



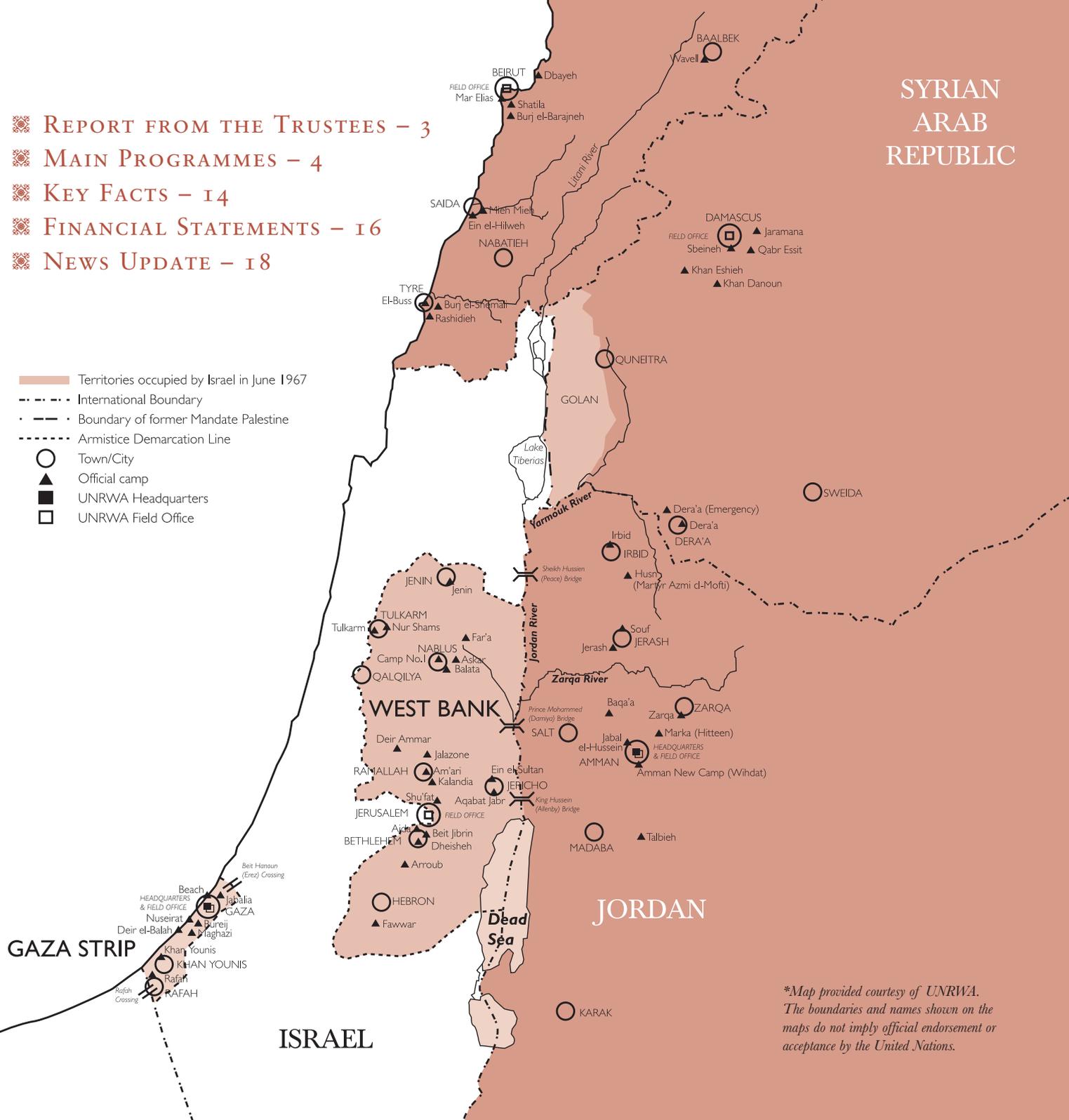
WELFARE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REVIEW 2005/2006

SUPPORTING
HUMANITARIAN
AND DEVELOPMENT
PROJECTS FOR
PALESTINIANS

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

- ❏ REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES – 3
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- 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.*

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES



The Welfare Association (UK) Board of Trustees (Jan – Dec 2005)

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(Director)

The Welfare Association continued to work on a number of core projects in 2005, in both Palestine and Lebanon, and a number of additional smaller grants were agreed at four Board of Trustees' meetings. The political situation in Palestine has continued to cause concern: the continued construction of the wall has separated communities and together with increased check-points and closures, has restricted and often prevented movement and access to work and to schools. These restrictions have also prevented the necessary transportation of goods and access to labour markets, all of which have severely affected the Palestinian economy, and unemployment and poverty rates continue to rise. In 2005, Welfare Association continued to work on projects providing basic and essential services to Palestinian communities including the East Jerusalem Hospitals Projects, which include work on improving the quality and efficiency of services and developing a specialised service in each of the five main hospitals, and the community-based rehabilitation programme in Gaza.

In Lebanon, the Inclusive Education Programme went from strength to strength. The project training components and the mid-term review were a great success. It was with pleasure that the Welfare Association welcomed senior staff from UNRWA and from the Palestinian Disability Forum NGOs to the UK in November for a study tour focusing on inclusion policies and practice in

UK primary schools. A number of smaller grants were made to support NGOs working with young children in kindergartens and with disabled children in Lebanon.

Over the course of the year the total in incoming resources was £492,710 and total expenditure was £541,716, reflecting final allocation of the remaining income from the Fundraising Dinner held in 2003.

In July 2006, Welfare Association continued to monitor the deteriorating conditions in Gaza and sent funds for emergency medical supplies. However, when the war in Lebanon began Welfare Association launched a major emergency appeal. We are pleased to report that funds were received for the first time from the EC Humanitarian Office, and together with funds raised from our UK supporters we were able to respond and support thousands of stranded families in southern Lebanon and in the Beqa'a regions with food, medical and hygiene packs (to be described fully in 2006/7 Annual Review.)

“Welfare Association will continue to work with the most vulnerable Palestinian communities, providing emergency and development assistance in increasingly difficult circumstances. We would like to thank all of our supporters and contributors for making this vital work possible.”



Palestine 1. Gaza Community Based Rehabilitation Programme

Throughout 2005 more than 2,500 disabled people, mainly children, have been supported by the rehabilitation teams, 1,500 were cases resulting from war and conflict. These clients were assessed and supported through physiotherapy, occupational therapy, nursing services and specialist consultations. Disability aids including crutches, walkers, sticks, wheel chairs (manual and electric), air mattresses, spectacles, hearing aids, medical shoes, urinal bags, arm slings, knee braces, joints and artificial limbs were provided for 600 disabled people.

During the course of this project more than 150 building adaptations (homes and schools) have been completed. A further 10 schools require adaptation, particularly in Rafah, and have been prioritized for survey. Adaptations include ramps, hand rails and kitchen and bathroom renovations for easy access. Throughout this project at least 4,750 family members have also been trained and advised on disability management techniques.

Improving daily life for the children in Gaza through the Community Based Rehabilitation Programme:



Case 1: Ghassan (aged 13) is a secondary school student who was injured while walking to school early one morning. A bullet hit him in the lower part of his right leg, under his knee, fracturing his bone. He went through a series of operations and physiotherapy that have helped him to go back to school. The project support has assisted his independence in the home by including the full adaptation of the

bathroom facilities. This has helped a lot since he is living in a very busy household with his extended family of 15 persons, headed by his grandmother (who earnestly contributed to the adaptation plan at the beginning, and expressed her happiness at the end!)

Case 2: Abdul Nasser Diagnosis: Right side hemiplegia due to shrapnel pieces in his head from a rocket attack. This resulted in intracranial haemorrhage, laceration in brain tissues, bony osteophytes in the head and subarachnoid haemorrhage. Nasser (18) had gone through medical treatment before he was admitted to Wafa



Rehabilitation Hospital in Gaza and then to Khan Younis Rehabilitation Programme. He was bedridden with a severe weakness of his upper left arm



and was unable to speak, in addition to psychological problems. For one year he received a package of intervention services (occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing, psychological support, medications, and technical aids). He is now able to walk and has returned to school, his independence has been restored and he looks after himself on a daily basis.

Case 3: Mohammed (Nasser's school friend, also aged 18) was hit in the same attack. He has received a number of rehabilitation services, but still has pain in his abdomen area. Now, as a result of rehabilitation interventions, he can walk using a pair of crutches.



2. Replanting Community Orchards and Olive Groves in the Holy Land

Welfare Association works closely with other local NGOs including the Palestinian Agricultural Relief Committee (PARC), Ahali Society for Agricultural Development (ASAD), and the Union of Agricultural Works Committee (UAWC) to increase the number of areas it is able to support.

Main activities in 2005 include:

A. Supporting farmers who have lost land and had their crops destroyed due to the construction of the Israeli separation wall

Considerable replanting was completed. On the east side of the wall 593 dunums¹ in the Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Jenin areas were replanted with 13,870 fruit trees and 281,000 vegetable seedlings. A further 963 dunums on the West side of the wall in the same towns were replanted with

14,575 fruit and 36,500 vegetable seedlings. This meant that 10 villages on the east and nine villages on the west side of the wall benefited from the support of the project. Additional agricultural inputs included provision of 5,212 kg of plastic transparent sheets and three metric tons of fertilizer, provided to around 200 farmers with a total value of around US\$ 40,000.

B. Rehabilitation of community infrastructure for agricultural lands around the wall

Greenhouses covering 69 dunums of land were rehabilitated and rebuilt on the east of the wall and another 50 dunums of greenhouses on the west side of the wall. Irrigation water pipes, six inches in diameter, and 640 metres long were laid out crossing the wall from East to West to provide isolated agricultural land with essential irrigation water. On the east side of the wall 1,507m² of retaining walls and four cisterns, with a total capacity of around 264m³, have been constructed and a drip irrigation network to serve 27 dunums of agricultural land has been installed.

C. Increasing awareness and training

More than 57 lectures and workshops were convened for local communities, by NGO agricultural specialists in 19

¹ One dunum equals 1000 square metres.



locations of the projects, to discuss best agricultural techniques for promoting growth. Training was organised for 11 community-based organisations and more than 395 farmers benefited from this agricultural awareness-raising programme.



3. Emergency Support for the Palestinian Hospitals in East Jerusalem



ICU, Makassed Hospital, Jerusalem

This is a two-year project funded by the European Commission and implemented by Welfare Association. The overall aim of the project is to promote better health care services to the Palestinian community by improving the viability and long-term financial sustainability of six Palestinian hospitals in East Jerusalem (Makassed, Augusta Victoria, and Saint Joseph's hospitals, providing secondary and tertiary services, and Saint John's Ophthalmic Hospital, Red Crescent Maternity Hospital, and Princess Basma Hospital for Disabled Children) as part of the Palestinian health care system. The specific objective of the project is to develop mechanisms for coordination and cooperation between hospitals of East Jerusalem for improving the quality of care and training, hospital management and financial strategies.

Project's Achievements:

this project has continued to make progress in key areas, namely:

- A)** The Quality Assurance Initiative at EJs which is aiming to improve the quality of all services provided at the hospital so that beneficiaries can enjoy faster, safer, less costly and more effective medical and accommodation services. Through this initiative a quality management system based on ISO9000/IWA1 requirements has been established.
- B)** The Implementation of ISO 15189 for Laboratory Services is well underway; this focuses on two specific administrative and technical requirements of medical laboratories. Administrative aspects include, for example, legal registration, referral labs, internal audits, and error prevention, while technical requirements deal with medical test equipment, pre-examination procedures, competencies of staff, equipment accuracy, handling of blood samples, test safety, and post-examination procedures.



C) The formation of the Permanent Representative Committee of East Jerusalem Hospitals.

D) The improvement of quality through conducting training programmes and developing manuals in areas such as infection control, rational use of drugs, advanced cardiac life support, and an infection control manual and a clinical referral manual.

4. Jabalia Emergency Appeal

Jabalia is the biggest and most congested UN refugee camp in Gaza, with 90,000 residents living in an area of less than three square kilometres. Between the 28th



September and 10th October 2004 more than 110 Palestinians, including 29 children were killed when the Israeli Army entered the area and destroyed houses, schools and agricultural land. WA-UK launched an appeal and at the beginning of 2005, transferred £5,028 to support children who had been injured and disabled. The homes of 11 families affected by this attack received urgently needed support to restore damaged electricity supplies and basic amenities.

5. Emergency Support for Palestinian Hospitals in East Jerusalem: Development of Selected Medical Services

This is an 18-month project funded by the European Community and implemented by the Welfare Association. The specific objective of the project is to support the development of specialised

services through provision of in-service training, equipment, supplies, documentation systems and specialized patient care at each hospital and so improve and enhance the quality, accessibility and sustainability of coordinated Palestinian health care services in East Jerusalem for all Palestinians. A large grant was received at the end of 2004, so although no further grants were received during 2005, the work continued.

Specialised services in the hospitals supported through this project are as follows: an operating theatre will be upgraded at the Red Crescent Society Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital will be provided with new sterilisation unit equipment, the Augusta Victoria Hospital will receive support for 40 patients and training for three nurses and three residents. Support for the vitro-retinal clinic and training for four resident trainees will be provided for St. John's Hospital; finally the Princess Basma Centre will be able to provide services to 12 families.



6. Development of Monitoring and Coordination Unit (MCU) for East Jerusalem Multi-Sector Development Plan

The Monitoring and Coordination Unit (MCU) for the East Jerusalem Strategic Multi-Sector Development Plan (SMDP) is a two-year EU-funded project aimed at facilitating the implementation of a rational integrated development strategy for East Jerusalem. Through increased information exchange and consultation, and provision of a database the following seven priority sectors will receive urgently needed support: Tourism, Youth, Culture and Heritage, Social Welfare, Education and Early Childhood. Support for these key sectors will serve to revitalise and rejuvenate a major Palestinian city that is increasingly deprived as a result of the political situation.



are living in an extremely stressful environment. Schools and kindergartens (KGs) provide a positive learning opportunity and a safe area for recreational activities. This project focussed on three KGs providing services for young children (aged 1-5 years) in the Ramallah area. Funded activities included repairs to water and electricity supplies, upgrading kitchen and bathroom facilities, new carpeting, purchase of tables, chairs, shade canopies and outdoor play equipment.

7. Ramallah Kindergarten Project

With statistics showing that 30% of children in the West Bank and Gaza suffer from chronic malnutrition, and with daily life subjected to Israeli military occupation, attacks and curfews, children, especially the very young,



INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING



In November the fourth professionally designed and printed Annual Review was completed and distributed to WA-UK supporters. It included the latest facts and figures and an update on the situation in Gaza, particularly mentioning the use of deafening sound bombs ('sonic boom' air raids) which not only traumatise the communities in Gaza but can induce miscarriage in pregnant women. The annual review was circulated with an appeal for additional resources for UNRWA to support blind children in the Refugee Camps in Lebanon. The Welfare Association website also continues to be reviewed and updated as required.

Welfare Association is a partner of the European Communities Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and is in contact with staff both in the field (Palestine, Lebanon, Amman) and in Brussels. In December 2005, staff attended the ECHO 2005 Partners Conference in Brussels to discuss future priorities and concerns.



Lebanon

8. Inclusive Education for Disabled Primary School Children in the Palestine Refugee Camps in Lebanon

This project is funded by the Big Lottery Fund and has made important progress in 2005 in encouraging positive attitudes towards inclusion in UNRWA schools and local NGOs with a number of key components. Activities in Lebanon include training courses for local NGO staff on inclusion techniques in schools, surveys to update information on the numbers of disabled children, establishing and updating a database and a second programme of school adaptations (toilets, entranceways, ramps and handrails) completed by United Nations Relief and Works Agency



Study Tour delegates from Lebanon meet in Welfare Association's London Office.²

(UNRWA). Also, networking activities with local Lebanese NGOs have taken place and awareness-raising activities in schools on the rights of the disabled have been planned.

Some activities have been implemented here in the UK. These include contracting a number of consultants for key training or monitoring interventions. UK consultants travelled to Lebanon to deliver training for UNRWA teaching staff and the Palestinian Disability Forum (PDF) NGOs on disability equality in education, curriculum differentiation and classroom management. Also, a mid-term review consultancy was conducted which provided a very positive evaluation of project progress and noted areas to refocus

on with some specific recommendations. In November 2005 we organised a study tour for four Palestinian NGO representatives and two senior UNRWA staff who came to the UK to study full inclusion policies and practices in UK schools and met with education authorities. This provided a great deal of information that has been used to inform policy planning and decision-making by both UNRWA and the PDF NGOs.

The purpose of the UK Study Tour was to provide a mechanism to share knowledge, experiences and effective practices in relation to inclusive education in early years and the primary school sector. The study tour aimed to observe different teaching styles and

IO ² Back row, (left to right): Mr. Hisham Ali / Womens' Humanitarian Organisation, Mrs. Julia Helou (WA Board of Trustees), Mr. Walid El-Khatib / Deputy Chief UNRWA Education Dept, Mrs. Caroline Quteneh (Welfare Association), Mrs. Ifikar Nabulsi / Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation in Ein El Hilweh, Mr. Abdelmajid Assaad / Abu Jihad Al Wazir Centre for Handicapped. Front Row (left to right): Mrs. Khansa Suleiman / Social Association for Rehabilitation of Handicapped, Mrs Saadia Neilson (WA Project Consultant) and Mrs. Taghrid Awad / UNRWA Disability Programme / Social Services Dept



techniques, investigate policies and procedures aimed at the promotion of inclusive practices, to identify good practices and to establish how NGOs work in partnership with schools to develop full inclusion for all children, with a specific focus on disabled children.

Over a period of four days, the itinerary was packed with visits to Cleves Primary School and North Beckton Primary School (both schools practising policies of full inclusion) in East London, to observe lessons, meet children and then discuss management issues with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordination (SENCO) staff. The delegation also visited Southampton to meet staff from the Centre for Independent Living (CIL), exploring how the CIL functioned with the community in its broader context and in particular with inclusion in schools. At the Hope Lodge School, for children with autism, staff discussed the systems that children with autism need to support them in the mainstream school environment. The final Study Tour day was spent meeting the Inclusive Education Training Manager (Teaching Staff) of the Inclusive Education Team in Plaistow, East London run by Newham Education Authority. The discussion focused on the necessary policies for best practice of inclusion in schools. According to the participants the study tour more than accomplished its goals.



Delegates meet with Ms. Michelle Ojo (SENCO) at North Beckton Primary School East London

All of the delegates had learned and seen much more than they had expected and all were very enthusiastic about the ways in which they could apply their new knowledge in Lebanon, and how it could be passed on to UNWRA educators and PDF staff and, more importantly, to further develop the Inclusion Project in Palestinian refugee camps. The Tour was planned and co-ordinated by our two UK inclusion experts Ms. Saadia Neilson and Ms. Michelle Daley, whose valuable insights, advice and professionalism made the tour a great success. We are especially grateful to the schools, to Newham Education Authority and Southampton CIL for opening their doors and welcoming the delegation and providing such inspiring presentations

and important information. Last word from the delegates: “I realise now that inclusion is a human rights issue and every child should have a right to education”.

“I learned from this study tour more than I have learned in the last ten years”



9. Inclusive Education – Additional Resources for Blind Children

In addition to the funds received from the Big Lottery Fund for this project, we were pleased to fund an additional component thanks to our UK supporters. Palestinians in the refugee camps in Lebanon live in extremely poor conditions. With no proper infrastructure for water, gas or electricity, supplies can break down at any time. There is severe overcrowding, poverty and very high unemployment. Palestinian refugees do not have social or civil rights and have very limited access to government facilities, so most depend on UNRWA's services. This project is focused on enabling blind children living in these difficult conditions to access education. For this additional component of WA's Inclusive Education Project for Disabled Children, UNRWA requested Braille materials and equipment for blind children, four resource rooms in

Tyre, Saida and Beirut, and training for two key staff. This project will ensure blind children have access to education.

10. The Nabil Badran Centre for Handicapped Children – A New Minibus

A small grant was allocated for this centre to replace their very old minibus. The Nabil Badran Centre works with disabled children in Al Bus Camp in the south of Lebanon. This bus provides a lifeline for dozens of children who would otherwise be confined to their homes inside the camp, during the summer period it is used for special activity days.

11. The Ghassan Kanafani Foundation

The Habilitation Preschool of the Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation is situated in Mar Elias Palestinian Refugee Camp in Lebanon and serves children with multiple disabilities and their families. The children, ranging from a few months to 14 years of age, are provided with diverse intervention programmes tailored to their needs. Services include special education, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, psychotherapy and family therapy. The intervention with the families includes awareness-raising and training on therapeutic techniques that can be followed up at home, as well as home adaptation and provision of assistive aids to enhance the child's independence at home. This then decreases the care-taking required from the family and its financial costs. The preschool has a network of different physicians whereby families are transferred to them if the need arises. This grant will help to support the services that the preschool provides to 35 children and at least 250 family members.



12. Books for Refugee Camps' Libraries

The Palestinian Refugee Camps in Lebanon have a number of small libraries desperate to receive books. One of their main sources of books has been from the UK's Book Aid International (BAI). In 2005, BAI were able to select books according to the book lists prepared by the camp librarians, and ship these to Beirut. They were then sorted by our colleagues in the WA Beirut office and distributed to the camp librarians. According to the evaluation surveys the books have been excellent and are well used by camp residents.

13. National Institute for Social Care and Vocational Training, Beit Atfal Al-Summoud in Beddawi and Bourj Al-Barajneh

This grant was used to support the kindergarten service provided by this small NGO for young children in Beddawi and Bourj Al-Barajneh camps. It was established in 1976 initially to provide assistance to Palestinian orphans. Over the years it has expanded its objectives to include social, economic, educational and cultural interventions that contribute to the improvement of living conditions for Palestinians living in poverty. Beit Atfal Al-Summoud has seven kindergartens (550 children) in seven camps (Rashidiyeh, Bourj Al-Shemali, Ein El Hilweh, Bourj Al-Barajneh, Shatila, Baddawi and Nahr El Bared) in Lebanon.

The Summoud kindergartens in Baddawi and Bourj Al-Barajneh camps consist of three class levels (ages 3, 4 and 5) working with 72 and 79 children respectively. The Summoud kindergarten in the Beddawi camp is the only one with a playground, while in Bourj Al-Barajneh the kindergarten has two extra rooms, one for meal times and the other for cultural and artistic activities.

14. Inaash Al-Mukhayam in Wavel, Beqa'a

This grant was used to support the kindergarten service provided by this small NGO for the young children in Beqa'a. The Association for the Development of Palestinian Camps (Inaash) was founded in 1969 and is the first NGO established in Lebanon for the service of the Palestinian community. Inaash has three kindergartens located in three camps (Bourj Al-Barajneh and Mar Elias in Beirut and Wavel in Beqa'a), serving 235 children in total, with 110 children attending the Beqa'a kindergarten. The Beqa'a centre was established in 1976 and is the oldest NGO centre in the camp. It has six classes, two for each age level.

KEY FACTS



- ❖ Since the suspension of international aid and the withholding of Palestinian tax revenue³ by Israel, poverty has increased to over 70%. (*UN OCHA, Humanitarian Monitor, July 2006*)
- ❖ 152,000 Palestinian Authorities workers have not received their salaries since February, 2006. Nearly 1 million people are dependent on these salaries.³ (*UN OCHA, Assessment of the future humanitarian risks in the occupied Palestinian Territory, 19 April, 2006.*)
- ❖ Since 26th June 2006 an estimated 226 Palestinians have been killed as a result of Israeli military operations. According to official Palestinian sources, 118 of the dead, including 80 women and children, were civilians. An estimated 200-250 tank shells are being lobbed daily into the Gaza Strip. (*OPT: Gaza – ICRC Bulletin No. 06/2006 – Latest report on ICRC activities in the field, 12/09/06.*)
- ❖ Damage to the economy and infrastructure alone is estimated at US\$ 46 million from 28th June to 27th August 2006. (*UNDP, Assessment of damages caused by the Israeli defence forces operations in the Gaza Strip, 6/09/06.*)

KEY FACTS



- ❖ The United Nations report 518 physical obstacles to movement in the West Bank including checkpoints, roadblocks, barbed wire, fences, gates and earth mounds across roads collectively known as “closures.” *UN OCHA, Movement and Access Report. No. 22. 27 September 2006. East Jerusalem.*
- ❖ Hundreds of containers of humanitarian supplies have been held at the Karni border crossing, near Gaza City. On 8 July 2006, 230 containers of food were waiting to cross at Karni⁴. *(UN, Statement by UN agencies working in Gaza, 8 July 2006)*
- ❖ Eighteen Palestinian civilians, most of them women and children from the same family, have been killed as they tried to flee a barrage of Israeli artillery shells fired on and around the house where they had been sleeping minutes earlier. *(The Independent, Beit Hanoun, Gaza 9/11/06)* Please see page 18 for full report.

**Please support our
current emergency
appeal for Gaza**

⁴ Movement in the West Bank and Gaza (WBG) has been severely restricted for people and goods inside the WBG, between the WBG and out of the WBG to Egypt and Israel. Huge quantities of fruit and vegetable crops delayed at borders, e.g. Gaza, have deteriorated and had to be destroyed; these severe restrictions and subsequent losses have crippled the Palestinian economy.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

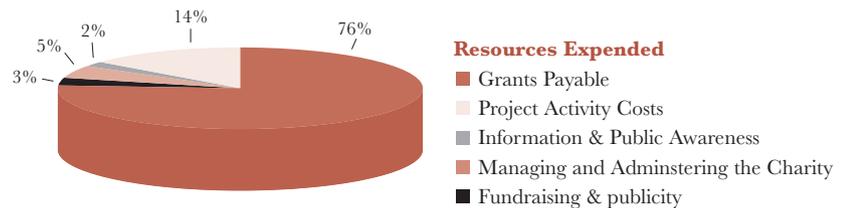
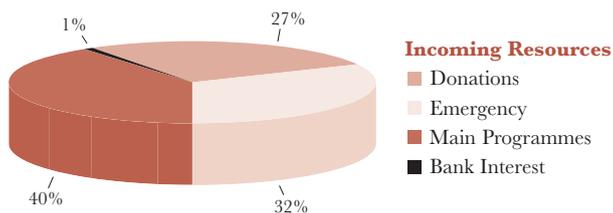
Statement of Financial Activities For the year Ending 31st December 2005*

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2005*

Incoming Resources	£
General Donations	134,737
Bank Interest	4,300
Main Programme Grants	195,516
Emergency Appeals and Programmes	158,157
Total Incoming Resources	492,710
Resources Expended	£
Grants Payable	417,199
Project Activity Costs	77,341
Information / Awareness Raising	11,952
Managing & Administering the Charity	24,527
Exchange (Gain) / Loss	(2,704)
Fundraising & Publicity	13,401
Total Resources Expended	541,716
Net Income / Expenditure for Year	(49,006)
Total Fund as at 1st January 2005	163,650
Total Fund as at 31st December 2005	114,644

Fixed Assets	£
Tangible Assets	0
Current Assets	£
Debtors	3,018
Cash in Hand & at Bank	115,067
Total	118,085
Creditors	£
Amounts falling within 1 year	3,441
Net Current Assets	114,644

*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 by Kingston Smith and given an unqualified opinion. For further information the full accounts including the auditor's report, can be obtained from Companies House.





Main Projects in 2005

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Projects in Palestine £

Emergency Support for Hospitals in East Jerusalem / funded by EC	158,157
Gaza Community-Based Rehabilitation Programme	60,668
Monitoring & Co-ordination Unit for East Jerusalem Multi-Sector Development Plan / EC	54,222
Replanting Community Orchards & Olive Groves	17,500
Jabalia Emergency Appeal	5,028
Ramallah Kindergarten Project	11,507

Projects in Lebanon £

Inclusive Education for Young Disabled Children in Refugee Camps / Big Lottery Fund	76,386
Grant to UNRWA for Resources for Blind Children	17,000
Grant to Nabil Badran Centre for Disabled Children – for Mini Bus	6,509
The Ghassan Kanafani Foundation – Pre-school services	10,000
Books for Refugee Camp Libraries / Book Aid International	13,990
National Institute for Social Care & Vocational Training (Beit Atfal Al-Summoud), grant for Kindergarten Services	5,000
Inaash Al-Mukhayam, Grant for Kindergarten Services	5,000
Total	£440,967

The trustees are most appreciative of all the volunteers who have assisted in 2005 and special thanks are due to Mr. Al-Qattan for very generously continuing to provide free office accommodation. We would like to thank the following supporters for their grants and donations during the financial year 1st January 2005 – 31st December 2005:

Mr. Michael Adams	Mr. Colin Harris
Ms. J Adams	Mr. Kenneth Ibbet
Mr. Len Aldis	Mr. M. Jadaa
Dr. A. Awad	Mr. Jundi
Ayam Creative	Ms. Pauline Kendall
Ms. A. Beck	Ms. Karen King
Mr. & Mrs. N. Fox Bassett	Mr. E. J. Lumley
Big Lottery Fund	G. Marshall
Book Aid International	Oakdale Trust
The William A. Cadbury	The Onaway Trust
Charitable Trust	Ms. Irene Progin
Mrs. J. Ciampa	Mrs. M. S. Rizk
Major Derek &	M. Roffey
Mrs. Pamela Cooper	The Rowan Charitable Trust
Mr. Molham Entabi	Mr. Afif &
The European Commission	Mrs Christ'l Safieh
Mr. Mansour Fustok	Mr. A. Seymour
Mr. Gilbert Gargour	N. Sheikh-Miller
Mr. A. R. Glencross	Mrs. C. Stead
T. Godfree	Mrs. Paulette Turner
The Hadley Trust	Mrs. M. J. Voggenauer
Mr. Mohammad Hakmi	T. G. White
Mr. A. Hall	Mr. & Mrs. H. S. Wilson
Mrs. Beverley Hamadi	



THE INDEPENDENT

Gaza children cannot escape as Israel mounts its bloodiest attack in months

By Donald Macintyre in Beit Hanoun
Published: 09 November 2006⁵

Eighteen Palestinian civilians, most of them women and children from the same family, have been killed as they tried to flee a barrage of Israeli artillery shells fired on and around the house where they had been sleeping minutes earlier.

The victims were killed by an estimated 10 to 12 155mm shells which landed on Beit Hanoun less than 24 hours after troops had ended a six-day ground incursion into the northern Gaza town aimed at stopping militants firing Qassam rockets into Israel.

All but one of the dead were members of the Athamneh family and included six children under 16. They were killed

when they rushed out into the dirt road beside their four-storey building after the first shell struck, punching a hole two feet in diameter through the roof. Large puddles in the road were still dark with blood five hours after the attack.

The artillery salvo, which began at 5.30am, inflicted the highest single civilian death toll in four months of operations by the Israeli military since Gaza militants seized the Israeli corporal Gilad Shalit. Among the dozens of wounded, 17 people, including three children and six women, were still in intensive care in Gaza City's Shifa hospital last night.

At the mortuary at Kamal Adwan hospital Majdi Saad Athamneh, 37, wept as he wrote down the names of relatives whose corpses he had identified. As a neighbour opened one of the containers to reveal the bodies of his 10-year-old son, Saad, and his brother, Mohammed, 28, Mr Athamneh said he had lost 13 members of his family. He added: "My wife is in the hospital and so is my other son."

Lying in a bed at Al Awda hospital, Haneen Athamneh, 20, said she had finished washing before dawn prayers in their fourth-floor apartment when she heard the explosion from the shell hitting the roof. She said: "I ran with my husband into the road outside. I was hit by shrapnel

on my side. There was smoke and dust everywhere. It was like a fog. It was hard to breathe. There were heads decapitated. I saw my aunt Jamila's leg flying. I tried to help her but she said, 'Run for your life'."

She said Israeli troops had occupied the building for two days during the incursion, in which more than 50 Palestinians most but not all militants were killed. "They told us not to worry, they were not going to hurt us," Ms Athamneh said. "They said they wanted peace. What kind of peace is this?"

At her bedside, her mother, Sarya Basiouny, 62, said: "Yesterday we buried our dead. Today we are burying the dead again." The youngest victim killed was Maysa Athamneh, eight months, who had been sleeping before her father Ramzi, 30, rushed her and his two other children out of the building on hearing the first explosion. Her seven-year-old brother Abdullah lost a leg.

After one hardline Hamas spokesman was quoted calling for a resumption of suicide bombings in retaliation, the exiled Hamas leader Khaled Mashal said in Damascus the faction would retaliate "by deed, not words". The normally more moderate Ghazi Hamad, spokesman for the Hamas cabinet, declared: "Israel believes in killing, and therefore this state should cease to exist."

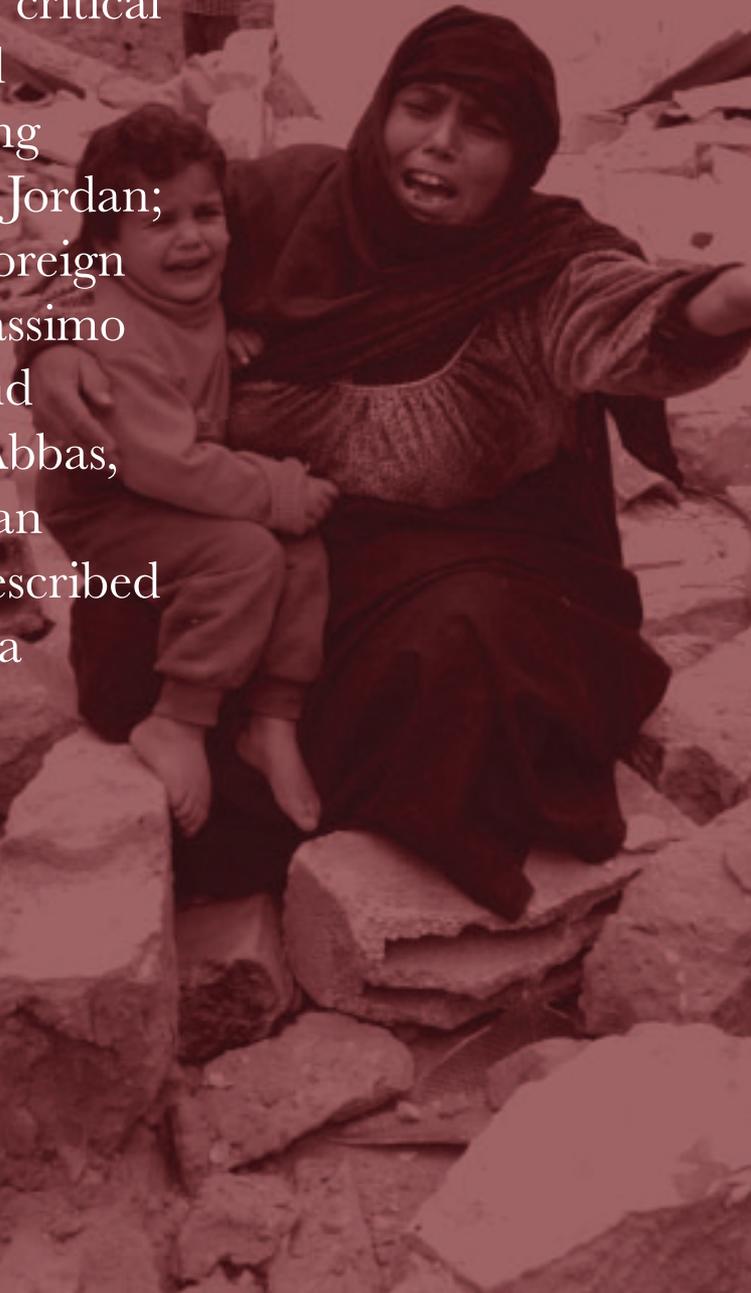


The Israeli Defence Forces said they had been launching “preventative” shelling in response to Qassam rocket attacks after the Israeli troops’ withdrawal from Beit Hanoun on Tuesday. No injuries were reported from the rocket attacks. The IDF said it “regrets any event in which uninvolved [people] are hurt” while insisting that the “responsibility for civilian casualties” lay with factions who launched Qassam rockets “from the shelter of populated areas”. But in an implicit explanation that the killings were caused by human or technical error, the military said the artillery fire was “directed at a location distant from the one reportedly hit”.

The military inquiry has been entrusted to Maj-Gen Meir Khalifi, who also investigated the deaths of seven members of the Ghalia family in an explosion on a Gaza beach last June. Despite doubts raised over its evidence, including the timeline it gave of Israeli attacks on the day, his report insisted that the IDF was not responsible.

One resident, Usama Ahmed Athamneh, 34, told the independent politician Mustafa Barghouti, who visited the scene of the carnage: “We do not want to see any of Fatah and Hamas. For playing the firecrackers [Qassams] we are getting killed.”

In a wave of critical international reaction, King Abdullah of Jordan; the Italian Foreign Minister, Massimo D’Alema, and Mahmoud Abbas, the Palestinian President, described the event as a “massacre”.





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