

Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection

Administrative Annual Report 2011

Presented to:

Ministry of Interior – Directorate of Associations

Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection

www.aisha-ps.org

Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection

Introduction

Aisha Association branched from Gaza Mental Health Program where it had functioned for fifteen years under the title of "Women's Department" and had always aimed to contribute towards eliminating violence against women in Gaza Strip and to deal with its implications. It worked to empower and enable many women and to increase sensitivity of the community towards gender- based violence. Together with other associations it has been contributing towards amending and improving the legal and social framework to protect women and the community from domestic violence.

As a result of the soaring success and accumulated experience of the Association, and through its headquarter in Gaza and its branches, coupled with support and supervision from Dr. Eyad Elsarrg, it gained full independence under the title of "Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection", thus it began to participate in providing decent living and welfare to the Palestinian families through protecting violence-exposed members, and building it on basis of equality, productivity and appropriate educational upbringing. Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection obtained Ministry of Interior license in mid September 2009 under No. 8136 to start its services in the whole Gaza Strip targeting women and children, and their families altogether.

Vision

Aisha Association is a service oriented association playing a leading role in protecting women and children, violence victims and at risk, and these with special needs or heads of families that were forced to leave their place of residence in Gaza Strip in order to make them effective in the sustainable social development process.

Mission

Aisha Association is a civil, non-profit independent association that aims to protect women and children, violence victims and at risk, and those with special needs or heads of families that were forced to leave their place of residence in Gaza Strip, through capacity building programs of the Association and those having interest; and to support and empower women; and to develop children and families. In implementing its strategies and realizing its vision, the Association adheres to the principles of human rights including responsibility, rule of law, transparency, tolerance, justice, equality, non-discrimination, involvement and enabling marginalized categories.

Targeted Group

Women and children, violence victims and at risk, with special emphasis on women with special needs or heads of families that were forced to leave their place of residence in Gaza Strip.

Programs of the Center

1. **Capacity Building:** to participate in building the capacities of the Association and of those who have interest, in administrative, professional and logistic fields, with the following aims:
 - Improving professional and administrative skills and capacities of the Association's staff
 - Gathering detailed information on the conditions and needs of women and children at risk or those who lost someone
 - Developing the logistic and information abilities of the Association
 - Documenting crimes and violations against women and children
 - Developing networking and communication with the Association.

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2. **Supporting and Enhancing Women:** to participate in supporting and enhancing women who are violence victims and at risk, gender equality and reducing violence against women and dealing with

its implications. Its aims include the following:

- Enabling violence-victims and women at risk
 - Improving the psychological conditions of women and families in North Gaza governorates
 - Improving advocacy for issues of women at risk and families that lost someone.
3. **Enhancing and Developing Child and Family** in order to enhance child and family through active participation of family and community, its aims are:
- Providing highly sensitive environment that helps protect children at risk and deal with chronic phobias
 - Improving community awareness and advocacy towards children at risk and with chronic phobias
 - Improving the abilities of girls' schools in working under pressure and during crises.

Members of the Board of Directors

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1- Dr. Naji Sukkar | Chairman |
| 2- Ms. Eenas Joudah | Deputy Chairman |
| 3- Ms. Zikrayat Ajjour | Secretary |
| 4- Mr. Elias Eljildah | Treasurer |
| 5- Dr. Eyad Elsarrag | Member |
| 6- Ms. Rawiyah Hamam | Member |
| 7- Ms. Khadra Shaat | Member |

It is worth mentioning that 2011 was the first year of full independence of Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection from Gaza Mental Health Program, and this was its first experience both administratively and financially.

- 1- A general assembly was held with 17 members attending in an emergency meeting on 8th May 2011 for reading the Administrative and Financial Report for 2010 that was discussed and approved unanimously.
- 2- During the same meeting it was agreed to appoint as auditors for 2011 Alwafaa External Auditing Establishment. The representative of Ministry of Interior was briefed on matters relating to the Association's books and records, taking his recommendations and required amendments into account. The Association did whatever necessary.
- 3- **Board Meetings:** 17 meetings of the board of directors were held during the past period and discussed the Association's affairs with an average of at least one meeting per month. But it was noticed during that period that some members were absent from most of the meetings, such as Dr. Eyad Elsarrag due to his commitments. Also Ms. Khadra Nashwan was repeatedly absent from meetings during the last period. There is as well a resignation by Ms. Rawiya Hamam during July 2011. Ms. Zikra is due to travel abroad to get married, probably for a long period of time. All of the aforesaid caused the board to face some obstacles that render them unable to continue. Therefore the general assembly will have to resolve on the issue of board of directors.

The board was keen to run the Association's affairs in the best way, despite some obstacles like delays in obtaining support for some projects, especially the donation from SDC that represents the major finance during 2011.

A committee was formed and approved for receiving the assets relinquished by Gaza Mental Health Program in accordance with a memorandum of understanding signed with them covering:

The relinquishing by the Program of assets at the Women's Department / Gaza Branch to the benefit of Aisha Association. In this respect, an inventory was taken of the assets and these were officially taken in.

As for redundant employees with Gaza Mental Health Program: The former Women's Department / Gaza Branch employees had a chance to work for Aisha Association but provided that the Program would transfer the agreed share, the Association's need for the employee and availability of means at the Association. Everyone was taken in.

Thus the employees were re-distributed and assigned as per work requirement at the project and the employee's experience. Salaries were also determined according to the Association's means, projects' need and the resolution of the board of directors.

- **Financial Matter**

Three auxiliary bank accounts for the projects were opened at the request of financiers of Aisha Association with the Bank of Palestine, Remal Branch. All amounts from membership fees, donations and projects funds were deposited and transferred there.

- **Funding :**

→ Search continued for sources of funding including emergency funding and Arabic as well.

→ As for the rally of financiers of Gaza Mental Health Program, their promise is still existing to continue; meanwhile they were provided with the updated strategic plan that suits the current phase of Association's history and we are waiting for their response.

→ It is worth mentioning that during 2011 the Association obtained small donations, such as:

\$ 1100 from Icelanders

\$ 900 from ITTP

\$ 13140 from PGS

\$ 18000 from GFW

all of which were for supporting the Association in general.

Other Activities:

- The web site of Aisha Association is ready in Arabic, and it is planned to work on the English version in 2012.
- Aisha Association has officially joined Amal Coalition to Combat Violence Against Women, and attended the meetings and training courses held by the Coalition. In addition, the Association joined the Women's Sector within the Civil Organizations Network.
- Aisha Association was accepted in Wessal Coalition.
- The strategic plan of the Association is being updated and this will continue in 2012 to be approved by the board of directors.

Projects, Programs and Activities that were Implemented

First Project

Project Title: Empowerment of Violated Women, and those at Risk

- Implementation Date: 1/4/2011 to 31/12/2011
- Locations: Governorates of both Gaza and the North
- Number of Beneficiaries: 70 women
- Financier: SDC Swedish Development Commission
- Budget: US\$87783 (eighty-seven thousand and seven hundred and eighty-three American Dollars).
- **General Objective:**

To participate in supporting and protecting violated women and those at risk, reduce gender-based violence against women, with emphasis on women with special needs or heads of families that were forced to leave their place of residence, by enriching them with required skills through education and vocational training to facilitate getting a chance to gain income.
- **Nature of the Project:**

The Project provides vocational training for seventy of the targeted women, admitted in two batches, and received vocational training in fields of sewing, beauty services, ceramics, knitting and video. As part of the project, the beneficiaries received psycho-support to help overcome their crises, protect themselves and their rights, and how to start a small economical project, and search for job opportunities.
- **Justifications for the Project:**

In view of the hard economic conditions in Gaza, and eagerness of women to support their families and to protect themselves and families against poverty and economical dependency, it was necessary, particularly for women with less education, to receive training that gives them skills that qualifies them to get employed or to start a small business project.

Furthermore, the targeted women are living circumstances that necessitate providing them with psycho-social and legal education and counsel in order to bring up the level of their awareness of their rights, and protecting them. The Project works to:

 1. Improve the psycho-social conditions of the targeted women
 2. Facilitate their participation in income-yielding economical activities
 3. Create nucleus of small projects for them
 4. Increase sensitivity of Palestinian society towards the importance of protecting violated women and those at risk
 5. Implementing individual guidance sessions for those afflicted by trauma and disablement resulting from violence
 6. Building Aisha Association's capacities to implement projects that focus on social development
 7. Building capabilities of self-sufficiency of the targeted women.
- **Results:**
 - Selecting 70 women from both governorates of Gaza and the North to participate in the Program
 - Implementing 320 vocational training hours in theory and practice for the targeted women.

- Giving 48 training hours on (small projects; psycho support)
- Implementing 70 family guidance sessions

- Implementing 35 individual guidance sessions for those afflicted by trauma and disablement resulting from violence
- Conducting home visits.

Second Project

Project Title: Protecting Violated Women.

- Implementation Date: 1/2/2011 to 31/12/2011
- Locations: Governorates of both Gaza and the North
- Number of Beneficiaries: 28 women
- Financier: KINNA TILL KINNA
- Budget: US\$40826 (forty thousand and eight hundred and twenty-six American Dollars).
- **General Objective:**
To participate in supporting and protecting violated women and those at risk, reduce gender-based violence against women, with emphasis on women with special needs or heads of families that were forced to leave their place of residence, by enriching them with required skills through education and vocational training to facilitate getting a chance to gain income.
- **Nature of the Project:**
Networking was done through the project with the local community to nominate 28 of the violated women to receive a bunch of services that include individual and group guidance, vocational training and supervision.
This Project has a distinguishing feature being essential for the working staff in professional supervision since the specialists and group facilitators were provided with supervision all year round. Moreover, the Project included regular home visits to the trainees to check on their conditions and for follow-up after completion of training, in addition to the family guidance visits conducted during the Project.
This Project gave opportunity for additional outside training and paid attention to future economical planning for each participant, by working with each one individually in order to check on positive future planning and thinking in income-yielding projects.
- **Justifications for the Project:**
It was the intent of the Association to provide support and protection for women suffering from gender-based violence, where it was necessary that such women would receive the required education and counsel on legal, psycho-social and health matters. In addition, the Association took into consideration the difficult economic condition that the whole community suffers from, and in particular the women suffer most, thus a project was in mind to provide the said service, in addition to assisting women reflect on small projects that would yield income after giving them the skilled vocational training that assist them implement such project in order to increase their independence and improve their financial condition and that of their families. The dramatic negative effect on the psycho state is well known to every one.

- **Results:**

- A pre- and post intervention evaluation was made for 28 woman participants in the individual empowerment program
- 28 woman participants were selected and enrolled in the vocational training program where each batch received 675 hours of vocational training
- 24 guidance meetings for women groups were given
- 140 individual guidance sessions were given to the participant women covering psycho, legal and social aspects
- 12 supervisory sessions were held for the working staff
- Many additional training courses were held for the participant women
- Participant women were given training on introduction to economical planning
- 28 participant women were given individual training on thinking and planning of a future economical plan
- The Association participated in the activities of 8th March (Women's International Day) through coordination and cooperation with other women's associations in joint activities such as the display of personal products by the participant women in special fairs held in commemorating 8th March
- The Association participated in the activities of sixteen days for combating violence against women, held in November.

Third Project

Project Title: Legal Assistance and Enabling Vulnerable Groups in Gaza Strip

- Implementation Date: 1/4/2011 to 30/11/2011
- Locations: Governorate of Gaza
- Number of Beneficiaries: Direct Beneficiaries: 500, and approximately 3300 indirect
- Financier: Support from UN Development Program and finance from Japan
- Budget: US\$40200 (forty thousand and two hundred American Dollars).
- **General Objective:**
Raise legal awareness among the public in Gaza Strip, and improve legal assistance services in order to bring justice to the vulnerable groups.
- **Nature of the Project**
The Project idea is based on providing help and legal assistance to the vulnerable groups in Gaza Strip so that it constitutes part of the UN efforts, represented by the UNDP in order to reduce the effects of embargo and the war on Gaza that resulted in horrible increase in poverty and unemployment, resulting in the emergence of innovative types of problems that have legal root and nature. The Project works to ensure the right of litigation as a stable constitutional right, and to enhance the rule of law principle so that justice will prevail. Based on the legal and moral responsibility of the United National towards the People of Palestine, hence legal empowerment comes as a logical premise to economical empowerment and combating extreme poverty.

The Project provides legal assistance to the vulnerable groups at three levels: first: legal education, second: individual and group legal consultation in addition to mediation that is based on restorative solutions in order to avoid further social conflicts, and third: legal representation including litigation before courts or through other means of conflict resolution such as arbitration.

The Project was implemented in partnership with five other associations, namely: Al-Atta Association, Women's Affairs Center, Culture and Free Thought Forum, Women's Programs Union, Coalition for Justice and the National Association for Democracy and Law.

- **Justifications for the Project**

The War on Gaza in December 2008 together with the continued embargo had devastating implications on civilian life, and access to justice was almost not attained.

The population in Gaza Strip face hard social and economic conditions as indicated by the high poverty and unemployment ratio. These conditions affected large sectors and segments of the population, rendering a majority of them dependent on assistance and relief. As for women and children, their situation is far from being stable. Widows, as a result of Israeli war and domestic conflicts, face many legal problems such as forced marriages, custody of the children, inheritance and other problems relating to child employment and children who hamper the law.

Through promoting local capabilities the project aims to provide legal assistance and improve access to justice in Gaza, and in the end helps to empower some vulnerable communities and enhance the rule of law.

- **Results**

- Legal Clinic No. 4 was established within Aisha Association as part of a series of such clinics established within partner associations
- Training was carried out for working staff (the Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator and the Psycho-Social Instructor) on legal assistance
- Legal education sessions were provided to some professional unions
- Legal education sessions were provided to 300 men and women
- Legal advice and information were provided to 50 men and women
- Analytical review was made for selected legal cases from the Palestinian judiciary archives.
- An evaluation report on the project was prepared.

Fourth Project

Project Title: Improving Palestinian Social Awareness and Ability to Address Issues of Gender Equality

First Part: implemented in partnership with the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflicts Resolution

- Implementation Date: 1/1/2011 to 30/4/2012
- Location: Governorates of Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries: 2175 Beneficiaries
- Financier: UN WOMEN
- Budget: US\$40300 (forty thousand and three hundred American Dollars).
- **General Objective:**

- **Nature of the Project**

This project targets 1500 children from the preparatory stage in UNRWA schools, 500 citizens in addition to 160 initiative coordinators from the schools. The project comprises this comprehensive combination of individuals (children, citizens and initiative coordinators) in order to educate them on gender issues and violence in a way that will ensure sustainability and achieve targets.

The project consists of education sessions for the targeted group with discussion meetings between them in addition to a training for the initiative guides and coordinators in the schools in order to increase their efficiency in teaching the children on gender equality issues. Among the topics were: school violence, protection of children from exploitation, gender and child rights.

- **Justifications for the Project**

The project of Improving Palestinian Social Awareness and Ability to Address Issues of Gender Equality in Gaza Strip falls within the frame of Millennium Development Targets Program for Gender Equality & Empowerment of Women in the Palestinian Occupied Territories. The project is implemented by Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection in partnership with the Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflicts Resolution.

- **Results**

The project is still in progress, with the following completed until now:

- Training of 20 psycho and social guides
- Training of initiative coordinators in 30 sessions
- Implementing 16 education sessions out of 240 for children, with four sessions for each work group. It is worth mentioning that the project was postponed for four months in 2011 to be resumed in September and will continue until April 2012.
- Implementing 27 education sessions out of 60 with three sessions for each work group
- 1500 posters and 1500 brochures on the project were prepared, printed and distributed.

Second Part: implemented in partnership with Wafaq Society for Woman & Child Care

- Implementation Date: 1/12/2011 to 31/5/2012
- Location: Governorates of Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries:
- Financier: UN WOMEN
- Budget: US\$50000 (fifty thousand American Dollars).
- **General Objective:**

Improve awareness and ability among the Palestinian society to address gender equality issues.

- **Nature of the Project**

It is a social education campaign for women and men on the issue violence against women, its results and implications and the mechanisms for intervention to protect violated women.

The projects targets 720 women and men from south governorates, Gaza and the north through 36 training workshops of 5 sessions each, of which three are psycho-social and two legal.

The project commences with a training course on the topics for 20 psycho-social and legal specialists, then 4 of these will be selected who are working in the awareness topic in hand. This will be through Aisha and Wefaq associations and two more partner establishments in the north, and other two in the south.

- **Justifications for the Project**

The project addresses issues of violence against women and girls in the Palestinian society, both public and private. The hard conditions in Gaza resulting from the Israeli War on Gaza, the unjust Israeli embargo on Gaza Strip, the soaring rates of extreme poverty and unemployment had their negative effects on both men and women equally; and the resultant frustrations from these circumstances were discharged producing family and spouse disputes that boosted violence against women.

From this start point the project gained importance for raising awareness and sensitivity of Palestinian society towards the issue of violence against women, its implications and mechanisms to deal with it.

- **Results**

Project activities in December 2011 were limited to coordination with the partner establishment Wefaq and the supporting establishment concerning the implementation plan and preparations for a training course for the psycho, social and legal guides.

Remaining activities will be in 2012.

Fifth Project

Project Title: Project for Patients of Occupational Therapy and Rehabilitation

- Implementation Date: 1/5/2011 to 31/12/2011
- Locations: Aisha Headquarter and Occupational Therapy Headquarter
- Number of Beneficiaries: 15 women
- Financier: GCMHP in partnership with IMC
- Budget: US\$5340

- **General Objective:**

Rehabilitating and integrating beneficiaries from occupational therapy and rehabilitation project in the society.

Integrating women with some psychological disorders in the program for individual empowerment.

- **Nature of the Project**

This project was undertaken in partnership with Gaza Mental Health Program in order to provide a group from the beneficiaries from occupational therapy and rehabilitation project in the society with vocational training at Aisha Association in order to facilitate their integration in the society and with the other beneficiaries.

- **Justifications for the Project**

The beneficiaries from occupational therapy and rehabilitation in the society were subjected to a curative program at Gaza Mental Health Program as they had been suffering from some psychological problems that received clinical management. After their conditions became stable, they were referred

through the said project to Aisha Association via its strategic partnership with Gaza Mental Health Program in order to have them absorbed in the Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Services which will facilitate integrating them with their colleagues in the same place and in the society, and also to

raise awareness of their families and the service providers on how to deal with them, thus helping them to integrate in the society and become more independent.

- **Results**

- 15 beneficiaries were taken in in the training and rehabilitation program according to their private needs
- 3 training sessions of 3 hours each were held weekly during the first two weeks of partnership
- Beneficiaries were followed up by the 2 vocational instructors, the specialist and project coordinator of the Mental Health
- Gaza Mental Health Program held a training course for the project staff in order to promote their ability in dealing with psychic cases
- 5 workshops for the staff and families of the beneficiaries aiming to increase awareness on how to deal with them and integrate them in the society
- The project held many individual and group guidance sessions that covered psycho, social, legal, recreational and other topics, in addition to home visits to the subject beneficiaries.