



Welfare Association

ANNUAL REVIEW 09/10



Supporting
Humanitarian &
Development Projects
for Palestinians



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*British MPs Visit Gaza in February 2009.
(L-R: Andy Slaughter MP, Sarah Teather MP, Ed Davey MP, Martin Linton MP)

Report of the Trustees

The latest period of reporting 2009-2010 shows a marked increase in emergency needs for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. This is reflected in the higher proportion of emergency projects Welfare Association supported, especially in the financial year January to December 2009. In the West Bank the ongoing construction and expansion of Israeli settlements, and the Separation Wall, continue to isolate whole communities from important services such as health and education and from their workplaces whether agricultural lands or other places of employment.

In the aftermath of Israeli military operation 'Cast Lead' conditions in Gaza continue to be extremely harsh, and with the continued closures of Gaza's borders the economy is collapsing and reconstruction is not possible. Hundreds of homes and dozens of schools destroyed in the bombardment of Gaza have still not

been reconstructed as materials such as concrete and iron are not allowed into Gaza. Key inputs are being restricted from entering through commercial channels, which inhibits recovery of the USD 268 million in total damages as a result of Operation 'Cast Lead'.¹

The majority of families in Gaza still remain dependent on food aid to survive. 61% of people in the Gaza Strip are considered to be food insecure and are reliant on food assistance from humanitarian agencies for their health and well being. An additional 16.2% are considered vulnerable to food insecurity. Of those food insecure, 65% are children under 18 years.² For these children, long term food insecurity is linked to rising levels of acute malnutrition and stunted growth. In addition, health conditions such as diarrhoea and anaemia result from the ongoing lack of access to clean water and a balanced diet.

In February 2009, the level of anaemia in babies (9-12 months) was as high as 65.5%.³ Young children are traumatised from witnessing the violence of life in this conflict zone, and struggle to maintain a daily routine attending makeshift schools on double shifts. Welfare Association worked with the Britain-Palestine All Party Parliamentary Group in February 2009 and arranged for a delegation of six British Members of Parliament to travel to Gaza and view the impact of the Israeli military operations on local communities and



A destroyed school in Gaza

1. UN, Ministry of Agriculture, and Partners Rapid Needs Assessment published in Agriculture Sector Report: Impact of Gaza Crisis, March 2009.

2. FAO/WFP. Socio economic and Food Security Survey Report 2 – Gaza Strip, Nov 2009

3. WHO Gaza Strip Health assessment, 31 July 2009.

The Welfare Association (UK)
Board of Trustees
(Jan-Dec 2009)

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Mrs. Julia Helou (Treasurer)

Mrs. Hanan Al-Afifi

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to understand how this affects daily life and the implementation of our projects.

Throughout 2009 and in 2010 Welfare Association increased its emergency programmes in Gaza supporting those seriously injured and disabled and providing emergency food packages and hygiene kits to displaced families and improving water and sanitation where possible. Thanks to additional funding from the British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) Welfare Association expanded its regular community-based rehabilitation programme to include over a thousand disabled persons in Gaza. In addition to the medical services this programme funded, we were also able to provide disability aids and nutritional food packages to aid the healing process.

In 2010 we finally completed the water and sanitation programme in Gaza funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) which began in 2008. It took place in the Al-Mugraqa area, southwest of Gaza City, where the construction of a sewerage pumping station was finally

completed. This project provides protection for the environmental health of the whole Al-Mugraqa area (12,000 inhabitants) by removing sewage from the streets where it presented a constant environmental hazard by seeping into the aquifer. The system will move the sewage to the drainage area of Wadi Gaza, where it will be diluted by 95% partially treated wastewater from other areas.

In Lebanon we have just concluded the second year of a four-year project funded by the Big Lottery Fund working in the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr El-Bared. This project includes health interventions, youth employment activities and micro-enterprise loans, all aimed at supporting the camp residents following the destruction of the camp in 2007.

Welfare Association held a fundraising dinner for the Children of Palestine at The Dorchester Hotel on Friday 20th November 2009, which was the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The evening highlighted the health and education articles of this convention and raised over £350,000 for our childrens projects.



Rabih Abou Khalil at the fundraising dinner

More recently, in September 2010 Welfare Association worked with the Cycling 4 Gaza Team to raise funds for our childrens projects in Gaza (including the Gaza Community Mental Health Programme, the Atfaluna Centre for the Deaf, and Ghassan Kanafaneh Kindergartens.) 'Cycling 4 Gaza' aim to cycle through a different country in Europe each year, ending in several years' time in Gaza. In September 2010 the C4G team cycled through Italy from the Leaning Tower of Pisa to the Colosseum in Rome. The enthusiasm of our cyclists and the generous response from our supporters enabled us to raise more than £140,000 in a very short time.

The financial year January - December 2009 is the reporting period covered in the accounts and related programme updates in this review (although additional information is provided in the Trustees Report). During this period Welfare Association raised over £1,000,000 and the income, net of costs, was £988,624. This income was raised from the general public, DFID, UK trusts and foundations and from the fundraising gala dinner in November. The total expenditure in 2009 was £839,551. The overall income is higher than the previous year due to the expanded emergency grants for Gaza, and due to the fundraising dinner, held every three years.

Welfare Association: Objectives and Activities

The Welfare Association is an international, non-governmental, non-political, non-religious organisation established in 1993. It is constituted under a Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated on 13th April 1993 and is registered with the

Charity Commission and with Companies House (as a company limited by guarantee).

The Charity's main objectives are the advancement of education, the relief of sickness, the protection and preservation of health and the relief of poverty for the benefit of inhabitants of Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Jordan (and in particular the communities in the West Bank and Gaza areas).

The Charity delivers its objectives in two ways: by direct delivery using Welfare Association staff, and by management of projects in partnership with local NGOs. To meet the needs in Palestine and Lebanon in 2009, and to support the most marginalised and vulnerable communities, WA worked in the following sectors:

Health: with provisions for disabled children and child therapy in Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, expansion of the Gaza Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme (Gaza CBR), psychosocial therapy for traumatised children in Gaza, and water and sanitation programmes in Gaza.

Education: with support for children with special educational needs, school health programmes and early childhood development programmes. (A component of training and capacity building runs through many of our programmes with the aim of upgrading local skills and ensuring self-sustainability when the programme ends.)

Additional Sustainable Development Support for the Most Vulnerable

Communities: in 2009 this included the development of agriculture in West Bank and Gaza, micro-enterprise loans in Nahr El-Bared Camp in Lebanon and small advocacy programmes with support for International Humanitarian Law, to improve services for, and reducing poverty of, local communities.

Emergency Humanitarian Relief in Palestine: through the activities of the ongoing Gaza emergency appeal, expansion of the Gaza CBR Programme in 2009, distribution of hygiene kits, food packages and clothes parcels to displaced families, and the emergency child nutrition programme in Gaza.

Welfare Association Programmes

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Some examples of key programme activities in each sector are detailed in the following pages:

Health Programmes

Emergency Support for Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) for Northern Gaza, Gaza City, Khan Younis and Rafah Governorates

This project was funded thanks to a special emergency grant from DFID which allowed us to expand our CBR work in Gaza following the Israeli bombardment. It was implemented in co-ordination and co-operation with other international NGOs who each worked with local partners in a different area of Gaza, to ensure that persons with new and existing disabilities received the medical, physical, and psychosocial support urgently needed to improve their health, mobility and coping mechanisms; and to enable their families to provide appropriate support.



Distribution of medical aids.

Main activities and achievements included an initial survey of 3,100 injured disabled children and adults at the start of the year. Of these 1,107 were prioritised for CBR services within this expanded project. By the end of the year 742 made considerable progress and were able to be discharged by our local partners, and 365 required further support services. Our CBR physiotherapists provided 10,153 physiotherapy sessions benefiting 612 persons, while services provided by the medical and nursing teams benefited 744 persons. Our psychosocial support team of 11 experienced professionals designed integrated psychosocial activities and a total of 4,695 psychosocial

sessions were conducted for 961 beneficiaries. In addition 977 packages (games, art materials, clothing) to relieve stress and aid general wellbeing were distributed to 525 children. 520 disability aids were distributed to 341 persons, and 1,000 families received healthy food packages to promote healing. 754 families living in the most difficult conditions received packages of clothes and bedding to promote health and hygiene.



(Above and opposite) Physiotherapy and group counselling, for children in Gaza



Empowerment of Nahr El-Bared Returnees / Displaced to Transition from Crisis to Recovery

The first year of our four-year project for Nahr El-Bared (NBC) camp in the north of Lebanon, was successfully completed in October 2009. The project's overall goals are to help the community play an active role in its own recovery, through improved access to health services and expanded livelihoods. The old camp was destroyed in conflict there in 2007, conflict that was not connected to the camp residents but between the Lebanese army and an armed group that took refuge in the camp.

One of the main project activities early in 2009 was to ensure that pregnant women in NBC/Beddawi are better equipped to have a healthy pregnancy through distribution of pregnancy and new-born support kits. Following a survey of the whole camp, 224 pregnancy well-being kits (containing vitamins, minerals, and hygiene and sanitary items) and 200 newborn baby kits (containing baby clothes, blankets, nappies, and hygiene items) were needed. All kits were distributed by our project partners on 4th March 2009 and they continued to make follow-up visits

providing advice and arranging for health referrals to all the women who received the kits. Having the camp residents relocated and spread out in different locations following the conflict and destruction of their homes, meant that families were split up and medical centres were relocated or lost completely, with the previous support systems having then broken down.

Our local partners re-established links with women who previously felt isolated, provided vital health kits, and supported new mothers with follow-up visits. This activity was very well received and has been requested again by camp residents! Funds were

raised in the fundraising dinner in November 2009 to repeat this activity for at least a further two years.

Education Programmes

Provision of a Safe Outdoor Playground, The Emlisoon Women's Society, Ras Al-Amoud, Jerusalem

The project succeeded in expanding and upgrading the playground of the kindergarten (KG) operated by a non-profit community association that provides services in Ras Al-Amoud, an impoverished neighbourhood of Jerusalem adjacent to the Old City. The KG has five children's classes with two teachers per class. The KG



Children enjoying the upgraded playground of Emlisoon Kindergarten in Jerusalem

playground was very small for its 150 children, and was unsafe for children in the 3-5 year age group. This project supported the expansion and upgrading of the playground by resurfacing and installing security features (rubber flooring, rails, fencing) and a special 'safety corner' for small children. The Society itself then provided new play equipment for the playground.

The KG now has a larger, safer, playground of 185 square meters, which is able to accommodate 200 children and can accommodate a further 100 children for special events and festivals. The overall result promotes active learning for young children in a secure environment and improves their psychosocial welfare and recreational opportunities. The KG will be sustained through the Society's regular maintenance work.

Other Sustainable Development Programmes

Empowerment of Nahr El-Bared Returnees / Displaced to Transition from Crisis to Recovery

Another activity of this project in Nahr El-Bared Camp is to help the community play an active role in its

own recovery through improved access to expanded livelihoods. One of the main project outcomes is for at least 52 families in the camp to have an improved and sustained livelihood through micro-credit training and funding.

Our principle project partner in the micro-loans activity is the Palestinian Arab Women's League (PAWL). They conducted focus groups (beginning on 4th June 2009) to determine current community needs and prioritise the start-up businesses that are needed within the camp. To a certain extent this also assists in making a success of the new businesses – if they have a market waiting for their product or service already. PAWL will conduct one loan selection cycle every six months and started with a call for loan applications on 22nd June 2009 followed by field visits and feasibility studies.

In the first round 38 loan applications were received, and of these 13 received loans. The recipients in this cycle also employed 10 additional people and had a total of 33 dependent family members who also benefited. The applications approved are in the following fields: Grocery

store, poultry cultivation, central telephone service (establishing a landline system for affordable phone calls), clothing/accessories, book and stationery store, carpentry, hair salon, air conditioning installation and repair, metal working for construction, travel agency, paint company and wholesale bottled gas for cooking.

Emergency Humanitarian Relief Programmes

Distribution of Hygiene Kits to Homeless Families in Gaza

This project was urgently needed following the military attacks on Gaza from 27th December 2008 to 18th January 2009 which left thousands of families displaced. WA focussed this project on the eastern areas of Gaza that were most devastated by the military assaults, i.e. two Governorates



Displaced families in emergency tents in Gaza in January 2009

of Gaza: the North Governorate including Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, and Jabalya, and Gaza Governorate including Shajae'eya, Zaytoun, Tuffah and Tel Al-Hawa. Hygiene kits were distributed to displaced and destitute families to meet their basic hygiene needs and to prevent the spread of disease. With funds raised from our Gaza Emergency Appeal, a total of £58,645 was allocated to distribute hygiene kits to almost 5,000 displaced families. Working with our local partners in Gaza, we were able to survey the community quickly to see which items families most needed and were requesting, to be sure to provide items that were essential.

The Personal Hygiene Kits included toothbrush, toothpaste, hand soap, and towels, while the Household Family Hygiene Kits included sanitary supplies, shampoo and sponges, which lasted at least a month with many items lasting much longer. For families with young children there was an Infant Care Kit which contained essential items of clothing for infants. This project was implemented in two phases: in Phase I a total of 2,000 families benefited in the North Governorate, while in Phase II a total of 2,977 families benefited in the Gaza Governorate.

Distribution of Food Packages to Homeless Families in Gaza

Support for the Gaza Emergency Appeal also allowed £40,000 to be allocated to provide food assistance to 828 families through the Deir al-Balah Rehabilitation Society, a long-term partner of WA in the middle area of Gaza. The Society worked with smaller community-based organisations and surveyed the areas on the eastern border of Gaza that were most affected by the bombardment. Based on criteria that included families with damaged houses, displaced families, loss of guardians, injured family members, and cross-checked with beneficiary lists of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the final beneficiary lists were made for the areas of Bureij refugee camp and Johr al-Deek, Mughazi refugee camp, Nusseirat refugee camp and in Mugraqa village. The food assistance valued at US\$50 per family included: rice, pasta, beans, canned meat, white cheese and frying oil, to guarantee basic nutrition. Additionally all of the families with infants (about 90%) also received infant milk and cereal valued at US\$22. The packages were distributed directly to beneficiaries in the immediate aftermath of the bombardment of Gaza.

Emergency Intervention to Improve Water and Sanitation Services in Al-Mugraqa, (ECHO)

This project began in July 2008 and implementation continued throughout 2009. There was no sewerage system in the Abu Hurira area of Al-Mugraqa in the centre of Gaza, with the 4,000 residents there reliant on wastewater and sewage collecting cesspits which needed to be emptied regularly. With increasing unemployment and economic decline, few families could continue to pay for this service, with the result that the cesspits were overflowing regularly. The soil in the area is sandy and with the absence of



Al Mugraqa Pumping Station at the end of 2009, construction works completed by not yet running. (Waiting for the electrical components to be allowed through the crossing.)

a closed sewerage system the easy absorption of sewage had significantly deteriorated the ground aquifer and if allowed to continue would have posed a serious health hazard by making the aquifer in the area unsuitable for use.

Although a sewage network had been laid in part of Al-Mugraqa previously it was not working as the network had not been completed and still required a pumping station to transport the sewage to the Wadi Gaza drainage area. This project aimed to construct the pumping station to make use of the existing network and provide the residents with proper disposal of their wastewater and provide protection for the environmental health of the whole Al-Mugraqa area (12,000 inhabitants) by removing sewage from the streets.

The pumping station will move the sewage to the drainage area of Wadi Gaza, where it will be diluted by 95% partially treated wastewater from other areas. The project was suspended for two months at the start of 2009 due to the bombardment of Gaza, and from June 09 until December 09 the project faced severe difficulties in obtaining the electrical items for the circuit board as they

were prevented from entering Gaza at the Erez Crossing controlled by Israel. (The project was finally completed and the pumping station was up and running on Thursday 17th June 2010.)

Summer Camps for Traumatized Children in Gaza, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP)

In addition to the high death toll and significant destruction of buildings, houses, roads, infrastructure, farms and land, the bombardment of Gaza in early 2009 had psychological consequences on Palestinians living in Gaza, especially for children in the badly affected areas. These children needed psychosocial and recreational therapy to help them to cope and recover.

This project was implemented in Jabalya, Gaza City and Khan Younis. WA worked with GCMHP and three local NGOs to conduct the summer camps at their facilities during August 2009. The project was timed during the summer holidays and just prior to the beginning of the school year, and included 180 children in recreational activities to relieve stress and rebuild self-confidence. The project was wrapped up with a summer camp ceremony when the children could invite their parents to join them for the afternoon. 190 family members were able to attend and enjoyed the last day of the summer camp with their children.

Young children in Gaza enjoy summer camp arts activities.



Summer Games Programme for Children, United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)

Children, who comprise nearly 48.3 percent of Gaza's population of approximately 1.5 million, are among the most vulnerable and were hit harder by the last military operation on Gaza. Since then, children frequently suffer from extreme levels of physical and psychological stress caused by exposure to this traumatic event, including the witnessing of destruction and death, loss of family members, high levels of insecurity and

mass displacement. The summer holidays are traditionally the peak period during which young children in Gaza are left with little to do. In an attempt to relieve children from stress and trauma UNRWA launched its Summer Games Programme 2009. Funds from Welfare Association were used to procure sports items such as footballs, football nets, volleyballs, and volleyball nets for UNRWA Schools' students during the 2009 Summer Games Programme.

NOTE: The funds for UNRWA and GCMHP in the two activities above supporting traumatised

children, were raised at a special Gaza Appeal musical event at the Barbican on 5th March 2009. Additional funds were raised by Ms. Victoria Brittain and Ms. Belinda Allen and friends for the GCMHP. Our thanks to everyone who contributed their time and donated so generously to support the children of Gaza.

Fundraising events

The Welfare Association fundraising dinner was held on 20th November 2009, on the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on Child Rights. The dinner, which takes place every three years, was attended by 400 guests and was held at The Dorchester Hotel, London. Guests were entertained by renowned Lebanese Oud Player, Rabih Abou-Khalil and keynote speaker was well-known comedian and writer Alexei Sayle. The auction was led by British actor Khalid Abdalla and WA-UK Trustee Omar Al-Qattan. Guests pledged support for key projects including Gaza community-based rehabilitation programmes and other health and education programmes supporting children in Palestine and Lebanon. We would like to thank all our generous sponsors and dinner guests for supporting this successful fundraising dinner which raised over £350,000 and for continuing to support our work.



Alexei Sayle speaking at the Fundraising Gala Dinner in November 2009

Financial Statements

1st January – 31st December 2009

Statement of Financial Activities For the year ending 31st December 2009*

Incoming Resources

General Donations	£160,436
Investment Income	£2,415
Activities for Generating Funds	£57,238
Main Programme Grants	£356,340
Emergency Programmes and Appeals	£478,752
Total Incoming Resources	£1,055,181

Resources Expended

Grants Payable	£672,417
Project Activity Costs	£66,871
Information / Awareness Raising	£14,383
Governance	£19,322
Exchange (Gain) / Loss	(£18,909)
Cost of Generating Funds	£66,558
Total Resources Expended	£839,551

Net Income / Expenditure of the Year	£215,630
Total Fund as at 1st January 2009	£347,505
Total Fund as at 31st December 2009	£563,135

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2009*

Fixed Assets

Tangible Assets	£345
Current Assets	£568,484
Current Liabilities	(£5,694)
Total Net Assets	£563,135

*The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are not the full statutory accounts but are a summary of the information which appears in the full accounts. The full accounts have been audited and approved by Kingston Smith. For further information the full accounts (including the auditor's report) can be obtained from Companies House.

Welfare Association Programmes Funded in 2009

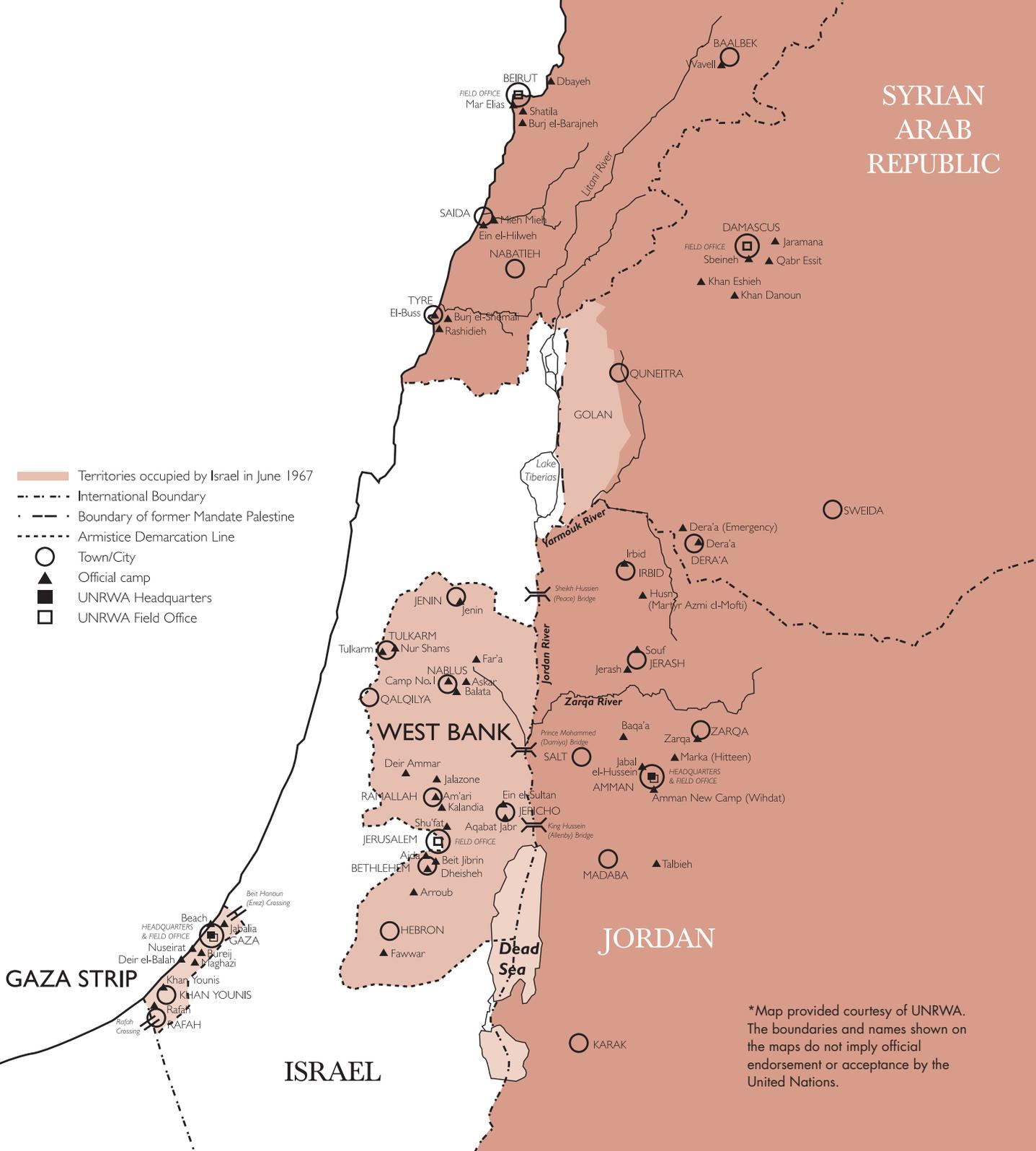
	£
Health	
DFID: Gaza Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme	360,000
Shirin Fund for Children with Special Needs	16,222
Big Lottery Fund: NEB Camp Transitioning from Crisis to Recovery	127,334
Supporting Disabled Children - Palestine Disability Forum	8,212
Princess Basma Centre Hygiene Control	5,940
Education	
Supporting Students, Nahr El-Bared Refugee Camp Ghassan Kanafaneh Foundation	10,250
Emlisoon Playground Renovation	18,539
Sustainable Development	
Supporting Palestinian Farmers Affected by the Separation Wall	4,000
Emergency	
Distribution of Hygiene Kits for IDPs in Gaza, Palestine (Phase I & II)	58,945
Distribution of Food Packages to IDPs in Gaza	40,000
Summer Camps, Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP)	7,284
Summer Games Programme for Children (UNRWA)	4,269
Gaza Emergency Appeal, Child Nutrition Programme	10,000
Advocacy / Awareness-raising	
Advocacy	11,342
Total	£682,337

Acknowledgements

The Trustees greatly appreciate the voluntary help that has been offered to Welfare Association during 2009. We have benefited from a number of very generous gifts in kind. In particular we would like to thank Mr. A. M. Qattan for generously continuing to provide us with free office accommodation. Our thanks also to Ms. Patricia Lewis, who together with her local community have provided the young Palestinian children in Lebanon with a wonderful collection of hand-knitted toys.

Special thanks are also due to our volunteers including:
Ms. Nathalie Meagan,
Mr. Peter White,
Mrs Shirin Narwani,
Ms. Mary King,
Ms. Theresa King,
Mr. Paul Turner,
Mr. Jacob Colgan,
and Ms. Diana Safieh,
and many others who assisted throughout the year.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



- Territories occupied by Israel in June 1967
- International Boundary
- Boundary of former Mandate Palestine
- Armistice Demarcation Line
- Town/City
- Official camp
- UNRWA Headquarters
- UNRWA Field Office

* Map provided courtesy of UNRWA. The boundaries and names shown on the maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



Welfare Association

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