



*Near East Christian Council Committee
for Refugee Works / The International
Christian Committee-Jerusalem*

Annual 2019 RePort

“And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation”. Co 1:7

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

1. Executive Summary

A. Political Background

This is a copy and paste analysis from previous years as if time stops when it comes to the strive of Palestinians to sovereignty and self-determination on their own Land and are doomed for generations to endure occupation and its ugly practices. 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 de facto contextual reality. Israeli right winged leadership is proceeding towards annexation of the West Bank and conducting punitive measures against the Palestinian Authority (PA) whereby Israel has always played the card of tax returns towards the Palestinian authority compromising initially, salaries within the public sector.

B. Contextual analysis

Despite several United Nations resolutions, the construction of illegal settlements accelerated in Area C and East Jerusalem in an ongoing de facto annexation of Palestinian land and natural resources. Routine violence by settlers also increased and was at its highest level since 2014, causing death and damage to Palestinian property and the destruction of thousands of trees. The ensuing environment of violence, including evictions, legal discrimination and restrictions on movement, coerces Palestinians to leave their ancestral homeland and relocate. Among the communities most affected by displacement are Palestinians in Hebron and East Jerusalem and Bedouin communities in Area C (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the forcible transfer of populations is illegal under international law). The facts on access to water provide an example of the discrimination against Palestinians in Area C. All settlements are linked to the water system of Israel and receive high-quality water for all purposes. Some settlements have taken control of Palestinian water springs in the West Bank with the assistance of the military of Israel (United Nations, 2019). In contrast, 180 Palestinian communities in the area have no connection to a water network and rely on low-quality, high-cost alternatives. In East Jerusalem, only 44 per cent of Palestinian residents are connected to the water network in a formal manner. Overall, 22 per cent of Palestinians in the West Bank are affected by lack of access to water and poor water quality (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2018a). The exploitation of the West Bank by the occupying Power is not restricted to land, water and natural resources, but includes the transfer of large amounts of hazardous waste produced in Israel to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. This threatens the health of the Palestinian people and the integrity of their environment and natural resources

Having cited the global, regional and national threats and challenges; and as gloomy **the picture is portrayed, yet, we see that it is in such conditions, we are urged to serve and make a difference in peoples' lives. We remain to be tools for hope, "And our hope of you is steadfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation". Co 1:7**

C. 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 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.

In its **Service provision**, NECC-ICC aims to enabling Palestinian communities, better manage and preserve available natural resources and protect the environment through the water and agriculture sectors. The **Capacity building** direction is integrated within the agriculture/economic empowerment program and **Advocacy** that focuses 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.

2. Organizational History & 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 530 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 & Vision Statements

Mission: 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.

Vision: 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 & 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. Ghassan Mustaklem(Chairperson)	Ms. Sandra Khoury (CC delegate)
Mr. Aram Jileh (Vice Chairperson)	Mr. Daoud El Issa
Mr. Yousef Aoun (Treasurer)	Mr. Sami Jouzi
Ms. Tala Dawani (Secretary)	Mr. George Sahhar
Mr. Ibrahim Maliha	Ms. Elham Salameh
Mr. Samer Shehadeh	Mr. Maurice Younan

Core Staff & consultants

Mr. Ramzi Zananiri (Executive Director)	Eng. Luna Siniora (Projects Manager)
Mr. Elias Nakhleh (Finance Officer)	Mr. Mohammad Rubo' (Field coordinator)

6. NECC-ICC Overall Goal

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 **agriculture, water, with capacity building and advocacy solidifying sectors' direction. The loan revolving program remains vital for economic empowerment and making a difference in peoples' lives.**

7. Community Development Program

8. Problem Statement

While Israel recognized the Palestinian water rights as per Oslo II agreements, water remains to lie in the core of the Israeli- Palestinian conflict and the issue of the Palestinian water right remains to be one of the most difficult issues to be negotiated in the long-awaited permanent status negotiations. Currently Israel is utilizing about 80% of the Palestinian groundwater resources and entirely denying Palestinians access to Jordan River, leaving the Palestinians' per capita consumption for domestic use at an average of 30cm/yr which is far below the required standards of water supply.

Water is a vital input for agricultural production as irrigated agriculture represents 20 percent of the total cultivated land worldwide; moreover, irrigated agriculture is, on average, at least twice as productive per unit of land as rainfed agriculture, thereby allowing for more production intensification and crop diversification.

Agriculture is considered highly important to the Palestinian economy, as it makes up 25% of exports and directly employs around 117,000 Palestinians. However, agriculture contributes only about 12% to Palestinian GDP, while continuing to be the largest consumer of water, accounting for more than 62% of total use according to the World Bank. The amount of water currently used for irrigation is about 141mcm/yr to irrigate around 200,000 dunum in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, of which 55 mcm/yr is used in the West Bank and 86 mcm/yr in the Gaza Strip. In other words, each irrigated dunum in the Gaza Strip receives about four times more water per year than the average Gazan, while in the West Bank, each irrigated dunum receives between about five and 39 times more water per year than the average West Bank Palestinian.

The Israeli Occupation constantly hinders Palestinian agricultural development opportunities; Palestinians have access to 150mcm/yr to irrigate about 10% of their

cultivated lands whereas Israelis enjoy the bigger share to irrigate 50% of their cultivated lands.

With the water resources of Palestine being fully controlled by Israel, only rainwater is under the control of Palestine.

Although water is in the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, land is the root of the conflict. According to [World Bank](#), Palestinian agriculture suffers from widespread use of land for nature reserves as well as military and settler use and the natural resources available are getting scarcer and polluted. Palestinians are among the most food dependent in the world with 33% are “food insecure”. There is no significant agricultural growth, to the contrary, the contribution to Palestinian GDP is decreasing due to several factors, particularly Israeli policies of land confiscation and limited control over water resources and market exports.

Over 60% of the West Bank is considered Area “C”, area under Israel’s full control, whereby Israel abused this control by denying use and access of the lands to the Palestinian owners resulting in the confiscation of those lands that are then allocated for settlement expansion.

For Palestinian agricultural sector to develop, it is necessary to let Palestinians take control of it.

9. Problem Justification

Qalqilya district lies in the northwest part of the West Bank, bordered in the west by the 1948 Armistice Line with Israel. Most of the district lies within a fertile soil zone and agriculture represents a large percentage of its economy. The fertility of the area and its abundant water resources make it attractive to the Israelis. Working toward their long-term strategic plans, the Israeli occupation practices day to day measures of confiscation, destruction of properties, restriction of movement, expansion of settlements, construction of bypass roads in addition to the construction of the separation wall.

Qalqilya Western part has limited access to water for domestic purposes with shortages during summer season and people resort to purchasing water through tankers. And since the built-up area is limited, people tend to build over the agriculture space area available. That is why Qalqilya is considered the highest in population density in the West Bank. **Whereas the eastern part of Qalqilya has no access to water with a great deal of agriculture land and would be subjected to confiscation if not utilized.**

In the year 2018, we at NECC constructed and rehabilitated 3 segments of agriculture roads in a total of 3.25km providing access to 665 Dunums of agriculture land in a cluster of 3 villages benefitting 1900 persons in Qalqilya District eastern part.

The cluster in focus is in area “C” and is planted with Olive trees, the agriculture roads enhanced access to land, nevertheless, water remains inaccessible which discourages agriculture growth. Accordingly, rainfall harvesting remains the only means available for providing water for irrigation through construction of cisterns. **This year’s intervention which reflects on the access to water through the provision of rainfall harvesting cisterns is of a comprehensive approach encouraging access to land and water in a sustainable way.**

Since Qalqilya district is located on the border with Israel surrounded by the separation wall and cluster of settlements, most Qalqilya areas suffer from land confiscation and harassment from Israeli military and settlers. **Here lies the importance of agricultural roads to provide access to land which encourages farmers to utilize their lands and thus protect them from attacks and expropriation for the expansion of nearby settlements consequently, increasing agricultural areas and agricultural development which in turn enhances resilience.**

This year’s projects aim to develop the agricultural sector and enhance the resilience of farmers by increasing the cultivated area, exploiting the largest amount of available resources of land and water and facilitating farmers ’access to their lands in order to protect them from confiscation.

10. Project Implementation

Construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns for agriculture use in Joret Amra cluster - Qalqilya.

This project is complementary to the previous year’s intervention, so the cisterns were constructed in the lands served by the agriculture roads executed last year.

In full coordination and cooperation with the directorate of Agriculture in Qalqilya and the joint services cluster council, we announced and registered requests using social media and posted **announcements** in vital areas within the cluster during a set timeframe. The **registered requests were initially filtered** with priority given to agriculture lands directly benefiting from the agriculture roads. **The project coordinator conducted socio-economic survey** for the initially filtered names and reflected the **data in a matrix** setting weight to each of the agreed upon criterion and the **final filtering was performed** according to the scores reflected in the matrix.

A **collective meeting** with the selected beneficiaries was performed by the project coordinator to introduce implementation phases and requirements and to define roles and shares, followed by **signing contractual agreements** regarding the project.

For implementation, the coordinator conducted site visits to verify the location of each cistern and authorize excavation works for either of the two types of cisterns: pear-shaped and concrete rectangular depending on the type of soil in each location. He then

supervised the works through daily site visits in addition to random check site visits by the project manager to ascertain compliance with the contractual agreements signed by phase distribution within the set timeframe and in accordance to standards and specifications set by the Ministry of Agriculture. Payments were disbursed after fulfilling all requirements as per the signed agreements.

After accomplishment of all works related to the project, a final site visit was conducted to perform handover procedures.

A note to mention that the type of soil was so hard which resulted in having most of the cisterns excavated, built concrete rectangular shape which is more expensive to construct due to the high cost of casted concrete and steel for reinforcement needed for the side walls, bottom and top of the cistern, in addition to the heavy machinery needed for excavation, compared to the pear-shaped which can be excavated with Jack Hammer and requires reinforced concrete only for the bottom of the cistern with minimum amount of steel.

Output

Realization of 18 water cisterns with a total capacity increase by 13% providing 962 cubic meters of water storage space. Local community contribution of 20% was the biggest success as it reflected a change in cultural attitude whereby participants were partners and contributed to the realization of set objectives and outputs and most significantly enhancing their resilience.

Outcome (*Behavior Change*)

Attitudes changed from not knowing about the specifications and why they are to have them in place, they became more interactive with the engineer calling upon him for every step of the way to ensure proper digging levels and material in use to ensure best results in capacity.

Practices of participants changed as well since they were keen to realize best capacity and consider it as a long-term asset for not less than 10 years which encouraged them to realize the projected capacity of 50 cubic meters and more.

Rehabilitation of 3.5km agriculture road in Kufr Thulth - Qalqilya.

In full coordination and cooperation with the Ministry of agriculture, the target area was selected. We conducted a site visit to the locality to introduce the project to the governance body and fulfill the area profile.

To start execution, we defined roles, shares, and timeframe in a Memorandum of Understanding that we signed with the municipality followed by initiating tenders and supervising bidding process to select the contractor for implementation. Later, we actively participated in handing over the site to the contractor and authorized the official start of implementation.

During implementation, we supervised the work through site visits conducted by the project coordinator in addition to random check site visits by the project manager to ascertain compliance with the agreement signed by phase distribution within the set timeframe and in accordance to specifications and standards. Payments were disbursed after fulfilling all requirements as per the signed agreement. After accomplishment of all works related to the project, a final site visit was conducted to perform handover procedures.



It's worth mentioning that during implementation, the contractor delivered a stone crusher to the site whereby all stones resulting from the removal of stone fences obstructing the expansion of the road were crushed and reused as basecourse which in turn facilitated the work by saving time and cost of removing debris out of the implementation site.

To ensure quality of material and work, we conducted a quality control inspection by an authorized lab from the ministry of agriculture twice during implementation; after crushing the stones, samples were taken to test for the quality of the basecourse, and after spreading of basecourse, samples were taken to be tested for compaction. The contractor was not allowed to resume work without the lab results being analyzed and approved by the technical team supervising the works in each phase. All lab results were in accordance with standards and specifications.

11. Results & Impact

Throughout 2018, we were engaged in the construction and rehabilitation of 3 agriculture roads of 3.250 Kilometers providing access to 665 Dunums of agriculture land in a cluster of 3 villages benefitting 1900 persons. Nevertheless, water remained inaccessible in those areas until this year's intervention whereby 16 rainfall harvesting cisterns for agriculture use were constructed out of which 16 were concrete rectangular shaped and 1 pear shaped. With an average capacity of 55m³ per cistern, sufficient amount of rainwater is provided to irrigate 15 trees in each dunum of land at least 3 times a year from each cistern.

Each olive tree planted in that area needs about 240lt water for irrigation yearly, and the cost of 3000lt tanked water is 43 USD, consequently each cistern provides 55000lt rainwater sufficient for irrigating about 230 trees saving 788 USD(300 \$ yearly per farmer).

Moreover, this year we were able to rehabilitate 3.48Km length agriculture road in Kufr Thuth area facilitating access of 85 farmers to their lands which represents 712 dunums of agricultural fertile land. With access to land and water made available, farmers are encouraged to take care of their land and olive trees indicates enhancing their yield production, hence increasing the income from selling olives and olive oil each year; whereby each olive tree gives 40kg olives and 10kg olive oil, so the earnings from each tree reaches 150 USD that is about 1,800USD per dunum of land every year.

Furthermore, this year's intervention is complementary and fosters agriculture growth benefiting economic wellbeing of farmers' community; some farmers are thinking of planting more trees, others who have space are studying the feasibility of constructing a green house or livestock barracks to increase their income from better utilization of their resources.

Two of the beneficiaries have livestock, with the cistern made available, they can not only save money from buying tanked water for their livestock, they can redirect there purchasing of fodder during autumn and winter.

12. Success Story

Most Significant Change

Hamdan Mohammad Hamdan is a construction worker and farmer residing in Hajja/Joret Amra area. He is 47 years of age, married and a father of 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys. The 2 Girls are above 18 years of age and attending university studying English literature and Business administration at the open university, whilst the rest are at school. His average monthly income is USD 441.

Hamdan and his family live in a house comprising of 2 floors, the first is 70 meters apace area and the one above is 40 meters of space area. The upper floor is covered by zinc metal roofing.

Hamdan's family own a land of (5 Dunums), 1.24 acres adjacent to the agriculture road which became accessible in the previous year. The land is planted with 70 olive trees and 10 Almond trees which are 4 years old.

Previously access to the land was very difficult, mainly on feet and hard to attend to the land. Having the agriculture road enabled farmers easier access and can plant trees which are of additional income to families. Previously they used to purchase water for irrigation at a cost of USD 250 per year with great difficulties of storage of water in the inaccessible area.

Today with improved access to land and the construction of a 50 cubic meters of water cistern, Hamdan can have access to his family's land and tend to it with the availability of a water source adequate for a full year of irrigation. The water cistern made available by UMCOR with the catchment area is filled with God's gift of rain, which is adequate to irrigate the 80 trees throughout the year, providing a yield of olive oil benefiting the family with an additional monthly average equivalent to USD 220. The cropping season is mainly in October.

Hamdan statement" Before access to water the land was dead and with the availability of water it became alive. Now the whole family is engaged in farming and we spend the week end in the land and the boys and girls are more attached to the land and happy to spend time in the open air watching trees grow and appreciate access to water made available to the land and family."

"We thank you for your support and we extend an invitation to the look forward to your





Herbal production & Marketing (Akaba-Tubas)

Since our first approach in 2016 with the rural women development society WRDS, we were keen to understand the legal standing of the RWDS and its composition. They have a general assembly of 71 members of which 62 members are females and 9 are males. Many are engaged directly with the activities of the RWDS represented in the kindergarten and herbal tea factory. When meeting with members of the RWDS they were clear about their needs and priorities, whereby their main aim was to restore Akaba village to become a vibrant village and encourage those who fled the area due to military drills in a populated area, to come back and engage in restoring viability of their presence in that area. From those activities was the KG which cares for 105 children from the village and neighboring area ensuring their safe access to the KG to and back to their homes through safe transportation arranged by the KG. To date they managed to build 14 homes <http://www.rebuildingalliance.org/rebuild-to-remain/> for families who came back supported by the rebuilding alliance through soft loans and donations.

The RWDS highlighted 2 priority areas being a storage space to absorb the raw material for the herbal factory and second provision of raw material on site taking into consideration that they are farmers with land ownership but lack resources to utilize. In the first year United Church of Canada supported the construction of the storage space of 360 sq. meters with a local contribution of 20%.

In 2017 United Methodist Church on Relief contributed to enhance agriculture growth with 8 farmers with ownership of 8 dunums and produced herbal tea for the factory.

RWDS signed a memorandum of Understanding with the ICC towards the approach and have contractual agreement with farmers ensuring product to be delivered to the factory at reasonable prices benefitting farmers and RWSD.

This year's intervention addressed underdevelopment in al-'Aqabah community of the West Bank through a focus on women's economic and social empowerment. There is an existing community project which has led to a small-scale tea bag enterprise for which all profits go to the Al- 'Aqabah Rural Women Development Association. However, the small enterprise is currently only producing at 40% capacity and while it is already running a small profit there is a need to take advantage of the opportunity presented by a large local market for herbal teas. Therefore, this years' approach concludes the cycle with focus upon capacity building in managerial, financial skills and marketing inclusive of e-marketing towards reducing costs of production, establishing reliable production, establishing small commercial contracts, and supporting the women to pursue their vision of community projects within Al-'Aqabah.

The Rights based approach

CC meeting of November 2019 mandated ICC to be the hub and that they would appoint an experienced advocacy officer. There is need, once the advocacy strategy is on its way to consider how partners can help in sustaining and partnering with DSPR on this. Create a working group to support Jerusalem office as the Hub. Some could work on empowering the communities while others could do the work of amplifying the voices of communities.

There was a delay in the appointment of an advocacy officer from March 2019 for six months due to the state of instability of the lease with YMCA which has exacerbated our efforts towards looking for alternate premises and did not materialize except in October of the same year.

The advocacy officer was recruited on the 21st of October 2019 and although we were still moving to the new premises yet we managed to share with her all documents available so as to better digest the organization nature, structure and the Advocacy-rights based approach.

Physically she started working from our office at the new premises as of November and we have agreed on an urgent 6 months action plan with the target being towards the round table and the outcomes developed with the areas.

In the previous round table there was a working group formed to assist the efforts of DSPR in advocacy comprising of Act For Peace Australia(Sharon), Embrace the Middle east(Jamie Eyre), Church of Sweden(Karin Axelsson Zaar), United Church of Canada

(Wendy Gichuru), Bread For The World (Jens Halve), Church World Service NZ(Trish Murray).

The working group had 2 zoom meetings and enriched the strategic approach of a regional advocacy plan and shared their input with ICC, which was well received and redrafted the original plan without affecting the content.

Key points that were raised and worked upon:

- Comments on the draft as received from Sharon, Wendy and Karin were considered and incorporated in the strategic plan, maintain the content as approved by the CC. The comments related to having the in-depth and their analysis into annexes and maintain focus in short form for the strategic approach.
- At the last round table William Bell from Christian Aid talked about how we can develop talking points and policy positions that could be shared with partners to lift up Palestinian voices when there is escalation or increased tensions, to counter-balance some of the other messages from sources who are pro government of Israel.
- AfP-CWS-Embrace agreed for the need to have information in a timely fashion coming directly from the field and from the partners on the ground would be a real asset.
- AfP highlighted the need to having ready information needed in the different contexts with targeted messaging to reach different audiences.(For example having a preexisting write up around settlements and when something topical/newsworthy happens regarding settlements, it can be shared swiftly by adding a small paragraph to the already existing data.
- AfP also important to have a mapping out of anniversaries-key dates ahead of time identifying those predictable opportunities for advocacy with proper channels of communications
- DSPR to continue working on the advocacy plan of action and the input can be shared on google documents and add a column where partners can indicate when they can contribute either time, resources, finances etc. to support work. For bigger pieces of work requiring training or more time, there is need to flag these far in advance because some people have finite resources to engage.

All those points were received and worked upon in the draft strategic plan and shared with the area committees.

A timetable for visiting with the areas was set to have the advocacy officer visit with the Executive Directors and work forward towards meeting with focus groups to identify the

activity plan for the set objectives and issues highlighted by the areas. Based on that and after visiting with all area committee develop a unified operation plan for all areas with needed training, issues, capacities, and resources.

A preset organization follow-up questions was prepared and sent to the areas ahead of time of the visit of the advocacy officer to give areas the opportunity to be prepared for the field encounter and maintain focus of the approach.

The scheduled timetable started in January with a visit to Nazareth for 2 days, Jordan was postponed the 15th of March due to their workload and availability.

A permit for Gaza was issued and she was scheduled to visit with Gaza after confirmation of the granting of the permit. As she went to collect the permit, she was not allowed back into Jerusalem due to the COVID 19 lockdown of territories.