

Aisha association for woman and child protection

Palestine - Gaza



The administrative annual report

Presented to :

The general assembly

From 1,January to 31,December.2015

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Introduction

Aisha association is progressing in its fifth year in a row to set its noble goals which were founded to support and protect Palestinian women rights and hopes.

Aisha is trying hard to open new horizons and to break the doors closed by the occupation, blockade and division that were close to destroy their dreams and their aspirations of a secure future were they should live in safety, justice, happiness and stability.

Today, on behalf of Palestinian women voices who have been always sacrificing to uphold the flag of freedom and the Palestinian right of a safe life and decent living, Aisha association is proud of the confidence given to it by the community and the targeted groups, which is confirmed by the growing demand for the various and diverse services provided, distinguished by integrity and meeting the real needs for women and their families. The number reached to more than 20,000 of the targeted groups of whom directly benefited until the end of the year 2015.

Aisha success culminated this year as it gained the prize of welfare and Palestine international prize for excellence and creativity. This great and outstanding success was not possible without the collective efforts of everyone at the association starting from the general assembly members, the board of directors, executive managers, the staff and large and recruited volunteers in various fields. They are all of Palestinian blood and identity. We ask God almighty to let loose their goals and to empower them in Palestinian territory to support and strengthen the steadfastness of the Palestinian women and their families in our beloved Palestine.

The board of directors

Council speech:

Despite the rapid political and security developments affected the Gaza strip since 2008 until now which greatly affected the life of the Palestinian citizen especially women and children, Aisha association insisted on remaining at the center of events, with the hard efforts of the association staff and the optimal use of all the available resources, the association managed to play a vital role in serving the Palestinian community. In accordance to the association constant keenness to support and protect woman and child it has been always seeking to improve the provided services by which ennobles its role towards the community.

At the same time, the association insures its obligation towards the Palestinian community and its strive to raise the level of service till the targeted groups satisfaction is achieved, through working on operational and practical levels either by raising the coverage of new and disadvantaged areas or by seeking justice in distribution, transactions, and activating the diverse supervision- control systems. In addition to a comprehensive development to the system of services provided to the targeted groups especially the services of psychiatric clinics and legal service.

In accordance to that, Aisha association emphasizes on the positive and vital role the targeted groups should play by providing the association with the necessary confidence and support to continue providing the association's various services.

The recent perspectives in the board of directors at the association emphasizes on the constant quest of institutions to attract various expertise for developing and transferring experience and knowledge which requires deep and constant development in the association to make it more attractive to the new targeted groups and to the new donors whether they were locals or internationals .

We would like to declare our commitment to a freedom of expression and a free media and its role to reflect the right image on all the association's activities levels, this will explore the important role of Aisha association at the Palestinian community which justify the steps that Aisha followed in the effective and constant connection with the different media agencies to make Aisha activities more public on different levels on its implemented projects, future projects, and new services

Aisha association would insure its moral obligations towards the community through its commitment to defend women's and children's rights, to achieve gender equality and to empower access to justice in our beloved Palestine.

The board of directors :

Mr. Ilias Al Jelda	Chairman of the board
Mr. Khalil Shaheen	Deputy of chairman of the board
Mrs. Ibtisam Daloul	Chief Treasurer
Mrs. Taghrid Joumaa'	Secretary General
Mr. Rafaat Salhaa	Member
Mrs. Itaf Al Khatib	Member
Mrs. Majda Shaheen	Member

Meetings of the board of directors and the general assembly:

The general assembly was held on Wednesday 15th, April, 2015 at Aisha's office.

30 of 53 members of whom paid their fees were attending the assembly general meeting.

Chairman of the board presented Aisha's annual report for 2014.

Members of the general assembly discussed the terms of the annual administrative and financial report and the assembly voted for the financial auditor, the general assembly also voted to renew the editing company, Talal Abu Ghazala, for one more year.

A supervision elections committee was formed of three members during the second part of the general assembly meeting, Mr. Jamil Sarhan, Mr. Basheer Al Sisi, and Mrs. Fatima Abu Assi.

Seven of the members of the general assembly applied for the elections. The winners are : Ilias Al Jelda, Khalil Shaheen, Raafat Salha, Taghrid Joumaa, Ibtisam Daloul, Itaf Al Khatib and Mjeda Shaheen,

Meetings of the board of directors :

11 meetings of the board of directors were held during 2015 year in which they discussed the Association's affairs were the board of directors' positions were redistributed. There were different issues which been on the BOD meetings, redistributing the board of directors positions, members' missions and forming different committees. The BOD continually discussed the association's projects which been applied to donors and vacancies on different projects. The BOD was active on the meeting committees for the jobs at the association and ratified the disetion for referring the hosting of Amal Collation to WAC in Gaza, renewing the membership at the Network of grass roots associations for citizenship and reform. BOD guaranteed integrity and transparency during all polices and decisions and followed them up at a daily level with the executive administration.

Human resources:

Aisha association has 35 employees including 23 employees as the core staff at the administrative and professional fields and 10 employees as projects employees.

Aisha association has a qualified staff with high qualifications as international trainer as follows:

2 employees' on "Positive Education"

2 employees' on "Prosperity and Integrated Security"

4 employees' on "Psychodrama"

Four of the employees are working to get the title of a professional supervisor in the field of mental health as part of the professional supervision of a program implemented by the Gaza Community Mental Health Program for the third year.

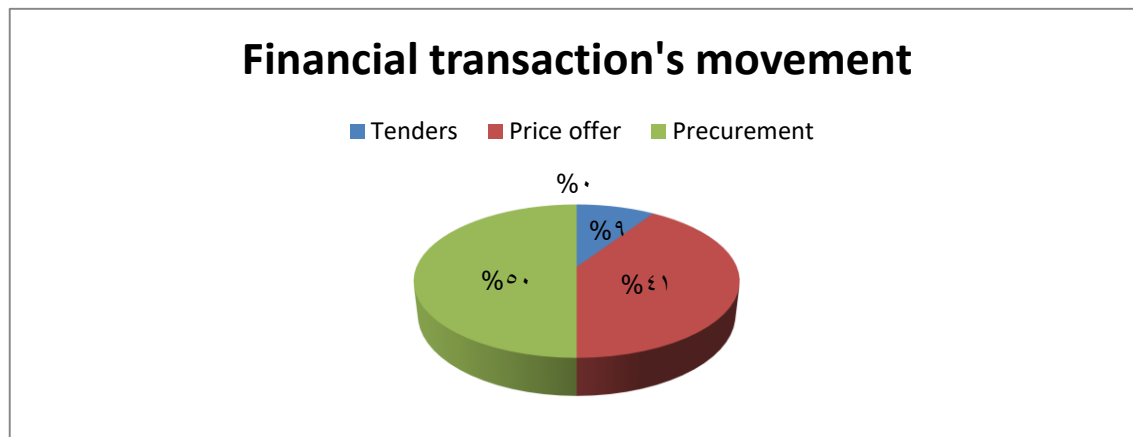
Recently, two of the employees got their master's degrees in the field of mental health and human resources management. A third employee is about to finish her doctorate in social services specialty of family medicine.

Volunteer's number reached 12 in the year 2015. Volunteers are of diverse specialties including: projects and management, social services, accounting, and secretary. Volunteers from universities around the Gaza strip reached the number of 25 in all levels of diploma, bachelor degree and master degree with various specialties.

Financial and purchases department:

2015 witnessed a rapid and growing movement of financial transactions and procedures which added more experience to the financial department, with the help of the financial auditor and consultant hired by the association for the development of the financial system to meet the requirements and the level of work and the size and quality of the projects and funding.

Financial department was able to prove its ability in spite of the lack in the human cadre as the department could carry out the financial transactions and procedures according to the internal system of the association. In addition to that the department was able to plan and set budgets for the association projects and submitted a high- quality reports to the board and donors on time without any delay. For the first time Aisha Association succeeded in submitting an annual budget of the Association for the year 2016



Project management and fundraising department:

Finance and fundraising department was established in 2011, but its actual work started in the mid of 2012. Project department achieved a great achievements under the supervision of the executive administration and the board of directors. This was achieved as a result of the great efforts of the local staff whom were of an excellent experience and because of their continuous following up knowledge and sharing with the international and local associations.

The department of project management and finance succeed maintaining a sustained level of at least 10 projects annually, such as KTK, a project funded by a Swedish charity, UNIFAM, GIZ, Gazilla and Save the children.

Project management department applied for 40 different projects during the year 2015, Aisha succeeded obtaining 10 projects of them. In addition to applying for two different annual prizes (Welfare prize and The Palestinian international prize for excellence and creativity) which were of a great success for the association.

Public and international relations

Aisha hosted 32 foreign delegations and 67 delegates from local institutions during the year to introduce the activities and the association to the donors and to identify the real situation of women and children in the Gaza strip especially after the last Israeli military offensive in 2014, and to cooperate with the donors and to find approaches for the development and support with the help of the civil society organizations.

Aisha association also participated in the presence of 33 different protection groups meetings of the United Nations such as Psychological support, child protection, protection, legal work team. These meetings aimed at identifying the humanitarian work and sharing experiences between institutions, and to set a database for the institutions and to provide support for the targeted groups within the Gaza strip according to the humanitarian conditions.

Aisha attended 29 meetings in different networks and alliances for woman and child and social accountability that aimed to pressure and advocate for the amendment of laws or advocacy for women's private issues and children's rights.

Main achievements of 2015

- Submitting the third strategic plan for the years 2016-2018 with the assistant of an external consular.
- Winning the prize of welfare institution (for Gaza), and the international prize for excellence and creativity for the year 2015.
- A membership with 12 national and local coalitions and working groups which reinforce the association's efforts on lobbying, advocacy and networking.
- Developing a new department specialized on researches of violence against woman under the supervision of Beir Zait University.
- Developing database and system information management for the association.
- Training and rehabilitation of 123 victimized women and providing psychosocial support to their families. Conducting 5 training courses targeting the Gaza strip women. In about 2000 training hours. In different vocational sections such as sewing, each training course was about 400 training hours and about 150 awareness and counseling sessions were held for targeted women. In addition to 492 individual counseling sessions and assisting about 50% of the targeted women for income opportunities.
- Joining 7 women into the educational system, elementary and high school and literacy.
- Assisting women's access to the educational system through different facilities such as free educational fees and free educational expenses throughout networking with local organizations.
- Providing legal aid for victimized women.
- Conducting educational training programs about positive discipline, which targeted about 200 females and 150 males of the families.
- Providing psychosocial support services to 5150 of victimized women after Israeli military offensive in 2014 on the Gaza strip using multi Psychodrama, body and mind techniques, wellbeing, welfare, full security and Al Hakawati theatre. Mental intervention was delivered to the needed cases of victims throughout a mobile clinic

throughout ratifying an understanding memorandum with Gaza community mental health.

- Awareness for youth couples about gender based on violence, family relationships and conflict resolutions.
- Qualitative services are provided according to baseline studies, mental mobile clinics, legal clinic, integration of services, male ambassadors of women's rights.
- Visual, audio and media participation.

Projects

First Project

Project Title: Toward Legal Empowerment to Community to support women legal Rights at the Gaza Strip –

- Implementation Date: 05/10/2015 to 04/10/2016
- Locations: North of Gaza Strip and north of Gaza city
- Number of Beneficiaries: 1,347 beneficiaries
- Financier: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Budget: 50,000\$

General Objective:

Support community's legal empowerment to enhance access to justice and security for women victims of violence through promoting legal intervention in the Gaza Strip.

Nature of the Project:

The Project idea is based on providing legal Representation and legal consultations to the vulnerable groups in North of 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.

Justifications for the Project:

Gaza strip is living now on a difficult situation in all sides (Social – Economic – Psychological - legal) resulted from the successive conflicts witnessed by GS in a short period caused by the Israeli side and the internal conflict. This deteriorated situation increases the violence against women and affects the gender justice in all its forms where there is increasing in the sexual abuse cases and physical, psychological violence in addition to the lack of gender sensitivity. Moreover, the number of widows and children orphan increased which raised many legal issues to get their rights. Furthermore, many problems were faced by displaced women and others women related to the property documents, proof of ownership, housing and inheritance issues, as well as the high cost of rent especially after the Israeli offensive – 2014 , and the expulsion of many women from the rented houses because they can't pay the rental cost. Moreover, there are many other factors that contributed to exacerbating the situation of vulnerable groups, especially women and children, such as repeated strikes in the government's institutions and ministries, government departments including the justice sector institutions like the courts and judicial police. All that increased the accumulation of legal problems and was the reason for the delay in judgment on many issues especially women's issues and also caused the delay in the completion the widows and orphans issues, especially inheritance, and financial dues for orphan children and their mothers. On the other hand, the institutional vacuum resulting from the deadlock in the security reform process in the institutions of justice sector contributed to lose the citizens' trust in the justice sector institutions. All of that lead to aggravate disputes and conflicts between people in the absence of legal deterrent to address them.

Results:

- Representing 63 women legally before the Sharia courts and referring 25 cases to the partners .
- Providing legal awareness to 1000 of women beneficiaries through conducting 40 meetings at different partners association.

- Providing 240 individuals legal consultation & 45 individuals psychological consultation.
- Support Network of legal aid providers AWN and Legal Aid Task force under the UN protection cluster LTF.
- Conducting specialized training courses for 57 newly graduated lawyers in different topics .
- Preparing and publishing 800 copies of books for fresh graduated lawyers .
- Two study days, one specialized conference, and one article.
- Media publications such as broadcasting of radio spot, designing of billboard.
- Inclusion of one lawyer at Aisha legal aid clinic to develop and improve their profession skills.
- 3 lawyers' trainees selected from 3 CBOs in the targeted location to be focal points in their CBOs they were responsible to provide legal aid services and refer cases to Aisha for legal representation and organize awareness raising workshop in their communities.

Second Project

Project Title: Sharing Stories, Finding Safety

- Implementation Date : 15/08/2015 to 15/01/2016
- Locations: All Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries: 6,750 women
- Financier: - OCHA
- Budget: 108,518.09 \$

General Objective:

This project aims "To contribute in reducing the negative impact of Israeli offensive on the most affected women of the Gaza Strip community, including GBV victims, IDPs and bereaved women, by creating safe environment and maintaining their coping mechanisms using the cultural tool of storytelling and specialized group and individual psychological support" which is aligned with the OCHA-oPt Strategic response plan-SRP for the year 2015 and will support the achievement of its 1st & 2nd objective of the cluster response strategy objective 01 (To increase respect for human rights and international humanitarian law) objective 02 (To prevent and mitigate the impacts of abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by all sides, and of the armed conflict(According to the OCHA-oPt 2015 Strategic Response Plan, the immediate priorities are the provision of structured and specialized psychosocial (PSS) support for children and their families, in

particular women and survivors of GBV, with clear referral pathways between the various interventions. In addition school based psychosocial support for children is required. Coordination along with the maintenance of the psychosocial mechanism is essential to ensure all children and youth benefit from interventions that include cross-cutting issues such as MHPSS. Moreover, there is a lack of providing integrated mental and psychological treatments provided by mobile clinics in the Gaza Strip, where large numbers of requests have been received by AISHA from the Local institutions and associations at all governorates of GS to provide psychological support services for affected women, which drive AISHA to target all over Gaza Strip with focus on the most offensive-affected areas and vulnerable areas not covered by similar interventions. It is worth mentioning that AISHA has targeted two areas in similar intervention (ALSHejaia & Beit-Hanoun), which means that the intervention will focus more on other areas.

Nature of the Project:

This project comes within the framework of supporting women victims of the recent Israeli aggression who have been displaced from their homes and are still without shelter. This project comes as part of AISHA association efforts responding to the needs of displaced women by providing psycho-social support for them. Psychosocial support activities (i.e. workshops, stress release sessions, awareness raising sessions) are conducted in order to enable displaced women recover their daily lives, as well as providing them with basic skills to deal with trauma and its subsequences. Moreover, the project interventions will Improve mental health and life satisfaction and give women some guidance technicalities that enable them to avoid the psychological pressure and increase cognitive development to help in stress management. The project will target 1196 women distributed on 80 groups (each group 15 women) from Gaza strip to provide Psychological support for displaced women where group sessions will be held in various geographical areas (northern Gaza, Gaza City, middle Gaza, Khan Younis and Rafah)

Justifications for the Project:

The project interventions respond to needs of target groups include: • Build capacity for 20 TDP storytellers and other related staff. Aisha will conduct 20-hour training combining 2 components: Integrated Security and Wellbeing and orientation on women rights, GBV, VAW and referring paths. The workshops aim to sustain and enhance their self care and inner peace. TDP team will become better aware and sensitized them towards women issues and better able to identify and refer women in need of specialized psychological support. • Rehearse of TDP's women storytelling production "The Sound of Ah". Artistic

team (storytellers) rehearses TDP's production "The Sound of "Ah" under the supervision of TDP senior artistic staff. The play is a successful evidence based production of TDP, the theme of which is derived from daily life and personal experience stories of Gaza women from almost all social background. The setting of the play is the henna night before the marriage of one of the friends. Women who came together after a situation of war have found the strength to stand up and look for good things in life, despite of limitations dictated by conflict. Women are full of desire and long for new experiences. Even tragic stories get a twist of hope because of their move on and find friendship. • Carry out 12 storytelling forums for 600 conflict affected women including GBV, IDPs and bereaved (50 women in each forum): These are 40 performances of "The Sound of Ah" followed by debates in which women, again, express their opinions. The debates provoke the women to tell new stories once more. The healing work of sharing stories is not only connected to easing the pain of the most recent conflict caused trauma. All this helps women to regain self confidence and prepare for new challenges in life, while empowering them with the trust in their own ability to cope with them. Each storytelling forum is attended by a psychologist whose responsibility is to enhance the detection of cases in need to specialized psychological support • Providing 600 detected traumatized women with specialized psychological support sessions . Aisha Association will use group psycho social support tool employing psychodrama, self care and mind and body techniques. Each group of 15 traumatized women will attend 10 sessions. • Referring women who have not shown the significant recovery through a mobile psychological clinic. • Refer 10 severe cases to GCMHP for medical treatment •Implementing recreational trips for 600 traumatized women. •Pre and post assessment that consists of 2 internationally standardized tools: 1. Impact of Event Scale (IES) and 2. International Classification of Functioning Skill (ICF). •Conduct 5 awareness workshops for 250 the decision makers in 5 Governorates of the Gaza Strip and the close relatives of traumatized women on GBV, VAW and related international conventions. TDP storytellers participate in awareness workshops re-telling the stories of conflict-affected women gathered during the previous phases of the project. • Conduct one storytelling performances in presence of 200 decision/policy makers and like minded agencies: these advocacy events will turn the performance stories into conflict affected women's messages to the community. The dates of implementing will be linked to the women rights calendar dates (World Campaign Combating Gender-Based Violence) •Design, print and distribute 5 billboards define the project to the community and enhance reaching the project services for the most affected women

Results:

- Offensive - affected women and girls will improve self-esteem, wellbeing and civic engagement.
- Build capacity for 20 TDP staff (20-hour) (first month – AISHA & TDP)
- Rehearse of TDP’s women storytelling production “The Sound of Ah” (1st month -TDP)
- Carry out 12 storytelling forums for 600 conflict affected women (50 women in each forum): (2nd to 5th month – AISHA & TDP)
- Provide 600 detected traumatized women with specialized psychological support sessions. Each group of 15 traumatized women will attend 5 sessions. (2nd to 5th month – AISHA)
- Refer women who have not shown the significant recovery through a mobile psychological clinic.(2nd to 5th month – AISHA)
- Refer 10 severe cases to GCMHP for medical treatment (2nd to 5th month – AISHA)
- Implement recreational trips for 600 traumatized women. (3th to 5th month – AISHA)
- Conduct Pre post assessment (2nd to 5th month – AISHA)
- Conduct 5 awareness workshops for 250 the decision makers in 5
- Governorates of the GS and the close relatives of traumatized women on GBV, VAW and related international conventions. (third & fourth months – AISHA)
- Conduct one storytelling performances in presence of 200 decision/policy makers and like minded agencies: these advocacy events will turn the performance stories into conflict affected women’s messages to the community. (in the third month – TDP & AISHA)

Third Project

Project Title: Access to Justice

- Implementation Date: 01/09/2015 to 28/02/2017
- Locations: Gaza city
- Number of Beneficiaries: 748 beneficiaries
- Financier: United Nations For Woman (UNWOMAN)
- Budget: 95,000\$

General Objective:

This project aimed To improve Women and Girls’ Access to Justice and Security by Ensuring Accountable Service Provision”.

Nature of the Project:

Palestinian women and girls, in particular, have suffered from the continuous Israeli assaults and violations, which resulted in killing hundreds of women and girls and Palestinians, in general. This situation requires sufficient protection for women and girls from violence perpetrated against them and the ongoing violation of their rights. The siege imposed by Israeli occupation forces on the Gaza Strip continues for the eighth consecutive year, humanitarian conditions have drastically deteriorated, with severe restrictions imposed on the movement of individuals and the flow of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip. The 51-day offensive on Gaza Strip launched by Israeli occupation in the period (8/7-25/8/2014), causing more civilian casualties; damaging civilian facilities, including houses, infrastructure, public buildings, and businesses; and displacement of large numbers of families. This has increased the number of displaced women, widows, and female-headed households and increased their immediate and empowerment needs. Also, the last Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, contributed to the deterioration of the legal system and the exposure the crisis of legal protection of women and their access to justice. The Palestinian unity government has not taken yet full authorities and roles in the Gaza Strip and thus affecting the reforms of policies and strategies in favour of women.

Justifications for the Project:

Justice sector reform is a national priority in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt); a goal which is supported by the international donor community. The majority of aid is channelled through Palestinian Authority (PA) institutions, to support the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan 2008 - 2010 (PRDP), and some is provided to non-state actors (NSA) - universities, non-governmental organizations and professional unions - seeking to enhance access to justice for Palestinians. Non-state actors play a variety of crucial roles in this process; universities educate future legal professionals and build the capacity of justice sector personnel, and NGOs lobby for legislative reform, provide free legal services and work to educate the public about their legal rights. In recognition of the importance of this work, and the expertise held by Palestinian NSAs, UNDP/PAPP has conducted a study to map the perceptions and contributions of NSA aiming to: identify Palestinian NSAs seeking to enhance access to justice; determine access to justice requirements as perceived by NSAs; map the range of activities undertaken by NSAs; and identify possible service gaps. The respondents highlighted the demand for justice to be raised, people need to be aware of their legal rights, confident that taking legal action will provide a just remedy and able to afford legal counsel. While some respondents did say that **inadequate legal awareness** poses an access to justice issue, there was a greater

emphasis placed on the risks associated with taking legal action which include social stigmatisation, economic loss and increased intimidation or violence. Of particular concern to two respondents was the lack of protective shelter for women and girl victims of violence in the Gaza Strip. Seven respondents said that inadequate access to affordable and quality legal aid and counsel undermines the pursuit of justice in the occupied Palestinian territory. Many Palestinians cannot afford to hire a lawyer and those who can often struggle to find appropriately qualified lawyers or the technical support they need to build a strong case.

Results:

- Community increases knowledge and improves informed-decision making on women access to justice in the Gaza Strip.
- Research on the reality of women's access to informal versus formal justice systems in the Gaza Strip undertaken and knowledge produced
- Community changes attitudes and beliefs on Gender Based Violence – GBV and women access to justice and security.
- Knowledge of Prep school students and parents enhanced on GBV and women access to justice and security through awareness-raising sessions.

Fourth Project

Project Title: Shifting Perspective : Engaging men and boys in addressing GBV against women and girls in Gaza Strip

- Implementation Date: 01/09/2015 to 31/12/2015
- Locations: Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries: 5,180 woman , men , students , community leaders and public community .
- Financier: Kvinna till kvinna
- Budge : 48,835 EUR

General Objective:

Civil Society Organizations contribute towards supportive environment for the protection and promotion of women rights and gender equality in Gaza.

Men and boys have become more effective change agents towards reducing GBV against women and girls and promoting gender equality.

Justifications for the Project:

Gaza Strip community suffering from

- Patriarchal power imbalances
- Gender inequality for women
- Men and women are holders of prevailing biased cultural beliefs and norms
- Lack of engagement of men and boys in preventing VAW/GBV
- Men and boys are the major perpetrators of VAW/GBV against women and girls
- Public, community and individual men and women have inadequate knowledge about women's rights, gender equality, and VAW/GBV
- Counselors at schools and Shari'a courts lack knowledge about women's rights, gender equality, and VAW/GBV
- Trained students, ambassadors and staff at courts lack capacity on how to strengthen their own safety and well-being.
- Household women and men and newly engaged couples are holders of prevailing biased cultural beliefs and norms and gender inequality
- Community leaders, religious leaders, political parties and activists are holders of prevailing biased cultural beliefs and norms and gender inequality.

Results:

- Men and women see and perceive non-violent ways to solve conflicts.
- Attitudes of men and boys supportive to women's rights and gender equality.
- Men and boys take collaborative community initiatives to prevent GBV against women and girls and promote women's rights and Gender equality.

Fifth Project

Project Title: Improved Holistic Protection Services to Women and Girls Victims of violence in the Gaza Strip

- Implementation Date: 01/10/2015 to 30/09/2016
- Locations: **women, men, girls and boys**
- Number of Beneficiaries: 3,585
- Financier: UNWOMAN - JAPAN
- Budget: \$ 168,161.63

General Objective:

Improved psychosocial status and SGBV awareness of women, men, girls and boys in overcrowded households in the Gaza Strip

The project aims to improve psychological status and SGBV awareness of women, men, girls and boys on overcrowded households in the Gaza strip

Nature of the Project:

AISHA has implemented humanitarian interventions to address these problems post 2012 and 2014 offensives where more than 5800 women have benefited from a complete program of psychological and psychosocial support through which 127 women have been referred to Gaza Mental Health program for further support due to the fact that their traumas were severe and required further attention. The previous project was funded through the ERF and it was successful in terms of the level of enhancement related to the psychological wellbeing of affected women. The current situation is far more severe than the situation in 2012 and traumas and psychological problems are expected to be harsher with sufficiently higher number of affected women. Therefore, the proposed project is considered so essential.

Justifications for the Project:

Gender dynamics in the Palestinian society are key in shaping the realities, opportunities and status of men, women, boys and girls, as well as in shaping their experiences of the post and during conflict, humanitarian situations and coping strategies. Women and men agree on many of the basic issues facing their households and communities but also diverge in their priorities and perceptions of them.

Public, community, and individuals have inadequate knowledge on women's rights, gender equality, and VAW/GBV. They hold gender-biased attitudes and beliefs and negative behaviors towards women's rights, gender equality and GBV. Men and boys have negative feelings and positions towards women's rights and gender equality. They

use violent ways to resolve conflicts and they are the major perpetrators of VAW/GBV against women and girls. However, men and boys have not been engaged adequately and appropriately in preventing VAW/GBV. According to PCBS in (2011), there is a high incidence of domestic violence within Gazan households with more than 51.1% of women who were ever married in the Gaza Strip subjected to violence by their husband; of whom 76.4% were subjected to psychological violence, 34.8% to physical violence, 88.3% to economic violence and 14.6% to sexual violence. Year 2014 has recorded (22) of the so called "honor crimes/killings" cases. Based on statistics of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC), 2013 has witnessed a clear increase in the number of cases to reach (25) women killed on different motives related to the so-called "honour" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (8 in the Gaza Strip) since the beginning of the year until the date of 22/09/2013. The number of cases this year has doubled compared to the number of cases in 2012 - (13) women killed under the so-called name of "honour", and 4 women in 2011. This escalation of honor crimes/killings cases is very serious and reflects a clear deterioration in women's protection. The crimes committed under this category are among the harshest forms of violence that Palestinian women face (UN Women/Bisan Center,2012) and yet, Article 18 of the Egyptian Penal Code, applicable to residents of Gaza, translates into reduced sentences, as little as six months, for men who kill their wives.

Results:

- Knowledge products are developed on psychosocial assistance for women and girls post crisis.
- Awareness services provided to families that are living in overcrowded conditions.
- Referral of cases in need of professional protection services to specialized protection facilities and networks.
- Group and individual psychosocial support is provided to IDP women and girls who were displaced during operation Protective Edge.

Sixth Project

Project Title: Youth make decision

- Implementation Date: 15/09/2015 to 15/06/2016
- Locations: Deir-ElBalah and Bureij areas
- Number of Beneficiaries: Municipalities , Youth Female & Male

- Financier: GIZ
- Budget: 20.000\$

General Objective:

The program aims to improve Municipal services and municipalities enhance their responsiveness to citizen while the YCC is aiming to Institutionalize Youth Participation in local decision making processes.

Nature of the Project:

This project comes in the framework of promoting the youth participation in local governance and decision making process that would enhance the quality of provided services to the community. In as much as the youth participation encourages youth to express their opinions to become parts of decision making process, the youth participation requires changes on the institutional and procedures level which in turns, gives the opportunity to adopt with the youth needs and reality. The project consist a group of activities the works mainly to institutionalize the youth work within the Municipalities and local governance in addition to youth activities through 15 youth promoters who are selected and trained in this regards.

Justifications for the Project:

Based on the vision and mission of the Ministry of Local Government/ MoLG and its strategic plan, which aims at developing the local government sector towards sustainable development by means of promoting the principles of democracy, good governance, transparency and community participation, “The Local Governance and Civil Society Development Program/ LGP” in the GIZ as part of strengthening the Local Governance system in the Palestinian Territories, (GIZ), on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is starting the third phase of the Local Governance and Civil Society Development Program (LGP 04/2012 – 03/2015) with an overall objective of improving Municipal basic services and enhancing the responsiveness to citizens. Moreover, it has been stressed by the Evaluating team of the LGP 2nd phase that, considering the fact that more than 45.9 percent of the population in the Occupied Territories are under the age of 15, the integration of youth into the municipal decision-making processes will be of specific concern In LGP3.

In this context, LGP-GIZ is launching the Youth Create Change (YCC) pilot intervention in collaboration with the Municipal Development and Lending Fund (MDLF), 2 Civil Society Organizations and 4 Municipalities in the Gaza Strip, aimed at engaging youth in local decision making process. The specific goal of YCC is to identify, pilot and evaluate local and national strategies for youth engagement in local decision making processes. New structures are going to be established: the Youth Officer, a municipal employee that works as focal person for all youth related issues; his/her main tasks are planning, initiating, coordinating and assisting in any activity related to the area of youth work in the municipality. Moreover, the development of a youth action plan; the allocation of a specific municipal budget line for youth projects and initiatives and youth centers are going to be at disposal of young people. In addition to building the capacities of the municipality, the program intends to utilize Youth Promoters: adolescents (15-29 years old) who play a strategic role in terms of mobilizing their peers for youth related issues and act as a mediator and facilitator between the Youth Officer and the young people in the community. The involved partners formed a working group that is regularly meeting: a LGP team, the coordinators and senior staff of the CSOs, the Policy Unit of the MoLG and the Capacity Building Department of the MDLF. The working group has agreed on a list of criteria to select the pilots' locations and has elaborated a questionnaire in order to gather information from each municipality. According to the results of a SWOT analysis the working group was able to identify the most eligible municipalities to implement the YCC intervention.

The selected municipalities are Rafah, Deir Al Balah, Al Breej, Al Zahra.

Results:

- Involve municipalities by signing MoU with selected municipalities and identify and train youth officers
- assessment of services provided for young people in each community
- Sensitize the community and youth about Youth Participation through PR, campaigns and workshops.
- Get youth involved by selecting youth promoters and provide them with needed skills
- Develop a youth action plan linked with the SDIP with all involved stakeholders
- Youth run activities in a youth center and influence the local council decision making processes.

Seventh Project

Project Title: Empowerment Program for Female Heads of Household

- Implementation Date: 01/11/2015 to 30/04/2016
- Locations: Overall Gaza strip.
- Number of Beneficiaries: 300 female heads of households
- Financier: UNRWA
- Budget: \$ 34,296

General Objective:

To address the particular needs of FHHS through skills-building and training

Nature of the Project:

The goal of this project was to address the particular needs of 300 FHHs through building their life and financial skills in Gaza city, so they become able to depend on themselves and have power to face the life and its difficulties without any need from others. It is worth mentioning that we implemented this project in partnership with 15 CBOs of Gaza city at the five Governorates. In addition to that we made an open day for these women hosted the loan companies to introduce themselves.

Justifications for the Project:

Gazans facing harsh social and economic conditions indicated by the high poverty and unemployment ratios. The current situation has affected large sectors and segments of the population, rendering a majority of them depend on assistant and relief. As for women and children, their situation is far from being stable. Widows, divorced and women heads of households face many economic problems as a result of Israeli war and internal political conflicts, from here the idea of the project originated which focus on building the capacity of these women to empower them to rely on themselves without the need for the assistance from anyone else, this requires building capacities in the life skills and the financial literacy skills so that they become able to manage their own projects.

Results

- 300 FHHs participants participated in 18 training sessions
- 300 FHHs developed 300 feasibility plans.
- 300 FHHs participants participated in one micro-credit open day

Eighth project:

Project Title: Toward a better and more secure environment for women victims of violence

- Implementation Date: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
- Locations: Gaza City and North of Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries: 97 Women victims of Violence (Including graduates)
- Financier: kvinna till kvinna
- Budget: 46,617\$

General Objective:

Contribute to the support and protection of women victims of violence by improving their access to services support and protection.

Nature of the Project:

Through the project it has been networking with local community organizations to nominate a number of women victims of violence and who are at risk in addition to the implementation of a number of domestic and field visits to identified the project and to choice the target group where the number reached 97 of battered women have been providing individual and group counseling, vocational training and supervision services group.

- this project taken into account the need for professional staff to oversee where he presented the supervision of specialists and facilitators Group throughout the year.

- The project also included a regular home visits to the trainees for their situation and to continue after the end of the training, also Visits indicative family that has permeated the project.
- Project opening the way for additional external training and cared next to the future economic planning , each participant had been working with each post individually to determine the planning positively for the future and think about the income-generating projects.
- As part of the project activities, beneficiaries received psychosocial support to help them overcome their crisis and protect themselves and their rights, and how to start a micro-economic projects, and seeking for jobs
- Implementation of a variety of activities to celebrate the eighth of March and the revival of the International Day Against Violence Against Women.

Project Objectives:

- Improve psychological and social circumstances of the women targeted.
- Facilitate their participation in economic activities to improve income.
- Create the nucleus of small projects for them.
- Increase the sensitivity of the Palestinian community to the importance of protecting battered women and women at risk.
- Implementation of individual orientation sessions for women abusing drugs " Altermal "and women in the inability to work due to violence.
- capacity building of Aisha Association for the implementation of projects focusing on social development.
- build self-sufficiency for women targeted capabilities

Results

- The implementation of the eight meetings of the collective guidance by (briefings), the aim of introducing the association and its objectives and its services, and its organizational structure, and inform them about the existing vocational training courses. Also it has been carried out to assess the needs of the posts of rehabilitation and vocational training myself during these meetings.
- It was implemented before and after assessment for 97 participate in individual empowerment program.
- selected 97 participants and integrate them in the vocational training program where each group got 480 hours vocational training.
- Implemented 152 to meet a set for each group separately dealing with topics such as: communication skills, friendship, women in international humanitarian law, the trauma, the mechanics of psychological discharge, psychological support to deal with the trauma, children's pig-headed, self-assertion, family relationships, socialization social, marital disputes and family problems "extended family", adolescence, bedwetting, psychological pressure, types and causes of violence, mental health, gender and sexual violence, CEDAW, the engagement and marriage, and the law of personal status.
- Implemented 36 economic meeting where the idea that the preliminary economic projects have been established for each post with the help of facilitating the group, so that this idea be related to vocational training, which was received at its option.
- The provision of 600 individual guidance for posts in the psychological and social sphere session.

- Preparation of 97 economic plan for each post individually with each plan include economic vision for the project that you want done, every post in the future

Ninth project :

Project Title: Together for new beginning " Start"

- Implementation Date:01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
- Locations: Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries: Wives of addicts
- Financier: NDC
- Budget: 74,410\$

General Objective:

This project aims to contribute on the rehabilitation of women, the wives of the mentally ill and addicted to narcotic substances in order to develop their abilities to deal with the psychiatric dependencies and addiction in their families and empower them socially, psychologically and economically. Also this projects aims to help these women to find appropriate jobs opportunities in CSO and private sectors after receiving the training.

Nature of the Project:

The project included two parts: the first was as continued efforts for the Individual empowerment program aims to contribute in building the capacity of women targeted 30 women, also to help these women to find appropriate jobs opportunities in CSO and private sectors after receiving the training, moreover to participate in public life (voluntary work, own private small business, membership in trade unions and participate in elections). The second was for the engaged couples' targeted 20 couples to learn them in a collective manner how to prevent violence.

Justification of 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 for women wives of mental illness and wives of drug

addicted to receive training that gives them skills that qualifies them to be employed or to start a small business project.

Furthermore, the targeted women are living circumstances that necessitate providing them with psychosocial 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:

- Improve the psycho-social conditions of the targeted women
- Facilitate their participation in income-yielding economical activities
- Create nucleus of small projects for them
- Increase sensitivity of Palestinian society towards the importance of protecting violated women and those at risk
- Implementing individual guidance sessions for those afflicted by trauma and disablement resulting from violence

Results:

- The implementation of the eight meetings of the collective guidance by (briefings), the aim of introducing the association and its objectives and its services, and its organizational structure, and inform them about the existing vocational training courses. Also, it has been carried out to assess the needs of the posts of rehabilitation and vocational training myself during these meetings.
- Pre- post Assessment conducted for 60 participate in individual empowerment program.
- 60 participants selected and integrated in the vocational training program where each group got 480 hours vocational training.
- (144) group sessions conducted for the (60) women (4 groups, each group 15 wmen) addressing topics such as; communication skills, friendship, women in international humanitarian law, trauma, mechanics of psychological discharge, psychological support to deal with the trauma, children's pig-headed, self-assertion, family relationships, socialization social, marital disputes and family problems "extended family", adolescence, bedwetting, psychological pressure, types and causes of violence, mental health, gender and sexual violence, CEDAW, the engagement and marriage, and the law of personal status
- Implemented (36) economic group meeting where the idea that the preliminary economic projects have been established for each post with the help of facilitating the group, so that this idea be related to vocational training, which was received at its option.
- The provision of 327 individual guidance for posts in the psychological and social sphere session.

- - Preparation of 60 economic plan for each post individually with each plan include economic vision for the project that you want done, every post in the future
- 10 women granted (2000\$) to start their income generating businesses on the field of the vocational training they have at Aisha center

Tenth project :

Project Title: Providing psychological support to affected women from the Israeli offensive 2014 in Al Shija'eya and Beit Hanoun

- Implementation Date: 01/11/2014 till 30/04/2015
- Locations: Shija'eya and beit Hanoun
- Number of Beneficiaries: 4500 women
- Financier: ERF- OCHA
- Budget: 239,145\$

General Objective:

This project aims to contribute healing the traumas and psychosocial disorders of affected women created by the Israeli offensive in 2014. This project targeted a total of 4500 women from affected women of the recent Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

Nature of the Project:

This project provide structured psychological support services to 4500 women affected by the last Israeli offensive on Gaza Strip summer 2014 aiming to contribute solving the identified problem of: lack of sufficient provision of psychosocial support and mental health services to heal the traumas of women in the Gaza Strip created by the last offensive by providing desperately needed opportunities for self-expression and tackling most of its potential causes in the identified location

Justifications for the Project:

Still the humanitarian situation is challenging in the Gaza strip, the siege imposed by Israeli occupation forces on the Gaza Strip continues for the eighth consecutive year, humanitarian conditions have drastically deteriorated, with severe restrictions imposed on the movement of individuals and the flow of goods in and out of the Gaza Strip. On 7 July,

2014 Israel launched a military operation on the Gaza Strip, codenamed: “Protective Edge”, launched on the Gaza Strip causing more civilian casualties; damaging civilian facilities, including houses, infrastructure, public buildings, and businesses; and displacement of large numbers of families. This has increased the number of displaced women, widows, and female-headed households and increased their immediate and empowerment needs. The offensive has resulted in the killing of 2131 Palestinians including 539 children and 257 women. According to OCHA multi Cluster/sector initial rapid assessment published in September 2014, the offensive has also resulted in the internal displacement of At the height of the conflict an estimated 500,000 people – 28 percent of the population – were internally displaced in UNRWA schools designated as emergency shelters, government schools and informal shelters, and with host families people, still there are approximately 30,000 persons will be long-term displaced because they have no home to return to, the injury of 9,986 Palestinians, and the destruction or the severe damage of 16,800 homes. . The Israeli offensive involved the use of extreme air force as well as artillery force in the overpopulated areas of the Gaza Strip; a direct cause for the high number of casualties. The use of heavy force has not only resulted in casualties in terms of death and physical injury, but also significant psychological and social suffering for the population of Gaza and particularly residents of the areas that encountered Israeli ground invasion. The current situation is far more severe than the situation in 2012 and traumas and psychological problems are expected to be harsher with sufficiently higher number of affected women. Therefore, the proposed project is considered so essential for the middle area of Gaza strip. The impact of the ongoing political and socio-economic crisis has definitely touched the lives of all Gazans regardless of gender, status and age group. However, the crisis has a gendered impact to it; meaning the way that it affects men and women, boys and girls is different. The more we, look holistically to the situation of women, the more we realize that the persistent conflict combined with the domineering patriarchal system and the prevailing gender norms had affected the advancement of women’s Human rights, wellbeing, empowerment and gender equality.

Results:

- Creating safe spaces for free expression and maintaining coping mechanisms to 2000 women affected by the last Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip from the most using the cultural tool of storytelling.
- Identification of the most affected cases during storytelling forums and referring for specialized psychological support. For that reason, 20 storytellers will be trained on women rights, GBV, VAW and referring paths.

- Initial psychological support provided for identified 600 most affected women from targeted locations through conducting structured psychological support group sessions and recreational activities.
- Additional treatment provided to targeted women in need for additional mental and psychosocial treatment through mobile clinic and referral to Gaza Community Mental Health Program-GCMHP.
- Awareness and advocacy to community using cultural medium of theatre, mass media (radio) and printed awareness materials.

Eleventh project :

Project Title: For a Life free of Violence

- Implementation Date: 2013 to 2017
- Locations: All Governorates of Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries : 30 women victims of GBV
- Financier: Gazzella-onlus WILPF-Italia
- Budget: 31,500 €

General Objective:

The objective of this project is for Palestinian women and young engaged couples to be empowered so that they live a life free of violence and take the advantage from personal and professional development.

Nature of the Project:

The project included two parts: the first was as continued efforts for the Individual empowerment program aims to contribute in building the capacity of women targeted 30 women, also to help these women to find appropriate jobs opportunities in CSO and private sectors after receiving the training, moreover to participate in public life (voluntary work, own private small business, membership in trade unions and participate in elections). The second was for the engaged couples' targeted 20 couples to learn them in a collective manner how to prevent violence.

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 for women wives of mental illness and wives of drug addicted to receive training that gives them skills that qualifies them to be employed or to start a small business project.

Furthermore, the targeted women are living circumstances that necessitate providing them with psychosocial 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:

- Improve the psycho-social conditions of the targeted women
- Facilitate their participation in income-yielding economical activities
- Create nucleus of small projects for them
- Increase sensitivity of Palestinian society towards the importance of protecting violated women and those at risk
- Implementing individual guidance sessions for those afflicted by trauma and disablement resulting from violence

Results:

- (8) Orientation meetings (introductory sessions) have been conducted in the aim of introducing the association, its goals and services, and organizational structure, and to introduce the participant to each other and to the staff, identifying the vocational training courses. Need assessment to the participants from psychological rehabilitation and vocational training conducted within these sessions.
- A pre- post assessment conducted for 30 woman participants in the individual empowerment program
- 30 woman participants were selected and enrolled in the vocational training program where each participant received 800 hours of vocational training
- 36 group meeting were conducted for each group of them in the topics; communication skills, friendship, Women in international humanitarian law, psychological trauma, psychological debriefing mechanisms, and psychological support to deal with the trauma, stubborn children, self-affirmation, family relationships, socialization, marital disputes, family problems "extended family", adolescence, Involuntary urination, Psychological pressures, violence its types and causes, mental health, Gender and GBV, SEDAW, engagement and marriage, and personal status law.
- 12 economic sessions have been carried out where a preliminary idea for economic projects were established for each participant in the assistant of the group facilitators and this idea is related to the vocational training course she decided to join.

- 146 individual counseling sessions were conducted which is varied from psychological to social
- 30 economic plans have been prepared for each participant where each plan contains the vision of the economic project in which the participant aspires to achieve in the future.
- 90 home visits were conducted.
- 30 training hours on how to start income generation business and prepare feasibility studies conducted and 30 feasibility studies prepared.

Twelves project :

Project Title: Protecting Children and Adolescents from Gender Based Violence through the Promotion of their Sexual and Reproductive Rights in the Gaza Strip- SRHR

- Implementation Date:01/03/2015 to 31/12/2015
- Locations: North of Gaza strip, Gaza city & Middle area
- Number of Beneficiaries: 400Children ,100 parents, 45Service Providers
- Financier: Save the Children
- Budget: USD 70,000

General Objective:

To Protect Adolescents & Children from Gender Based Violence through enhancing their knowledge on Sexual Reproductive Health Rights- SRHR/ Gender Based Violence -GBV in the Gaza Strip, and Spreading the culture of positive discipline.

Nature of the Project:

- Conduct training sessions for children and parents on Module 1 by service providers & AISHA staff.
- Each group of service providers who received training on Module 1 will transfer knowledge for new target groups by training their colleagues.
- Training AISHA staff on the second Module.
- Coordinating with clinics/CBOs for the implementation of Module 2 as a part of the ongoing continuous coordination between AISHA and Clinics/CBOs which have been targeted in Module 1
- Conduct training sessions for service providers from clinics, schools, steering committee and CBOs on SRHR Module 2.
- Conduct pre-post assessment for all target groups.

- Analysing the data obtained from the assessment.
- Reporting the results of the assessment to Save the Children.
- Conduct training sessions for children and parents in the selected regions
- Use a pre designed questionnaire in order to measure the target group skills regarding PD issues before and after the implementation session.
- Conduct PD sessions with parents from community
- Follow up sessions will be conducted with each group in order ensure that parents are able to apply PD with the children.
- Referred the needed cases to AISHA psychologist, then the severe cases will
- be referred to Gaza community mental health programme GCMHP.
- Create 3 information points to educate people in the selected regions regarding SRHR.

Justifications for the Project:

Because of the Israeli military operation against Gaza Strip and due to the huge destruction AISHA Association forced to implement the activities of the project in the urban and least damaged area in Gaza and north Gaza, which achieved and met the required success. In this year SRHR module 2 will be implemented also in Gaza and north Gaza (targeted new CBOs and schools) based on the success that AISHA Association achieved with these targets. The modules will be conducted with parents, service providers and children (10-17) years old. Module1, 2, 3 will be conducted in CBOs/schools. Information points will be established within Gaza and North Gaza strip. In module 2 the cases that need psychological treatment will be referred to psychologist in AISHA Association. In this regard AISHA's psychologists have the required experience to deal with these cases. But the severe cases that need a clinical treatment will be referred to Gaza community health program through signing Memorandum of Understanding with AISHA Association.

Results:

- Community's sensitivity towards SRHR is alleviated in order to ensure acceptance of overall SRHR as part child/ human rights
- Knowledge and skills of SRHR for children, parents and service providers are enhanced.
- Knowledge and skills of PD for parents and service providers are enhanced.

Thirteenth project:

Project Title: Enable mothers orphans aggression on Gaza in 2014

- Implementation Date: 01/01/2015 to 01/08/2015
- Locations: All Gaza Strip
- Number of Beneficiaries:400 women
- Financier: Welfare association .
- Budget: 96.860 \$

General Objective:

Contributing in empowerment of women and the rehabilitation of the mothers of the orphans of the Israeli aggression on Gaza in 2014

Nature of the Project:

This project is to contribute to the rehabilitation of women, the mothers of the orphans of the Israeli aggression on Gaza in 2014 in order to develop their abilities in dealing with the psychological, social and economic dependencies of the loss in their families and empower them socially, psychologically and economically empower them and enable their opportunities for the advancement of their families and support their children and provide income that allows them to live in dignity to begin their lives new , especially in light of society's perception of the widows and the treatment is harsh by the families of the women and families of the martyrs and the couples stone on the movement and freedom in the money and the boy and the results expected from the project:

- improve the psychological well-being and integrated security for mothers of the orphans.
- increase knowledge of legal rights and positive skills education for mothers of the orphans.
- Economic empowerment for mothers of orphans and enhance their skills.

Justifications for the Project:

We have exacerbated the recent Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, the summer of 2014 from the crises of various Gaza Strip, and has led to the deterioration of the economic situation seriously, where a siege and repeated attacks from the Israeli occupation, as a result of the difficulty of providing food security and basic needs of the rising number of needy refugees to 800,000 refugees over the past few years .

Focus groups carried out by Aisha association with women who missed husbands and mothers of orphans because of the 2014 Israeli aggression in coordination with the patronage of the government of the martyrs families Foundation explained evident from

the discussion that took place at the meeting that the widows faced many problems, especially the mothers of the orphans, starting with the loss of a breadwinner and a source of financial income, through conflict with the father of the deceased husband's inheritance on a monthly pension, all the way, but not the end, to force her to marry her husband's brother due to his protection and security.

Results:

- Improve the psychological well-being and the integrated security for mothers of orphans
- Increase knowledge of the legal rights and positive skills education for mothers of orphans.
- Economic empowerment for mothers of orphans and enhance their skills.

Fourteenth project

Project Title: Comprehensive response for women at risk and survivor of GBV in the most vulnerable communities of the Gaza Strip "

- Number of beneficiaries : 17 Women victim and survivor of GBV
- Implementation date : from 31th Dec,2015 to 15th Jun,2017
- Funded by : (ApS) Alianza por la solidaridad
- Budget value : 36,054 Euros

The overall objective of the project :

The project aims at improving the psychological and social situation and awareness of women and girls in families in the marginalized areas of the Gaza Strip about gender-based violence and violence against women.

And to improved social and economic empowerment of survivors and women at risk of GBV through individual counseling and development of income – generation projects and livelihoods .

Nature of the project

The project consist from 3 phases, 1) elementary phase for one month for the selection of women, identify the suitable vocational training for each participant, prepare the individual plan through individual counselling, and home visits to evaluate the economic situation. 2)

Implementation phase for 6 months where women attend the vocational training on daily basis and attend group and individual sessions on social, psychological, economic, and legal issues. 3) the third phase is the follow up phase for 2 months where women start their income generating business.

The project justification

The Gaza Strip is experiencing difficult conditions from all aspects (socio-economic, legal, psychological) resulting from successive conflicts in the Gaza Strip in the recent period, caused by Israeli attacks and internal attacks. This deteriorating situation increases violence against women and affects gender equity in all its forms of sexual, psychological, physical and gender-based violence.

Women and girls in border areas face many forms of gender-based violence and suffer from a poor economic situation

Results

- Networking with project partners CFTA- Al- Bureij women health clinic and UHWC to identify nominees for the IEM program
- 17 women victim and survivor of GBV identified in the clinics
- Conducting (42) psycho-social , legal. Economic group counseling sessions .
- Conducting (5) individual counseling sessions for each women.
- Providing individual legal consultation , mediation and representation for women based on their request
- Conducting (6) home visit for each women to assess the social and economic condition of the women and provide family counseling
- Implementing (400) hours vocational training (sewing , beauty and hairdressing ,Embroidery , video and Wool)
- Conducting (30) hours training course on how to start small business , project management , marketing , feasibility plans
- Organizing (2) opens day / Recreational activities for targeted women
- Conducting pre – post assessment and issuing the final evaluation .

Challenges and obstacles

- 1- Fundraising is a real challenge facing all the local organizations in the Gaza strip without exception . Aisha is also facing a real challenge in collecting financial fund in order to sustain the level of services it used to provide for the victimized women and children in the Gaza strip.
- 2- Collecting unconditional financial resources is one of the most important challenges facing the association since its inception , according to the notable reduction by donors in providing this kind of fund.
- 3- Collecting financial resources without a special full time team is a big challenge for the executive department and its staff.
- 4- The siege, the continuous closure and the delayed reconstruction exacerbate the association's burden and worsen the situations in the light of the miserable humanitarian conditions the strip lives, which made Aisha unable to provide the services in the high quality and the best possibilities it used to provide them With. In addition to the huge increase of applicants of targeted beneficiaries to abstain the services.

Future needs

- The unconditional funding which will contribute to Guarantee stability for the association which will help improving quality and a comprehensive planning on the long term.
- An independent building for the association to reduce the financial burdens and help creating new income opportunities for the association.
- A membership in the international networks to represent the association internationally as an access to share different experiences with the international governments and organizations.
- Hiring a consultant to help collecting funds with an independent project, international relations and human resources management department to help improving the association's work.
- Improving the capabilities and developing the efficiencies of the female employees in line with the expansion of the association and its specialization in the field of psychological, legal and professional support for women, which contribute in improving the level of services and programs for women.