneficiaries learn to take care of themselves and others, develop social skills and creative ability. This is important in a context that marginalizes the Palestinian refugees and puts them on the periphery in practically a majority of spheres.



DSPR Lebanon Identity Formation at Sabra Kindergarten



DSPR Lebanon – Like in Other Lands, Children are Children.



DSPR Lebanon – Children Enjoying Being Themselves

Emergency Humanitarian Assistance

ACT Fora JSL (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon) and Palestine

The overall objective for DSPR in all of its Areas that offer Emergency Relief and Services is to provide assistance to alleviate the impact of emergency humanitarian situations that in Palestine have become chronic due to human induced factors primarily of continued Israeli occupation and the siege of the Gaza Strip and in Jordan and Lebanon due to the ongoing crisis in the war-torn Syria and the influx of Syrian refugees that are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance and long term training for the eventual peace in their country.

DSPR Gaza besides



DSPR Gaza Job Creation as Emergency Intervention

Psychosocial Support Program

Besides its ongoing medical, job creation and other activities that address the chronic emergency situation, DSPR Gaza succeeded to reach to thousands of beneficiaries in its Psychosocial Program for 2016.

The DSPR Gaza Annual Report details the psychosocial intervention: 960 children problem solving approach; 1055 children cognitive behavioral therapy; 65 children individual counseling; 197 mothers and women individual counseling; 162 family counseling for mothers with children with psychological disorders. Besides 151 sessions for 3706 women and mothers were conducted as well as the general psychosocial consultations that benefitted 669 participants. Group counseling was also conducted for 93 mothers and women and 126 home visits were undertaken. There was also the screening and detection of mental health problems in Primary Health Clinics patients.

Gaza's prolonged unresolved conflict and political situation continue to have a negative impact on the social, cultural, and mental makeup of the Palestinian community. The conflict is creating a unique case of complex and chronic challenges that have caused beside economic disadvantages, personal stress, trauma and socio-cultural pressures in the war-impacted communities.



Gaza – Children Forgetting Everything Else

Emergency Relief Jordan DSPR Jordan Essential Food and Non Food Items to Syrian Refugees

DSPR Jordan outreach to Syrian refugee families continued in 2016. Altogether 13700 families were reached with 4955 receiving food parcels; 1716 receiving blankets; another 1500 receiving winter clothes and 300 receiving heating stoves for the winter season. These families were distributed throughout Jordan and touched mainly Syrian refugees but also the needy in the host communities.

As in previous years, DSPR Jordan also undertook to provide health care and running of workshops on health issues and hygiene to Syrian refugees both individuals and families. Primary Health Care Clinics were made accessible to Syrian Refugees and this was publicized amidst the refugees. Medical Days reached out to well over 1050 Syrians and local needy patients. 1120 women mostly Syrians were involved in programs addressing home economics, gender based violence among other topics. 1280 women received psychosocial support while 200 Syrian women were trained in "Start Your Own Business." A program on Nutrition and Hygiene touched base with 1240 Syrian mothers and their children. Special attention was given to address issues related to girls' education; the workshops reached out to 2540 parents and teachers. Mothers' Support groups among Syrian mothers reached out to 1300 while life skills activities and training touched base with 1360 youngsters both males and females. Childrens' Forums for children aged 8 – 12 touched base with 1320 children while overall medical referrals among Syrian and Jordanian patients totaled 2199 referrals.

Productive Kitchen enabled 320 housewives to conduct activities pertaining to prepare food items for marketing. Beside these activities capacity building programs were held for staff members, volunteers and activists in the field 280 of them participated. The Women Forums reached out to 1000 Syrian and Jordanian women.



DSPR Jordan Syrian Refugees – Food and Non-Food Items



DSPR Jordan - Syrian Refugees – Women Health Discussion



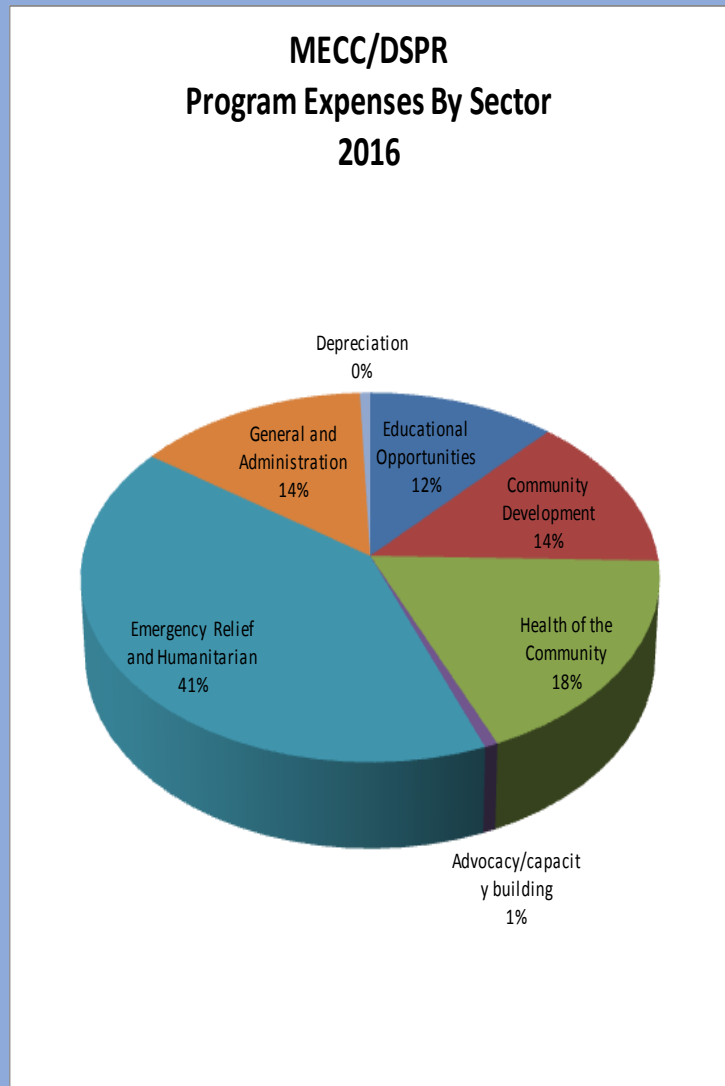
DS Jordan – Togetherness of Syrian Women Responding the Emergency

DSPR Lebanon has specialized throughout its intervention to deal with the emergency caused by the ongoing Syrian civil war on providing education for Syrian students, many of them come from Palestinian origins as their parents are refugees living in Syria and were forced to leave because of the war. The academic classes for Syrian children reached out to 487 students in 2016 of whom 336 went to Damascus to sit for their exams. DSPR Lebanon follows up on these students and some of them end up enrolling in universities whether in war torn Syria or in Lebanon itself. Emergency relief continues to be extended to Syrian refugees particularly those without support from other sources. But most of the attention of DSPR Lebanon rests on enabling Syrian children go on with their schooling amidst strenuous and difficult conditions.



MECC/DSPR
Program Expenses By Sector
Year Ended December 31, 2016

			Total 2016 USD
Program Expenses			
Educational Opportunities	DSPR-Gaza	434,194	587,207
	DSPR-Jordan	32,041	
	DSPR-Lebanon	120,972	
Community Development	DSPR-Gaza	30,675	685,201
	DSPR-West Bank	158,103	
	DSPR-Jordan	4,374	
	DSPR-Lebanon	414,001	
	DSPR-Nazareth	78,048	
Health of the Community	DSPR-Gaza	886,675	906,894
	DSPR-Jordan	20,219	
Advocacy/capacity building	DSPR-Gaza	8,831	33,391
	DSPR-Nazareth	24,560	
Emergency Relief and Humanitarian	DSPR-Gaza	310,040	2,037,375
	DSPR-Jordan	1,382,105	
	DSPR-Lebanon	345,230	
General and Administration	DSPR-Gaza	179,433	723,578
	DSPR-West Bank	129,104	
	DSPR-Jordan	36,805	
	DSPR-Lebanon	42,330	
	DSPR-Nazareth	45,895	
Depreciation	DSPR-Gaza	24,825	32,026
	DSPR-Lebanon	1,570	
	DSPR-Central Offi	5,631	
Total Program Expenses			5,005,672



Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)

Dr. Audeh Quawas
Chairperson – Central
Committee Member at Large
Greek Orthodox

Mrs. Leila Dagher
Vice Chairperson
JCC/Lebanon Delegate
Anglican

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Member at Large Greek
Orthodox ICC – west Bank
Alternate

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Member at Large
Oriental Orthodox

Dr. Jean Slamanian Alternate
-Member at Large Oriental
Orthodox

Mrs. Claudette Habesch
Member at Large
Roman Catholic

Dr. Sami Manneh
Alternate- Member at Large
Roman Catholic

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Member at Large
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Alternate- Member
Lutheran

Mr. Farah Geraisy
Chairperson Nazareth Area
Committee ICCI Delegate
Greek Orthodox

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Alternate Oriental Orthodox

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ICC –Delegate Greek
Catholic

Ms. Elham Salameh
ICC-Alternate
Oriental Orthodox

MECC/ DSPR EX-OFFICE

Father Michel Jalakh
Middle East Council of
Churches General secretary

Dr. Bernard Sabella
MECC/ DSPR
Executive Secretary

Mr. George Stephan
MECC/DSPR
Finance Manager CO
Internal Auditor ACS

AREA EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

Dr. Issa Tarazi
DSPR-Gaza NECCCRW

Mr. Ramzi Zananiri
DSPR-West Bank –ICC

Mr. Fares Swais
DSPR- Jordan –NECCCRW

Mr. Husam Elias
DSPR – Nazareth ICCI
Mrs. Sylvia Haddad
DSPR- Lebanon-JCC

AREA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NECCCRW JORDAN

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Atallah
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Syriac orthodox
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Coptic – Orthodox
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Catholic

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Greek Orthodox

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Greek orthodox

Mr. Matta Jabra
Syriac Orthodox

Dr. Rev. Khalid Freij
Anglican

Mrs. Izabel Aqel

Maronite

NECCRW GAZA

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Anglican Vice-Chairperson

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Anglican Treasurer

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Oriental Orthodox Alernate

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Catholic

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Anglican

Mr. Nazeeh Habashi
Greek Orthodox

Mr. Issa Franjia
Catholic

Dr. Bishara Khoury
Greek Orthodox

Mrs. Hala Dalou
Greek Orthodox

Mr. Suhail Tarazi
Greek Orthodox

ICC JERUSALEM WEST BANK

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Oriental Orthodox
Chairperson

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Greek Orthodox

Mr. Ghassan Mustaklem
Greek Orthodox

Mrs. Tala Faltas
Anglican Secretary

Mrs. Naela Rabah
Greek Catholic
ICC – Delegate

Ms. Elham Salameh
Oriental Orthodox

ICC-Alternate

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Catholic

Mr. Soubhi Makhoul
Maronite

Mr. George Sahhar
Greek Orthodox

Father Antonios Al Orashalimi

(Oriental Orthodox) **Mr. Samer Shehadeh**

Anglican

Mr. Maurice Younan

Lutheran

ICCI NAZARTH

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Chairperson –
Nazareth Area Committee
ICCI Delegate

Dr. Riad Dakwar
Melkite Greek Catholic

Mr. Samer Abu Nassar
Catholic –Treasurer

Ms. Rima Khleif
Alternate- r Lutheran)

Fr. Sidrak Al Anthony
Coptic – Orthodox

Mr. Adnan Kopty
Coptic – Orthodox

MS. Victorya Afram
Syrian

Rev. Fouad Dagher
Protestant

Mr. Adel Nasser
Anglican

Mr. Gerries Hashoul
Catholic

Mr. Ihab Bajali
Greek Orthodox

Dr. Abdallah Hamalieh
Greek Orthodox

JCC LEBANON

Mr. Edward Asmar
Chairman – JCC/Lebanon
JCC/Lebanon Alternate

Dr. Tarek Nawas
Greek Orthodox Vice
Chairperson

Ms. Leila Dagher
JCC/Lebanon
Delegate (Anglican)

Dr. Arda Ekmekji
Anglican Secretary

Dr. Leila Khoury
Greek Orthodox

Mr. Nabil Habib
Anglican

Dr. Afaf Deeb Kandis
Greek Orthodox

Father Massis Zoubouian
Armenian Orthodox

Father Romanos Abu Assi
Catholic

Mr. Elie Shubashi
Catholic

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR)



A member of

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DSPR

Central Office

Nablus Road 31
POBox 19195
E.Jerusalem
Tel:+972 2 6271715
+972 2 6283878
Fax: +972 2 6271716
E-mail :
dspr@netvision.net.il

DSPR/NECCCRW

Gaza

Said Al'as Street
Rimal, P.O.Box 49
Gaza/ Palestine
22/30
Tel: +970 2860146
Fax: +970 2866331
Email:
necc@neccgaza.org

DSPR/NECCCRW

Jordan

Amman
Jabal Al- Waibdeh
Ibn Al-Hareth St.
P.O Box 1295
Amman 11118
Tel: +962 6 4642530
E-mail:
dspr-jo@yahoo.com

DSPR/JCC

Lebanon

Park Lane Bldg.
4th Floor
Abla Street (Sadat)
P.B. Box: 113-5574
Beirut, Lebanon
Tel/Fax: +961 1741735
Email:
jcc@cyberia.net.lb

DSPR/ICC

West Bank

Near East Council of Churches
Committee for Refugee Works
International Christian Committee
Nablus Road 31
PO Box 19195 E.Jerusalem
Tel:+972 26288857/8
Fax:+972 26287054
E-mail:
Iccjer@netvision.net.il

DSPR/ICCI

Nazareth

International Christian
Committee in Israel
Nazareth, Israel
16102
P.O.Box304
Tel: +972 46575910
Fax:+ 972 46575691
E-mail:
icci@zahav.net.il

www.dsprme.org

