



Al Asa'diya School – Old City

BOX (2): The Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program (OCJRP)

About OCJRP

The OCJRP, established in 1994 by the Welfare Association, launched its Technical Office in 1995 for implementing architectural restoration projects. Since then it has developed into the most comprehensive architectural restoration program in Palestine, encompassing restoration projects, training initiatives, GIS documentation and an integrated community outreach program. It has implemented more than 200 comprehensive restoration and rehabilitation projects of historic monuments, buildings, sites and housing in Jerusalem's Old City. The Program is recognized internationally as a signal program in the field: it was awarded the prestigious Aga Khan Foundation's Architectural Award in 2004.

The OCJRP has worked successfully with an impressive list of stakeholders and supporters, in probably what is the most complex and problematic historic urban core in the world. It has developed wide international contacts in Europe, North Africa, and the US; it most recently partnered with UNESCO and with Italy's Istituto de Venezia for on-site training in stone restoration and further training in Venice for local architects.

The OCJRP's main program components are: (a) restoration and rehabilitation projects (rehabilitation of monuments, housing renewal and adaptive reuse of historic buildings), (b) the training of architects, engineers and contractors on international standard restoration methods, including the revival of traditional crafts and construction through training of young craftsman and technicians, (c) documentation center and Jerusalem GIS data base on the Old City, and (d) cultural heritage community training and education program.

Activities in 2006

In the year 2006 OCJRP disbursed more than \$1.9 million on 33 projects, representing a 10% increase from the total amount disbursed in 2005.

Major achievements in this sector included:

- Restoration of 45 houses in the Old City of Jerusalem with 385 persons directly benefiting.
- Restoration of 7 public buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem.
- Restoration of 14 houses in the old city of Nablus where more than 65 persons benefited
- Training of a number of architects and engineers and new university graduates.
- Finalization of the 2nd and 3rd phases of documenting properties in the Old City of Jerusalem. Documentation of property has been finalized so far in 10 out of 59 sectors.
- Implementation of a wide range of public awareness activities particularly in the African quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem.



The Islamic Museum - Old City

On November 30, 2006, Welfare Association held a fundraising benefit dinner in Dubai entitled “Jerusalem in our Hearts.” The \$680,000 raised will support the Old City of Jerusalem Revitalization Program which aims to rehabilitate historical buildings, preserve cultural heritage and create a better quality of life for Jerusalem inhabitants. These funds will enable emergency repairs for more than 20 homes for multiple families providing healthy and safe shelter for more than 200 Old City residents.

Another major achievement in 2006 was the signing of a three-year (2006-2009) agreement between the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and Welfare Association. Sida will provide \$1.25 million for OCJRP for projects that aim at supporting the restoration of historic buildings and urban environments for the benefit of children and youth. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the preservation and use of the historic environment of the Old City of Jerusalem.

Successful negotiations were concluded to develop an Architectural Heritage Preservation Institute funded by the European Union through partnership with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The agreement was signed in December 2006 and the project implementation will commence in early 2007. The 3-year project aims to institutionalize a formal technical training program in international standards and practices in conservation to benefit architects, engineers, contractors and workers practicing in the field in Jerusalem.

The training program will rely on OCJRP restoration projects as project sites for its practical training activities. The institute will also develop a specific information centre and data base for special monuments and historic sites in the Old City of Jerusalem.

The Welfare Association plans to establish an endowment for the institute to ensure its sustainability and hopes to expand and replicate this project in the future in other historic centers in Palestine.

Three different high profile symposia on OCJRP and its achievements took place in 2006 in Sharjah and Kuwait, including a seminar entitled “Protecting Religious and Architectural Heritage in the Old City of Jerusalem” held in Kuwait and hosted by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

Activities

A woman in a black hijab is speaking at a seminar. Behind her is a banner with Arabic and English text. The English text reads: "The Future of Jerusalem: The Rights of the Palestinians".

A Seminar Held by the Civic Coalition for Defending the Palestinians' Rights in Jerusalem (CCDPR)

Public Policy, Advocacy and Legal Rights Sector

Supporting citizens in attaining their humanitarian and legal rights

Sector Overview

WA support to the Public Policy, Advocacy and Legal Rights Sector aims at supporting Palestinian citizens in attaining their humanitarian and legal rights through awareness raising, legal aid, lobbying and advocacy, and through the strengthening of institutions of local government.

Three different but overlapping areas of need constituted the main foci for WA interventions in this sector, namely: 1) Human rights of Palestinians living in the 1948 areas, 2) Legal rights of Palestinians living in annexed Jerusalem, and 3) Women rights in general.

- Palestinians living in the 1948 areas are considered and treated as second class citizens and are deprived of a broad spectrum of legal, humanitarian, and other rights. In the Naqab specifically, many Palestinians are living in what is called Unrecognized Villages, with no access to basic services or any other rights.

A photograph showing a group of people, including children, standing in front of a blue corrugated metal fence in a desert landscape. The ground is sandy and there are some sparse plants.

Bedouin Residents of Unrecognized Villages in Naqab

- Palestinians living in Jerusalem have to contend daily with issues and practices that violate their basic and internationally recognized human rights. These issues include restrictions regarding building permits; property confiscation; settlement expansion; family dispersion; silent deportation of residents; poor quality of education and health services; high taxation; restrictions on economic mobility; discrimination in the municipal services regarding garbage collection, safe and well-paved roads, lighting of roads; humiliating practices at the Israeli official departments; and the ramifications of the Israeli Apartheid Wall on all aspects of life.
- Progress made by Palestinian women concerning their health and educational status in recent decades has been quite impressive, however, gender disparities still exist in many official indicators of human development and reflect the generally lower status of women compared to men. This can be seen in their employment sub-sectors, income share, positions and benefits; level of decision-making positions in business, politics, institutions, and public life; access to loans; and in their treatment as workers, to women's disadvantage.

Furthermore, women's status has regressed under the severe conditions of the intifada, primarily from the effects of increased poverty and associated economic and social pressure on families toward early school leaving, early marriage and early childbearing, and abandonment. There has been an increasing prevalence of frustration and violence in society. In such circumstances, women are known to also be more vulnerable to discrimination, violence and social isolation.

First Issue of the Newspaper Supplement "Sawt Al-Quds" Published by the Civic Coalition for Defending the Palestinians' Rights in Jerusalem (CCDPRJ) and Circulated with Al-Quds Daily



Activities in 2006

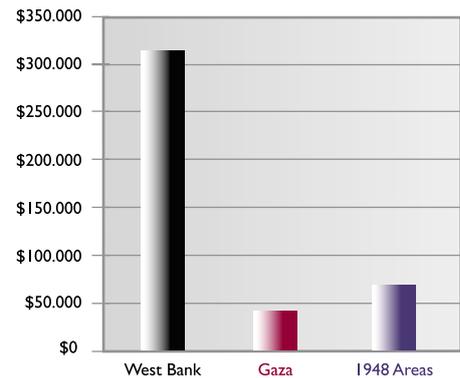
In 2006, WA tried to address many of the areas of needs through the implementation of 10 different projects in the Public Policy, Advocacy and Legal Rights Sector with total disbursements equal to \$442,823.

Major achievements in this sector included:

- **Naqab:** In an attempt at improving the legal rights situation in the Naqab, 5 massive demonstrations against home demolition were conducted, grazing licenses for 560 sheep owners were obtained, legal counseling was provided to sheep owners, meetings with and tours for Knesset members were conducted, a media campaign was conducted, 2 position papers were prepared, 30 legal cases and 4 High Court appeals were submitted.
- **Jerusalem:** A Citizens' Rights Advocacy Bureau/ Forum (CAB) in East Jerusalem was established and was a major step towards improving the quality and relevance of the legal and human rights services provided to residents in East Jerusalem. CAB implemented a wide range of activities that included: Holding a conference on Palestinian citizens of Israel collective rights and status; Supporting human rights education programs; Organizing a conference on the Israeli Apartheid Wall around Jerusalem; Producing a monthly report on human rights violations in Jerusalem; Providing legal aid services to Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem; Participating in local public advocacy activities and; Holding the first coordination meeting with the 1948 areas NGO's Forum.
- **Women:** In addressing the needs of women, the Support for Community Empowerment of Women project was implemented in the West Bank and Gaza. The project aims to provide support to local NGOs providing services for girls and women to encourage them to seek recognition of their rights, to understand and improve women's role in the development of the society, and to find support in the community for seeking a better future. Project activities included: Preparing qualified women lawyers and social workers to provide legal and social advice where needed; Preparing a qualified cadre of women journalists to cover issues related to women and domestic violence; Training lawyers and social workers in the field of women's rights and domestic violence, and; Establishing support committees for women in different areas. In the year 2006, 60 female social workers were trained in identifying and addressing violence against women; 583 women participated in 22 awareness workshops, and 11 female lawyers were trained in fields related to domestic violence.

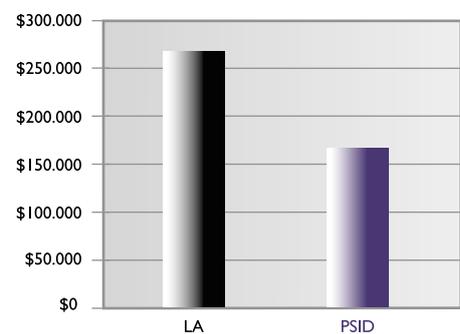
Projects and Expenditure According to Geographic Location:

In 2006, 5 projects were implemented in the West Bank with a corresponding disbursement of \$332,027. In the 1948 areas three projects were implemented with total expenditure of \$72,396. The total disbursement in Gaza was \$38,400 spent on two projects.



Projects and Expenditure According to Sub-Sector:

In 2006, eight projects were implemented in the sub-sector of Legal Aid (LA) with a corresponding disbursement of \$268,673. These projects provided funds to women empowerment programs, public awareness campaigns and providing legal aid to East Jerusalem residents. Another area of interest for the Welfare Association is the sub-sector Public Sector Institutions Development (PSID) where \$174,150 was spent on 2 projects mainly providing local government institutions with necessary equipment.



2006 PUBLIC POLICY, ADVOCACY, AND LEGAL RIGHTS PROJECTS – BENEFICIARIES LIST

West Bank:

Establishing the civic coalition for defending the Palestinians’ rights in Jerusalem: **Civic Coalition for Defending the Palestinians’ Rights in Jerusalem** □ Legal empowerment: **Residents of the West Bank** □ Procurement and installment of electrical generator: **Yabad Municipality – Jenin** □ Women empowerment program: **Women’s Affairs Technical Committee**

Gaza:

Providing municipalities with vehicles and equipment: **Rafah Municipality** □ Women empowerment program-Gaza: **Palestinian Center for Human Rights**

1948 Areas:

Conference on Palestinian citizens of Israel: **Arab Center for Applied Research – Haifa** □ Human rights education program: Arab Association for Human Rights – Nazareth □ Naqab empowerment program: **Adalah-Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel**

Activities



Needy Children Provided with Sweaters in Gaza

Relief Sector

Responding to ensure the survival, protection, and well-being of Palestinians during emergencies

Sector Overview

As a result of continued occupation, Palestinians face incursions, siege, demolition of houses and public properties, severe shortages in food and medications and other life essentials, skyrocketing unemployment, and deep poverty as daily occurrences in Palestinian society. Life for Palestinians under occupation has always been characterized as a chronic emergency.

Since its establishment WA has always tried to respond to the urgent needs of the population. It has mobilized resources over the years to support a large number of programs to make health care, food, relief and jobs available for the population in crises, especially in high-risk localities. Direct and humanitarian aid efforts have included emergency employment to raise household income, food assistance, tuition credits for university students, relief for families experiencing social hardships, and housing assistance for families whose homes were damaged or destroyed. In addition, WA has undertaken a wide range of agricultural relief programs as well medical emergency programs, mainly providing urban and rural hospitals and clinics with medications and medical supplies.



Food Distribution in Gaza

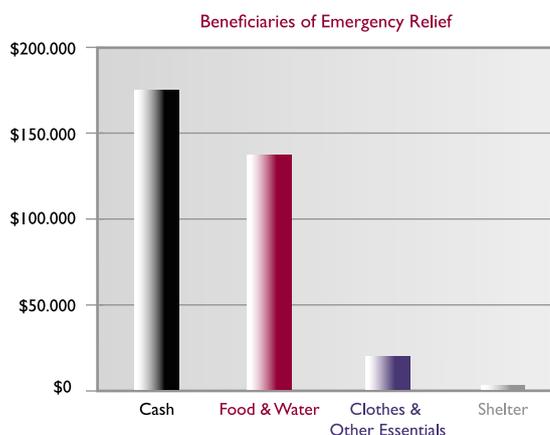
WA’s main aim in the Emergency Relief Sector is to respond to emergencies that put at great risk the survival, protection, and well-being of Palestinians. The groups targeted are the poorest, most marginalized and needy families, as well as those who have lost their livelihood and shelter due to the wars and military incursions and occupation policies and practices.

Activities in 2006

In the year 2006, Welfare Association implemented 36 different projects in the Emergency Relief Sector with disbursements equal to around \$3.5 million. Around 340,000 persons benefited from these emergency relief programs.

Major achievements in this sector included:

- **Provision of Shelter:** 45 emergency shacks sheltering over 400 inhabitants were built for the Bedouin whom homes were demolished in Al Naqab in the 1948 Areas.
- **Cash Provision to Needy Families:** Around 180,000 persons from 30,000 needy families were provided with cash support in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of WA’s Family to Family Program funded by WA’s Support Committee in Dubai. Another 2,000 families benefited from a similar program financed by the Arab Fund.
- **Provision of Clothes and Other Essentials:** Around 20,000 needy school children were provided with woolen sweaters, almost all from the Gaza Strip
- **Food and Water Provision:** Around 10,000 needy persons, mostly children, benefited from more than \$100,000 spent in Gaza on food parcels and hot meals. An estimated 30,000 persons benefited from \$690,000 spending on food and other basic supplies in Palestinian refugee camps and unofficial gatherings in Lebanon following the Israeli war. The population of six villages (over 100,000 persons) in Southern Lebanon had access to drinking water as a result of the provision of electrical generators to needy municipalities [See Box 3].



Projects and Expenditure According to Geographic Location:

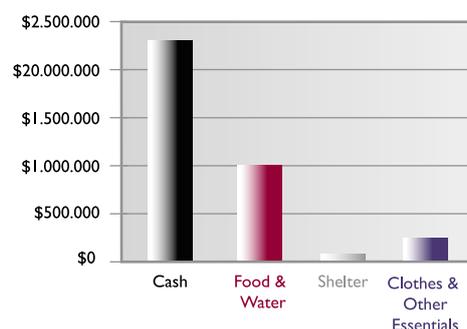
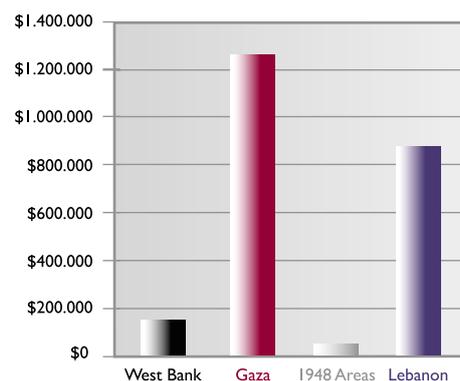
In 2006, there was a total of 36 relief projects. Due to emergency situations, Gaza and Lebanon had the highest number of relief projects implemented (18 in Gaza and 9 in Lebanon).

Almost \$1 million was spent in Lebanon in the aftermath of the war, mainly in the form of food aid and other essentials, including electric generators to the southern towns to provide drinking water. This is the first time that WA, based on a Board of Trustees directive, decided

to extend its operations to serve Lebanese villages in addition to its regular operation within the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. However, reflective of its large area and population, the West Bank represented the highest spending, more than \$1.3 million, the majority of which was in cash aid to needy families.

Projects and Expenditure According to Sub-Sector:

Of the 36 total projects implemented, 22 provided mainly food parcels to families, at a value of \$1 million. The majority of spending in the sector was in the form of cash support mainly through WA's Support to Needy Families Program. Five projects provided clothes and other basic essentials mainly in Gaza where need was greatest. About \$120,000 were spent mainly in providing woolen sweaters and other clothing especially to children.



2006 RELIEF SECTOR PROJECTS – BENEFICIARIES LIST

West Bank:

Emergency aid: **Nablus Civil Committee** □ Emergency employment project: **Palestinian General Union of Charitable Societies, National Institute for NGO's, Palestinian NGO's Network** □ Financial support for establishment of small businesses: **Child Care Charitable Society-Tulkarem** □ Financial support for needy families: **Al Sadik Al Taieb Association, Needy Families** □ Sweaters for school kids: **Qalandia Camp Women Cooperative**

Gaza:

Food distribution: **Mercy Association for Children, Islamic Society-Rafah, Deir El Balah Rehabilitation Society, Gaza Islamic Zakat Society, Jabalia Rehabilitation Society, Al Ata'a Society- Beit Hanoun, Al Amal Rehabilitation Society – Rafah, Islamic Society-Al Qarara** □ Production and distribution of sweaters: **Gaza Cultural and Development Group, Alquds Society for Social Services, Al Beit Al Said Society**

1948 Areas:

Naqab empowerment program: **Association of Unrecognized Villages**

Lebanon:

Emergency assistance In South Lebanon villages (Generators): **Lebanon Southern Villages** □ Emergency assistance to unofficial gatherings: **Several Local NGO's** □ Relief supplies to the displaced people in Ain Al-Helweh and Almyah Myah Camp: **General Union of Palestinian Women-Lebanon** □ Relief supplies to the displaced people in Al-Badawee Camp: **National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training** □ Relief supplies to the displaced people in Beirut and Saeed Ghwash and Alda'ouk Camp: **Association for Relief and Development** □ Relief supplies to the displaced people in Shatila Refugee Camp: **Al Najda Association- Lebanon** □ Relief supplies to the displaced people in Al Burj Al Shamaleh, AIRashedia, Naher Albared, Be'Ibak Camp: **National Association for Medical and Social Services**



Carnival Day, Beqa'a Valley - Lebanon