

**Aisha Association for Woman and Child Protection**  
**Palestine**



**Narrative Annual Report**

**Presented to**

**General Assembly**

**From 1 Jan to 30 Dec 2018**

# **Index**

<b>.1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>.2</b>	<b>Board of Directors .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1	Board of Directors' speech:.....	2
2.2	Board of Directors' members.....	3
2.3	The meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly.....	3
<b>.3</b>	<b>Human Resources.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>.4</b>	<b>Finance and Procurement Department .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>.5</b>	<b>Fundraising and Projects Department.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>.6</b>	<b>Public and International Relations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Projects .....</b>	<b>6</b>
7.1	Strengthening of the humanitarian system for women GBV survivor in the northern and Middle areas of Gaza.....	6
7.2	Send back drop out children to school .....	7
7.3	Promoting human rights-based approach to protect the rights of women with disabilities in the Gaza strip .....	9
7.4	Utilizing Digital Tools to Promote Human Rights and Create Inclusive Public Spaces in the Gaza Strip .....	12
7.5	Preventing Early Marriage of Children Girls in the Gaza Strip through promoting their rights and empowering them to become catalysts of change in their communities .....	15
7.6	Comprehensive Protection Response through provision of psycho-social and mental health services for conflict affected population in the Gaza strip .....	17
7.7	Economic empowerment for Female head of household .....	19
7.8	Economic empowerment for sustainable change .....	21
7.9	Eliminating discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence against vulnerable women in marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip .....	23
7.10	For a life without violence: (Social and economic project of inclusion for displaced, disables and without income women in Al-Shejaeya – Gaza) .....	25
7.11	Shifting Perspectives: Engaging men and boys in addressing GBV against women and girls in Gaza Strip.....	27
7.12	Toward Just and Secure Future for Women .....	29
7.13	Shifting perspectives of men and boys of Masculinity and Gender Equality .....	32
7.14	Strengthen Child Protection Systems to Prevent and Respond to Violence (Physical, Sexual and Corporal Punishment/Humiliating Behaviors) Against Children by Empowering CSOs, Caregivers and Children to Support Elimination of Violence.....	35

7.15	Legal empowerment for women / pathway to sustainable development.....	37
7.16	Provision of Empowerment Programme for Female Heads of Households (FHHs) .....	38
7.17	Supporting local initiatives to advance psychological support and empowerment of vulnerable women>18 and girls<18 in Gaza through in yoga and social circus training. ....	39
7.18	Gaza Women and Girls Social Circus and Wellness Hub Activities .....	41
7.19	Young Leaders Program YWLP .....	42
<b>8.</b>	<b>The main achievements through 2018 .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>.9</b>	<b>Challenges and Obstacles .....</b>	<b>44</b>
9.1	General Challenges.....	44
9.2	Private Challenges .....	45
<b>.10</b>	<b>Future Needs.....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>.11</b>	<b>Annex 1: Services of the Association and beneficiaries for 2018 .....</b>	<b>47</b>

## **1. Introduction**

Aisha presented a leadership role through its activities and qualitative programs in dealing with gender issues, especially dealing with cases of violence against women during 2018, the Association signed several agreements with donors and partners to provide quality services to high-risk groups such as dropouts, children victims of family violence and vulnerable groups of girls who are subjected to early marriage and who are already married, as well as women victims of addiction and mental illness, as part of Aisha's new methodology in dealing with violence and defending rights of women and children in the Gaza Strip. The previous projects highlighted the importance of dealing with these groups privately and giving them priority in the systematic interventions based on evidence and studies carried out by the association during the last three years. The aim of these interventions was to combat violence, strengthen the rule of justice and law and achieve gender equality in Palestinian society.

On the other hand, Aisha provided specialized training in the field of psychosocial support and empowerment, and provided all facilities for graduates in this field, based on accumulated experiences and developed evidence such as Hawaa Al-Zahra and individual empowerment tool for women victims of violence and their families through a management methodology. This methodology provides quality services for women, including integration and rehabilitation through psychosocial and legal support and awareness in all areas and networking with public and private institutions with the provision of vocational and economic training and small grants to start small projects. The hard economic and the difficulty of the groups targeted by Aisha, the burdens on women increased, which required the association to continue to follow through advanced training in various fields and networking and intensify the search for opportunities for them, but the opportunities for income that provides a decent life is a big challenge for all.

During the last year, Aisha has been able to advance in the field of community participation and support the participation of women, youth and adolescents of both gender in creating safe spaces through the opening of three public parks in Rafah, Central and North based on criteria and needs assessment implemented in partnership with international and local institutions, municipalities and private companies. The results of the project have a clear achievement in this area.

This report covers a qualitative leap in programs and services and a quality of services that will be provided in the coming years to women and children who are victims of violence by the endeavor of board of directors and its executive team to alleviate their suffering and support their resilience in facing challenges from many directions and their right to live under the umbrella of an independent state in which they enjoy security, peace and dignity as the whole world.

Aisha Community Center for Mental Health and Drug Abuse was launched in April 2018 as an outpatient clinic due to the inability to open it as a center for shelter, which met the growing need for psychological services. The clinic registered hundreds of beneficiaries in a short period of time through referral from Aisha mobile clinics at the governorate level and from partner institutions.

At Aisha, we affirm the sincerity of the Covenant with our target groups and that we will not hesitate for a moment to do everything we can to advance our Palestinian society, improve the level of participation of women and youth, increase the professional competencies necessary to support this goal and achieve our mission set for ourselves to protect the Palestinian project by building a state. An independent Palestinian in which citizens enjoy freedom, equality and human dignity.

## **2. Board of Directors**

### **2.1 Board of Directors' speech:**

Occupied Palestine, the besieged Gaza Strip, a country without a homeland, This is the bitter reality that more than 2 million Palestinian citizens live in a homeland suffering from the worst and most horrible violations against humanity with a clear violation of international conventions, especially we are the only people in the world that remains under occupation.

Unfortunately, women in Palestine live in a hard situation other than the rest of the world. They suffer all forms of oppression, discrimination and injustice in a society that continues to pay attention to culture and old customs, in addition to the miserable political situation, occupation, division, siege, attacks and repeated wars in close periods of time.

The blockade of Gaza Strip remains 2 million people, half of them women, are isolated from West Bank, Jerusalem and the world, limiting freedom of movement, treatment, education and employment. The blockade of the Gaza Strip for more than a decade has a devastating impact on Palestinians living in Gaza. Among the challenges facing women are prevalence of socially based violence, limited services, high unemployment, poverty and the collapse of the economic structure.

The above data are not coincidental, but they have several reasons and implications: social situation, tough economic crisis, suffering at Rafah crossing, political conflicts and mainly the siege imposed by the occupation on the Gaza Strip. All these factors directly and profoundly affect the lives of Palestinian women, children and the family.

Today, a year has passed since the election of the Board of Directors of Aisha, which received trust of the General Assembly by which its assistance and support, the board completed its first mission in achieving objectives of Aisha and implementing of its strategic plan for 2018. The board is still working hard to develop work and provide quality services to the Aisha's staff through capacity building and taking into account their professional and special needs according to the possibility and also the target groups through design specific programs and projects that meet their increasing needs in light of the serious deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

This is the eighth report of Aisha, which has been awarded by obtaining a certificate of integrity and transparency for two years with the support and supervision of (NDC) and the launch of Aisha Community Center for Mental Health and Drug Abuse Services, which brought a qualitative leap in work proving its identity among NGOs at the national level.

The Board will continue to provide the best effort and efficiency in order to maintain this achievement, which would not have been possible without the determination of its members, the support of the staff of the Aisha and the sincerity of its donors and their confidence to continue and give to their target groups.

## **2.2 Board of Directors' members**

- Elias Al Jelda Chairman
- Khalil Shaheen Deputy
- Taghreed Jouma Treasurer
- Nada Anabtawi Secretary
- Rafat Salha Member
- Rawaya Hamam Member
- Enas Jouda Member

## **2.3 The meeting of Board of Directors and General Assembly**

The Ordinary Meeting of General Assembly was held on Monday 23/4/2018 at the Aisha Association Headquarters in the presence of 38 out of 56 members of the General Assembly. The Chairman presented a brief presentation of the administrative report of 2017. During the meeting, the administrative and financial reports were discussed and approved. As well as approved to contract with Talal Abu-Ghazaleh & Co for audit as a legal auditor for the association to 2018. Elections were held to elect a new board of directors for 2018-2021, seven members were nominated, all of whom won by recommendation from the general assembly

11 meetings of the Board of Directors were held during 2018, which the Aisha's affairs were discussed regarding to the employees, projects and the financial situation of the Association. The most important thing that being discussed during the meetings was the distribution of tasks and positions and the formation of committees. Discussing the existing projects and submittal's to obtain funding. As well as to appointments on projects and participation in interviews. The Board ensures integrity and transparency in all procedures and policies related to all the above-mentioned matters, and has continued daily work with the Executive Management.

## **3. Human Resources**

As for the employees of the Association, there were 45 employees, of whom 21 basic employees in the administrative and professional fields, 24 employees on projects, volunteers from other institutions outside and inside Gaza.

As for the association's staff, six received a training in Respectful Confrontation under the supervision of American specialist Jo Weston and other training in the field of gender under the supervision of Dr. Natico, who was nominated by the Portuguese Promondo Foundation.

The staff of the Association were also trained on the emergency evacuation plan under the supervision of ACTED International and provided Aisha with an evacuation plan which was subsequently approved by the Board of Directors.

Five policies have been engaged into the Association's administrative and financial manuals and procedures after being approval by the Board of Directors. These policies are Gender, Child Protection, Code of Conduct, Volunteerism and Anti-Corruption, which were developed in 2107.

It is worth mentioning that the number of volunteers reached 8 volunteers during 2018 in the various fields of administration, projects, social service, accounting, secretarial, media, vocational training and translation. 75 university trainees of psychology, social service and management for the levels of diploma, bachelor, master, secretarial and various vocational training areas.

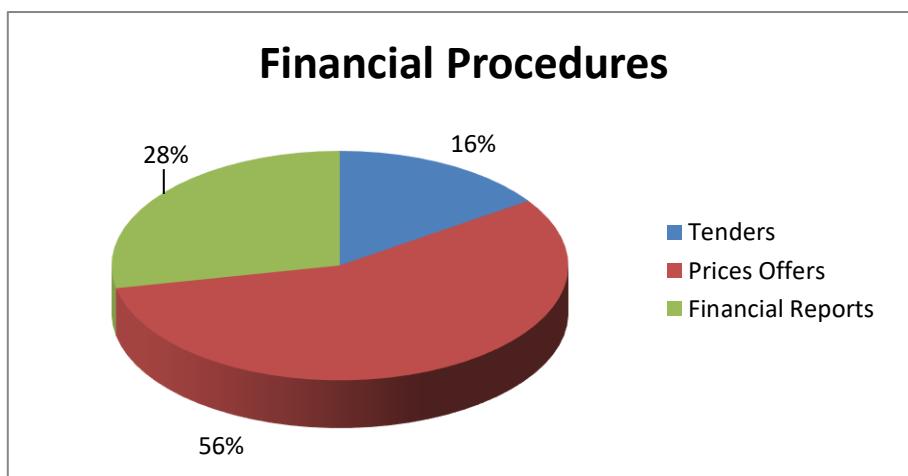
## 4. Finance and Procurement Department

2018 witnessed a fast and increasing movement of financial procedures which added to the Department of Finance more experience with quality to the staff.

Additional members were added to the Finance Department to meet the requirements and achieve highest level of quality in the implementation of financial procures of projects, arrangement of Aisha's accounts and focus on separation of tasks in the Finance Department in response to the new financial system. Also contributed and supervised developing budgets for projects

So, the number of procedures carried out during 2018 were 1783, including 17 tenders, price offers.

According to the projects implemented during 2018, approximately 31 financial reports were submitted for the projects implemented.



## **5. Fundraising and Projects Department**

The projects and fundraising department presented a remarkable effort during the year 2018 of for organizing work and fundraising. 93 projects submitted to cover the programs and activities approved within the strategic plan and work plan for 2018-2019. The department managed by the end of 2018 under supervision of executive management and board of directors and with the help of an external consultant to cover full budget to 2019 and partially to 2020 budget. The department contributed during 2018 prepare the five-year strategic plan 2019-2023. In addition to implementation of projects and follow-up of various field reports, interim and final review before being sent to donors as well as to follow-up field visits to donors.

## **6. Public and International Relations**

The Association received about 33 foreign delegations and 98 local delegations and institutions throughout the year, most notably the representative of the British Consulate in Palestine, the Director of the Access to Justice and Rule of Law Program at UNDP, UN Women, the Program Officer at UNICEF in Jerusalem and the Program Officer at Oxfam International. These include getting acquainted with the activities of the association, providing the donors with information on the situation and needs of women and children in the Gaza Strip, discussing ways of cooperation and studying ideas and plans that can contribute to improving their livelihoods for opportunities to enable them to participate in the process of sustainable development and live peacefully in their communities

Aisha also participated attending 43 meetings of protection cluster of the United Nations "psychological support, child protection, legal team, education and health sector" which aims to introduce humanitarian work and share experiences between institutions and the preparation of a database of institutions, projects and numbers for groups that receive various services under the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

The Association also recorded the attendance of 37 meetings in the various networks and alliances of women, children, youth and social accountability, which were all aimed at lobbying and advocating for the amendment of laws or advocacy issues related to the rights of women and children, in addition to meetings of the network of NGOs, most notably the General Assembly meeting and the election of a new board of directors.

## **7. Projects**

### **7.1 Strengthening of the humanitarian system for women GBV survivor in the northern and Middle areas of Gaza**

- **Project Period:** 2018/11/01 to: 2019/07/14
- **Fund:** APS
- **Budget:** 65000 EUR
- **Place:** Gaza and North of Gaza city

#### *Beneficiaries:*

Women Victim of violence

#### *Goal:*

aims to protect the rights of the Palestinian population living under occupation in the Gaza Strip according to the International Humanitarian Law.

#### *Summary:*

AISHA through this project aiming to protect the rights of the Palestinian population living under occupation in the Gaza Strip according to the International Humanitarian Law. Goal will be achieved through providing comprehensive services to the targeted women Victim of violence by applying and using Individual Empowerment Model – IEM.

#### *Services:*

Psychosocial support, economic and legal services.

#### *Challenges:*

- The project covers part of the program activities and there is a real need to cover other essential activities such as referral to additional services such as medical and health services and other skills and trainings based on women needs.
- A real need to engage the families of the women in group sessions and awareness workshops. It is recommended to consider the skills and situation of women before they engaged in the livelihood program so we can introduce them to new vocational training sectors outside Aisha.
- Limited opportunities offered for women to open their own business and the huge social and market barriers that restrict the financial independency of women.

### ***Lessons Learned:***

Lessons learned by all interviewed stakeholders include mainstreaming right base approach and decent work principles in women's economic opportunities; navigate factors that can enable or constrain women economic opportunities, advancing women's economic opportunities is important to gender equality, engage men in women economic interventions, and address the preferences and desires of both non graduate and graduated women young graduates in either starting small businesses or employment opportunities.

### ***Recommendations:***

- AISHA seeks with all its efforts to provide comprehensive services for the targeted women which illustrated in adaptation the case management in its strategies. Thus, AISHA seeks to
- include the children with the targeted women.
- Increase the number of family therapy and couple counseling sessions to maximize the impact of the programme upon women especially when women considered as sever cases.
- Support the foundation of new vocational skills which resulted in Mapping study and,
- The importance of replicating the IEM in its new structure considering vocational training and c4W opportunities for targeted women according to their skills, circumstances, and enhancement during the program.
- Increase level of coordination among project partners to provide GBV and health services for target group.

## **7.2 Send back drop out children to school**

- **Project Period:** 2018/09/15 to: 2019/06/15
- **Fund:** WILPF
- **Budget:** 25000 EUR
- **Place:** Beach Camp, Gaza

### ***Beneficiaries:***

- 42 drop-out children
- 30 families of the targeted children.

### ***Goal:***

To contribute in improving the life condition of the children who dropped out of their schools in Beach Camp, Gaza Strip

### ***Summary:***

AISHA Association in partnership with WILPF is currently implementing the project of "Send back drop-out children to school in Beach Camp – Gaza". The project has been started at (November-2018) targeting 42 children drop-outs from schools in the Gaza Strip. The project aims to contribute to improving the living condition of the children who dropped out of their schools and reintegrate them in their schools at the Beach Camp in the Gaza Strip through a set of interventions including the following: Conduct family counseling sessions for the parents of the drop-out children, Organize discussion groups sessions between the children and their parents, Conduct awareness and group psychosocial support sessions for the drop-out children, Conduct awareness and psychosocial support group sessions for parents of the drop-out children, Network with educational centers in order to engage the a group of children in remedial classes and the other group in vocational courses, provide the children with school needs (stationary and clothes) and vocational training needs, Provide cash support to the children under their families supervision school, Provide health services through coordinating with health centers.

### ***Services:***

- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Home Field Visits.
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Individual Counseling Sessions.
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Discussion groups sessions between children and their parents.
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Group Sessions.
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Awareness Group Sessions.
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Recreational Days.
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management – Remedial Classes.
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Vocational Training.
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economical /Cash Support.
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Health Services.

### ***Challenges:***

- Some people were refusing to participate in the project so the psychologist had to make a home visit and convince them.
- The project was supposed to target 30 instead of 42 children because there was a large demand on the project so we could not exclude them. accordingly, Aisha distributed the cash support to 42 children not 30.
- The cost of the intensive courses/remedial classes was higher than the amount allocated so the budget was insufficient. This led to the inability to register all the children who needed these courses in addition to the inability to provide transportation allowance for children to go to the center.

- The cost of specialized vocational training centers is high (from 1000 to 2000 USD per year). We need to enroll children in these centers because these centers improve their chances of employment in the future better than other centers.

***Lessons Learned:***

- Psychosocial support sessions had a great effect on the children life's.
- Case management approach is the best way to cover all their needs.
- Remedial classes are essential to get dropped out school children back.
- Coordinating with ministry of Education facilitated the process of backing to school.

***Recommendations:***

- Providing of individual follow-up sessions for children and their families after project lifetime as this type of interventions that work on perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors required a longer time of follow up, continuous advice and consultations to guarantee those children are protected, supported and develop inner power to trust themselves to go forward.
- Continue to provide financial support to the target group because they live in harsh situations, marginalized areas and are permanently exposed to diseases at least till they finish their schools or vocational training and start earning money for their living or even support their families to earn money.
- Continue support for children enrolled in the educational center, so their level of education should not be reduced again during the next school year.
- All children who drop out of school should be integrated into educational centers to give them the opportunity to decide whether they want to complete their education or join a vocational training center.
- Prolong the time frame for the next related project as the social change and on an individual level requires longer time where the nature of the project intervention works on changing attitude and behaviors of children.

### **7.3 Promoting human rights-based approach to protect the rights of women with disabilities in the Gaza strip**

- **Project Period:** 2018/04/01 to: 2019/03/31
- **Fund:** Global Affairs Canada
- **Budget:** 207370 USD

***Place:***

***Gaza Strip governorates***

- ***North Gaza governorate:*** Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanun, Jabalya, As Siafa.

- **Gaza governorate:** Ash Shati' Camp, Gaza City, Al Mughraqa (Abu Middein), Juhor ad Dik.
- **Deir Al Balah governorate:** Al Bureij Camp, Deir al Balah.
- **Khan Yunis governorate:** Khuza'a, Al Fukhkhari.
- **Rafah governorate:** Rafah, Shokat as Sufi

### *Beneficiaries:*

- 614vulnerable WWDs
- 300 men from families of WWDs
- Mukhtars and other community leaders
- 50 service providers.

### *Goal:*

To alleviate the suffering of WWDs, save their lives and maintain their human dignity under the current crisis in Gaza Strip, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.

### *Summary:*

The project “Promoting human rights-based approach to protect the rights of women with disabilities in the Gaza strip” targets women with disabilities to alleviate their human suffering, save their lives and maintain their human dignity. The project provides psychosocial group counseling; individual counseling sessions via the GBV Mobile Clinic; substance abuse and mental health treatment; referral to professional protection and case management services provided by specialized protection facilities and networks and other service providers; and awareness-raising on Gender, GBV and available protection measures, and women rights in related IHL and IHRL standards and Palestinian legislation.

### *Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Training Manuals
- Menatl Health and Substance Abuse - Individual Counselling Sessions
- Menatl Health and Substance Abuse - Medical Therapy
- Menatl Health and Substance Abuse - Case Management (Mental, Substance Abuse)
- Legal Aid Services - Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Group Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Open Days
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Workshops
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Social Media Campaign (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Awareness Raising Sessions

### *Challenges:*

- Some WWDs need for the transportation fees in advance before the end of the sessions. Aisha solve the problem by offering a choice for partner originations, to pay the transportation fees for WWDs direct form the budget of partners organizations. Then after the completion of the sessions, Aisha can pay to the organization the hall rent and the actual transportation fees.
- It seems that the WWDs need more such interventions. They express their need for more activities to talk much about their problems and needs.
- The Participants still facing very complicated problems varied from poverty, to lack of health care and assistive tools or even family care and protection. Those problems are even larger than the project capacity and larger than Aisha or any other to solve. They need governmental system that offer them protection and desire care and support. For example, number of them need referral to medication abroad, or intervention with the family to convince them to offer the basic needs based on their rights.

### *Lessons Learned:*

- Sensitivity emerge from working with WWDs and different approaches were followed by service providers from various sectors und their understanding for inclusion approach.
- The Great March of Return and the increasing number of disabilities and the vulnerability factors of such target group in such context that lack basic services for WWDs (Health, Legal, MHPSS, assistive tools and rehabilitation services)
- The Mobile Clinic and home visits to WWDs at their location that reduce stigma and offering transportation that facilitate their access to services.
- The inclusion of WWDs families including men and women to maximize the impact of the project intervention and sustain the change of the beneficiaries' well-being

### *Recommendations:*

- The importance of developing reference manuals that assure quality services for women victims of Violence, GBV and WWDs, to support local service provider from providing structures, specialized, gender responsive services considering the needs, gaps of the services, case management approach and referral pathways.
- The availability of mobile clinic and provision of MHPSS to women through women organization reduce the community stigma toward women access to services, especially MESPP, in masculine community
- Coordination with Protection cluster and related stake holder increase the credibility and ownership of such manual and methodologies.

## **7.4 Utilizing Digital Tools to Promote Human Rights and Create Inclusive Public Spaces in the Gaza Strip**

- **Project Period:** 2017/08/01 to: 2018/11/30
- **Fund:** Belgium government (UNWOMEN in partnership with UNHABITAT)
- **Budget:** 150,199 EUR
- **Place:** Al Shuka Rafah, Al Zawayda, Beit Iahia Municipalities.

*Beneficiaries:*

*Planned*

- 20 female engineers
- 120 youths
- 3000 of local community (Men and Women)
- 1000 youths

*Achieved:*

- Youth and Adolescents for training: 144 youth and adolescents
- Youth Civic Participations awareness sessions: total of 1056 (456 Male + 600 Female)
- SGBV workshops: total 150 workshops targeted 3234 persons (men women, boys and girls)
- Two intensive training courses conducted targeted the youth committees in the three localities 30 hours for each training distributed to 5 days, 6 hours per a day, targeted 30 persons: 17 Females: 2 adolescents and 15 young Female + 13 young male
- 20 of Female Architects committed to attend a training course of 100 hours, later 3 of them were selected in the previous phase to work in Al-Shuka Municipality and 3 of them were selected after the training course to work at Beit-Lahia Municipality, while the last three selected to have job placement at Wadi saga.

*Goal:*

Through digital technologies, contribute to the fulfillment of women's and youth's human rights and improved participation in post-conflict reconstruction and recovery in the Gaza Strip.

*Summary:*

AISHA in partnership with UNWOMEN, UN-Habitat, Palestinian Housing Council and GGetway will utilize digital technologies to advance women's and youth's rights to participation in post-conflict recovery planning and implementation, in particular to support developing public spaces, ensuring gender sensitivity and inclusiveness of marginalized groups such as IDPs, youth, and female heads of households. In addition, the proposed project will utilize digital technology as a tool for community empowerment. Access to information is a basic human right that enables communities to actively engage in the decision-making process and have a proactive role in their societies. Therefore, digital

technology is used to strengthen the relationship between the local authorities and the communities, and to promote good governance.

*Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Survey
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Job Opportunity
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Media Campaign
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Awareness Raising Sessions

*Challenges:*

- The fragile humanitarian and political situation in Gaza remain a challenge. The programme targets youth and adolescents who systematically face social marginalization and suffer a general feeling of loss of purpose particularly with the continuation of the blockade and the limitation of opportunities. The programme partners had to carefully design the community activities to be interesting and engaging in order to maintain the commitment of the selected groups throughout the subsequent phases of the programme.
- The continuing reluctance of women survivors of violence to report on their victimization remains a main challenge in relation to eliminating violence against women, which limits their access to available services and at the same time, the possibility of service providers to reach them. AISHA had faced some reluctance from women who were identified through the awareness raising workshops as facing GBV to be referred to AISHA and other service providers for support. AISHA has thus used home visits and toll-free services to reach to this group and encourage the survivors seek support.
- AISHA Association had asked the Association of Engineers for nominations of female architects according to the set criteria. The association did not however provide AISHA with the requested number of nominations mainly because of the limited number of female architects who met the criteria. UN Women through AISHA collaborated with UN Habitat and reached out to the Islamic University and the announcement had been advertised on AISHA's website again which had helped in attracting more applications.
- The programme partners had collectively decided to change Wadi Al Salqa location which was selected at the planning phase of the programme because the piece of land provided by the municipality was assessed to be unsafe for children and women. The decision to change Wadi Al Salqa location after AISHA and GGateway conducted the needs assessment and a number of workshops will require that AISHA and GGateway repeat all the activities in another location (Al Zawaida) which added an extra burden on the partners' teams. AISHA and GGateway had agreed on implementing their components simultaneously to be able to do the gender assessment, select and train youth and adolescents ahead of the infrastructure work.

- The delay in receiving the last tranche from the donors had caused the partners to use their core funds and other projects' budget to cover this deficit. Also, after the 6- months delay, UN Women decided to extend the project till mid if December, so that partners can financially close the project.

### *Lessons Learned:*

- Focusing on youth and women's participation in recovery planning and implementation had proved to be very much needed in the conflict-affected context of Gaza. Youth and women need to find meaningful opportunities for participation. The programme- with its bottom up approach that starts with an idea/conceptualization and results in establishing safe spaces in an inclusive manner where youth and women feel a sense of ownership and pride- is a model that needs to be replicated and further explored.
- The public spaces should have a variety of purposes (other than public gardens) and that in response to needs highlighted by youth and women in the gender assessments (i.e. need for sports facilities for female youth and adolescents that also mainstream disability considerations).
- The programme focus on digitalization and ICT has also highlighted the need to scale up the number and scope of livelihood opportunities provided for women and youth who are most vulnerable in Gaza particularly supporting new approaches with regards to women's participation in ICT based incubators and businesses.
- The programme focus on protecting women and youth from SGBV in marginalized areas is very much needed particularly in connection to establishing safe spaces in marginalized areas. The approach of "working with men and boys" to prevent SGBV should be further employed and strengthened. UN Women will explore all opportunities to create synergies with other UN Women's programming that focus on involving men and boys champions to advance gender equality such as Women and Men for Women Programme and a new programme focused on combatting violence against women in the West Bank and Gaza.
- Careful consideration should be paid to the selection of locations to avoid changing a location at a last minute after other activities (trainings and workshops) have been conducted.

### *Recommendations:*

- More participation of women and youth from the beginning of the project cycle including selection of land and the type of the public space.
- Additional fund to support other localities.

## **7.5 Preventing Early Marriage of Children Girls in the Gaza Strip through promoting their rights and empowering them to become catalysts of change in their communities**

- **Project Period:** 2018/10/01 to: 2020/09/30
- **Fund:** AECID
- **Budget:** 200000 EUR
- **Place:** Gaza and North Governorates

### *Beneficiaries:*

- Group awareness and psychosocial support: 200 girls (14-17) years old and among the 200 girls, 100 girls will be selected for case management services
- Group awareness and psychosocial support: 200 women and among these women, 30 will be selected to receive a vocational training
- Vocational Training: 30 women
- Training and support sessions: 100 trainees
- Roundtable discussions: 40 participants
- Community Forums: 200 participants

### *Goal:*

Contribute to the fight against the GBV and the prevention of Child Marriage in the Gaza Strip

### *Summary:*

Considering child marriage is a form of Gender-Based Violence, Aisha implements a project entitled "Preventing early marriage of children girls in the Gaza Strip through promoting their rights and empowering them to become catalysts of change in their communities" as a part of its Family and Child Protection Program, funded by AECID for two years. The Project aims to contribute to the fight against GBV in the Gaza Strip through set of interventions including the following:

- Conduct a research to detect areas with the highest percentage of early marriage and identify dropout girls and early married girls
- Conduct awareness and psycho-social support sessions for early married girls or girls at risk of early marriage and for their families
- Prepare individual plans and provide additional services for 100 girls
- Conduct training sessions for duty bearers, community leaders, religious leaders, etc. to raise awareness on early marriage and its impact
- Participate in an advocacy campaign to raise awareness about the current law and the minimum age to get married

### *Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Survey
- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Vocational Training
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Group Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Individual Plans
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Individual Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Clinical Supervision
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Open Days
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Home Field Visits
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Roundtable Discussions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Community Forums
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Social Media Campaign (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Ceremonies

### *Challenges:*

Child Marriage is still a sensitive issue particularly in conservative communities, so it takes time and huge efforts to change thought patterns and correct some of the harmful traditional practices

### *Lessons Learned:*

- Parents must be targeted before early married girls or girls at risk of early marriage as raising their awareness on the negative consequences of child marriage is the first crucial step
- The need for the educational institutions to have detailed information about the causes of school dropouts as the current information reflects general information without segregation per cause such as early marriage, child labor, medical problems, etc.

### *Recommendations:*

- To extend beneficiaries' age range and not be limited to early married girls or girls at risk of early marriage ranging from 14 to 17 years old
- To include early married boys or boys at risk of early marriage in future interventions
- To extend the geographical coverage to target other governorates (In case the project was extended)

## **7.6 Comprehensive Protection Response through provision of psycho-social and mental health services for conflict affected population in the Gaza strip**

- **Project Period:** 2018/07/15 to: 2019/04/15
- **Fund:** OPT
- **Budget:** 321535 USD
- **Place:** All governates in the Gaza Strip

*Beneficiaries:*

**4950 Direct Beneficiaries:**

- 1025 Men
- 3025 Women
- 450 Boys
- 450 Girls

*Goal:*

Contribute to alleviating the impact of conflict on the psychosocial and mental health wellbeing of affected women, men, boys and girls in the Gaza Strip.

*Summary:*

The project of "Comprehensive Protection Response through provision of psycho-social and mental health services for conflict affected population in the Gaza strip" aims to contribute to alleviating the impact of conflict on the psychosocial and mental health wellbeing of affected women, men, boys and girls in the Gaza Strip. The main outcomes of the project are: 1) enhanced access to quality psycho-social and mental health services to conflict affected women, men, boys and girls in the Gaza strip and 2) Targeted communities are able to provide rapid and quality response and enhance the coping mechanisms and resilience for the families of affected population in the Gaza strip. Aisha will work to achieve these outcomes through various activities starting from coordination with main stakeholder to outreach the conflict affected persons during the Great march of Return since 30th of March and networking with partner CBOs near conflict areas to host the project activities. Then, providing structured psycho-social and specialized mental health services and recreational activities for acutely conflict affected women, men, boys and girls, and detect the severely affected person in need for advanced psychological, mental health service to Aisha mobile clinics (3 clinics, North area mobile clinic, Gaza & Middle area clinic, south area mobile clinic- each clinic has psychotherapist and supervised by Aisha psychiatrist) while cases in need for additional services such as physical therapy, legal and medicine, assistive tools and health services will be referred Aisha and offered these services whether inside Aisha or through networking with other service providers such as GCMHP and UHWC according to signed MoU with them. In addition, awareness raising for the families of the conflict affected persons on stress management, loss, disability and violence via

workshops and suing social and mass media tools. On the last level, Aisha will develop the capacity of service providers who are engaged and works directly with the conflict affected persons on providing specialized psycho-social services, case management, detection and referral pathways.

### *Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse - Clinical Supervision
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Group Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Individual Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Open Days
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Structured Awareness Raising Sessions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Fact Sheet
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Radio Sessions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Documentary Films

### *Challenges:*

- Weak coordination between ministry of health and NGOS themselves in referring cases in order to receive the needed services.
- Shortage of services provided to the affected people and this because of not having any study that asses the needs of those people.
- The political challenge in the Gaza Strip as providing such services for those people is considered as sensitive issue in the community and for the Government

### *Lessons Learned:*

- It doesn't arouse the stigma of mental illness to the beneficiaries, because they reserved it in local CBOs near their houses which let them receive the service comfortably.
- Ease Access to those women who have difficulties to reach the centers of psychosocial services either because of their poor economic situation or suffering from injures.
- The possibility of providing psych education for the beneficiary's families throw the home visits that has been done by the psychologist, which also encourage other members of family to ask and receive psychological services.
- Increased the awareness of psychological symptoms and problems that may they are suffering from it specially after the last attacked, or other member of their family as well

*Recommendations:*

- Activate the role of the Ministry of Health in coordination between institutions and organizations that provide services for the wounded people of Great return marches. The MOH should be the umbrella of all services provided to the affected people which ease the process of referring cases.
- Activate the economic part along with mental health services to the cases as they lack the basic needs and all of them have very low economic situation.
- Conduct more awareness workshops and sessions for people living in the Gaza Strip regarding the Great March of return to raise their awareness and understanding regarding the current situation.
- Activate the rule of surveys and need assessment study to assess the needs of target people and determine their reasons behind going to the borders

## **7.7 Economic empowerment for Female head of household**

- **Project Period:** 2017/08/01 to: 2018/07/30
- **Fund:** Association Iceland–Palestine (AIP)
- **Budget:** 50000 USD
- **Place:** Gaza City, and North Area

*Beneficiaries:*

30 women victims of violence, widows, divorced, head of households, wives of mentally ill and drug addicted people and their families.

*Goal:*

To contribute in alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities among economically deprived and socially marginalized women in the Gaza Strip.

*Summary:*

The project contributes in alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities among women victims of violence who are economically deprived and socially marginalized in the Gaza Strip. The specific objectives that will be achieved at the end of project period include that women victims of violence developed capacities to engage in community development, women victims of violence accessed economic opportunities, and community and formal institutions increased knowledge and sensitization on women's potential economic and productive roles in society. AISHA applies Theory Of Change to promote women's economic empowerment through individual change at women victims of violence level (Outcome 1:

women victims of violence are emerged with life, technical and vocational and business management knowledge and skills and motivated to engage in community development & Outcome 2: women victims of violence enhanced sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities) and systemic change at community and government actors level.

*Services:*

- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Vocational Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Grants for Small Business
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Individual Sessions
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Group Sessions
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Follow Up Visits
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Group Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Structured Awareness Raising Sessions

*Challenges:*

- The needs of the target groups are higher than what provided for them.
- The limited number of target group which gains to financial assistance - grants for small business.

*Lessons Learned:*

- Importance of upgrading IEM program to increase the response of the program to social, psychological, legal, and economic needs of marginalized women.
- Significance of integrating women with disabilities with normal women in the IEM program.
- Usefulness of providing transportation costs to the targeted women to increase their participation in the IEM program.
- Value of adopting AISHA's protocol for the treatment of addiction in dealing with addiction cases of both sexes so that women have an effective role in the treatment rather than being victims.

*Recommendations:*

- Necessity of following a holistic and integrated approach in addressing the problems of violence caused by addiction in its emerging mental health centre involving potential stakeholders in the Gaza Strip.
- Emphasis should be given to coordination and networking with organizations that work on women economic empowerment for providing grants or zero interest loans for small income generating businesses.

- Need to continue Aisha's integrated services like mental health, legal, and economic for marginalized women in the Gaza Strip.
- Necessity of providing psychosocial support sessions and home visits to women who have benefited from the IEM program in previous years.

## **7.8 Economic empowerment for sustainable change**

- **Project Period:** 2017/10/01 to: 2018/09/30
- **Fund:** GIZ
- **Budget:** 152425 EUR
- **Place:** Gaza City and North Area

*Beneficiaries:*

60 women victims of violence, widows, divorced, head of households, wives of mentally ill and drug addicted people and their families

*Goal:*

To contribute in alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities among economically deprived and socially marginalized young female in the Gaza Strip.

*Summary:*

The project contributes in alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities among young female victims of violence who economically deprived and socially marginalized in the Gaza Strip. The specific objectives that will be achieved at the end of project period include that young female victims of violence developed capacities to engage in community development, young female victims of violence accessed economic opportunities, and community and formal institutions increased knowledge and sensitization on women's potential economic and productive roles in society. AISHA will apply Theory of Change to promote women's economic empowerment through two levels: 1) Individual change at young female victims of violence level (Outcome 1: young female victims of violence are emerged with life, technical and vocational and business management knowledge and skills and motivated to engage in community development & Outcome 2: young female victims of violence enhanced sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities), and 2) Systemic change at community and government actors' level.

*Services:*

- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Vocational Training

- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Grants for Small Business
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Group Sessions
- Legal Aid Services - Legal Representation
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Open Days
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Home Field Visits
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Psychosocial Support Individual Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Structured Awareness Raising Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Workshops

*Challenges:*

Opining new department on photograph and printing on publicity materials targeting non educated women.

*Lessons Learned:*

- Importance of upgrading IEM program to increase the response of the program to social, psychological, legal, and economic needs of marginalized women.
- Significance of integrating women with disabilities with normal women in the IEM program.
- Usefulness of providing transportation costs to the targeted women to increase their participation in the IEM program.
- Value of adopting AISHA's protocol for the treatment of addiction in dealing with addiction cases of both sexes so that women have an effective role in the treatment rather than being victims.

*Recommendations:*

- Necessity of following a holistic and integrated approach in addressing the problems of violence caused by addiction in its emerging mental health centre involving potential stakeholders in the Gaza Strip.
- Emphasis should be given to coordination and networking with organizations that work on women economic empowerment for providing grants or zero interest loans for small income generating businesses.
- Need to continue Aisha's integrated services like mental health, legal, and economic for marginalized women in the Gaza Strip.
- Necessity of providing psychosocial support sessions and home visits to women who have benefited from the IEM program in previous years.

## **7.9 Eliminating discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence against vulnerable women in marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip**

- **Project Period:** 2017/01/01 to: 2019/12/31
- **Fund:** Kvinna Till Kvinna
- **Budget:** 128000 EUR
- **Place:** Gaza and Middle Area

### ***Beneficiaries:***

- ***Women & men:*** female heads of households (FHHs), victims of violence/at risk, internally displaced women, youth, graduates, elderly people, persons with disabilities, parents, persons with mental illness, addicted, wives of addicted, university students, etc.
- ***Boys & girls:*** school students, orphans, children with disabilities, street children, victims of violence/at risk, GBV survivors, school students who are over the typical age for their grade level, etc.
- ***Service providers:*** Aisha staff, social workers, psychological workers, media, health staff, school staff, lawyers, judges, municipal workers, etc. whether Government, local governance, or UNRWA).
- ***Decision makers:*** Government, local governance, UNRWA, Internationals from health, media, social affairs, Legislative Council.
- ***INGOs/diplomats.***
- ***Community leaders:*** Mukhtars, women leaders, human right activists, religious leaders, etc

### ***Goal:***

The status of women is enhanced as the culture of impunity for rights violations in the form of sexual and gender-based violence is challenged and the level (rate) and impact of SGBV reduced

### ***Summary:***

The project “Eliminating discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence against vulnerable women in marginalized communities in the Gaza Strip” has four main outcomes(1) Marginalized women rights holders demonstrated increased wellbeing, knowledge and confidence and increasingly claimed and realized their rights, gave peer support and worked towards ending the culture of impunity for rights violation in the form of sexual and gender-based violence.(2) Women’s rights organizations increased their capacity to be supportive of women’s empowerment as opposed to treat women as passive beneficiaries of support, to claim and realize women’s rights, and contribute to the elimination of the culture of impunity for rights violations in the form of sexual and gender based violence.(3) Protection services to victims of violence have become more inclusive, rights-based and professional (and relevant duty bearers have become more accountable to women, as rights holders, and increasingly took actions to respond to and prevent all forms of rights violations

in the form of gender based discrimination and violence.(4) Relevant local duty bearers became more accountable to women as rights holders and increasingly took actions to (respond to and prevent all forms of rights violations in the form of gender based discrimination and violence and) condemn and criminalize violence against women. The first outcome will be achieved during the project implementation through firstly: involving vulnerable women In IEM program as a way of social, psychological, legal and economic empowerment. Secondly, add more experience to women attending Self-help group trainings to be able to mobilize other women in empowerment and leadership objects. Thirdly, raise the awareness of women victims of violence families (men and boy members) on women rights, gender equality and cooperation between the two genders. Outcome (2) will be achieved through building the capacities of two women organizations by moving Aisha etc. experience in IEM to them by conducting a training focusing on case management approach in dealing with woman (VOV). This capacity building program will also include supervision and monitoring meetings, clinical supervision for the staff and providing the centers with amount of money for the vocational training they will conduct for their benefits.

### *Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Administration Manuals
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Vocational Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Follow Up Visits
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Open Days
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Clinical Supervision

### *Challenges:*

- The low rate of education for women victims of violence who were selected in self-help groups "WSHGS" It was sometimes difficult dealing with their minds during their training course.
- Social stigma and bad traditions regarding women rights especially while targeting men and boys "families of women victims of violence "
- Hard coordination with Governmental Shelter safe house as they work under Ministry of affairs and government

### *Lessons Learned:*

- Map all relevant stakeholders to identify synergies and partners.
- Necessity of upgrading IEM program to increase the response of the program to social, psychological, legal, and economic needs of marginalized women.
- Successful training needs quality control – measure what people have learned.

- Training should be participatory and related to real-life experiences.
- Focus on quality rather than quantity for more meaningful impact.

*Recommendations:*

- Providing humanitarian and relief support in cases of emergency and economic hardship
- Continuation of follow-up sessions to review and evaluate performance with cases

## **7.10 For a life without violence: (Social and economic project of inclusion for displaced, disabled and without income women in Al-Shejaeya – Gaza)**

- **Project Period:** 2017/11/02 to: 2018/06/11
- **Fund:** The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- **Budget:** 23571 EUR
- **Place:** Gaza City, Al-Shejaeya
- **Beneficiaries:** 15 women victims of GBV and Their families

*Goal:*

To contribute in alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities among economically deprived and socially marginalized women in the Gaza Strip.

*Summary:*

The project contributes in alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities among women victims of violence who economically deprived and socially marginalized in the Gaza Strip. The specific objectives that will be achieved at the end of project period include that young female victims of violence developed capacities to engage in community development, women victims of violence accessed economic opportunities, and community and formal institutions increased knowledge and sensitization on women's potential economic and productive roles in society. AISHA will apply Theory of Change to promote women's economic empowerment through two levels: 1) Individual change at women victims of violence level (Outcome 1: women victims of violence are emerged with life, technical and vocational and business management knowledge and skills and motivated to engage in community development & Outcome 2: women victims of violence enhanced sustainable livelihoods, self-employment and income opportunities), and 2) Systemic change at community and government actors' level.

*Services:*

- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Vocational Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Training
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Group Sessions
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Loans for Small Business
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - GBV Case Management
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Home Field Visits
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Workshops

*Challenges:*

- The limited number of grants provided for the target group.
- The needs of target groups are higher than what is provided for them due to the deterioration of economic situation

*Lessons Learned:*

- Importance of upgrading IEM program to increase the response of the program to social, psychological, legal, and economic needs of marginalized women.
- Significance of integrating women with disabilities with normal women in the IEM program.
- Usefulness of providing transportation costs to the targeted women to increase their participation in the IEM program.
- Value of adopting AISHA's protocol for the treatment of addiction in dealing with addiction cases of both sexes so that women have an effective role in the treatment rather than being victims.

*Recommendations:*

- Necessity of following a holistic and integrated approach in addressing the problems of violence caused by addiction in its emerging mental health centre involving potential stakeholders in the Gaza Strip.
- Emphasis should be given to coordination and networking with organizations that work on women economic empowerment for providing grants or zero interest loans for small income generating businesses.
- Need to continue Aisha's integrated services like mental health, legal, and economic for marginalized women in the Gaza Strip.
- Necessity of providing psycho social support sessions and home visits to women who have benefited from the IEM program in previous years.

## **7.11 Shifting Perspectives: Engaging men and boys in addressing GBV against women and girls in Gaza Strip**

- **Project Period:** 2018/01/01 to: 2018/12/31
- **Fund:** Kvinna till Kvinna
- **Budget:** 43585 EUR
- **Place:** All governorates in the Gaza Strip
- **Beneficiaries:** 75 men ambassadors.

### ***Goal:***

contribute to: "Discrimination against women and entitlement to the use of violence as a means to resolve conflicts is less accepted."

### ***Summary:***

The project advance women's human rights, women participation, women empowerment and peace building through addressing the use of non-violent ways to resolve conflicts that promote respect and dignity of women and strengthen the social fabric and social security within the Palestinian families and community contributing in peace building in the region. The project targeted 75 men from Gaza Strip named "Ambassadors for Women Rights" who trained on women rights and GBV, respectful confrontation, Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality facilitated by Promundo-US, and how to enhance women situation in the Gaza Strip by getting their rights. In addition, in future steps, they prepared plans and initiatives to advocate women rights targeting university students and staff, engaged couples, Sharia courts, Police, religious community leaders, and NGO/CBO staff and volunteers by different activities.

### ***Services:***

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Monitoring and Follow Up
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Media Campaign
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Initiatives
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Workshops

### ***Challenges:***

- One of the most important challenges facing the implementation of the training of Respectful Confrontation is the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip, that the trainer Joe Weston was not allowed to enter the Gaza Strip because of the Israeli occupation so the training conducted by remote.

- The limited fund for the media campaign so Aisha conducted one large campaign covered by UN Women fund and KTK fund.

### *Lessons Learned:*

- Importance of engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality and positive masculinities and preventing GBV against women and girls in the Gaza Strip.
- Work with boys to embed the concept of gender equality at an early age.
- Develop positive models of masculinity to build equal relationships and to challenge violence against women.
- Encourage successful trainees' ambassadors to become advocates and mentors.
- Successful training needs quality control – measure what people have learned.
- Group training creates solidarity as well as capacity.
- Track the learning and development of beneficiaries to ensure that new skills are put into practice.
- Importance of applying gender-transformative approach and move beyond only gender-neutral or gender-sensitive project.
- Value of transforming gender roles and promoting more gender-equitable relationships between men and women as well as between boys and girls.
- Targeting women as well as men and boys when working with men. This is because gender norms and the associated inequities are not maintained and produced by men alone but through relations between the genders.
- Importance of including open recreational days for ambassadors in project design.

### *Recommendations:*

- Maintain engagement in the project through consistency, Ambassador empowerment and identity building:
  - Consistency - When participants know what to expect and have information in advance (including expected activities, dates and educational materials) they are more likely to be better prepared and able to attend. Even low-engagement Ambassadors (those who missed training sessions) showed high levels of interest and commitment to the project which can be transformed into high-engagement with organizational support. Also, it is important to have planned activities occurring in consistent intervals with time gaps that do not serve as periods of inactivity.
  - Ambassador empowerment and ownership – Ambassadors must be empowered to plan and implement their own activities, as well as, trained to monitor and evaluate their results. Results-based feedback is important to guide Ambassador capacity building and sense of competency. Training materials could be unified (instead of having separate manuals for each block/ theme) and include examples of activities, exercises or instructions on how to develop small interventions to be conducted individually and/or as a group during the intervals. Orientations should also include

- information regarding strategic targeting (such as targeting men instead of women). Empowering Ambassadors may also decrease their dependence on AISHA.
- Identity building and recognition – The title of “Ambassadors” was important in attracting men to the project but also of making them accountable. In other settings, the use of such titles was able to bring prestige which was accompanied by sustained commitment, increased interest from other possible participants and motivator for modeling gender-equitable attitudes. Similarly, Ambassadors may be important human resources in the territory that should be utilized as such. A possible tool may be the creation of a data pool with their contact information that can be shared to organizations looking to hire/ recruit staff. However, in order for such a tool effectively meet the need for capable human resource, criteria for inclusion, mechanisms for monitoring Ambassador performance, and periodic evaluations to remain in the Ambassador database would be needed.
- Create mechanisms to promote synergies between projects, organizations and funders: The promotion of synergies would be improved by mapping stakeholders involved in organizing, implementing or funding gender transformative and implementing communication pathways between them.
  - Similarly, AISHA could benefit from strengthened organizational processes, especially in terms of information management (data storage, data security, etc.) and monitoring and evaluation. In terms of monitoring and evaluation, AISHA may be interested in utilizing research instruments that were adapted for the context of Gaza for measuring coping strategies, stress and PTSD.

## **7.12 Toward Just and Secure Future for Women**

- **Project Period:** 2017/10/01 to: 2018/04/01
- **Fund:** UN Women Sawasya: Promoting the Rule of Law in Palestine
- **Budget:** 111400 ILS
- **Place:** All governorates in the Gaza Strip

### *Beneficiaries:*

- 1733 prep school students.
- 564 parents from their parents.
- 28 of UNRWA- Mental Health Department supervisors and their assistants.

### *Goal:*

To contribute to enhancing rule of law and community access to justice and security in the Gaza Strip

### ***Summary:***

Building on previous experiences with UNWOMEN in such intervention and during SAWASYA phase I, and the membership at wide networks, community outreach such as the active role in the Amal coalition to Combat GBV and women with disability network (under establishment by women sector-PNGO) and the MoU signed with Hayat Multipurpose Center for the Protection of Women and Children in Gaza; and building on over 20 years of experience in working with women survivors/victims of VAW as well as the general community, AISHA Association in coordination with UNRWA- mental health and education department and in partnership with UNWOMEN contribute to the Enhancement of rule of law and community access to justice and security in the Gaza Strip The proposed intervention contribute to Enhance the Rule of law and community Access to Justice and Security in the Gaza Strip by Ensuring Accountable Service Provision.

### ***Services:***

- Researches and Capacity Building - Evaluation
- Researches and Capacity Building - Monitoring and Follow Up
- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Community Forums
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Awareness Raising Sessions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Roundtable Discussions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Publicities (Posters, Notebooks, Stickers, Flyers)

### ***Challenges:***

- The children and parent's sessions supposed to be conducted in UNRWA schools but coordination with them took too much time that they are busy with changing the curriculums.
- The target groups were busy with mid-term exams and final exams in November and December.
- UNRWA Mental Health Department supervisors and their deputies were busy to participate in the training.

### ***Lessons Learned:***

- Engaging school students in designing the project activities increases their ownership for the project objectives and achievement.
- Importance of including open recreational days for school boys in project design.
- Significance of organizing open dialogue forum involving school administration, counsellors, Aisha Association, school students parent council and community leaders.
- Value of increasing the training hours for school teachers and counsellors.

## ***Recommendations:***

### ***Recommendations of the children and the parents***

- Awareness project on drug addiction and its damages and how to get rid of it,
- Project how to self-defense and gender equality.
- Stress management courses.
- The rights and duties of the child
- Painting courses and courses on tolerance and forgiveness.
- The role of law in the country and increasing knowledge of the law
- Establish recreational camps for parents and children.
- Project of dealing with adolescents.
- Educating of school students about the dangers of sexual assaults and homosexuals of all ages.
- Implementation of economic empowerment projects for women and couples.
- Implement educational projects for couples.

### ***Recommendations of the AISHA association***

- To Follow-up work in schools for the target group and stay in contact with schools.
- To Exchange with the same CBOs working with schools through current projects.
- Networking with UNRWA institutions and UN women's organizations.
- To focus more on men.
- To Increase the number of training sessions to provide better activities for children and parents.
- To develop the training material to cover all the following aspects needed by those targeted.
- To work more on referral system and referral system in schools UNRWA.
- To increase services for women, their spouses and their children at the school level.

### ***Recommendations of the donor***

- To conduct a study to identify the community needs in this subject and to measure the capacities of local CBOs and institutions.
- To conduct workshops to change existing views of gender especially in neglected and marginalized communities and areas where children and parents were targeted.
- To conduct more workshops to increase the knowledge of primary school students as well as their parents about how to reach the justice.
- To increase access to more families and children in addition to the men in the next projects.
- To work more with UNRWA targeting both primary school students and work more on the referral system in UNRWA schools.
- To involve people with special needs in the next projects.

### ***Recommendations of facilitators working in community based organizations***

- Men should be targeted in other projects.

- Involve more training and to target men and teachers.
- Projects should be implemented to strengthen the protection of children.
- There should be an increase in the number of sessions for groups because they need more and more.

## **7.13 Shifting perspectives of men and boys of Masculinity and Gender Equality**

- **Project Period:** 2017/06/01 to: 2018/11/30
- **Fund:** UN Women
- **Budget:** 370000 ILS
- **Place:** All governorates in the Gaza Strip

*Beneficiaries:*

*Direct beneficiaries:*

- 100 Gender Equality Promoters and 2153 boys from the secondary schools' students
- 40 teachers and school counsellors.
- 772 parents of the targeted students.

*Indirect beneficiaries:*

- About 200,000 population from the Gaza Strip who follow the advocacy campaign tools, page and will be influenced by the GEPs and the students through implementing community initiatives and peer-to-peer approach.
- 22 Actors from the field of women rights, gender equality whether from CSOs or individuals who formed the advisory committee who will support the project implementation

*Goal:*

Men and boys have become more effective change agents in reducing GBV and promoting gender equality.

*Summary:*

The project designed to engage men and boys in building peace through transformative approaches, empowering them with new skills and resources to question and transform rigid and violent narratives of masculinity, and adopt peaceful and positive sense of masculinity. The workshop and training materials addressed the concept of masculinity, importance of engaging men in achieving gender justice and the existing narratives about masculinity, as well as examining power, emotions and violence, and finally conflict transformation and activism. Furthermore, awareness raising sessions and workshops conducted with the school's students to re frame power through break the rigid ideas about Masculine principles and patriarchy.

### ***Services:***

- Researches and Capacity Building - Baseline Study
- Researches and Capacity Building - Training Manuals
- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - The Exchange Experience Meetings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Evaluation
- Researches and Capacity Building - Baseline Study
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Awareness Raising Sessions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Publicities (Posters, Notebooks, Stickers, Flyers)
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Social Media Campaign (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Ceremonies
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Meetings with Decision Makers

### ***Challenges:***

- Coordination with MoEHE is very important, but everything should go through them first before final approval and working with schools that affects the timeframe for each activity. For example, Aisha started work with the schools during final exams of the first semester.
- The limited time of awareness raising sessions and the gaps in the information needed to be addressed as recommended by the baseline results, where it is not easy to address gender, Masculinities and power relations in sessions with 1:30 hour.

### ***Lessons Learned:***

- Importance of engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality and positive masculinities and preventing GBV against women and girls in the Gaza Strip.
- Work with boys to embed the concept of gender equality at an early age.
- Develop positive models of masculinities to build equal relationships and to challenge violence against women.
- Engage successful trainees to become advocates and mentors.
- Successful training needs quality control – measure what people have learned.
- Group training creates solidarity as well as capacity.
- Focus on quality rather than quantity for more meaningful impact.
- Include qualitative indicators to measure meaningful progress.
- Include monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning in the project design.
- Track the learning and development of beneficiaries to ensure that new skills are put into practice.
- Project indicators should be linked to available data collection and tools.
- Gender is a complicated and powerful subject: use appropriate expertise when designing training materials.

- Importance of applying gender-transformative approach and move beyond only gender-neutral or gender-sensitive project.
- Targeting women as well as men and boys when working with men. This is because gender norms and the associated inequities are not maintained and produced by men alone but through relations between the genders.
- Significance of targeting school students, young health teachers and counsellors, and families in promoting gender equality.
- Engaging school boys in designing the project activities increases their ownership for the project objectives and achievement.
- Importance of including open recreational days for school boys in project design.
- Significance of organizing open dialogue forum involving school administration, counsellors, Aisha Association, parent council and community leaders.
- Value of increasing the training hours for school health teachers and counsellors.
- Need to follow up of school boys who move to another school and how he will promote gender equality among his peers in the new school.
- Giving more focus for respectful confrontation particularly for school boys.
- Taking into consideration that training starts from the first semester to avoid the training break during summer holiday.

*Recommendations:*

- NEED to increase the number of beneficiary schools due to the high community demand.
- NEED to consider capacity to inspire, influence, personal strengths
- NEED to have follow up actions for GEPs who change schools (move from the targeted schools to other untargeted schools).
- NEED to involve school students in the design of related project activities.
- NEED for recreational activities for school students.
- NEED for user guide manual to reduce violence within schools.
- NEED to undertake safe and violence free schools' initiative
- NEED to award safe and violence-free schools.
- NEED to establish school - family communication.
- NEED for community open dialogue forums involving parent councils, schools' principals and councilors, parents and AISHA.
- NEED to train GEPs on how to speak up and tell publicly their powerful stories in TEDx children event to raise the awareness of their peers on respectful confrontation and transformative gender.
- NEED to extend services to a larger number of target beneficiaries.

## **7.14 Strengthen Child Protection Systems to Prevent and Respond to Violence (Physical, Sexual and Corporal Punishment/Humiliating Behaviors) Against Children by Empowering CSOs, Caregivers and Children to Support Elimination of Violence**

- **Project Period:** 2018/01/01 to: 2018/12/31
- **Fund:** in partnership with Save the Children and funded by SIDA
- **Budget:** 672001 SEK
- **Place:** Gaza and North of Gaza city

### ***Beneficiaries:***

- Parents (women and men)
- Children from (6 – 17) years old

### ***Goal:***

MoSA-led child protection system is strengthened to prevent and respond to violence (physical, sexual and corporal punishment/humiliating behaviors) against children by empowering CSOs, caregivers and children to support elimination of violence

### ***Summary:***

AISHA through equipped the skills and techniques of Parents and teachers to practice PD, and increase their knowledge to eliminate VAC, and aiming to increased awareness among targeted communities on positive discipline and elimination of violence against children, AISHA implemented several activities such as SRHR awareness session for children aged from (10-17) and their parents, Positive discipline awareness sessions for parents, TOT trainings for service providers, organize media campaign phase 2 #أطفالنا\_أمانة, and aiming to provide high quality services to the most vulnerable people (women and children) AISHA through implementing new activities such as psychological mobile clinic, mental health clinic and legal Aid Clinic using case management approach, building the capacities of CBOs, Awareness sessions and developing polices by advocacy related to (physical punishment) aiming to alleviate the violence against children.

### ***Services:***

- Researches and Capacity Building - Case Studies
- Researches and Capacity Building - Training Manuals
- Menatl Health and Substance Abuse - Structured Individual Consultation Sessions
- Psychosocial Support and Case Management - Structured Awareness Raising Sessions

### ***Challenges:***

- Most of legal cases are considered as discord and conflict issues so it's taken long time to gain the judgment.
- The bad Economic situations for these women prevent them to follow their issues alone.
- The corruption in reporting process and in Police Center such as when the lawyer takes a judgment to report the Husband with the final judgment, the person (who is responsible to report from the judicial police and located at the court) does not report the husband with the final judgment, because he takes money from the husband to say I cannot identify / inference to the husband's location, or when the woman takes a judgment and started to implement the judgment even if she will take money from the Husband or implementing the rule of confinement against the husband to force him to pay, and finally the husband dose not confine due to the nepotism in judicial police.
- Many Mental Health cases take long time among the individual session due to the circumstances that parents live in, and this is affecting on the follow up the case.
- The Palestinian internal division challenged the Palestinian NGOs from Continuing their work through the critical procedures to get the Licenses for the Organization, but AISHA able to skip this challenge through dealing with wide network of CBOs.

### ***Lessons Learned:***

- Necessity of following a holistic and integrated approach in addressing the problems of violence caused by addiction in its emerging mental health centre involving potential stakeholders in the Gaza Strip.
- Usefulness of providing transportation costs to the targeted women to increase their participation in the project specially when they came to mental health and legal aid clinics.
- Need to continue Aisha's integrated services like mental health, legal, and economic for women who need deep intervention in Gaza Strip.

### ***Recommendations:***

#### ***Under Capacity Building the service providers recommended the following:***

- Work with advisors and school counsellors at schools who have direct contact with children (Saed)
- Conduct workshops for law enforcement and decision-makers (Areej)
- Free emergency hotline for emergency response (Hadeel)
- Workshops for full awareness and protection of the child (Walid)
- Formation of a moving team to visit houses.
- More workshops about Violence among spouses (Areej)
- Conduct courses about case management.
- Host a doctor who specializes in abortion and infertility (Reda)

***Under the researches the study recommended the following:***

- To develop a program to tackle the phenomena of slum- children and economically exploited children who forced to beg or work.
- To raise awareness with the services provided by the MSD to protect children from violence.
- To follow up children in the broken families on periodic manner to make sure that they are not subjected to violence.
- To develop program to achieve compulsory basic education for the children to follow up dropouts and children deprived of their right to education.

## **7.15 Legal empowerment for women / pathway to sustainable development**

- **Project Period:** 2018/10/01 to: 2019/09/30
- **Fund:** UNDP Sawasya II: Promoting the Rule of Law in Palestine
- **Budget:** 65740 USD
- **Place:** The north Governorate

***Beneficiaries:***

- 1000 women.
- 50 fresh graduates' lawyers.

***Goal:***

contribute to advancing the rule of law, integrity, gender justice and human rights in Gaza Strip by improving women's access to justice and security in the North areas of the Gaza Strip through the provision of Legal aid service.

***Summary:***

The project is building on the efforts of SAWASYA phase I and the inception phase of Sawasya II aiming at advancing the rule of law, integrity, gender justice and human rights in Palestine. As in SAWASYA phase I and phase regarding the presentation of women in courts and the awareness raise for women and their families. Aisha in this project will continue its working in these fields and targeting more number of people because needs were noticed through implanting the activities of the previous phases. This project will continue the achievements of the previous projects phase I and phase II in many aspects, awareness raising, capacity building and also provide legal services for women whether consultations or presentations. In fact, Aisha looks for sustainable legal aid program for women in the Gaza Strip This project will target vulnerable women, women victims of violence, children and their families. The project will contribute to improving women's access to justice to protect and claim their rights, in areas related to family law matters.

*Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Legal Aid Services - Legal Representation
- Legal Aid Services - Awareness Raising
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Meetings with Decision Makers
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Media Campaign

*Challenges:*

The unstable political situation enforced the association to delay some activities.

*Lessons Learned:*

Awareness sessions are important for women to know more about their rights and who to access to justice.

*Recommendations:*

Necessity of providing comprehensive services, i.e.; psychosocial support for women who benefited from legal aid clinic.

## **7.16 Provision of Empowerment Programme for Female Heads of Households (FHHs)**

- **Project Period:** 2018/02/19 to: 2019/03/20
- **Fund:** UNRWA- Gender Initiative
- **Budget:** 93916 USD
- **Place:** All governorates in the Gaza Strip.

*Beneficiaries:*

- 168 FHHs who are divorced, separated, abundant, widows or wives of disabled person who have a small project.
- 201 of sulafa embroiders.
- 202 of sulafa embroiders men relatives.

*Goal:*

Address the particular needs of FHHs through skills-building and training

### ***Summary:***

The project has been implemented in partnership with (7) CBOs across the Gaza Strip to provide women heads of households with necessary financial literacy, household management, and life skills, to improve the economic and social situation of FHHs in Gaza.

### ***Services:***

- Researches and Capacity Building - Monitoring and Follow Up
- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - The Exchange Experience Meetings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Economic Empowerment and Vocational Trainings - Economic Training
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Ceremonies
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Awareness Raising Sessions
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Workshops
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Seminars
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Documentary Films

### ***Challenges:***

- The time and duration of the training was long that women left their business for long time.
- The unstable political situation enforced the association to delay some sessions.

### ***Lessons Learned:***

Capacity building training are necessary for enhancing skills of FHHs.

### ***Recommendations:***

- Provide the beneficiaries with transportation that because of the bad economic situation, the beneficiaries suggest to provide them with transportation.
- Use role play and simulation methods in the trainings.
- Support the training materials with success stories of success business women.
- Conduct sessions with successful businessmen and businesswomen.

## **7.17 Supporting local initiatives to advance psychological support and empowerment of vulnerable women<sup>>18</sup> and girls<sup><18</sup> in Gaza through in yoga and social circus training.**

- **Project Period:** 2018/08/15 to: 2019/02/15
- **Fund:** Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)

- **Budget:** 22300 USD
- **Place:** Gaza City

### *Beneficiaries:*

- 23 trainers (young women)
- 105 Women (60 in Yoga, 45 in social circus)

### *Goal:*

To empower Palestinian women and girls in Gaza through improved mental and physical wellbeing

### *Summary:*

The main Project Goal is to empower Palestinian women and girls in Gaza through improved mental and physical wellbeing. The main activities of the project are: Training of Trainers (ToT) – continuing training for trainers for the current participants of the pilot project (19 on yoga and 13 on social circus). This will be in the form of three 2-week trainings with visiting international trainers (twice during the 6 months, the international trainers will be recruited on a volunteer basis, and expected to raise their own funds for travel).

- Weekly classes in social circus for 45 women and girls led by women from the ToT (3 five week terms of classes, with two week breaks in between for the ToT)
- Weekly classes in yoga for 60 women and girls led by women from the ToT (3 five week terms of classes, with two week breaks in between for the ToT)
- Monthly meeting between Aisha staff, a representative elected from the ToT groups, to update and adapt to challenges, responses to classes
- Following the end of each term, open days for children and relatives of participants to attend.
- Communication and outreach: Radio program (one radio session and sms to advertise the idea of yoga and social circus as one of the psychological health support tools)

### *Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - SMS Messages
- Awareness Raising and Advocacy - Radio Sessions

### *Challenges:*

Shortage of fund to save the program continuity

### *Lessons Learned:*

Conduct such training for organization's staff enhance their sport skills and help to get ride of Work pressures

### *Recommendations:*

- To continue providing yoga and social circus for the beneficiaries (women and girls) as it helps to have better mental health life for those targeted people
- To have a separated place for Aisha to serve yoga and social circus
- To have more services in the center

## **7.18 Gaza Women and Girls Social Circus and Wellness Hub Activities**

- **Project Period:** 2018/01/01 to: 2018/07/31
- **Fund:** Irish Fund
- **Budget:** 51,000 USD
- **Place:** Gaza City

### *Beneficiaries:*

- 34 young women as trainer for social circus and yoga
- 15 girls
- 15 adolescents girls
- 15 women

### *Goal:*

To improve Palestinian Women and Girls mental and physical wellbeing.

### *Summary:*

There is a history of the arts being used for social change. For those who have experienced conflict or trauma, the circus can be a form of escape and a place where they share their experiences and express emotions. It serves as a support network that meets both physical and psychological needs and this project aims not only to deliver specific trainings in Gaza, but to empower a community of women in Gaza to continue practicing and sharing the skills they gained during the trainings with new members, and younger generations. Social circus is an innovative social intervention approach based on the circus arts. It targets various at-risk groups living in precarious personal and social situations, including street or detained youth and women survivors of violence. In this approach, the primary goal is not to learn the circus arts, but rather to assist with participants' personal and social development by nurturing their self-esteem and trust in others, as well as by helping them to acquire

social skills, become active citizens, express their creativity and realize their potential. Social circus is a powerful catalyst for creating social change because it helps marginalized individuals assume their place within a community and enrich that community with their talents. There is a growing argument that psychological support and interventions are becoming increasingly relevant in Gaza, as the space for women in Gaza is gradually subsiding, along with economic downturns and growing rates of VAW. Further, the effects of negative and exploitative attitudes towards the female body and female power are not confined to survivors of domestic violence, and there is a clear need for a holistic approach towards women and girl's self-care and wellbeing in Gaza, both physical and mental. The establishment of the Gaza Women and Girls Social Circus and Wellness Hub, would look to combine an empowering and holistic approach to health, fitness and wellbeing together with the opportunity to learn a range of exciting and enjoyable new skills in a cooperative and safe social and physical environment. The aim would be to create a space where women and girls will be able to build relationships, trust and a sense of a supportive community, without barriers of age, ability, class and ethnicity. Social circus emphasises the interconnectedness of mind and body, and gaining physical strength can influence other aspects of one's life unconsciously and can affect our personal view of ourselves as women in this world. Participation in social circus projects gives participants greater self-knowledge, technique in a new skill and a sense of achievement within a positive atmosphere, based on community, encouragement and teamwork.

#### *Services:*

- Researches and Capacity Building - Evaluation
- Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings
- Researches and Capacity Building - Monitoring and Follow Up

#### *Challenges:*

- It is a new topic to be addressed in the Gaza Strip. Social Stigma plays a role
- Shortage of fund to build a separated center for such sports

#### *Lessons Learned:*

Yoga and Social Circus are ways for better mental and psychological health

#### *Recommendations:*

To have more training and program that support Yoga and Social Circus sports for Women and girls in the Gaza Strip

### **7.19 Young Leaders Program YWLP**

- **Project Period:** 2018/05/15 to: 2018/08/15

- **Fund:** Gender Initiative UNRWA
- **Budget:** 20710 USD
- **Place:** Gaza Strip (Gaza, Deir Balah, khanyouins)
- **Beneficiaries:** 60 female graduates

*Goal:*

Improve the capacity of women and girls to exercise freedom of choice, take advantage of opportunities for personal and professional development and to address inequality at all levels of social, economic and political life

*Summary:*

As this programme is a part of that general project that was designed to improve the capacity of women and girls to exercise freedom of choice, take advantage of opportunities for personal and professional development and to address inequality at all levels of social, economic and political life. As part of the Gender Initiative the Young Woman Leaders Programme "YWLP" aims to enhance employment opportunities for young female graduates in the Gaza Strip. Specifically, the activities of the YWLP are designed to enhance the skills of participants to improve their access to and opportunities in the labour market foster the knowledge and skills gained at university that will benefit participants in their community , their homes as well as in the job market and provide participants with work placement opportunities that will provide them with transferable skills

*Services:*

Researches and Capacity Building - Capacity Building Trainings

*Challenges:*

- Short time of project's duration where graduates were in need for additional hours of training
- Hard coordination with universities to nominate names for the programme because of summer vacations.
- Partnering CBOs stand in far places from the graduates and there was difficulty to access the CBOs which caused problems in attending the courses
- Short time of the programme and busy days of trainings

*Lessons Learned:*

Capacity building training are necessary for enhancing skills of fresh graduates

*Recommendations:*

To have more training for graduates in order to enhance their skills

## **8. The main achievements through 2018**

- Obtaining a certificate of integrity and transparency for two years from NDC.
- Aisha Community Center for Mental Health and Drug Abuse Services launched and opened to work as a Canadian funded outpatient clinic.
- Launching Aisha Community Center for Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Licensed from Ministry of Health.
- Awareness of about 18956 community members on issues of violence against women, gender-based violence, gender, social participation and legal issues related to women's rights and protection.
- Follow-up of 540 women, girls and children clinically and medically through Aisha Community Center.
- Represented 337 women before Sharia courts in a total of 578 cases and provided 864 legal consultations.
- 4024 women, children and adolescents of both gender and men who have received systematic group psychosocial support sessions using different techniques.
- Develop a psychosocial support manual for GBV survivors of women with disabilities in conflict areas as an annex to the previously developed Hawa El Zahar toolkit with funding from Government of Canada.
- Conduct a baseline survey of economic empowerment, employment services for survivors of violence funded by Spanish APS.
- Launching a survey study about the views of Palestinian society towards the phenomenon of early marriage in the Gaza Strip and ways to confront and reduce it.
- Empowering 115 women victims of violence psychologically, socially, legally and economically within the individual empowerment program.
- Financing 36 small projects through the grant and loans system through various projects and the good loan of Aisha.

## **9. Challenges and Obstacles**

### **9.1 General Challenges**

#### *Culture*

- Masculinity culture and social practices, involving males as children and adults in preventive programs and therapeutic interventions, integrating religious leaders in planning inclusive activities.
- Cultural attitudes of workers in different sectors towards violence and anti-GBV programs.
- Challenges facing economic support, employment and education programs as they threaten the masculinity power.

### *Occupation*

- Repeated wars and crises intentionally maintain interventions at the level of emergency responses and humanitarian relief in all areas, and prevent recovery and development. Here we must pay attention to this political strategy and its impact on confronting violence.
- An emergency response framework and plan does not prevent long-term development plans and programs.
- Occupation policies and practices and their relationship to GBV.

### *Blockade*

- The blockade is a lack of resources, restriction of movement and repeated crises in order to occupy society from demanding rights and development.
- The impact of the blockade on projects against gender-based violence from the fragmentation of efforts and lack of agreement on priorities, and the lack of follow-up and evaluation of programs in terms of relevance and effectiveness.

### *Division*

It is the main disease in the Palestinian society that limits objectives and public policies and the exchange of resources and experience, and how this has affected programs to combat violence against women.

## **9.2 Private Challenges**

- The deterioration of the political and economic situation and its impact on community
- The high fees of the Shari'a courts have led to an increase in the number of women seeking legal service.
- Recruitment fundraising staff remains a real burden.
- Concerning coordination with governmental and non-governmental community institutions to provide additional services, there is a clear shortage of these institutions in providing health and relief services.
- Difficulty in obtaining statistics on the different forms of violence against women in the Gaza Strip.

## **10. Future Needs**

- Developing the projects department by covering the gap in the weakness of unrestricted funding, which is a real challenge for most NGOs, especially women.
- Develop and expand the work of Aisha Community Center to include overnight service for mental health and drug abuse cases.

- Membership in international networks that ensures representation at the international level of the association and allows them to access and share experiences with international organizations and governments.
- The creation of new departments in the society to meet the needs in light of the rapid expansion of the work and at the request of donors.

## **11. Annex 1: Services of the Association and beneficiaries for 2018**

In 2018, the association was able to provide services to 37909 beneficiaries (women, men, children and girls) within its various projects in all governorates of the Gaza Strip and within the six main areas of services:

- Research and capacity building
- Economic empowerment and vocational training
- Mental health and drug abuse
- Legal aid
- Psychosocial support and case management
- Awareness and advocacy

The distribution of beneficiaries by gender, age and disability was as follows:

- Women: 20160
- Men: 9475
- Girls: 3067
- Boys: 4593
- People with disabilities: 814

