



2021

Annual Report

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A BOY LISTENS INTENTLY TO HIS TEACHER AT DSPR JCC'S KINDERGARTEN IN SHATILA CAMP, BEIRUT.

Service to Palestinians

Signs of Hope against Despair

A mixture of feelings is evoked when going through the annual report of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches.

- **a feeling of pain** in the light of what the Palestinian people have been going through for three quarters of a century,
- **a feeling of frustration**, since this sister population, is our neighbor living near to our homeland, with common families and relatives in both countries, and we are unable to go to them, and vice versa,
- **a feeling of helplessness** since we are unable to rescue them from the oppression they experience daily,
- **a feeling of injustice** in view of the double standards used by parts of the international community which turns a blind eye when it comes to Palestine,
- **a feeling of revolt** against the attempts to annihilate a whole people, culture and civilization, by violence, by manipulation as well as by deception.

We feel every day that, in the land of Palestine, Jesus Christ is slandered, scourged, carrying His Cross, and walking all the way to His crucifixion. However, on the other hand, we know that after three days, the stone will be rolled down, and Resurrection will prevail. This is what our service to the Palestinian people is all about:

Hope and Resistance awaiting Resurrection!

For seventy-three years, the DSPR has been providing service for social, psychological, and economic resistance to the Palestinians. Well-conceived programs are run by a competent and faithful team, integrated in a well-built and organized department rooted in a larger supportive organization, the MECC, through which the churches reaffirm their relentless support to the Palestinian people. The MECC DSPR is one sign of hope to the Palestinians, the attitudes and support of the Churches in the Middle East and worldwide are another sign of hope to the Palestinians, the care, solidarity and actions of the International Ecumenical Family too, are signs of hope to the Palestinians, the behavior of the Palestinians themselves is a sign of hope for their coming generations.

What the MECC is doing is probably little compared to the huge needs of the afflicted people of the Middle East. Consequently, the same applies to the DSPR with the Palestinian people, however, what we are doing carries important characteristics: It is done with care and dignity, it deals with priorities, and it is performed with professionalism.

The MECC, via its different departments, and DSPR is the oldest one among them, reads very well the signs coming from our societies and knows how to respond to them. What we are providing may be minimal compared to the amplitude of the catastrophes we experience on daily basis, But what we are doing is the cornerstone that holds the arcade.

Prof. Dr. Michel Abs
Secretary General
MECC

Foreword

It has become an annual ritual to write a message of introduction to the DSPR MECC Annual Report. I would like first to send a warm word of thanks to all my colleagues, members of the Central Committee, the Executive Directors, the Area Committees, and the Central Office team for their continued cooperation to the sustainability of our work. We believe in our work, and we believe in the partnerships that have bonded us to Church based organizations across the globe for decades. Our partners are an essential part of our work, and we walk together hand in hand. We believe in the right of Palestinian refugees to exercise their basic rights, including the Right of Return. Without the work that DSPR MECC does, many of the refugee Rights Holders will miss opportunities for a dignified life. Without dignity, there is no hope for the future. We in DSPR MECC believe in the dignity of the person and amidst difficult odds we persevere to be with our people and for a better future to all. May the Risen Lord give all of us the strength and determination to go on with this important work.

Dr. Audeh Quawas
Chairperson
Central Committee * Amman



As the effects of Covid19 added to it the recent war in the Ukraine continue to impact our world, the Middle East where we serve saw the unabated conflict in the Holy Land with the yearning of Palestinians to exercise their natural right of freedom from occupation. Jerusalem and the West Bank continue to experience an unsettling situation, where issues of freedom of religion and ongoing confrontations between owners of land and the illegal settlers disturb the peace. Gaza with its two million population most of whom are below the age of 20 years remain under siege with dire socioeconomic conditions that contribute to the dwindling of the small Christian community of one thousand. Lebanon has its own story of woes and tribulations that apparently will never end in the foreseeable future. All in Lebanon are hit hard; the marginalized and refugees most at a disadvantage. Jordan hosts millions of refugees from neighboring countries beside the Palestinian refugees, this puts tremendous stress on Jordan's economy and society. Galilee of the Nations and its Arab Palestinian population aspire for equal rights, which appear as distant as ever. Outreach to other groups and communities seek to create the common ground for a more equalitarian society. Amidst all this we, in DSPR MECC believe in our work and we see it as part of the resuscitation of our societies. We persevere thanks to our staff members across five different Areas and in the Central Office. We persevere thanks to our partners who hold hands with us and never relent in their support. We persevere because the alternative is to accept realities that need to change.

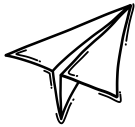
Dr. Bernard Sabella
Executive Secretary
Central Office * Jerusalem



TWO WOMEN SEW BAGS AT THE DSPR CENTER IN JORDAN.

About us

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees “DSPR” of the Middle East Council of Churches “MECC” started with the spirited initiative of religious priests and deacons in 1949 who witnessed firsthand the tragedies that befell the Palestinian refugees following the 1948 War. Together with local public figures and dignitaries they started the Area Committees in the West Bank and East Bank of Jordan which spread to include the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Galilee. In 1974, the MECC was established since then, DSPR has been a department under the umbrella of MECC with autonomous financial and programmatic arrangements with adherence to the administration of MECC as the one comprehensive organization.



Vision

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches vision is of an empowered pluralist Palestinian society which guarantees equal opportunities for all its members and vulnerable communities based on the ideals of justice, equality of rights, opportunities, and freedom.



Mission

DSPR MECC is an Ecumenical Church Related Organization in the Middle East Region. It reflects the Christian core values in its Witness and Diakonia in partnership with local and global actors, to foster and advance socio-economic conditions of Palestinians and the marginalized through active contribution to improve living conditions, through providing health, education, environmental, economic, social and humanitarian programs with the realization of basic human right.

2021 in Review

In 2021, DSPR MECC focused in particular on developing a new strategy. For this purpose, the Areas, together with the Central Office, held a workshop in November after months of preparation, collectively reflecting and considering the new strategic direction of the programs and activities of the different geographical areas of DSPR MECC. This process started in the spring of 2021 and this period was one of reflection, learning and planning our work and service for the future, in which we aimed to advocate more than ever for the most vulnerable in our region, especially the Palestinian refugees.

In the Gaza Strip, economic shocks resulting from the blockade, years of conflict, and the recent impact of COVID-19 are having a dramatic impact on people who already lack access to essential services. DSPR Gaza (NECC) focused particularly on health care during the difficult year of 2021. The focus was on maternal and child health, particularly health care and early detection of childhood diseases and developmental delays. More than 50,000 people benefited from health services provided by DSPR Gaza (NECC) in three primary health care clinics in or near refugee camps. In addition, over 2,000 mothers and over 1,600 children received psychological care. In 2021, a total of 181 students successfully graduated from Gaza's vocational training institutions and 191 new students began their vocational training.

In Jordan DSPR Jordan has been able to help more than 22,000 people, mainly women, children, and youth, through our different programs, clinics and centers such as food security, Hygiene kits, Livelihood programs, resilience, capacity building, awareness-raising events, health & nutrition, and protection programs. DSPR Jordan has distributed 8,060 food parcels, and conducted 80 training workshops in psychosocial support, gender-based violence, production kitchens, home gardens, and health & nutrition sessions. Over 1,500 women in three Palestinian refugee camps benefitted from the psychosocial program that included awareness-raising sessions on psychosocial components, formulating support groups for women, and therapy activities.

In Lebanon DSPR Lebanon (JCC) is faced, like all in the country, with the worst economic crisis it has ever experienced. Poverty is on the rise as many people have lost their jobs and livelihoods. DSPR Lebanon (JCC) went on with our work with energy and zeal to overcome all the problems, although we were forced to leave the center in Sabra and Shatila Refugee Camp where we had been housed since 1952. Fortunately, a new space was found and we were able to open all programs in the new center, with many new students in each class. The Syrian program for students of the higher classes following the Syrian curriculum in the Saida center is going well. This is a unique program intended to allow Syrian students, many of Palestinian refugee origins, to follow up on the official educational curriculum and to sit for exams in Damascus. At Tyre Farm, with four plastic houses, agriculture has become an activity of vogue for many in the community.

In Nazareth, special focus was given to positive youth empowerment and related youth programs; empowering girls and strengthening communal commitments and outreach. Concerned with equal citizenship DSPR Galilee (ICCI) makes efforts of outreach to different groups in order to create a common ground for a more open and equal society. Bread for life is not always food for the body, but often food for the spirit as well. This is the focus in this Galilean area of DSPR.

In the West Bank DSPR ICC has secured the completion of a 13.5 km agricultural road that will benefit over 7000 farmers in seven different rural communities in Area C in the Tulkarem district in the northwest of the West Bank. A video was produced on the agricultural road and shared on the web. There was also an artisanal well dug in Atteel in Area C which provides water for over 800 dunums of land. We started a program for the economic empowerment of vulnerable women in the northern West Bank.

We believe in our work, and we believe in the Partnerships that have bonded us to Church based Organizations across the globe for decades.

Our Objectives



Objective 1 Health

Palestinian refugees, displaced groups and vulnerable communities live healthy lives.

Objective 2 Economic Empowerment

Palestinian refugees and vulnerable groups sustain themselves economically.



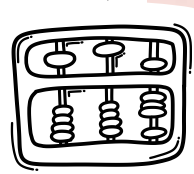
Objective 3 Community Empowerment

Embracing communities are empowered: to care for the needs and promote the rights of their members; to build constructive change out of the energy created by uncertainty and conflict.



Objective 4 Emergency & Protection

Refugees have a sustained access to humanitarian assistance across multiple response sectors and protection services.



Objective 5 Financially Sustainable

DSPR is a robust organization with a solid financial base.



In pursuance of DSPR MECC Mission and Vision which seek to advance the socio-economic conditions of Palestinian refugees and displaced towards a pluralist Palestinian society free from occupation and its shackles with the Right of Return a basic right.

Impact

ON PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH

4

HEALTH
CLINICS

47.834

BENEFICIARIES OF
HEALTH SERVICE

3.897

PATIENTS RECEIVED
DENTAL SERVICE

In Gaza and Jordan, there are 4 primary health care clinics in refugee camps with a total population of more than 300,000 refugees, providing medical and psychosocial support to a direct target group of close to 50,000 refugees and displaced persons and raising health awareness. DSPR organizes medical open days and outreach, particularly in Jordan, in which hundreds of women and children participate. Given the difficult economic situation, DSPR provides free or subsidized medication to the hundreds of patients who regularly visit our clinics in both Gaza and Jordan.

Essential maternal and child health

3.611 PREGNANT WOMEN RECEIVED POSTNATAL & ANTENATAL CARE

844 WOMEN RECEIVED FAMILY PLANNING SERVICE

15.088 CHILDREN RECEIVED WELL-BABY-VISITS

782 BENEFICIARIES OF FREE MEDICAL DAYS

Psychosocial well-being of Palestinian population

2.053 CHILDREN RECEIVED PSYCHOSOCIAL HELP

2.849 WOMEN RECEIVED INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING



Impact

ON ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

400

**VOCATIONAL
TRAINEES**

1.500

**BUSINESS TRAINING
AND MICRO LOANS**

12

**WOMEN
COOPERATIVES**

Vocational training programs in Gaza, Jordan and Lebanon reach hundreds of students in vocational fields such as beauty care, electronics, graphic design, metalwork and woodwork. DSPR has established large numbers of women cooperatives in Jordan and the West Bank, reaching hundreds of women and providing them with better economic opportunities. As part of these activities, women are helped to start their careers through training and inputs, as well as the provision of microcredit.

480 BENEFICIARIES IN JORDAN AND THE WESTBANK OF WOMEN COOPERATIVES

107 LOANS FOR EDUCATION AND BUSINESS

349 WOMEN RECEIVED COUNSELLING FOR INDIVIDUAL EMPOWERMENT, SELF CONFIDENCE BUILDING

480 BENEFICIARIES OF PRODUCTION KITCHEN



DING

Empowerment

TOWARDS CHANGE: COMMUNAL AND
CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION

20

EDUCATORS TRAINED IN FACILITATING INTERFAITH TOPICS

180

POSITIVELY ENGAGED YOUNG MEN & WOMEN IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

As an active member of the Act Palestine Forum, DSPR has raised issues and concerns that require a joint response from the Forum and international partners. In Galilee, DSPR focused on community and conflict transformation as scores of young people and teachers from different communities came together to create common ground.

25 STUDENTS JOINED YOUTH LEADERSHIP COURSE

66 GIRLS IN PARTICIPATE IN A CENTER FOR VULNERABLE GIRLS

37 PARTICIPANTS FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT



IMPACT

IN EMERGENCY AND PROTECTION

12.000

RIGHT HOLDERS BENEFITTED
FROM LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS

8.700

RECIEVED
FOOD PARCELS

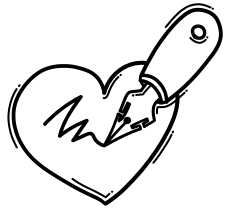
Amidst a chronic emergency facing the Palestinians, particularly the refugees, DSPR MECC provide emergency medical and health services and other emergency activities as part of Act Alliance Forums; in kind with distribution of food and essential items. Psychosocial and sports activities were undertaken to address impact of emergencies; support individuals, women and children facing dire conditions because of displacement and refuge. Part of our emergency response was focused on the ill effects of COVID-19 across DSPR. Besides the relief work across all areas, DSPR undertook to distribute cash payments.

605 BENEFICIARIES OF CASH PAYMENTS

8.700 FOOD VOUCHERS

625 BENEFICIARIES OF SYRIAN REFUGEES SELF-HELP GROUPS





Our Stories



Bashir from Gaza

The child, Bashir is one and a half years old, lives in Gaza. He attended the NECC Rafah health center on 14th September -2021. The child was registered at the center on the well-baby program. After taking body measurements during the follow-up visit at the well-baby program, and the blood test was done, the results revealed that an average blood level was 9.6 gm/dl, and the child was also moderately malnourished. Afterwards, the toddler was enrolled in a programme at the clinic to treat anaemia and malnutrition.

The boy was given the treatment according to the national protocol, as he was given iron syrup, vitamins, and folic acid,

as well as biscuits, the health education about foods rich in iron, and main food practices were given to his mother, and an appointment for follow-up also provided. After two months, in the next visits, the blood level became 11gm/dl, and the child's nutritional status was improved.

The mother was pleased with the improvement of her child and sincerely thanked the NECC clinic and the staff for their kindness, and concerns for the children and their health, also the mother thanked the NECC partners who support NECC.



Assef from Jordan

I was 8 years old when I first joined one of DSPR children forums that they used to conduct frequently at their center. I immediately started to participate in the activities designed for the forums such as life skills that included time management, organization process, building self-esteem, self-exploring, investing in our hobbies, recycling, and other activities that positively impacted my life, and raised my level of awareness, became more able to identify my goals, strengthen my personality, ability to talk to others and negotiate and discuss with them, eventually increased my ability to take huge steps towards achieving my goals. I grew up at these forums and started to help DSPR team in organizing other forums and activities related to children since I have a great passion for electronics. I was helping the voluntary team in preparing the audiovisual equipment, the presentations, and other computer needs.

In 2019, I was assigned by DSPR team to prepare for an official visit by his Excellency the Ambassador of Ireland in Jordan to our center in Husn camp. My job was to prepare a

short video about the work and achievements of the center, which was great and allowed me to show my abilities in IT and computer science. From here DSPR decided to adopt my talent and encouraged me to continue developing this hobby and helped me join training courses on robots manufacturing, electronic programming, and artificial intelligence. This support shifted my life to a greater level where I participated in several exhibits and represented UNRWA schools at Robots exhibits that present the robots that young people like me have made. After nine years of joining DSPR activities, and other exhibits, I became more knowledgeable in the robots industry and participated in robots contests on a regional level and looking forward to continuing my university studies in the field that I adore. In the meantime, I am still loyal and committed to the place that gave me all the success; DSPR, where I help the team there with all activities related to children and through youth forums that are conducted there to give training courses on smartphones programming, how to best utilize mobile applications, robots manufacturing, and other IT training.



Marwa from Nazareth

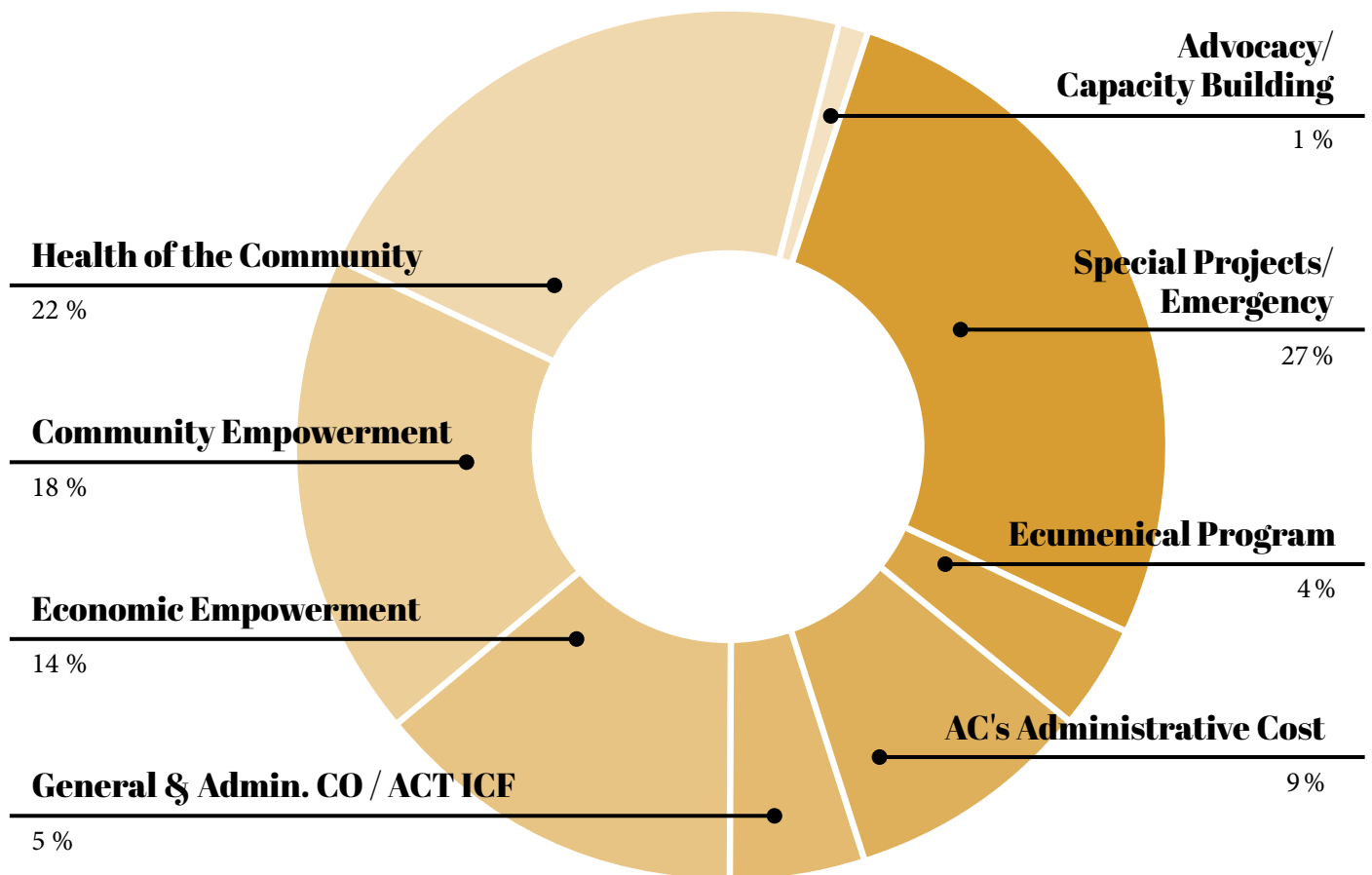
Marwa has been attending the orientation course for women offered by DSPR ICCI in Nazareth since last July. She tells about her plans, her dreams, but most of all she tells me about her trainer Ms. Suhair, who believes in her and makes her feel that she can achieve anything. An important message, for women who do not know exactly how to go on in life and what they should change. Marwa has many ideas, she has not yet decided what is the best business for her, but one thing is for sure: she wants to start her own business. One idea is to offer medical manicures and pedicures. The need is huge, there are many elderly people in Nazareth who need these treatments. The trainer has given her a lot of encouragement to pursue this career path. Despite this, Marwa, like twelve other women in the orientation course, has learned to understand the law for self-employment in Israel, how to deal properly with banks and insurance companies, and how to navigate the

tax system. The women are between 18 and 50 years old. One day she explained to her father, who is also self-employed, the proper way to deal with banks, because she realized that until now he had always used the system incorrectly. What the women have in common is that they have reached a point in their lives where they need to make a change, many have become unemployed due to the pandemic or other circumstances, or simply want to improve their career prospects. The orientation course is aimed primarily at women who want to start their own business. The women meet weekly for a few hours and are accompanied intensively and personally by the trainer on their way to a new future. The focus is not only on technical content, but also on empowering the women on a personal level, giving them self-confidence and supporting them in recognizing their talents and finding their place in society.

Financial Overview 2021

	USD
Economic Empowerment	769.619
DSPR Gaza	399.816
DSPR Jordan	33.817
DSPR Lebanon	335.986
Community Empowerment	1.037.427
DSPR Gaza	18.027
DSPR West Bank	279.675
DSPR Jordan	270.097
DSPR Lebanon	323.133
DSPR Nazareth	146.495
Health of the Community	1.213.887
DSPR Gaza	1.191.632
DSPR Jordan	22.255
Advocacy / Capacity Building	28.303
DSPR Nazareth	28.303
Special Projects / Emergency	1.517.630
DSPR Gaza	869.220
DSPR Jordan	190.197
DSPR Lebanon	441.813
DSPR West Bank	16.400
AC's Administrative Cost	790.976
DSPR Gaza	176.256
DSPR West Bank	130.902
DSPR Jordan	49.147
DSPR Lebanon	110.960
DSPR Nazareth	70.148
DSPR West Bank Ecumenical Program Operational cost	253.563
General & Admin. Central Office / ACT ICF	282.134
Total Program Expenses	5.639.976

Program Expenses 2021



Central Office

The Central Office is the Executive Office mandated to implement decisions, recommendations, and directives of the Central Committee. A team of five staff members runs the Central Office with an Executive Secretary, Program Manager, Finance Manager, Communication Officer and an Administrative Assistant undertakes to ensure the compliance of the different DSPR Areas with Central Committee decisions. Programmatic, Financial, Communication and Logistical matters are the responsibility of the Central Office which keeps ongoing contact with the Chairperson of the Central Committee as well as each of the Five DSPR Areas.

Central Committee

Dr. Audeh Quawas

Chairman - Central Committee
Member at Large
(Greek Orthodox)

Mr. Ghassan Mustaklem

ICC - West Bank
Alternate - Member at Large
(Greek Orthodox)

Dr. Jean Salamanian

Alternate - Member at Large
(Oriental Orthodox)

Mrs. Claudette Habesch

Member at Large
(Roman Catholic)

Bishop Sani Azar

Member at Large
(Lutheran)

Mr. Bassam Dawani

Alternate - Member at Large
(Anglican)

Ms. Rima Khleif

ICCI - Alternate Delegate
(Lutheran)

Mr. Farah Geraisy

Chairman - ICCI Nazareth
Delegate
(Greek Orthodox)

Dr. Suahil Madbak

NECCRW/Gaza Delegate
(Greek Orthodox)

Dr. Ghazi Msharbash

NECCRW/Jordan Delegate
(Anglican)

Mr. Matta Jabra

Chairman NECCRW/Jordan
Alternate Delegate
(Syriac Orthodox)

Mr. Edward Asmar

Chairman - JCC/Lebanon
Alternate
(Oriental Orthodox)

Mrs. Afaf Kandis

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(Greek Orthodox)

Mrs. Sandra Khoury

ICC-Delegate
(Roman Catholic)

Mrs. Elham Salameh

ICC-Alternate Delegate
(Oriental Catholic)

DSPR is a Department of the Middle East Council of Churches

Act Alliance
Act Church of Sweden
Act for Peace Australia
Amos Trust
ANERA
Anglican B. Mis. Australia
Brot für die Welt
Caritas Jerusalem
Caritas France (Secours – Catholique)
CNEWA
Christian Aid
Christian World Service - New Zealand
Church of Scotland
Church in Wales
Dan Church Aid
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe
Edukans
Embassy of Ireland - Jordan
Embrace the Middle East
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Evangelisches Verwaltungsamt
Embassy of Federal Republic of Germany - Jordan
Finn Church Aid
General Board of Global Ministries
German Speaking Evangelical Church Beirut
GIZ
Global Ministries - United Church of Christ and Christian Church
ICCO Cooperation

Partners

WITH LOVE

Icelandic Church Aid
International Medical Corps (IMC)
Kairos Canada
Kerk in Actie
Lutheran World Relief
Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
Ministry of health Palestine
National Council of Churches in Australia
NECEF Sabeel Canada
Norwegian Church Aid
Pontifical Mission of Palestine
Porticus Foundation
Presbyterian Church Canada
Presbyterian Church USA
Representative Office of the Federal Republic of Germany Ramallah
Save the Children
Secours Catholique Caritas France
St. Patrick's Cathedral Dublin
Svenska Missionskyrkan
Terre Des Hommes TDH
The CCFD - Terre Solidaire
The Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)
UMCOR
UNICEF
United Church of Canada Kairos
United Palestinian Appeal (UPA)
Welfare Association
World Council of Churches
World Vision

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