



Near East Council of Churches (NECC)
Department of Services to Palestinian
Refugees DSPR/Gaza Area

ANNUAL REPORT
2022





Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugee Work (NECCCRW)

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"I always Pray with Joy because of your partnerships ..., being confident of this who began a good work will carry it on to completion"

(Philippians 1:4-6)





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List of Acronyms:

<i>AEI</i>	<i>Ard El Insan Organization</i>
<i>ACT</i>	<i>Action of Churches Together</i>
<i>ANC</i>	<i>Antenatal Care</i>
<i>CBO</i>	<i>Community Based Organization</i>
<i>CPWG</i>	<i>Child Protection Working Group</i>
<i>DSPR</i>	<i>Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees</i>
<i>EU</i>	<i>European Union</i>
<i>EME</i>	<i>Embrace the Middle East</i>
<i>GAD-7</i>	<i>Generalized Anxiety Disorder</i>
<i>GCMHP</i>	<i>Gaza Community Mental Health Psychosocial Support</i>
<i>HB</i>	<i>Hemoglobin</i>
<i>HAP</i>	<i>Humanitarian Accountability Partnership</i>
<i>HHs</i>	<i>Households</i>
<i>IUD</i>	<i>Intra Uterine Device</i>
<i>MOH</i>	<i>Ministry of Health</i>
<i>MOL</i>	<i>Ministry of Labor</i>
<i>NCA</i>	<i>Norwegian Church Aid</i>
<i>NECC</i>	<i>Near East Council of Churches</i>
<i>NECCCRW</i>	<i>Near East Council of Churches for Refugees Work</i>
<i>NGOs</i>	<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>
<i>OCHA</i>	<i>The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</i>
<i>PCBS</i>	<i>Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics</i>
<i>PHC</i>	<i>Primary Health Care</i>
<i>PHQ</i>	<i>Patent Health Questionnaire</i>
<i>PSS</i>	<i>Psychosocial Support</i>
<i>SDQ</i>	<i>Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire</i>
<i>TOT</i>	<i>Training of Trainers</i>
<i>TVET</i>	<i>Technical Vocational Education and Training</i>
<i>UNICEF</i>	<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i>
<i>UNRWA</i>	<i>United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East</i>
<i>UPA</i>	<i>United Palestinian Appeal</i>
<i>VTC</i>	<i>Vocational Training Centers</i>
<i>VTP</i>	<i>Vocational Training Program</i>
<i>WHO</i>	<i>World Health Organization</i>



Executive Summary

The NECC Annual Report provides a comprehensive overview of NECC activities over the year (2022).

The report summarizes the activities of Near East Council of churches during the year 2022.

In terms of Health program achievement, the number of newly registered families during this reporting period has reached 2455 families, while the number of the total families benefitted from NECC PHC clinics during this period was 12507 beneficiaries .and the total number of beneficiaries was 22,886.

The total health beneficiaries who received health services During -2022 is 22,886 Out of them 61% females,

and 39% are males, and 1.7% people with disabilities. Out of beneficiaries, 1.8% were people with disabilities.

During this year in terms of 1035 women/mothers received preconception care, 3220 pregnant received antenatal care, 1562 women/mothers received proper postnatal care, and 1202 women received family planning services.

In terms of child health and nutrition, 12,930 children under 6 years received well -baby services and screened for anemia and malnutrition, 2373 anemic and malnutrition children are identified and received appropriate management follow up a care as evidenced by the NECC, 8002of sick children under 6 years received proper treatment. During this year 83% of children diagnosed as anemic at the well-baby services recovered and returned to normal within three months of their involvement in the treatment program. 93% of the wasted children recovered and returned to normal within 4 months of their enrolment in the program, 79% of children diagnosed as underweighted children are recovered and returned to normal within the recommended 4 months of their enrolment in the treatment program, 78% of children with stunting recovered and returned to normal within the recommended 4 months of their enrolment in the treatment program.

It is worth mentioning that the Level of Knowledge and awareness has increased as indicated earlier reduction in

infectious diseases presented to NECC clinics was observed

With regards to the Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) program, during the reporting period, a total of 272 enrolled trainees including male and female, continued to receive high quality vocational training skills in the designated fields of carpentry/furniture making, welding and metals work, aluminum work, refrigeration and air conditioning, general electricity and motor rewinding, secretarial studies, advanced dressmaking and graphics design and multimedia. Where about 30.3% out of those trainees are females and the rest of 69.7% are almost males.



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Some major changes have been realized into the TVET program represented in launching new training program in graphics design and multimedia for youth girls in Gaza Strip starting from January 2022. Additionally, 272 TVET students received PSS.

This year an Emergency project of Cash Voucher for 1611 families who are more vulnerable and have children with anemia and malnutrition at Shijaia, Daraj, and Rafah and including people with disabilities, this project supported by CCP -Japan -Japan platform started in February and ended on September 2022, this voucher included Food and non-food items. An emergency project supported by Act for Peace Australia started on August 2021 and extended to December 2022 it serves the vulnerable children, adolescents, women, mothers who are affected by the last escalation on Gaza, and it included psychosocial support activities, recreational trips and debriefing sessions.

An emergency relief intervention took place in partnership with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) focused on the distribution of cash assistance to a number of 100 families of NECC vocational centers students as an early recovery response for the last war on Gaza that happened in May 2021.

Additionally, the intervention tackled the provision of psychosocial support activities to about 270 students of vocational training centers including group and individual counseling sessions, outdoor trips, and theatre shows among other activities. The intervention took place between July 2021 and March 2022





NECC Organization Background:

Near East Council of churches Committee for Refugees Work (NECCCRW)-the Gaza Area Committee is part of the Department of Service to the Palestine Refugees (DSPR). The DSPR is a department of the Middle East Council of Churches. NECCCRW Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian Society and culture and operates with support from the churches, ecumenical and secular organizations. NECCCRW Gaza Committee was founded in 1952 launching a humanitarian program to assist Palestinians who took refuge in the Gaza Strip following the establishment of Israel in 1948. NECCCRW has focused then on the provision of humanitarian aid and contributing to an overall improvement in living conditions and to poverty alleviation.

Its work has rested on respecting the humanity and dignity of those whom it helps and on adherence to clear transparency and accountability standards. NECC supports the Palestinian people through six key areas: Health (Maternal and Child Primary Health Care), Technical Vocational Education and training (Empowering Youth Economic Status), Educational Loans for university students, Psychosocial Support for children, mothers, and students to cope with the negative impact of Gaza Violence, Emergency Relief projects including cash Relief and Job Creation initiatives, Advocacy policies and activities shared with the community, and community Development program.

NECC is an independent non-governmental organization. It is governed by Gaza Area Committee, which is composed of 12 members of both gender and is appointed by head of churches from their respective families forming the four members of the Middle East Council of Churches on equal church family representation.

It is the supreme organ of the NECC, which meets bimonthly to ensure effective operational performance, legal and regularly compliance, and implementation of long-term strategic plan. Management is directly responsible to the Executive Director for all administrative matters, including finance, supervised by the governing board.

NECCCRW Strategic Objectives

1. Palestinian refugees, displaced groups and vulnerable communities live healthy lives.
2. Employment through vocational and entrepreneurship skills.
3. 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.
4. Refugees have a sustained access to humanitarian assistance across multiple response sectors and protection services
5. DSPR is a robust organization with a solid financial base



1. Overview on NECC Programs and Services:

Provision of Quality Primary Health Care services:

NECCCRW Gaza offers preventive and curative free of charge services, with a focus on mother and child health care and education towards health and environmental promotion. NECC operates three family health care centers in the Gaza Strip. These three centers are located in El Daraj, Shijaia, and Rafah. The three family health centers served a population of 90,000, 145,000, and 16,000 in Daraj, Shijaia, and Rafah, respectively. The NECC's health program offers a comprehensive package of services, with a particular focus on primary health care services.

The bundle of the provided services includes essential maternal and child health services such as antenatal care, postnatal care, health education, family planning, well-baby care, psychosocial services, home visits, ECD, treatment for malnourished and anemic children, and dental services. Additionally, the NECC health program offers laboratory testing and medication.

❖ Psychosocial support:

Since April 2009, as a response to 2008-2009 war, and in order to support mothers' and children's mental health and psychosocial well-being within such complex context, the NECC has started to provide psychosocial support program across the three NECC centers with the aim of improving the level of mental health of children and women beneficiaries. NECC's psychosocial program started after 2008 war on Gaza called by Israel "Cast Lead Operation", and continues till now; it targets the whole family especially women, mothers and their children.

The NECC psychosocial program offers diverse services including psychosocial support, emotional support and debriefing, recreational activities, and individual and group counseling. The counselors use various counseling techniques such as: the mind and body, cognitive behavioral interventions, individual and group counseling, seminars, home visits, and community-based education through awareness programs for mothers. The program focused on the Palestinian families through the health centres, vocational training centres, secretarial centre, advanced dressmaking centre and NECC staff in cooperation and coordination with relevant organizations.

Livelihood and Economic empowerment (TVET Program):

NECC is contributing to the economic development of Gaza through its Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) that are located in Gaza City and El-Qarara Village south the Gaza Strip. Male Vocational Training Centre which provides Carpentry and Furniture Making, Metal works and welding, Aluminum works, Air Conditioning is located in Shijaia province in Gaza City, while the other center of Electricity and Motor Rewinding and Solar Energy is located in the village of El-Qarara, 25 KMs South of Gaza City while women VTC's of Secretary studies, Advanced Dressmaking and Multimedia and Graphics Design are located in the NECC main building in Remal, Gaza City.



These vocational training centers are serving different target beneficiaries therefore, the selection criteria for the VTCs trainees differ according to the subject of the training course, i.e. women applying for the secretarial and multimedia and graphics design courses should have completed 12 years of schooling and have a high school certificate while women applying for advanced dressmaking course should at least know how to read and write, while men applying for carpentry, metal welding and aluminum should be aged between 14-16 years, and known as school drop-outs, and men applying for electricity and air conditioning courses should have completed 10 years of schooling and are between 16-23 years old.

For selecting target groups, NECC-Gaza ensures to select those who come from deprived families and have the highest needs. NECC Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVET) centers provide its services to a total of approximately 270 trainees per annum.

❖ **Educational Loans:**

Through this program, NECC is promoting university education by helping needy students to complete their education. By providing interest-free loans to those students, they can pay university fees that can be renewed every academic year.

❖ **Emergency Relief:**

NECC launched its welfare and Relief program since 1952 and continued till now to provide assistance to needy people. The program aims at providing emergency assistance to alleviate the impact of emergency situations when deemed necessary. It also helps to target Palestinians to attain cash for work “temporary jobs” and/or cash relief for one time to secure food, medicine, daily needs, health and psychosocial support (PSS).

Through this year NECC conducted emergency relief in terms of Food and non-food items vouchers to affected families

❖ **Advocacy Program:**

This program is concerned with promoting social justice, empowering communities and advocating the rights of civilians particularly refugees to live in dignity, respected human rights, ensuring access to health and education services and so on. NECC works at two fronts; internally promoting an empowerment culture and externally advocating the rights of the Palestinians at the national forums.



❖ **Others:**

▪ **Community Development Program**

NECC enables communities to implement projects aimed at improving the conditions of their environment. It assists other NGOs in implementing projects through giving the support for providing facilities and supplies towards the implementation of minor infrastructural projects.

It also promotes youth activities, schools and kindergartens through the provision of products manufactured by VTC trainees and graduates.

▪ **Self-Help Program**

The Sewing Cooperative: Graduates of the Dressmaking Center jointly operate a self-supporting, income generating cooperative producing anything from children's clothes to wedding gowns.

The Self-Help Sewing Center: Women, mostly widowed and often the sole income generators of their families, work for NECCCRW sewing pieces for internal use (uniforms, curtains ...etc.) and external distribution.



Gaza Context:

Description (socio-political, health, economic and, environmental) - change

The situation in Gaza is chronic emergency situation, in the Gaza Strip, two million Palestinians have been living under intensified access restrictions since 2007, and are largely isolated from the external world. Longstanding import restrictions imposed by Israel citing security concerns, as well as lack of agreement and coordination between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Israel, impede the implementation of infrastructure projects, economic recovery and employment generation. Continuing insecurity discourages farming activity in land located up to 1,000 meters from Israel's perimeter fence, while fishing livelihoods are disrupted by Israeli restrictions on access to the sea off the Gaza coast.

During 2022, despite the decline in the number of reported Covid-19 cases, still people in Gaza face the percussions of the pandemic, the Israeli aggressions on Gaza in May 2021, the most recent Israeli aggression on Gaza in August 2022 and more importantly the consequences of 16 years of blockade and siege. The main challenge people in Gaza faced during this reporting period is the economic hardship conditions resulted from the ongoing conflict, blockade in addition to the economic decline associated with the public health response to Covid-19.

According to the PCBS, gross domestic product (GDP) per capita declined by 14% and public debts increased by 24% (compared to 2019), putting further pressure on households already struggling to meet basic needs, who suffered an immediate drop in their income due to Covid-19. Also, evidence suggests that the pandemic negatively impacted people psychosocial wellbeing in multiple aspects especially not only due to economic hardship but also violence at the household and community levels, decreased access to basic livelihoods, limited access to education, inadequate interactions and connectedness to the people outside families, which exist all the time, but are often increased during crises.

On August 5th 2022, Israel launched what it described as a "pre-emptive" military offensive on the Gaza Strip, targeting Palestinians. According to the UN reports, 49 Palestinians were killed as a result of the fighting, among them, 22 were civilians including 17 children and four women. Of the 360 Palestinians reported injured, nearly two-thirds were civilians, including 151 children, 58 women and 19 older people. The later fighting forced Gaza's sole power station to shut down for two days, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis caused by the blockade. More than 1,700 housing units were damaged during the fighting, leading to the internal displacement of some 450 Palestinians.

The siege, blockade, unemployment, economic collapse, extreme psychosocial distress all affect the health status of the population with children being more affected. With increase in poverty and unemployment, food insecurity level increases and children are more exposed to anaemia and malnutrition. Due to the decline in the number of Covid-19 cases, NECC returns back to its regular operations.



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Since 1948, the Palestinian people have experienced many clashes with Israel, including four recent Israeli incursions into Gaza (2008/2009, 2012, 2014 and 2021). These hostilities have contributed to loss of life, land, livelihoods and economic resources, driving further displacement, violence and vulnerabilities. Women and children are often most affected, and health services have had to shift their focus to emergency and life-saving interventions rather than development-oriented ones. This has further weakened social networks, increased vulnerabilities and psychosocial difficulties, and increased conservative social norms that constrain adolescent girls and women in particular.

The protracted humanitarian crisis, and its impact on gender and family dynamics, has exacerbated GBV in all its forms, including sexual violence, intimate partner violence and child marriage.

The Available services and capacity of service providers also remain limited and survivors and communities have minimal information on existing services and how to access them. Only 0.7% of GBV survivors seek help due to the lack of confidential and compassionate services and fear of stigma and reprisal.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) 2022 has reported an increase in the levels of mental disorders amongst the population of the Gaza Strip, especially among children, many of whom were already in need of mental health services and psychosocial support.

Highlights on progress achievements during 2022

Summary of key findings in reference to log frame:

During the reporting period, NECC succeeded to sustain the provision of its programs and services to the targeted beneficiaries as planned. **The table (1) below summarizes the main achievements in numbers.**

Annual Indicator	Annual Achieved	% of achievement
At least 95% of pregnant women in targeted locality received timely ANC at least 4 visits	96.2% %	Achieved
At least 70% of women in targeted locality received timely quality post-natal care at least twice.	71.4%	Achieved
1,200 new pregnant women registered for ANC annually	2,199	Achieved
7,000 antenatal care visits made annually	15,687	Achieved
1,800 pregnant women received follow up visits, newly registered and on-going	3220	Achieved
1,600 postnatal care visits conducted annually	1562	Achieved
12,000 children registered at the well-baby clinic and screened for anaemia and anthropometric measurements	12,930	Achieved



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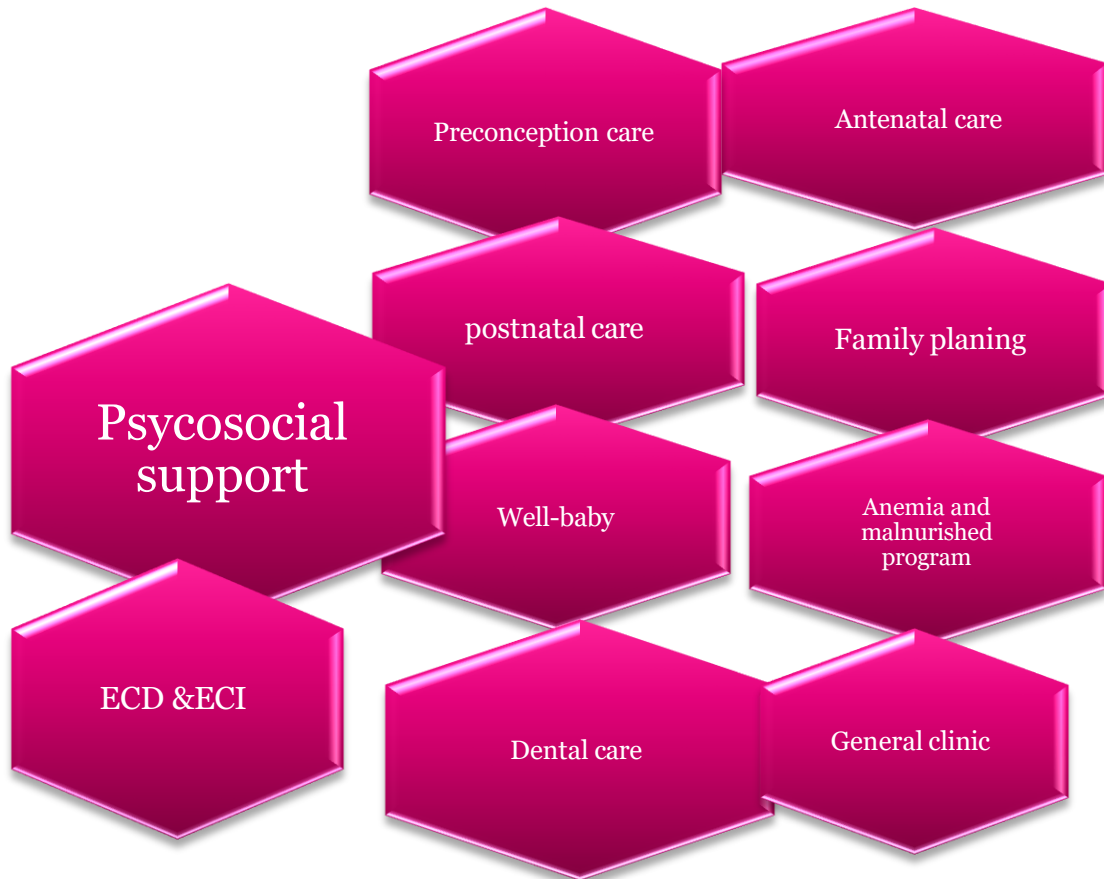
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Annual Indicator	Annual Achieved	% of achievement
25,000 well baby visits were conducted annually	28,838	Achieved
7,000 sick children up to 6 years old received medical examination and treatment	8002	Achieved
1,000 couples received reproductive health services and awareness	1202	Achieved
Over 4,000 women, children and adults in targeted areas receive dental care annually	4807	Achieved
Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment	4108	Achieved
1500 children received psychosocial support	1467	Almost achieved
3,000 mothers/women participated in psychosocial support activities	3119	Achieved
A total of 117 students receive training in carpentry/furniture making, welding and metals, Aluminum work and refrigeration and air conditioning annually	130	Achieved
A total of 48 students new and old receive training in electricity skills	60	Achieved
A total of 20 students receive training in secretary study	28	Achieved
A total of 15 students receive training in Advanced dressmaking	25	Achieved
At least 60 educational loans provided to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities	20	33%
1 to 2 policy/advocacy issues resulted in improving justices and economic status	2	100%
4 initiatives implemented with local communities	3	75%
10 visits paid by relevant internationals	7	Achieved



1.1 Health Program

Strategic Objective 1: Palestinian refugees, displaced groups and vulnerable communities live healthy lives.





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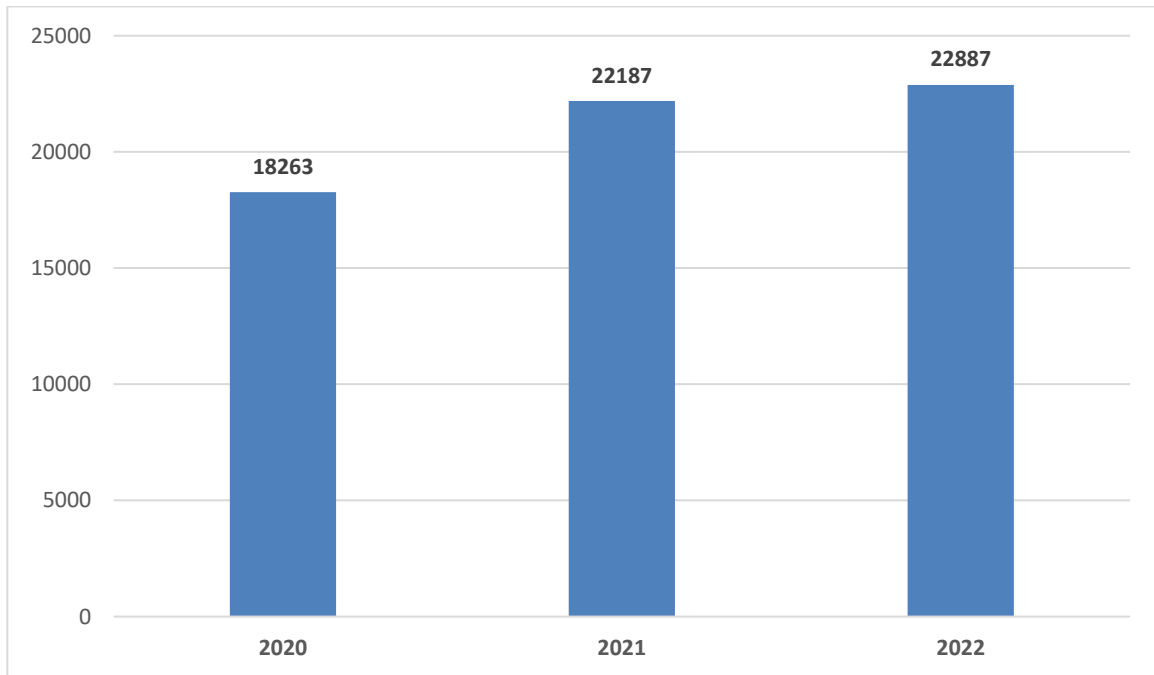
During the year 2022, the three clinics offer health services to beneficiaries, including families in the three marginalized areas.

Table (2): Distribution of total number of beneficiaries at NECC PHC centers disaggregated by gender and age:

By age	More 18 years		Less 18 years		Total
By gender	M	F	M	F	22,886 1.8% people with disability
No of beneficiaries	516	5889	8449	8032	
Total	6405		16481		
%	28%		72%		

- *Percentage of females among beneficiaries 61%.
- *Percentage of males among beneficiaries is 39%.
- *Percentage of people with disability among beneficiaries 1.8%.

Figure (1) below shows the comparison of number of beneficiaries as cases among the previous three years: change the yellow bar





The figure indicates that there is a decrease in beneficiaries for year 2020, and 2021 this because of COVID -19 pandemic and the escalation happened in 2021, and restrictions, and curfew happened because spread of COVID-19 among locals, and a little bit increase in the year 2022.

1.1.1 Preconception care

The program is congruent with SDGs aiming to reduce maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate in primary health care activities, and to prevent and detect any deviation from the normal pattern of pregnancy by maintaining a regular system of health care monitoring and supervision.

This approach is designed to strengthen the provision of high-quality antenatal care services at the NECC primary health care premises. Already NECC provides ANC services but the challenge is to promote the provision of timely, high quality ANC care according to the approved national protocols including early booking and registration, introducing the preconception care (counselling and Folic Acid supplementation), and to promote appropriate nutritional status of pregnant women through appropriate counselling, supplementation and follow up.

Preconception care services became an integral component of NECC health program and services and were operational and fully implemented at NECC clinics. The preconception care program is now part of the maternal health care and fully integrated within the NECC primary health care system, through this program, NECC achieved the followings:

- **705 new** registered women at preconception care and received appropriate preconception care while **1035** women attended preconception care for one follow up visit and, **1421** women had preconception follow up visits which revealed that there is a big need for this service. (Anticipated target is 1000 for a year).
- Of those who followed at preconception care, **304** women were newly married, **350 women** have had children before, **183** had abortion before, and **100** women were followed previously at NECC family planning program.
- **922 women** received folic acid supplementation.
- **702** women who screened and found anemic and they received appropriate treatment.
- **320 women** found with more than health problem. and, **30 women** were classified as high risk.
- **1748 women** received awareness sessions about nutrition, preconception care, and hygiene practices



1.1.2 Antenatal Care (ANC)

Indicators: At least 95% of pregnant women in targeted localities receive timely ANC of at least four visits, and at least 70% of women in targeted localities receive timely quality postnatal care at least twice.

As the NECC health program log frame, this outcome will be achieved by providing pregnant women with at least four timely ANC visits, offering timely and quality postnatal care, and improving women's overall knowledge of nutrition, hygiene, reproductive health and best practices.

No. of women who identified high-risk pregnancy during 2022 at NECC clinics was **133 out of 2199** cases (6 % of all new pregnant women).

ANC care provides incredibly important opportunities for pregnant women with a wide range of interventions including treatment, education, counselling, screening, and promoting the well-being of the mother and fetus. ANC is effective when sought early, and when followed with quality care that continues until delivery.

The NECC three health centers adopted the MOH-ANC protocols for follow up visits. These protocols are in line with the WHO protocols.

The schedule of ANC visits enables the three NECC centers to offer a continuum care that is accessible and of high quality, but because of Covid19 pandemic, NECC rescheduled its health services provided and also limited the visits to beneficiaries.

The main achievements of antenatal are as follows:

- **2199** new registered pregnant out of them **703** pregnant women were primigravida. And **181** pregnant women who received preconception care become pregnant and enrolled at NECC antenatal care program.
- NECC encourages pregnant women to receive their first antenatal registration assessment as early as possible, and to have at least four antenatal care visits throughout their pregnancy according to the antenatal national protocol.
- 3220 pregnant was already registered and followed up, the anticipated target of providing (annual target is 2000). while the number of antenatal care visits was 15,687.
- **1986** pregnant women out of 2199 pregnant received antenatal care services during the first trimester according to national protocol, that's mean 90.3% received the ANC in the first trimester.
- 96.2% of pregnant women in targeted locality received timely ANC at least 4 visits, in the last year this indicator was 91%, this was due to COVID -19 situation.
- **1510** pregnant women have received Folic Acid during first trimester of pregnancy



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according to national protocol to be prevented from having congenital anomalies.

- 1062 pregnant have got ultrasound services three times during pregnancy.
- **2046** pregnant women received 5 laboratory tests during their pregnancy.
- The total number of those pregnant examined and found anemic and enrolled in treatment programs was **1781 pregnant** women out of **2393 identified as anemic** which means that **74.4%** of pregnant women were having anemia.
- **42%** of anemic pregnant were improved or fully recovered.
- **3090** sick pregnant out of 3220 examined by the doctor and received appropriate treatment.
- **133** pregnant out of 2199 discovered are identified as high-risk pregnancy, that's mean, the percentage of high-risk pregnancy is 6.04 % among new pregnant, 146 follow up cases identified high risk pregnant out of 2055 follow up cases that's mean the percentage of high risk among follow up cases is 7%.
- **91.6% of pregnant women passed postpartum period safely without any complications**
- **71.4%** of delivered women received timely quality postnatal care, but this program was suspended in the previous year due to COVID-19 pandemic, however NECC resumed the program as usual and most of the women received postnatal care.
- **1591** newborns (**892 M & 699 F**) received care during postnatal care.
- **Health education sessions were conducted to 5380** caregivers attended health education sessions about nutrition, hygiene, and danger signs of pregnancy, and the importance of follow up
- The most commonly delivered health education methods were lectures and audio-visuals methods, and individual counselling.
- The impact of this program on the health status of pregnant at NECC was positive, through this reporting period there was no maternal mortality, and the prevalence of congenital anomalies was decreased by 23.5%.

The referred cases of pregnant women during the reporting period were 34 complicated cases of pregnant women who referred to hospitals.

Ultrasound (U/S) is performed according to the MOH and NECCCRW schedule 3 times during pregnancy:

- 1st from 8-10 weeks to confirm pregnancy.
- 2nd from 18-22 weeks to exclude any congenital anomalies.
- 3rd from 32-36 weeks to determine the position of the fetus.

In 2022, 2944 pregnant have got ultrasound services three times during pregnancy.



1.1.3 Post Natal Care (PNC)

The postnatal care provided by the NECC health program is among few systematic, well-organized postnatal care services in the Gaza Strip that includes home visits to all newly delivered women. In brief, the NECC postnatal services targets all delivered women who attended ANC services in the three health centers through providing home visits.

Ideally, the first home visits should be within the first 72 hours, the second home visits will be within 7 days after delivery; and the third one will be within the 42 days after delivery. During home visits, the health professionals, mostly midwives, conduct physical examinations including a uterine and abdominal examination, checking blood pressure and assessing breastfeeding practices. With regard to newborn care, health professionals check the umbilical cord, conduct a physical examination, and check for any health problems. In the year 2022, this activity was suspended since March 2022.

According to the program log frame, at least 70% of women in targeted localities receive timely postnatal care. So, this indicator along the lines of ANC services has been achieved and the percentage of women who had postnatal care outweighed the desirable.

- 1684 delivered women received postnatal care during this reporting period.
- 71.4% of delivered women received timely quality postnatal care three times.
- 81% of delivered women received timely quality post-natal care at least twice.

Women who follow up for antenatal care at NECC family health care centers during pregnancy used to receive PNC three times, two at home and third one either at home after delivery by NECC staff, or could be at the center.

During the postnatal visits, the midwife/nurse provide psychosocial support services to mothers, provide health awareness sessions pertaining to postnatal period such as breastfeeding, family planning, nutrition, baby care, danger signs and hygiene, provide appropriate supplementation to women as needed such as Iron/Folic acid to anemic and even normal deliveries according to national protocol for 3 months, refer the severe or cases with complications.

Additionally, they check the baby's weight and perform umbilical dressing. Also, they filled a questionnaire about both mother and baby.

NECC during 2022 continues the promoting of PNC project with support from UNICEF. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reduce the morbidity of the targeted pregnant women/mothers and neonates/children at the postnatal period in addition to increase national capacity in terms of ECD, and ECI. The project aimed to increase coverage of PNC services for registered women at the postnatal period.

The NECC postnatal program involves conducting home visits to all newly delivered women, Contrary to the NECC postnatal program, UNRWA and MOH postnatal programs involve visiting only defaulters and high-risk pregnancy cases.



Regarding the post-natal visits, the total number of postnatal visits during 2022 in the three localities for women who were registered in ANC was **1954** home visits were performed to **1684 mothers**.

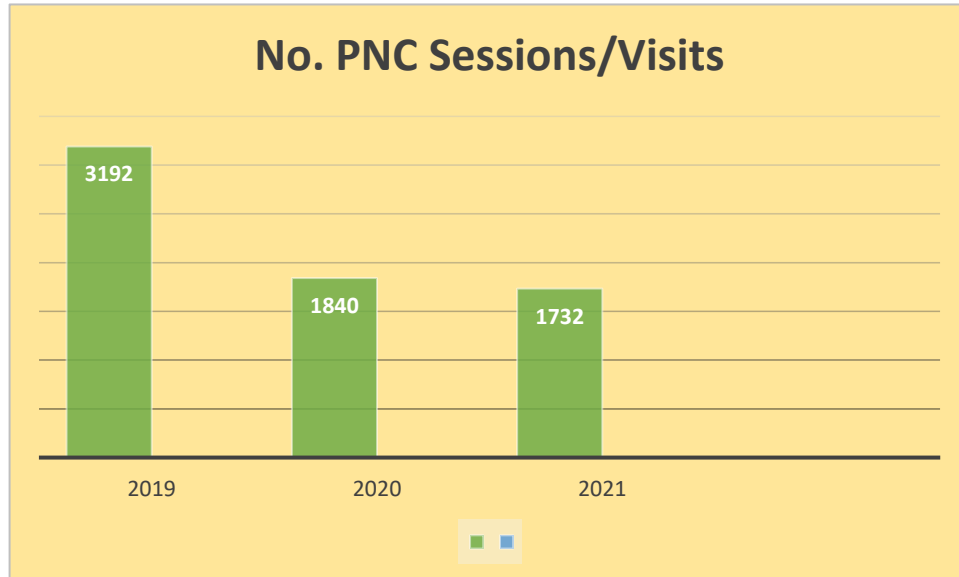


Figure (2) above shows the comparison of number of PNC sessions/visits were conducted among the previous three years:

This figure above revealed that there is decrease in PNC home visits in the previous years, as this activity was suspended during of COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite all these challenges that Gaza passed through, NECC achieved the following indicators, 91.6% of pregnant women passed postpartum period safely without any complications

1591 newborns (892 M & 699 F) received care during postnatal care.

Health education sessions were conducted to 5380 caregivers attended health education sessions about nutrition, hygiene, and danger signs of pregnancy, and the importance of follow up

The impact of this program on the health status of pregnant at NECC was positive, through this reporting period there was no maternal mortality, and the prevalence of congenital anomalies was decreased by 23.5%.

The most commonly delivered health education methods were lectures and audio-visuals methods, and individual counselling. Also, one of the main objectives to enhance the exclusive breastfeeding, the percentage of children who are exclusively breastfed during the 6 weeks after delivery was **56%**.



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Regarding the psychosocial support provided during postpartum period, NECC team assess all the mothers after delivery using Edinburgh scale, During this year 789 mothers were screened by Edinburgh scale during the postpartum period, among them 45 were abnormal that's mean 6% of postnatal cases suffered from depression or anxiety and they received Psychosocial support services provided by NECC psychosocial counselors.

Actually, NECC has a psychosocial counselor in each clinic in addition to the well-trained health staff on mental health disorders and psychological support.

NECC will continue provision of PNC to all mothers and babies in the three targeted areas with more focus on the new issues which NECC learned through the current project cycle with UNICEF such as danger signs for neonates, health education on newborn care and family Planning tools: Advantages, and disadvantages, anemia among deliveries, health promotion on neonatal care,

1.1.4 Family Planning Services (FP)

During 2022, the number of new acceptors was 398 (232 in 2021, **79 in 2020**, and **365 in 2019**.) Beneficiaries of Family Planning and visits disaggregated per area are shown in **table (3) below**.

1202 women benefited from family planning services during this period, (the anticipated target is 1000), and this revealed to the importance of family planning, NECC provided the service and family planning methods for two months, instead of monthly or biweekly.

Area	No of beneficiaries	FP Visits
Shijaia	473	1617
Darraaj	601	2190
Rafah	128	301
Total	1202	4108

Table (4) below shows the distribution of acceptors of contraceptives disaggregated per locality and year of reporting:

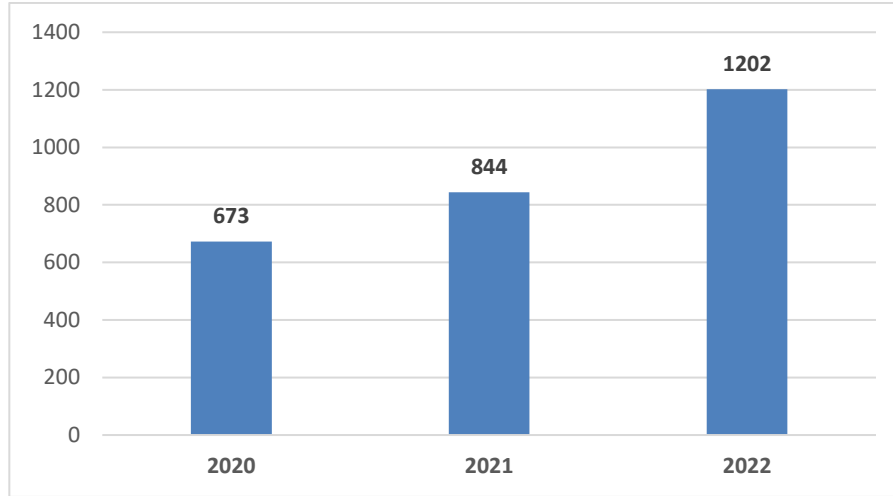
Center area	2020	2021	2022
Shijaia	230	311	473
Darraaj	373	457	601
Rafah	70	76	128
Total	673	844	1202



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It is noticed that an increase in percentage of beneficiaries benefited from FP services comparing to last year as in the following **figure (3)**:



The **table (5)** below showed the distribution of Acceptors by Type of Contraceptive in NECC Family Planning clinics by locality:

Center	Pills	IUD	Male condom
Shijaia	825	43	696
Darraj	1066	57	692
Rafah	134	9	187

1.1.5 Well Baby Program (WB)

The aim of well- baby program is to contribute to the promotion of child health through early detection of abnormalities in growth and development particularly in nutritional parameters, reducing the prevalence of malnutrition and anemia among children in the vulnerable areas of the

Gaza Strip served by the NECC clinics; thus, reducing mortality and morbidity resulted from nutritional deficiencies and their co-morbidities among children under 6 years.

In the year 2022, despite all the challenges, in 2022, 12,930 children were screened and received 28,838 well-baby visits (Target is to screen 10,000), much higher than the planned targets. Among the screen children, 345 were having a sort of disability.

Among the screened children, 2373 were found to be anemic or malnourished and subsequently enrolled in the treatment program at NECC well-baby services (Target 2000), among them, 845 were from Rafah. The prevalence of malnutrition and anemia was high (especially anemia), in Rafah, the prevalence of malnutrition was 18% and in Shijaia the prevalence of anemia was 33%. In total, 19,266 lab tests were done and 38,467 bottles of medications/supplements were dispensed to children presented with illnesses (8791), 68 children were referred to advanced centres.



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The impacts of enrolment in the treatment program on the health status of malnourished and anemic children at NECC were positive. Around 83% of anemic children were recovered completely from anemia within the recommended 3 months of treatment. Similarly, the recovery rate among wasted children was very high; nearly 93%.

Among children with underweight, the recovery rate was also high (around 79%). Because stunting takes longer time to recover, nearly 78% of stunted children had recovered within the recommended 4 months of to improve their appropriate knowledge and healthy nutrition practices, 16190 caregivers attended health education sessions (annual target is 10,000), among them 1061 received individualized counselling sessions.

NECC assessment of the impact of health education was positive as we recorded improvement in the level of knowledge and appropriate practices as evident in the pre- post assessments.

The impacts of enrolment in the treatment program on the health status of malnourished and anemic children at NECC were positive. Around 75% of anemic children were recovered completely from anemia within the recommended 3 months of treatment. Similarly, the recovery rate among wasted children was very high; nearly 92%. Among children with underweight, the recovery rate was also high (around 75%).

Table (6): showed the percentage of malnutrition and Anemia among the attended Well-Baby Visits.

	<u>Anemia</u>				<u>Malnutrition</u>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
<u>Shejaia</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>33.3</u>	<u>33.5</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17.8</u>	<u>16.6</u>
<u>Daraj</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>23.5</u>	<u>20.7</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6.4</u>	<u>11.6</u>	<u>10.1</u>
<u>Rafah</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26.6</u>	<u>29.7</u>	<u>29.4</u>	<u>11.7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>18</u>

Around one third of children under 6 years in Gaza are not thriving normally and therefore admitted to treatment program at NECC clinics.

As evidenced by the NECC database:

- 73% of children are thriving normally, 27% are not, therefore those with growth and development delays have been admitted to treatment program at NECC clinics.
- 83% of children diagnosed as anemic at the well-baby services recovered and returned to normal within three months of their involvement in the treatment program.
- 93% of the wasted children recovered and returned to normal within 4 months of their enrolment in the program.
- 79% of children diagnosed as underweighted children are recovered and returned to normal within the recommended 4 months of their enrolment in the treatment program.
- 78% of children with stunting recovered and returned to normal within the recommended 4 months of their enrolment in the treatment program.



- Level of Knowledge and awareness has increased as indicated earlier
- Reduction in infectious diseases presented to NECC clinics was observed as mentioned.
- Children with disabilities have been identified and served (345).

It is worth mentioning that this program supported by CCP Japan till the half, in terms of provision of medicines, nutritive and complementary feeding formula.

1.1.6 Development of Early childhood development (ECD) approach

EDUS with UNICEF BiH, supported by the **(Bosnia and Herzegovina)** BiH government has developed an innovative model of a system for early childhood detection (ECD) and intervention (ECI) in order to recognize children at risk and with developmental delays and disorders as early as possible and introduce services that will enable them to catch up with their typically developing peers and prevent in many cases life-long disability and exclusion.

Near East Council of Churches Gaza (NECC) adopted this strategy with support from UNICEF, and developed ECD corner in all clinics, to detect children with developmental delays and disabilities.

During this year **490** of children were screened according to standardized assessment tools (248 M & 242F), 47 of children screened were found with developmental delays including cognitive, emotional, social, and communication delays.

Number of children with disabilities who has been served at NECC clinics was 345 children.

Thus, this approach is very important because Palestine endorsed the National ECD and ECI Strategy 2017-2022 and one of the key priorities is introduction of the early detection of children with developmental delays and disability and intervention services.

1.1.7 Dental Clinic

All clinics of NECC Gaza are equipped with fixed dental units that provide routine dental services – such as check-up, filling, extraction, scaling 4 days a week. During 2022 4804, and in 2021 was **3897 patients** the target (target 4000) were examined by a dentist at the.

- Because of COVID-19 pandemic, NECC decided to treat patients with dental problems to whom with acute conditions (like infection, extraction), cases who requires repetitive visits such as scaling are suspended.

1134 children were screened during well baby program (target 700 child per year), **2037** pregnant women were screened during antenatal care for their dental care (target 1200 pregnant women per year).



Table (7): Yearly distribution of the dental activities

Item	2019	2020	2021	2022
No. of patients examined by a dentist and received dental services	6779	3811	3897	4804
No. of children screened on well baby days	1789	927	996	1134
No. of pregnant women screened	1548	1281	2127	2037

Table (8): Distribution of NECC Dental Clinic services by Type of Activity & locality

Type of service provided	Shajaia	Daraj	Rafah	Total
Follow up	406	330	95	831
Treatment	455	1262	406	2123
Extraction	42	218	29	289
Amalgam fillings	290	366	92	748
Composite fillings	0	42	10	52
Scaling	60	72	17	149
Total	1253	2290	649	4192

1.1.8 General Clinic/Medical Examination

Anticipated: Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment annually.

Achieved in the reporting period:

The number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has reached **4108**

NECC health centres used doing the triage system and then sort patients accordingly into different categories and manage the booking system in order to decrease crowdedness, maintain social distance, and prevent cross infection.

Below the table shows the distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors and received treatment by category and center during 2022 the table mentions number of visits not cases, it means that the patient may receive the service more than once during the year).



Table (9): Distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors by category and center:

Target group	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Less than 6 years old	11,401	10,477	13,882	35,760
Pregnant women	4,974	4328	2,618	11,920
Above 6 years old	714	1105	954	2773
Total	17089	15910	17454	50453

1.1.9 Health Education

Health education is an investment that has long-term positive impacts. The effect of health education is generally positive and sustainable. Through health education, community people including women and children become more aware of healthy nutritional habits and practices. The impact of adopting appropriate nutritional behaviors is a long-term sustainable investment that will have long positive impacts.

Families who maintain healthy nutritional behaviors will have a better chance to have healthy and productive life. The change in knowledge and practices will sustain long and can be transferred across generations.

Awareness is an important component of health promotion and contributes to strengthening communities' abilities to demand and support appropriate practices. Enabling communities to discover and seek appropriate care is a sustainable approach.

NECC staff conduct health education sessions for women attending family health care centers.

To promote healthy practices, health education was provided to families particularly to caregivers. Health education is provided based on the needs of families.

NECC continued to intensify its efforts in health education and increasing awareness of the concerned population in topics related to hygiene, breast feeding, environment, child protection, GBV, disability inclusion, anger management etc...

Health education focus was more on individual sessions and, group sessions to be avoided as much as possible, increase provision of educational materials.

The total number of health education activities provided to all categories was **2011 sessions for 27,412 participants.**

To further enhance the effectiveness of health education, NECC used a set of pre-test and post-test questions for a sample of attendants in health education sessions. Questionnaires were analyzed and measures were taken accordingly.

- 14631 beneficiaries participated in focused group education sessions about nutrition, food, and hygiene.
- 662 caregivers received individual counselling sessions.



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As verified through the pre-test post-test measurements, change in the level of knowledge about malnutrition, anemia, appropriate nutritional practices among the attendants of the health education session were significant for example the analysis of our data shows that 64% of caregivers reported knowing the appropriate method for giving iron supplementation at the pre-session assessment which increased to 85% after receiving instruction.

Table (10): Number of sessions disaggregated by type of health education

Item	Shijaia	Darraaj	Rafah
Health education	539	388	101
Counseling	431	356	54
Awareness Activities	61	80	1
Total	1031	824	156

1.1.10 Home Visits

Home visits are a part of health services provided by NECC to the community either for PNC, bringing defaulters and special cases.

During 2022, the home visits has suspended temporary, and NECC resumed the home visits activity through this year, in 2022, 1684 postnatal visits to the clinics were carried out.

1.1.11 Referral System

One of the success factors for NECC health program was the coordination and the integration with the relevant health providers such as the MOH hospitals, and Thalassemia association which provided back up referral sites. NECC referred 245 cases to relevant sites as needed during this year.

Table (11): Referral sites during 2022

Referral system	Shijaia	Darraaj	Rafah	Total
Thalassemia center	18	7	25	50
MOH or other hospitals	99	87	5	191
MOH clinics or other related clinics	0	4	-	4
Total	117	98	30	245



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Actually, NECC received feedback from the referred cases to decide how to continue with them the treatment plan. For those referred to Thalassemia center, NECC received results of electrophoresis for all the cases and NECC give the results to the mother and explained the status of her child exactly.

1.1.12 Laboratory Services

A laboratory is based in each one of the clinics. The tests carried out are including (Hematological tests, Urine and stool analysis tests, Biochemistry tests and Pregnancy test).

Other unavailable tests are usually referred to be performed outside NECC to MOH, Thalassemia association and Ahli Arab Hospital. NECC has a coordination system with the mentioned places.

Achieved in this reporting period:

The number of laboratory tests performed in the year 2022 have reached *the total laboratory tests that were performed inside the three family care centers during this reporting period have reached **18,101 lab tests***. Unlike other health organizations in Gaza, the available strategic storage of laboratory kits needed for the lab services helped NECC to continue the provision of the needed lab services despite the closure.

Table (12): Distribution of lab tests

Type of Lab Tests	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Blood tests	2049	2267	848	5164
Urine	4783	4274	1959	11016
Stool	819	373	445	1637
Pregnancy Test (Urine Sample)	104	155	25	284
Total	7755	7069	3277	18,101

1.1.13 Pharmacy Services

NECC offers preventive and curative services free of charge, with a focus on mother and child health care and education towards health and environmental awareness (hygiene, vaccination, etc.). Accordingly, there is a small pharmacy operated by an Assistant Pharmacist at each of three clinics with a number of medicines (approximately 120 items), complying with WHO standards and approved by the NECC medical sub-committee.

Some items were thankfully donated in kind by ANERA during 2022, i.e., supplement, and Folic Acid.

In addition to medicines and medical consumables materials



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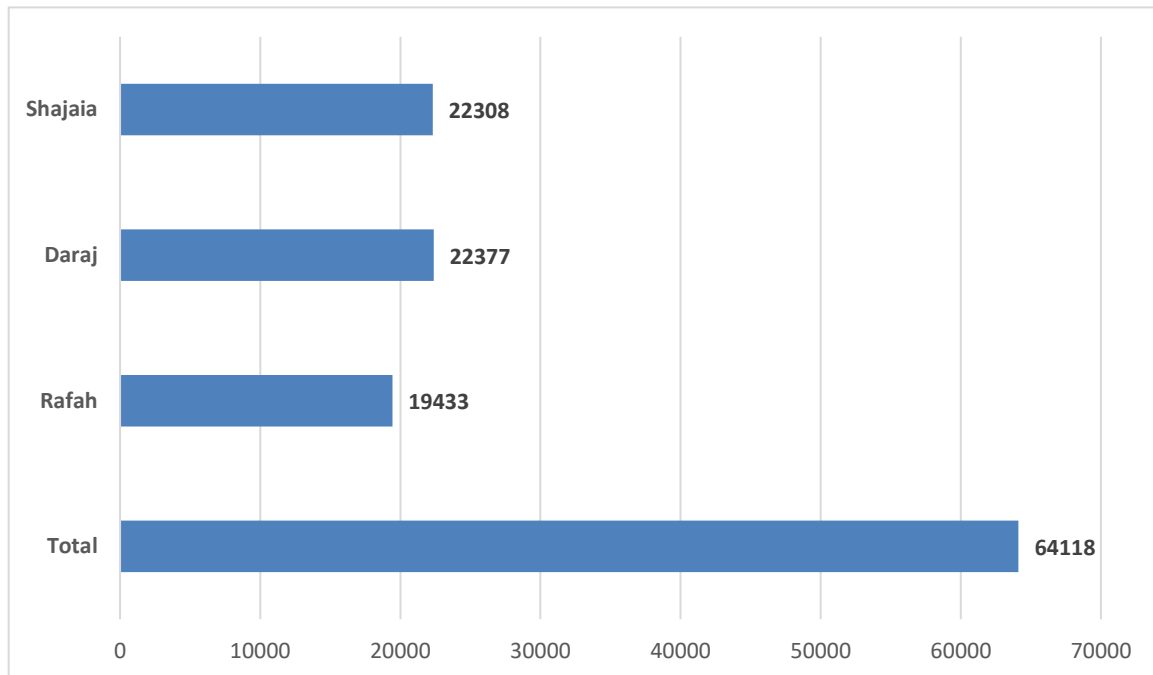
Only prescriptions of the clinic medical doctors are dispensed to the patients of the particular center. Medicines are mostly made and supplied directly by pharmaceutical companies in the West Bank and Gaza. Stocks are replenished from the main “warehouse” under the supervision of a pharmacist twice a month while the balance of medicines at each clinic covers a period of six weeks and the balance of medicines at the main store covers 12 months as the replenishment of dispensed medications replenished every 6 months through tenders.

NECC received in-kind donations of medicines and medical supplies in 2022 through support from UPA.

As revealed by the satisfaction assessments conducted routinely, the patients were very satisfied with the services and the availability of medicines at the dispensary especially since other health facilities encountered shortages in a great number of medicines most of the time of the year due to the siege and embargo imposed by Israel.

During the year 2022, the number of prescriptions dispensed to patients reached 64,118 in the three localities (last year 2021 the figure was **61,158** prescriptions).

Figure (4) No. of Prescriptions dispensed





1.2 Psychosocial Support Program (PSS)

Strategic objective 2: To promote the psychosocial status of the served community particularly women and children.

1.2.1 NECC ongoing psychosocial support program

As a part of NECC responsiveness to the community needs, immediately after the Israeli Operation Cast Lead on Gaza, in 2009 NECC has introduced the psychosocial support services into its health and vocational training programs.

The NECC Psychosocial support is a critical aspect of holistic healthcare that addresses the emotional, psychological, and social needs of individuals facing various challenges and crises. It encompasses a range of interventions and services designed to enhance mental well-being, build resilience, and provide emotional support during difficult times.

This report aims to explore the importance of psychosocial support, its key components, and its role in promoting mental health and overall quality of life.

Psychosocial support program provides individual counselling, group counselling, psych education sessions, consultations. The higher-level change achieved through the integration of psychosocial support program into primary health program, screening and detecting all clients who attended NECC clinics for any psychological problems, and manage these problems.

NECC health staff screened and identified patients with mental health problems who are attending the health centres, in order to provide them with needed support and services, and to refer the severe cases to relevant external organizations. The overall objective of the program is to promote the psychosocial status of the served community particularly women and children.

The recurrent escalations on Gaza has led to increased levels of stress and anxiety in Palestinian children. They are suffering from losing loved ones, having their homes demolished, and having no sense of safety or security. Since access in and out of the Gaza Strip is controlled by Israel, it is difficult to get these children the proper help.

All this turmoil translates to actual mental illness. In Gaza, rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which features disrupted sleep, feeling permanently on edge and easily startled, flashbacks and nightmares of the trauma and emotional numbing – are incredibly high.

As is often the case in these situations, children suffer the most in Palestine.

It's worth mentioning that this program supported through the year 2022 from Act for Peace AfP through the project titled **“Promotion of psychosocial health status and well -being for Children, adolescents, and Women in Vulnerable Areas- Gaza Strip.**



1.2.2 PSS Preventive Services

Appropriate PSS services are provided to the mothers/women or children attending the Family healthcare centers or the kindergartens located in the three served areas. Through the implementation of PSS activities various skills have been refined, children’s concrete skills and provide an opportunity to retreat them.

Develop children’s potential across a broad range of activities that stimulate mental, Physical and emotional well-being.

The provision of psychosocial support for children at a time when needed, after the conflicts, providing an opportunity for the children of Gaza to enjoy them and learn new skills.

Table (13): The main interventions in terms of preventive services

<i>School children (6-15) years</i>	<i>Problem solving approach</i>
<i>Kindergarten children served through cognitive behavioral therapy</i>	<i>CBI for kindergartens children that suit the age of those children: expression through drawing, storytelling, coloring, playing.</i>
<i>VTC Students</i>	<i>CBI and psychosocial sessions for VTC’s students.</i>
<i>Children of both age groups and VTC Students</i>	<i>Open fun days and Recreational trips.</i>

1.2.3 Counselling Services

The counselors offer various psychological services including individual and group counseling, awareness sessions for parents such as dealing with aggressive behavior, dealing with stress and traumatized cases.

The counselors use various counseling techniques such as: cognitive behavioral interventions, individual and group counseling, seminars, home visits, and community-based education through awareness programs for mothers.



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Table (14): *The main psychosocial support program achievements*

Activities and target groups	Number of individuals reached 2020	Number of individuals reached 2021	Number of individuals reached 2022
School children (6-15) years targeted through attending clinics for problem solving approach	673 children	1357 children	1380 Children
Kindergarten children serve through cognitive behavioral therapy	447 Children	696 children	842 Children
Individual counselling for school children	273 children	106 children and 656 children through E-counselling	893 children
Individual counselling for women /mothers	299 women/mothers	349 women/mothers	724 women/mothers
Family counselling for mothers with children suffer from psychological disorders	154 mothers and teachers	206 mothers and teachers	139 mothers and teachers
Psycho education sessions for PHC beneficiaries	135 sessions for 2806 women/mothers	176 Sessions for 1718 women/mothers	132 sessions for 1779women/mothers
General psychosocial consultations	767 consultations	840 consultations	754 consultations
Group counselling for mothers and or/women with similar psychological problems	38 mothers /women	88 mothers /women	95 mothers /women
<i>Screening and detection of mental health problem in PHC patients</i>	789 mothers were screened by Edinburgh scale during the postpartum period, among them 45 were abnormal that's mean 6% of postnatal cases suffered from depression or anxiety and they received Psychosocial support services provided by NECC psychosocial counselors.		

- ▶ The psychosocial program has positive impact on children's emotional, behavioral, relations aspects, thus through this reporting period 35% of children and their parents showed improvement in the wellbeing, resilience and positive coping strategies using strength and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ scales) as well as an improvement of depressed cases by 20.6 % using patient health questionnaire scale (PHQ), and anxiety by 26% using generalized anxiety questionnaire scale.

¹SDQ: strength and development questionnaire.

²PHQ: patient health questionnaire.

³GAD: Generalized anxiety disorder.

⁴CRIES-8: Children impact of Event scale.

⁵PTSD: Post traumatic stress disorders.



1.3 TVET Program:

Strategic Objective 2: Employment through vocational and entrepreneurship skills

In consistence with NECC/DSPR strategy; notably promote community economic sustainability through practicing resilient livelihoods, NECC has been working on enhancing the youth capacities for longer term economic empowerment through promoting access to TVET for the Palestinian community.

The overarch aim of TVET program is to enlarge the prospects of work and employment for the Palestinian youth in Gaza Strip in order to contribute to enhance their economic and livelihoods conditions given the unprecedented unemployment rate among youth which is about to be reaching 68%.

The NECC has accumulated long experience in delivering a high quality technical and vocational education and training for the special target groups it is committed to serve who are mainly the Palestinian youth living in Gaza Strip.

NECC is consistently committed in approaching its vocational training program through providing quality TVET diplomas based on competency-enhancement approach which is relying on transforming skills into work taking into consideration requirements of the local labor market.

Through TVET Program, NECC runs five vocational training centers offering eight vocations/trades: two centers for male students (providing five vocational diplomas) and three for female students (providing three diplomas), particularly:

- **The Gaza Vocational Training Centre (Gaza City VTC - Shijaia)** offers multiple-period vocational training diplomas that target disadvantaged boys aged 14-16 years old who are already dropped out from school. They can choose to be trained either in (i) carpentry and furniture making (diploma for two years), (ii) metal and welding works (diploma for two years) or (iii) aluminum works (one-year diploma) or (iv) refrigeration and air conditioning (diploma for two years) for age group between 16 and 23 years old.
- **The Vocational Training Centre at El-Qarara** (Khan Younis, south of the Gaza Strip) provides a two-year diploma in general electrician skills and motor and transformer rewinding and solar energy that is provided for young men aged 16-23 who finished their tenth grade at schools.
- **The Secretarial studies and English Language Centre** offer a one-year intensive diploma in secretarial studies to young women who have finished their secondary studies (High School grade or locally known: Tawjihi).
- **The Advanced Dressmaking Centre** offers a one-year diploma in dressmaking provided to young women over 16 years old and marginalized women.
- **Multimedia and Graphics Design Center** offers a one-year intensive diploma to young women who have finished their Tawjihi certificate.



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It is well-known that the scholastic year (2021-2022) started early September 2021 and was ended up in September 2022 for departments of secretary, dressmaking, carpentry, metals and welding and aluminum; and in November 2022 for general electricity and air conditioning departments respectively, followed by 6-week period of external training during which the students are sent to local workshops and employers' workplaces according to the trades/careers they were trained in.

During the reporting period (January – December 2022), **448** students (290 males and 158 female students) received training through NECC vocational training centers. In details:

- 176 students were graduated from the program late 2022 (100 males, 76 females).
- 87 first-year male trainees continued and upgraded to second year at Gaza Shijaiya center (54 students) and El-Qarara VTCs (33 students) for males respectively.
- 185 new students (103 males, 82 females) were enrolled and accepted out of totally 531 who applied for the 2021-2022 scholastic year (of those applicants; 421 were males and 110 were females).

The table (15) below shows **the distribution of the students of vocational training centers (VTCs) annexed to NECC** during the reporting period (January to December 2022):

#	Program	Diploma Duration	Graduates (2022)	Current Enrolment		Total number of existing students (December 2022)
				1 st Y	2 nd Y	
1	Carpentry and Furniture Making	2	18	20	16	54
2	Metal and Welding Works	2	15	18	15	48
3	Aluminum Works	1	16	15	-	31
4	HVAC	2	22	23	23	68
5	General Electricity and Solar Energy	2	29	27	33	89
-	Sub-total (males)		100	103	87	290
6	Secretary and English Language	1	27	28	-	55
7	Multimedia & GD	1	26	29	-	55
8	Advanced Dressmaking	1	23	25	-	48
-	Sub-total (females)		76	82	0	158
-	Total		176	185	87	448

At the end of 2021-2022 scholastic year (late 2022), 176 graduates were graduated from the vocational training centers disaggregated as follows; 99 of them were graduated in July 2020 from careers of carpentry, welding and metals, aluminum, dressmaking and secretary whereas 29 graduated in November 2022 from department of electricity while 22 air-conditioning students graduated in December 2022.



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26 female students were graduated in late January 2023 ending their scholastic year that began in January 2022. 272 students are currently receiving TVET courses during 2022 divided into 1st and 2nd year classes.

In terms of the new careers/trades offered by NECC-TVET program, the following paragraph gives background information about the new context and updates regarding the program.

It is worth mentioning that NECC is providing its vocational training services according to the Palestinian national qualification framework and according the periods mentioned in the framework for its certain training programs in order to provide adequate training corresponding the level of semi-skilled labor which represents level 2 in the framework.

In the TVET provision pathway, at the end of the year, there was evaluation process undertaken in order to solicit feedback from all concerned stakeholders such as students, mentors and tutors, graduates, instructors and trainers, supervisors and labor market representatives in order to further strengthen these vocational training courses and create tangible improvements based on the received evaluation and feedback.

This is considered a very supportive and prominent best practice aimed at its end-lines to likely maintain robust, unique and updated curricula modules in accordance with the labor market demands and requirements.

NECC realized good records with regards to livelihood improvement for the TVET graduates through the different initiatives it has been engaged in, for benefit of the graduates on the short- and longer-term level.

Interestingly, NECC is exerting efforts for assessing and tracking the longer-term outcomes those initiatives have impacted on the different aspects of socioeconomic context of the graduates and their families' lives.

The results of the impact surveys and assessments conducted revealed that NECC is exerting huge efforts in terms of increasing employability among TVET graduates through offering integrated package of post-graduation services notably career counseling, job search training, on-job training initiatives and most importantly and recently providing access to entrepreneurship through small-business establishment for a group of start-ups in cooperation with partner organizations such as Caritas France and Qatar Charity.

Alongside the on-job-training placement, and in addition to the daily work experience the beneficiaries are accepting, they have been receiving a group of public lectures including important topics such as career counseling, work ethics, gender, entrepreneurship and others.

NECC is continuously striving to link graduates with the labor market. In that endeavor, NECC provides support to graduates through market connections, skills-upgrade courses, and occasionally job creation initiatives and small grants in cooperation and partnership with a various network of organizations.

This is being done for achieving multiple objectives comes first, giving wider opportunities to those fresh and ex-graduates for practicing new work environments and learning new skills and off course generating income and concurrently enlarging NECC network of valuable partner



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organizations in order to prominently contribute to the community economic development for its target groups given the severely harsh economic situations in the besieged Gaza Strip.

1.3.1 External training placements

In cooperation with Palestinian Federation of Industries (PFI) and its sub-branch federations and the several private sector entities, the NECC trainees who were about to graduate late 2022 had been placed in various offices, companies and workshops for a period of six-eight weeks to undertake external (on-the-job) training with follow-up made by the social workers and NECC-TVET instructors and supervisors.

This external training is an integral part of the training program since they have to finish it before they graduate and get their certifications from NECC vocational centers.

The trainees were distributed to those workshops and companies on the basis of the trades they were trained in.

Particularly, 176 ex-students/graduates from NECC different vocational training centers were placed at different workshops and work places according to their field of training such as carpentry workshops, welding workshops, electricity technical workshops, fashion Ateles, companies, NGOs and governmental entities to do their external training course.

The external training was followed by evaluation questionnaires and the feedback was gathered on tripartite-basis meaning that it is filled in by the supervisor, employer and the students themselves (self-assessment) as well.

The external training is used to take place after the students end their final examinations. As so, NECC-TVET program accomplished the final examinations for Secretarial studies, Dressmaking, Carpentry, Metal works and Aluminum works.

This year (2022), students were sent to do their external training in June and July 2022 after they completed their examinations in May and finally, they were graduated in August.

While for Electricity VTC: the external training for the 1st and students were implemented in May and July 2022 while for 2nd year students, it took place in June and July and the final examinations for all students were undertaken in October 2022 in a well-structured and timely organized process.

Whilst, the external training course for air conditioning (about-to-graduate) students were undertaken in August and September and the final examination were held in December 2022 in a timely-ordered term.

The student exams were corrected and evaluated and the certificates were issued and conferred duly after the accreditation from the Ministry of Labor.

For Graphics Design students, the freelancing practical part took place in November and December 2022 while the final examinations and graduation were duly undertaken in early January 2023.



1.3.2 Follow-up assessment (2021):

NECC is used to conduct a follow-up assessment regularly on annual basis for its ex-graduates from all vocational training centers after one year of their graduation from the VTCs.

This assessment is aimed to give an oversight on the employment status of the graduates as to show whether they are working in their profession or other professions or even not working at all with giving percentages for each proportion.

It is very significant to assert on that this assessment is very critical and inevitable for NECC-TVET program management to run career professionalizing services as to be provided in order to accelerate the graduates' involvement in the local labor market in spot of the funds available.

Consequently, NECC has recently conducted the annual employment follow-up assessment (in November 2022) for graduates of year 2021. The assessment results revealed that overall, **67.4%** of all NECC-TVET graduates of the year 2021 are working in their careers (118 graduates out of 175) who are employed or self-employed in their career only within one year of graduation, which exceeds the target of 50% of graduates from the TVET program. The figures below show the employment trends among the graduates. The **table (19)** below show the employment trends among the graduates.

Table (16): Employment rates among 2021 graduates

Profession	Number of students who graduated in 2021	# Working in their profession	% Working in their profession	Not working in profession	
				Working in other profession	Not working at all
Electricity (male)	29	23	79.3%	2	4
Carpentry (male)	19	14	74%	3	2
Welding and metals (male)	16	11	69%	2	3
Aluminium (male)	16	10	63%	2	4
HVAC	20	14	70%	4	2
Secretary (female)	28	13	48%	0	15
Dressmaking (female)	21	15	71.4%	1	5
Total - Averages	175	118	67.42%	14 (8%)	43 (24.58%)

Analysis of the results: As the graph above indicates, the employment rates among NECC-TVET graduates is over 50% (target indicator) for the seven careers graduates on one year after their graduation.

Furthermore, the 2022 employment assessment (most recently conducted) reveals a comparatively high employment rates among the TVET graduates of NECC (about 67.4%) despite the harsh economic conditions lived in Gaza.

As well, it is shown by statistics that the number of females employed among the whole group of employed graduates is 28 out of 118 representing 23.7%.



While the number of employed females among graduated females themselves is forming 57.1% (28 out of 49 graduated females) given that dressmaking is representing the main portion.

The increase of the rate is attributed to the various job creation and on-the-job training initiatives that NECC have run recently in partnership with various donors.

NECC realized good records with regards to livelihood improvement for the TVET graduates through the different initiatives it has been engaged in for benefit of the graduates quietly on the short-term level.

Although there is progressive work being done in this field, still there is a need for NECC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation for the TVET program including all its aspects such as selection, examination, curricula, capacities, long term impact on improving livelihoods, etc.

In line with that, NECC implemented the project of “Support access to emergency livelihoods for TVET youth graduates in Gaza Strip - NEXUS” starting from January 2022.

The project included access to on-job training placements for 80 NECC ex-graduates from the different VTCs who graduated during the years 2017, 2018 and 2019. The (6-month) placements will be provided for an equal number of graduates from trades of carpentry, metals and welding, aluminum, electricity and solar panels, air conditioning, dressmaking, secretary and office management and graphics design (10 beneficiaries from each trade).

1.3.3 Curricula Development: can be one or two lines only

NECC is comprehensively developing and upgrading its TVET training techniques and methodologies on regular basis. In that context, NECC has been involved in applying the CTA, which is standing for an approach utilizing social, personal, methodological and technical skills and knowledge of a trainee in the process of training and response to clients and service demanders.

During the provision of the curricula, feedback sessions are used to be held regularly during scholastic year time for purpose of assessment, lessons learned and curricular development.

As well, NECC has been involved in updating the curricula of solar energy for its El-Qarara VTC in cooperation with similar institutions and TVET providers under the lead from GIZ and Islamic Relief. The new developed and adapted curricula was put in-use for benefit of NECC vocational center of El-Qarara as well as vocational centers annexed to ministry of labor and other similar vocational centers.

In addition, NECC is doing curricula development work in cooperation with relevant institutes under the umbrella of LET-Council namely; sub-committee of TVET capacity building which is mainly specialized in developing TVET programs at the member institutions including curricula development, capacity building for vocational staff and so on.



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1.3.4 Inaugurating of new programs:

▶ New Solar Energy Diploma at El-Qarara:

NECC already applied for a new proposal to GIZ to establish new diploma in solar energy at El-Qarara in Khanyounis south Gaza.

The proposal was approved in July 2021 and the project agreement between NECC and GIZ was signed in November 2021 while the preparations for establishing the diploma took place directly during November and December 2021. A building was rented to accommodate the solar energy diploma training whereas the renovation and rehabilitation of the building will take place starting from early 2022 and the inauguration of the new diploma is expected to take place in October-November 2022.

1.3.5 LET-Council:⁶

It is worth mentioning that NECC is a member in two subcommittees of the LET-Council which are TVET Capacity Building and Donor Funding. The main mission of these two committees is to build the capacity of TVET programs within the member organizations including NECC and exploring new potentials and prospects for funding through LET network of donors and supporting agencies.

The network is including donors of TVET sector in Gaza Strip such as GIZ, Islamic Relief and (BTC) and so many others.

NECC-TVET Program Participated in all the meetings that were held under umbrella of LET Council.

Practically, NECC runs continuous coordination work with those strategic shared capacity building programs, networking and experience-sharing placement, employability interventions and TVET weeks and exhibitions.

LET Council is a body gathering all TVET stakeholders (governmental ministries, TVET provider institutes including universities and colleges, NGOs, industrial schools, donors and TVET supporters, etc.).

It is aiming at the development of TVET environment and conditions in order to upgrade its abilities towards enhancing youth employability.

1.3.6 Supporting TVET students in the aftermath of May escalation:

NECC undertook different initiatives aiming to support students of TVET program in the emergency times notably after the last escalation on Gaza that took place in May 2021.



✚ Providing psychosocial support activities:

In partnership with Mennonite Central Committee (MCC), NECC implemented a project focusing on providing psychosocial support activities to students attending the vocational training centers.

⁶ LET-Council: Local Employment & TVET Council. The project was undertaken aftermath the last May 2021 escalation on Gaza during the period from July 2021 until March 2022.

The project targeted 280 current students in addition to the VTC supervisors, TVET trainers and mentors and TVET support staff as well.

The activities included group counseling, individual counseling, outdoor recreational trips at some resorts in Gaza, theatre shows and etc.

The activities were much appreciated from the students and TVET management team as it helped the participants to debrief the sad moments they passed during the last war and to release bad experiences and stressors as well.

✚ Running job creation initiatives in favor of TVET students:

Through the aforementioned project, NECC implemented job creation initiatives for its TVET ex-graduates form years of 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Among other components, the project targeted 60 ex-graduates from the different vocational training subjects to benefit from a 3-month employment opportunity at selected workplaces in Gaza in order to support their livelihoods especially after the last escalation losses in addition to give them professional experience in their career subjects.

1.3.7 A new partnered project with Caritas France:

NECC and Caritas France prepared for launching a new project entitled “Support access to emergency livelihoods for TVET youth graduates in Gaza Strip - NEXUS”.

The project is aiming to provide an emergency relief fund to NECC supporting its current vocational training programs in terms of staffing, equipment and raw materials in addition to offer on-job training placements for equally divided 80 ex-graduates across the different vocational centers.

The launching of the project was evented in January 2022 and it was finished in August 2022.

1.3.8 MOSHARAKA Project:

In partnership with Caritas France, NECC and Caritas France were involved in the project of “Virtual Platform to Support Entrepreneurship in Mena Region (MOSHARKA)”.



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The promising project is aiming to access vulnerable young people from the MENA region especially women to decent work and better social inclusion through skills development and social entrepreneurship.

The first phase of the project lasted until October 2022 while the detailed action plan was developed during a gathering meeting between partners in May and December 2022 in Amman.

The project was extended for a 2nd phase until April 2023.

1.3.9 Training program with INJAZ Palestine:

In cooperation with “INJAZ Palestine”, a training program was held in February 2022 in favor of VTC students including males and females in different topics such as “my path to professionalism”, “learn for life”, “work ethics”, “time management”, “entrepreneurship” and other life skills subjects where the students experienced new approaches of life skills and how to plan for future.

The training program was addressing the topics of how to write CV and cover letter and how to do a job interview, leadership and time management respectively.

The training sessions were targeting the female students of secretary and dressmaking departments respectively.

1.4 Educational Loans Program:

For this reporting period (Jan-December 2022) including the academic years 2021-2022 and 2022-2023, 36 university students paid back their educational loans while 44 students were still paying back their loans until end of 2022.

20 new university students were legitimized to benefit from educational loans, they applied and actually received their loans. The 20 students are comprised of 16 Bachelor degree students in addition to 3 students from the Masters studies and 1 in PHD studies.

Whereas 28 Bachelor students, renewed their loans for the new academic year 2022/2023.

It is worth mentioning that the educational loans program is very distinguished and has a high impact on the lives of receivables as it is providing a source of funding for their university study, they can hardly secure from other places.

The beneficiary students are coming from all local universities of Gaza Strip (Islamic University, Al-Azhar, Al Quds Open University, etc.) and their majors are distributed in all specialties (humanitarian studies, politics, arts, languages, and etc.). As well, it provides a hope for poor university students to get access to complete their university education locally and without paying any profits.



1.5 Job Creation Program:

NECC has implemented a group of job creation initiatives in partnership and cooperation with many organizations as will be detailed latterly.

1.5.1 Project of “Support access to emergency livelihoods for TVET youth graduates in Gaza Strip - NEXUS”:

NECC launched and implemented the project of “Support access to emergency livelihoods for TVET youth graduates in Gaza Strip - NEXUS” during the period from January to August 2022.

The project was in partnership with Secure Catholique - Caritas France (SCCF).

The project is consisted of diversified group of activities including mainly an on-job-training initiative for a total number for 80 TVET graduates from NECC centers (10 beneficiaries per each career).

In addition, the project is scoped to support NECC vocational training program by supporting a part of staffing, raw materials and equipment among other activities in order to assist NECC and the beneficiaries to mitigate the effects of the last war on Gaza that took place in May 2021.

Preparations were made to launch the project, cooperation agreements with local partners were initiated and renewed and selection criteria were stated and the database of TVET ex-graduates was updated.

1.5.2 Employment partnerships with different organizations:

NECC continued its partnership with different TVET and employment-support organizations such as Islamic Relief (IR Palestine) and Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection (PFESP).

Through this partnership, NECC was enabled to offer access to employment for a group of TVET graduates whom were selected according to designated selection criteria to carry out internship placement courses different hosting organizations including NECC premises itself.

Furthermore, NECC has realized new partnerships with organizations operating in promoting youth employability through promoting small enterprise initiation especially for disadvantaged women in Gaza Strip.

Particularly, NECC carried out this partnership with Qatar Charity in order to help a group of graduated women from its dressmaking department to upgrade their skills and offer them sewing machines essentially required to run their own small businesses.

In that endeavor, NECC succeeded to offer this opportunity for 8 female dressmaking graduates in the year 2021. The partnership is still promising to involve more beneficiaries in the near future.



1.5.3 Self-Help Program:

Seven women at the self-support sewing department continued their work in producing garments of all kinds including TVET Youth uniform and doctors' uniform and earned monthly income of \$175 by NECC. This program assists those women to secure their livelihoods.

1.6 Advocacy program

In terms of advocacy efforts, NECC participated in TVET-related events, in order to raise awareness on youth employability promotion and advocate their important and effective role in the community development through TVET approach; the events took place along 2022 and included seminars, coordination meetings, workshops and etc.

Those important committees are administering policies and approaches for the planning, delivery and development of TVET programs in the Gaza Strip given the largely-diversified entities of TVET providers represented in the committees such as ministries (Labor, Education, etc.), TVET providing institutes, NGOs, and private sector representatives.

NECC continued to collaborate and coordinate for the visits of international partners to Gaza Strip including visits to NECC various programs. The number of delegations representing many different organizations hosted during this reporting period was 7. It is worth noting that there was difficulty somehow for visitor to get permits to enter Gaza through Erez crossing.

The community-based protection training that NECC health staff and community members received in December 2019 was applied through a pilot phase in 2022 in Rafah area.

As well, NECC participated in conducting GBV awareness campaign in coordination with local CBOs at the different of Gaza Strip. Additionally, NECC finalized its actions to approach GBV and disability inclusion into the module being delivered to students of the TVET program in partnership with ACT for Peace. The approach was pursued during 2022 starting with a training for TVET staff in GBV and inclusion of PWDs into the TVET diplomas.

It was followed by inserting a section on GBV and inclusion of PWDs into the training module delivered to students at the different VTCs.



2. Current problems and constraints

- Political conflict and security concerns affected all aspects of life and well-being.
- Deteriorated livelihood conditions of the population; emergence of health, psychosocial and poverty-associated problems.
- Fund sustainability is not guaranteed due to donor shifting and donor's agenda.
- Shortage of the essential drugs list at MOH led to an increased burden on other health institutions. as well as difficulties in securing the needed equipment and disposables required for TVET training.
- Electricity cuts for more than 16 hours have an impact on social services especially health, education, livelihood conditions, water-quantity and quality, and psychosocial status. NECC premises are equipped with reliable generators for rational (limited) use during cuts. Also, NECC has already procured laptops for use to operate work at clinics.

NECC maintained adequate strategic stock of fuel needed for the generators' use.

3. Cross cutting issues

3.1 Capacity building and training:

Capacity building is an ongoing process through which individuals, groups, organizations and societies enhance their ability to identify and meet development challenges. NECC role is to facilitate learning. This is partially accomplished by providing resources and training, but is most effectively done with a partner.

During this reporting period, **123 days** of different trainings, workshops and meetings including health, nutrition, psychosocial support, social issues, child protection, inclusion of PWD, and TVET specialized topics were attended by NECC staff for capacity building.

The trainings were conducted by different national and international organizations at different locations within Gaza Strip.

It is worth noting that NECC staff used to attend all monthly meetings of Health Nutrition sector, MHPSS, Child Protection Clusters, Family Planning Committee as well as TVET Partner Meetings.

3.2 Coordination

Within the context of the Palestinian healthcare system, it has four main providers: the MoH, UNRWA, non-governmental organizations, and private for-profit providers. In the Primary Family Health Care Centers, NECC has good coordination with the Ministry of Health to get licenses for the family care centers for the New Year and to provide the legal coverage of the program's operations.



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- Coordination with WHO in terms of attending Health nutrition cluster regular meetings held monthly to share updates, experiences, and knowledge.
- MOH provides advanced diagnostic and therapeutic interventions even hospitalization to complicated cases referred from NECC health centers.
- Coordination with the local and international organizations takes place as much as possible to obtain drugs, humanitarian assistance and other assistive modalities. For example, NECC contacted ANERA for in kind donation of medication.
- Referring severe cases with mental disorders identified at NECC centers to MOH/Department of mental health.
- New MoU with San John to conduct visual screening for children under 5 years and refer abnormal cases for management and further investigation.
- NECC TVET program is being running with the full cooperation and integration of the private sector in the whole process; NECC has signed cooperation agreements with Palestinian Federation of Industries "PFI" the Palestine Federation of Trade Union "PFTU" in order to support the trainees and approach the outdoor training for them within the workshops fulfilling the PFI and PFTU. During the reporting period: 80 external workshops and 5 local institutions in Gaza from private sectors received trainees from NECC as a part of the practical training of TVET program or benefitted from NECC VTC's.

3.3 Future plan:

- Continue the provision of the current programs through support from NECC partners.
- Continue offering preventive and curative health services to sustain and promote the health and wellbeing of Palestinians in the three served areas Shijaia, Darraj and Rafah\ Kherbet Al-adas.
- Continue providing professional skills training and access to education to empower marginalized Palestinian youth to improve their own economic conditions through vocational training centers.
- Develop organization's inclusivity plan/policy in order not to compromise the participation of specific target groups in its programs, such as PWDs.
- Strengthening management and monitoring system.
- Providing capacity-building training on fundraising and networking skills is very essential for NECC key staff.
- Develop of fund-raising strategy.
- Starting new partnerships and projects when approved.
- Develop of Capacity building plan.



3.4 Lessons learned

- ▶ Access to services is a serious concern affecting the protection of Palestinians in Gaza. These services have been part of NECC response and continue to be relevant.
- ▶ Strengthening coordination with referral sites is essential and proactive the referral system.
- ▶ Emergency preparedness plan is essential to be updated according to need assessment
- ▶ A holistic integrated approach focusing on WASH and nutrition. Such programs are useful for tackling complex multi-dimensional problems such as malnutrition much more than horizontal programs.
- ▶ Provide capacity building training on fund raising and networking skills is very essential for NECC key staff.
- ▶ In order to improve the accountability, communication and coordination with stakeholders, clear protocols on communication and information sharing need to be established under a new external relations and communication strategy.
- ▶ Providing post-graduation services for TVET graduates is very essential in order to increase employability among those graduates through the different services provided such as on-job training placements, career counseling, job search training, business management training and etc. those services are very vital for graduates to achieve this goal of inserting them into the labor market.



3.5 Success Stories

Stories from health program

Case Study 1

Sahar, 15 months old female born in late December 2019, lives with her family in a house located in Turkoman Neighborhood, Shajaia in Gaza. The family consists of 7 members, 5 children, their parents, and the grandmother. All of them share the same resources of the small house. The house is humid, not well-ventilated, and the walls are not painted, full with cracked where insects live. The house is located in a crowded area, full of garbage and wastewater, especially in winter. Like most areas in Gaza, the municipality services in the area like sewage, water, waste disposal, and electricity are very bad. The electricity cut-off in the area is common, with 8 hours of supply per day at maximum and the municipality water supply is also irregular, supply is available for 4 hours, once every 3 days. The municipality water supply is not safe for human use. Also, there are a lot of rodents and pests in the area which is risky, especially to children.

The house contains 3 rooms, a small kitchen, and a hall. Sahar's parents and some of their children live in one room. The other rooms are controlled by their grandmother who occupies another room and keeps the third one for her married siblings who come quite often to visit her. The house has basic furniture, a refrigerator, washing machine, cooking facilities, some beddings and basic utensils.

Because of the difficult political context which resulted in difficult economic situation in Gaza, Ali 'Sahar's' father and his family suffer from poverty and economic hardship conditions. Only through the social assistance the family receives from UNRWA and the assistance provided by members of the extended families, he can hardly sustain his family. In most days, he also takes debts from groceries in his area. Ali lacks a reliable income. He doesn't have a permanent work. Intermittently, he works in construction 2-3 days a week and earns little money. Sometimes, he joins short term job employment programs. All his earnings are less than 450 NIS (\$ 130) per month. Sahar's parent hold degrees from the university, but similar to other graduates in Gaza, they didn't find a job since their graduation. Also, the mother of Sahar is not working also.

The grandmother of Sahar helps in securing some of the family needs. Also, the family occasionally receives food rations. Most food rations are provided by the extended family, UNRWA and sometimes charity organizations but these are not sufficient to meet the needs of the family.

The psychological status of the family is not good. Unemployment, poverty and lack of resources affects the family ability to meet the needs of the households which makes the mental health of the family bad. The family is unable to sustain the resources for the



school requirements including school stationaries, bags, transportation, clothes and pocket money for children. The family feels sad as they can't afford buying clothes for the children and instead they use the second hand items donated by relatives. Because of poverty, the family isolates itself. Because socialization and exchanging visits costs money, the family prefers to spend the limited available resources on the essential family needs. Therefore, the family tends not to go outside the house quite often.

Sahar's mother visited the NECC clinic during her first pregnancy, several years ago. NECC clinic has been recommended by her parents and parents in-law as the NECC is the place that is being used by the different generations of the extended family. When Sahar's mother was pregnant with her, she received preconception care and antenatal care at NECC clinic.

The team at NECC clinic recommended that the mother needs to do well-baby sessions after delivery and therefore she started visiting the NECC clinic regularly after delivering Sahar. In the first year, Sahar received a well-baby session every month. At each visit, her weight, height, head circumference is measured. Also, the NECC team does hemoglobin testing besides assessing her growth and development milestones.

The mother is very happy that NECC team serves her family as the health services at NECC including the well-baby services are very good as the mother stated. Indeed, there are governmental clinics in the area, but the medications and quality of services are not as expected as stated by Sahar's mother.

Sahar's family visits the NECC clinic regularly and receives services for all their children including receiving the well-baby services from the program.

During a beneficiaries' survey that NECC implements with clients, when asked why she attends these services regularly she cited the following reasons;

- Good interaction with the staff
- Availability of medications
- Free of charge services
- The clinic is close to the place where the family lives
- Approach of care is good, and continuity of care
- Focus on psychological status of beneficiaries

In September 2022, the mother attended the routine well-baby services for Sahar. The clinic staff performs the needed examinations and the needed measurements. Height, weight, head circumference, growth and development mile stones and hemoglobin level were measured. The examination reveals that the child suffers from malnutrition (underweight) and moderate anemia.



Sahar has been enrolled at the management program for anemia and malnutrition and the following measures were done to her

- History talking
- Complete physical examination
- Lab investigations, CBC, urine and stool analysis
- Description of medications including iron supplementations, multivitamins
- Description of antibiotics to treat her urinary tract infection
- Individual counselling and group Health education sessions
- Health education brochures
- Psychosocial support
- Monthly follow up

Also, her diet pattern has been discussed with her mother. The mother was given instructions about what to give for the child and what to avoid. The team noticed the following

- The mother doesn't give her child the iron supplementations as recommended
- The mother gives the child tea with food
- The mother uses inappropriate mix of food like giving iron with milk
- The mother is not adequately aware about the kinds of food that are rich in nutrition and at the same time are affordable

Three months later, during the follow up consultations, the mother visited the clinic with her child. Hemoglobin level was assessed and it was within normal range 11.5 gm. The weight of the child has increased and the Z-score was above -2 which means the child is



not anymore underweight. The change in the nutritional status of the child is attributed mainly to the following

- Good diagnosis and management at NECC clinics
- Appropriateness of the approach of care, using combination of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical interventions
- Increase in awareness which resulted in change in eating habits
- Provision of medications by NECC clinic and compliance with the medications
- Appropriate follow up

After her hemoglobin has reached to the normal level, the clinic team continued giving her prophylactic dose of iron for three additional months. Also, she continued her regular follow up visits.

Sahar's family was happy that her health has improved and she is very grateful to NECC and their supporters. As a result, Sahar nutritional status has improved and her hemoglobin level returned to normal. She is more able to resist diseases; her cognitive ability will be enhanced and the psychosocial status of her family has improved. This will have long term impact on her well being.

Case study 2

The Child Zina is three-year-old was followed -up at the NECC Shejaia Clinic at the well-baby program, she was followed up since the first month of her birth

During the follow-up visits, the clinic staff performs the needed examinations and the needed measurements. Height, weight, head circumference, growth and development milestones, and hemoglobin level were measured. The examination reveals that the child suffers from moderate anemia.

Zina has been enrolled in the management program for anemia and malnutrition and the following measures were done for her

- History taking
- Complete physical examination
- Lab investigations, CBC, urine, and stool analysis
- Description of medications including iron supplementations, multivitamins
- Individual counseling and group Health education sessions
- Health education brochures
- Psychosocial support
- Monthly follow up



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Also, her diet pattern has been discussed with her mother. The mother was given instructions about what to give the child and what to avoid.

Appropriate treatment of iron, vitamins and fortified biscuits was given, and guidance on how to give iron syrup, good nutrition, iron-rich food, and rich foods, Vitamin C that helps absorb iron and during follow-up, there was an improvement in hemoglobin level, but Zina also suffers from being underweight so the mother asked to do stool and urine analysis for the child.



The results of the lab tests were normal, but the child still suffered from diarrhea with frequent stool.

So, the NECC pediatrician doctor advised the mother about good nutrition, and a baby's diet schedule was made away from wheat and gluten free diet. that derives from bread and pasta and more focuses on healthy food from vegetable fruits, and proteins,

Less than a month later, the mother noticed a significant improvement in her child health.

Her child recovered and returned to normal weight and the stool became normal.

The mother still follows up with her child Zina, and she was very grateful for NECC's support, treatment, and guidance, she thanked the NECC health staff for their great efforts and caring to help her child become normal weight and good health.

Stories from TVET program

Story 1: Anas Hamada, Graduate from NECC Vocational Training Program:

This is a success story of Anas Hamada, a 24 years old graduate of NECC vocational center and a beneficiary of the ACT Alliance emergency response project.

Anas is living with big extended family consisting of 14 members in Al-Toffah area north Gaza city, the family is living in extremely bad socio-economic circumstances.

He left the school in early age and joined the NECC vocational training center in Shijaia area in Gaza where he enrolled the department of air conditioning and cooling.

After two years of training at the vocational center, Anas was graduated with very good grade from the center but unfortunately, he was not able to get a job opportunity in the local market due to the bad economic situations prevailing in the Gaza Strip and the deficiency of local economy to offer new jobs.



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He was selected by the project team to benefit from a 3-month job creation opportunity since the living conditions of him and his family met the selection criteria of the project.

Anas was assigned to work at Al-Nawati workshop for refrigerators and air conditioners in maintenance and installment works. He accepted a very intensive experience in his field and learned a lot of skills and competences and met satisfaction of his employer.



Luckily, Anas was offered a permanent job opportunity from the workshop owner as he showed a high commitment and dedication to work in addition to his skills and obvious competencies. During the 3-month job creation chance, he was contributing to some basic needs of his family notably food, expenses for his brothers and sisters in addition to assisting his father to cover some debts to groceries and butcheries.

This job-creation opportunity has significantly helped Anas to put his first steps on the work career, to gain tangible experience in his field and to be enabled to show-up his cleverness and competencies.

Anas highly appreciated the ACT-Alliance assistance that provided him humanitarian assistance that enhanced his professional capabilities and helped him to secure permanent job at the end.



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Story 2: Rana Luzon, Graduate from NECC Vocational Training Program:

I am Rana Luzon, 20 years old girl. I joined the NECC department of secretary and office works after I got my high school (Tawjihi) certificate in 2021.

I consider this is the most successful step I ever took in my life.

The training year I spent at NECC was one of the best and most nice years of my life as I accepted new friendships, built my human character, my thoughts and my skills as well.

All the time I was dreaming of having a job and relying on myself more and more.

I wanted to take easier and shorter way to work and invest in my life from young age through this track rather than spending a lot of time in university education and then waiting for longer time to get jobs.

My professional career journey started from NECC in-where their staff and mentors embraced me and dealt me as their daughter whom they are paving her way to life and success.

After I graduated from NECC I started to learn online courses which NECC advised me to learn and then I started to work in online marketing for a company from the West Bank.

And now I joined the university to complete my study in management and online marketing and after one year and a half I continued in studying and working together and recently I got a job offer from Egypt Air company.

Now I am advancing my professional career and managing the time between study time and work time in order to succeed in both educational and professional tracks.

I thank NECC and its partners from deepest of my heart for the opportunities they gave me and the enhancements they made to my skills and competencies that provided me to a clearer vision to the future and qualified me to get decent jobs with big companies in Gaza.

Currently, I am in my 2nd year at the university and working for 8 months with Egypt Air company with gratitude to what I learned at NECC. All my love is for them.





4. Photo Gallery

Health Photos





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TVET Photos





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***“I Always Pray with Joy because of your partnerships ...,
being confident of this that those who began a good work
will carry it on to completion”***

(Philippians 1:4-6)

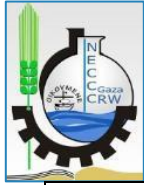
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

NECCCRW's programs have been sustained over the last six decades with the generous assistance received not only from its major partners, but also from EU and many other individuals and organizations.

Many thanks to all of them and to any supporter whom we might have missed to declare for their solidarity and support to our people which was made through MECC/DSPR in general and Gaza Area Program in particular, who helped us in Gaza Strip to find our own limited solutions and to keep the important witness which continues to generate hope among the needy in this part of the world.

We shall continue to appreciate the support of our partners who are requested to keep the active witness through their solidarity with our ecumenical program for the service of all His people.

1.	ACT for Peace
2.	ACT International (Action by Churches Together)
3.	Agency of French Development (AFD)
4.	Amos Trust
5.	Bread for the World
6.	CARITAS in France, Switzerland, Luxemburg & Jerusalem
7.	Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)
8.	Catholic Relief Services - CRS
9.	Campaign for the Children of Palestine (CCP Japan)
10.	CCFD
11.	CFOS (Canada)
12.	Christian Aid, UK
13.	Church in Wales, UK
14.	Church of Sweden
15.	Church of Scotland
16.	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
17.	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe



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18.	Diakonisches Werk, Germany
19.	Diocese of Aalborg, Denmark
20.	DanChurchAid & Norwegian Church Aid
21.	Dutch donor
22.	Embrace the Middle East (UK)
23.	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
24.	Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V (EED), Germany
25.	FinChurchAid
26.	German Representative Office
27.	Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Holland
28.	International Medical Corps - Palestine (IMC)
29.	KAIROS, Canada
30.	Lutheran World Relief, USA
31.	Mennonite Central Committee
32.	Middle East Council of Churches
33.	Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem
34.	National Council of Churches, Australia & AusAid
35.	NECEF, Canada
36.	Pontifical Mission for Palestine
37.	Save the Children
38.	Secure Catholique/Caritas France (SCCF)
39.	The Church of Scotland
40.	The Mission Covenant Church of Sweden
41.	Terre Des Homme
42.	UNICEF
43.	United Church of Canada
44.	United Palestinien Appeal
45.	World Council of Churches

The end of Report

With our love and pleasure