



Annual Review **2021-2022**

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Annual Review

2021-2022

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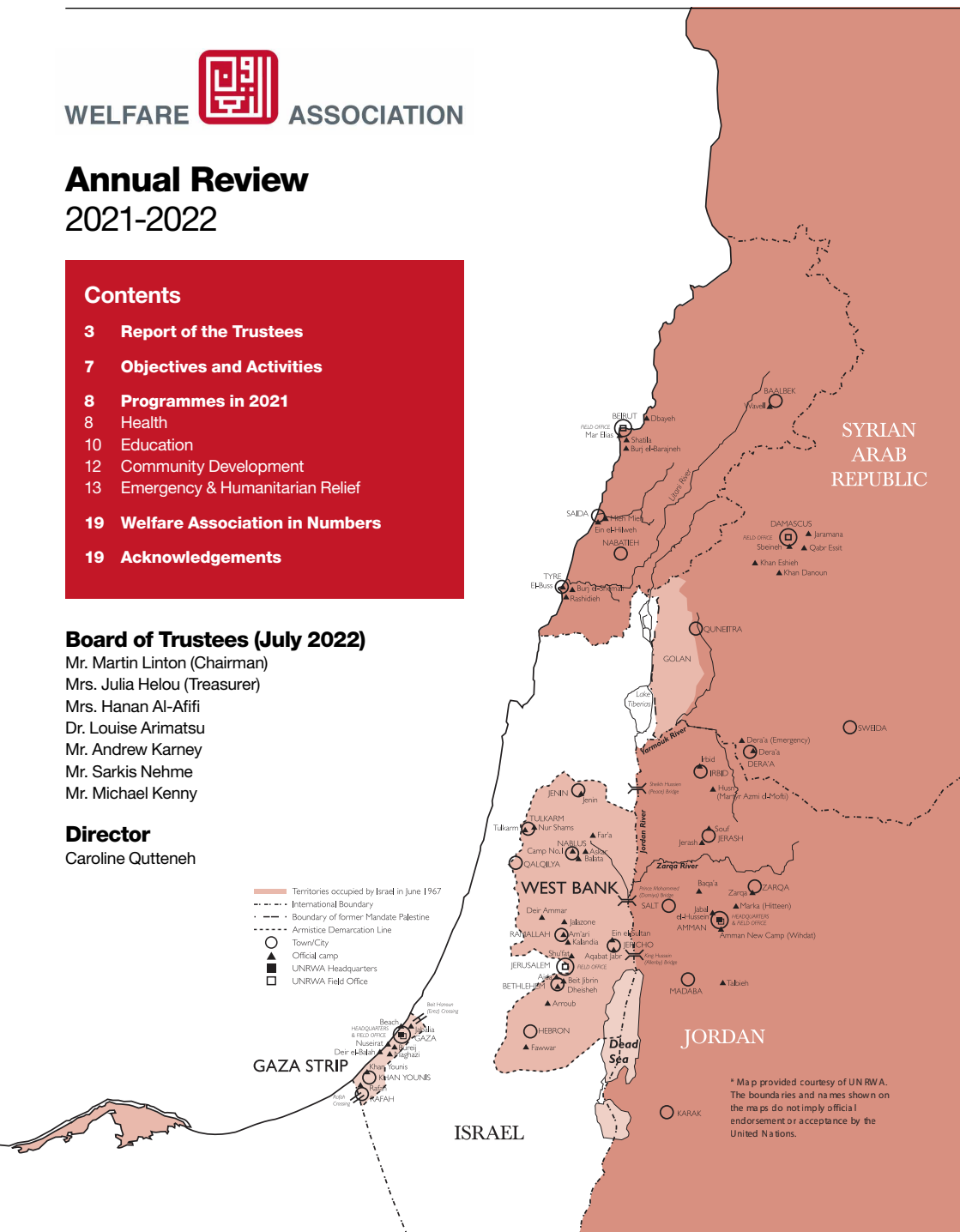




Image courtesy of PRCS, Jerusalem

Report of the Trustees

In 2022 millions of Palestinians across the occupied territory have been highly vulnerable to humanitarian shocks, driven by multiple political and socio-economic factors present in 2021. In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israeli settlement activity and related violence, loss of land, destruction of property and movement restrictions, and restriction of access to basic services and livelihoods continued throughout 2021. These actions contribute to a coercive environment which can deny Palestinians their basic rights and pressure some to leave their communities.¹

In February 2022, Amnesty International released a report documenting acts proscribed in the Apartheid Convention and Rome Statute in all the areas Israel controls, although they occur more frequently and violently in the oPt than in Israel.² Israeli authorities enact multiple measures to deliberately deny Palestinians their basic rights and freedoms, including draconian movement restrictions in the oPt, chronic and discriminatory underinvestment in Palestinian communities in Israel, and the denial of refugees' right to return. The report also documents forcible transfer, administrative detention, torture, and unlawful killings, in both Israel and the oPt. Amnesty International found that these acts form part of a systematic and widespread attack directed against the Palestinian population, and are committed with the intent to maintain the system of oppression and domination. They therefore constitute the crime against humanity of apartheid.³

In May 2021 the Israeli police and military forces carried out attacks in and around Al Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem during Ramadan. This was closely followed by 11 days of heavy and continuous Israeli military strikes on Gaza. Palestinian medical



Image courtesy of WAFA Agency, Gaza

1 UNOCHA. Humanitarian Response Plan oPt 2022. Issued December 2021.

2 oPt = Occupied Palestinian Territories.

3 Amnesty International. ISRAEL'S APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS, CRUEL SYSTEM OF DOMINATION AND CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/MDE1551412022ENGLISH.pdf>

4 Pending a final status agreement, East Jerusalem remains an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory and the Palestinian population of the territory should have the right to access East Jerusalem, including for specialised health and education services, work, social, cultural & family relationships and for worship at the Muslim and Christian holy places. East Jerusalem is of continuing importance as a centre of life for Palestinians throughout the oPt, at a time when it is becoming increasingly separated from the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory.

staff struggled to cope as the attacks intensified, with rapidly rising numbers of civilians seriously injured. WAUK's extended emergency coverage supported frontline responders as well as hospitals, to treat those most badly affected; together with additional programme activities supporting businesses and schools that were badly damaged in Gaza, to help get people back to work and children back to a safe school environment. Against this already challenging backdrop, the humanitarian situation in both the West Bank and Gaza has been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has strained healthcare systems, increased economic degradation, contributed to high unemployment, and caused challenging mobility restrictions. All these factors put further pressure on the socio-economic and cultural fabric of Palestinian society. In Lebanon, which is still accommodating Palestinian refugees from Syria, the financial crisis continues. Palestinian refugees struggle to access healthcare and to find their next meal, with severe lack of employment opportunities and ever-rising unemployment rates.

West Bank

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, Israel's direct military occupation continues and with it the appropriation of land and resources.⁴ Standards of living, economic growth and employment prospects continue to be undermined by limitations on access to land. While freedom of movement remains restricted by a multi-layered system of administrative, bureaucratic and physical constraints imposed by Israel. Access to agricultural land in areas behind the Barrier, or in the vicinity of settlements, which are subject to a permit or prior-coordination system, has continued to be limited. Settlement expansion and settler violence, as well as the demolition of residential, livelihood and service infrastructure, and planned forced evictions, also continue. These policies contribute to the coercive environment, placing many Palestinians in Area C, East Jerusalem and the Israeli-controlled part of Hebron city (H2) at risk of forcible transfer.⁵

May 2021 witnessed extensive violence by Israeli security forces in the West Bank, particularly in East Jerusalem. Overnight clashes in Jerusalem on 7 May 2021 resulted in more than 150 Palestinians and six Israeli police being wounded. A march, organised by the far-right group, Lehava, ended at the main Damascus Gate entrance of the Old City of Jerusalem. Where thousands of Palestinians gathered to protect the City and hundreds of Israeli police in riot gear had closed off the area to prevent clashes. Israeli police used water cannons, stun grenades and mounted



Image courtesy of PRCs

police to try to push the marchers back. As clashes erupted, the majority of those injured were at Al Aqsa Mosque, inside the Old City. As it was Ramadan, thousands of Palestinians were praying at Al Aqsa Mosque (the third holiest site in Islam). The Palestinian Red Crescent opened a field hospital to treat the wounded; in one night they reported treating at least 105 people. The director of Makassed Hospital's emergency department reported admitting 83 patients with rubber bullet injuries; 25 of whom were seriously injured with bullet wounds in the head and upper body, some with loss of sight.

Palestinian families face the continued threat of forced eviction from their homes by the Israeli authorities in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem, in court cases initiated by Israeli settler organisations. On 2 November 2021, four of the families rejected an Israeli High Court of Justice proposal offering them protected tenancy status, and recognising an Israeli settler organisation's ownership of the land, with Palestinian tenants paying them an annual leasing fee. In total in East Jerusalem, at least 218 Palestinian households, comprising 970 people including 424 children, are facing pending eviction cases in Israeli courts.⁶

Gaza

The 2.3 million people living in Gaza are facing the worst economic conditions in years. The ongoing blockade and four Israeli military assaults on Gaza

5 UNOCHA. Humanitarian Response Plan oPt 2022. Issued December 2021.

6 UNOCHA. HUMANITARIAN NEEDS OVERVIEW oPt. ISSUED DECEMBER 2021. Endnote 8. Page 66. Most of these cases are based on the application of Israeli laws that allow Jewish Israelis who owned properties in East Jerusalem prior to 1948 to reclaim their property. There is no similar law which allows Palestinians who lost property during the conflict over the years to reclaim their property. In any event, and in accordance with international law, East Jerusalem is occupied territory and Israeli law is not applicable. The transfer of the Occupying Power's civilian population into occupied territory is a violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

since 2008 have had a devastating impact. During May 2021 the latest bombardment by Israel's military forces caused additional significant devastation, loss of life, increased aid dependency and exacerbated poverty. From 10-21 May 2021, Gaza experienced the most intense Israeli military strikes since 2014. **The UN Secretary-General described the situation as follows: "if there is a hell on earth, it is the lives of children in Gaza today".⁷**

As a result of the hostilities in May, it was reported that 261 Palestinians were killed; including 67 children and 41 women.⁸ Furthermore, over 2,210 Palestinians were injured; including 685 children and 480 women, some of whom may suffer long-term disabilities requiring rehabilitation and ongoing support. At the height of the hostilities, an estimated 113,000 displaced people sought shelter and protection. According to the UN Shelter Cluster, the May 2021 escalation left 58,000 housing units damaged or destroyed, leaving 12,000 people displaced. One assessment has reported that 85% of households whose shelters were damaged had no capacity to carry out repairs.⁹ Damage to infrastructure was of a scale and magnitude not seen before; hospitals and health centres, businesses and schools as well as water, sanitation, power and transport infrastructure were targeted.

According to the World Bank (June 2021), the agricultural sector suffered direct damage of approximately US\$ 45 million.¹⁰ Estimates by the World Bank indicate that the recent conflict has pushed poverty in Gaza to 59.3% in 2021. This is 2.3 percentage points higher than the COVID-19 induced peak in 2020, and a 16.3 percentage point increase above the 2016-2017 values.¹¹ The restrictions imposed on Gaza continue to devastate the economy; the gross national income per capita is now less than one third of the West Bank's, whereas in 1994 it represented 87%.¹² The rapid spread of COVID-19 in Gaza since

August 2020 also resulted in thousands of daily workers losing their wages, as work stopped in lockdown. According to UNRWA, 80% of the population in Gaza is dependent on international assistance. The World Bank further states that their report of November 2021, shows that the external restrictions imposed on Gaza resulted in a closed economy. **The land, air and sea blockade of Gaza, imposed by the government of Israel, (entering its 14th year in 2022), is considered illegal under international law as a form of collective punishment.¹³** Restrictions on the free movement of people, goods and trade continue to severely undermine Gaza's economy, devastating productive capacity and putting any future development at risk. Key steps to ending the long-standing intra-Palestinian divide failed to materialise in 2021.

Lebanon

More than 479,000 Palestinian refugees (PRL) are registered with UNRWA in Lebanon; of these 45% live in 12 refugee camps, where families face overcrowding, poor housing conditions, unemployment, poverty and lack of access to key services.¹⁴ In addition, since 2011 over 23,000 Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS) have moved to the existing camps and gatherings. As PRL and PRS are not formally citizens of another state, they are unable to claim the same rights as other foreigners living and working in Lebanon. They are barred from working in up to 39 professions and may not own property. A series of crises, including the Beirut Port explosion in 2020, the impact of COVID-19, together with the ongoing and disastrous financial crisis in Lebanon and increasing unemployment rates, mean most Palestine refugees have found themselves slipping further into destitution. **"Palestine refugees are suffering immensely. The misery that I witnessed in the last two days in Ein el-Hilweh and Nahr el-Bared camps is unfathomable",** said UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini during his visit to the



Image courtesy of PRCs

7 UNSCO, The Secretary-General's Remarks to the General Assembly Meeting on the Situation in the Middle East and Palestine, New York, 20 May 2021. https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/the_secretarygenerals_remarks_to_the_general_assembly_meeting_on_the_situation_in_the_middle_east_and_palestine.pdf

8 United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Response to the escalation in the oPt: Situation Report No. 10 (September 2021), published on 14 October 2021. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/response-escalation-opt-situation-report-no-10-september-2021>

9 2021 Multisectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA), July 2021. <https://www.ochaopt.org/page/msna>

10 UNOCHA, Humanitarian Needs Overview, Humanitarian Response Plan oPt 2022. Issued December 2021

11 World Bank Group, Economic Monitoring Report to the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee November 17th, 2021, Page 4.

12 IBID.

13 See, among others, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, 'Situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with a focus on collective punishment' (22 December 2020) UN Doc A/HRC/44/60.

14 <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/lebanon> (last accessed 14.3.2022).

country on 1 April 2021. *"I am also aware that the entire country is plunged into its worst crisis since the civil war. Everyone, Lebanese and others, is struggling. It is disheartening to come back to such a meltdown"*, said Mr. Lazzarini, who previously held a senior UN position in Beirut.¹⁵

Since 2019, poverty has increased owing to a decline in economic activity and widespread political instability. These interlinked shocks exposed the Lebanese pound exchange rate, which has been fixed since the beginning of the century, to tremendous pressures, causing currency depreciation and severe inflation; thus limiting households' purchasing power. These combined shocks have led to a decrease in the living standards of a significant proportion of the Lebanese and non-Lebanese population, and a considerable rise in income poverty. The multidimensional poverty rate in Lebanon almost doubled from 42% in 2019 to 82% of the total population in 2021, with nearly four million people living in multidimensional poverty. Extreme multidimensional poverty affected 40% of the poor population in 2021, equivalent to 34% of the population at large. The population suffering from extreme poverty increased to 1,650,000, equivalent to 400,000 households.¹⁶ Some of the most badly affected in the ongoing financial crisis are the Palestinian families living in the refugee camps and gatherings.

Financial Review

The financial review in this report relates to the financial year from 1 January – 31 December 2021. In 2021 the charity raised a total of £2,562,769 from the general public, the British Council and a number of organisations in the UK and overseas. The restricted income includes grants from the British Council (in partnership with the UK Government's DCMS); the first to restore Mamluk era buildings in the Old City of Jerusalem with remaining funds of £106,593, and the second to complete the work to develop the conservation studio and train staff at the Palestinian Museum (in partnership with the British Library), with a remaining grant of £25,988.¹⁷ Emergency grants increased in 2021 in response to the emergency situation in East Jerusalem, with grants totalling £342,550 supporting frontline emergency medical teams and Al Makassed Hospital and food vouchers for 900 families badly affected. Following the Israeli military bombardment of Gaza in May 2021, 10 grants totalling £308,491 supported frontline emergency medical teams, provided emergency medical supplies for 10 local hospitals and health centres, supported essential repairs to two schools, and enabled 10 damaged and destroyed local businesses to get



back to work. Projects supporting the restoration of 341 Gaza farmers' livelihoods totalled £357,714. In the West Bank, the childcare programme provided quarterly food vouchers and annual back-to-school vouchers totalling £607,000. While ongoing support for the surgical departments at Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem was £204,899. In Lebanon, projects included a new grant providing access to hospital care of £73,110, and the first part of a grant providing emergency winterisation support in the Bekaa region and shelter rehabilitation in Burj El Barajneh Camp of £37,858. In 2021 WA spent a total of £2,475,560.



¹⁵ UNRWA Raises Alarm on the Situation of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon – Press Release, 01 April 2021, <https://www.un.org/unispa/document/unrwa-raises-alarm-on-the-situation-of-palestine-refugees-in-lebanon-press-release/> (last accessed 14.3.2022)

¹⁶ ESCWA, Multidimensional Poverty in Lebanon 2019-202, https://www.unescwa.org/sites/default/files/news/docs/21-00634_-_multidimensional_poverty_in_lebanon_-_policy_brief_-_en.pdf

¹⁷ UK Government DCMS = Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.

Objectives and Activities

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

Programme Activities, Achievements and Impact 2021

In all projects implemented throughout 2021 (1 January to 31 December 2021), WA programme teams, local NGO partners and beneficiaries followed COVID-19 protocols. This included measures to mitigate the spread of the virus, such as wearing masks, regular sanitising of hands and work stations, social distancing and avoiding crowding, etc.

Health

Providing services for children with disabilities, access to hospital care, therapy for traumatised children and working with hospitals and health centres in the West Bank and Gaza, enabling the upgrading of services.

Education

Focussing on services for children, upgrading schools and educational programmes at the Palestinian Museum. A component of training and capacity building also runs through many of our programmes, with the aim of upgrading local skills and increasing self-sustainability to the extent possible when the programme ends.



New equipment for frontline emergency responders in East Jerusalem

Community Development

Including the West Bank Child Care programme, livelihoods projects such as support for farmers, and improving living conditions and housing & shelter for the most vulnerable communities.

Emergency & Humanitarian Relief

Emergency Humanitarian Relief in Palestine and Lebanon, included provision of emergency winter assistance, rehabilitation of shelters, repairs to schools and businesses so they could re-open in Gaza, restoring farmers' livelihoods in Gaza, distribution of family food packs, food vouchers, and hygiene kits, as well as the provision of critical medical supplies to hospitals in East Jerusalem and Gaza.

Focused UK Advocacy

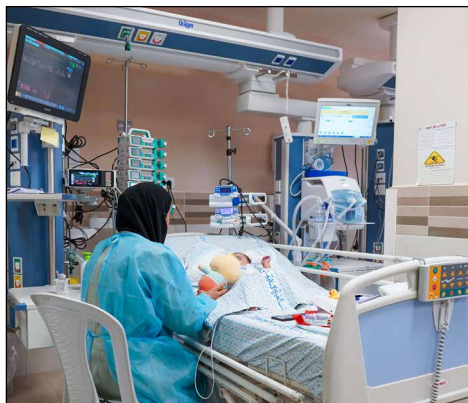
Raising awareness of needs, our programmes and the situation affecting our project beneficiaries overseas.

Supporting the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Al Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital (Stage 1)

Al Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital is the largest Arab hospital in East Jerusalem, with 250 beds and 80 ICU beds (including 16 paediatric beds). The paediatric open heart surgery department (POH), has been supported by WA since its establishment in 2003, and has expanded from four beds to 16 with a CCU (Cardiac Care Unit) and an ICU. The POH has an occupancy rate of between 100-120%, and delays in patient admission have exceeded 50 patients per month due to a lack of key equipment such as ventilators.

This 8-month project began in May 2020 to provide urgently needed equipment and facilities to the Paediatric ICU and was completed in March 2021. The project increased the capacity of the Paediatric Intensive Care unit through the provision of two new much needed ventilators, even more essential due to COVID-19. A new Nava ventilator arrived on 19 May 2020, as the project started and COVID cases in East Jerusalem were rising. This is a specialist piece of equipment, designed to treat patients requiring long-term respiratory assistance in much shorter periods of time. The remaining equipment followed, including the second paediatric ventilator, syringe pumps, portable digital x-ray machine, TEE transducers, and 10 paediatric ICU beds. This project also updated and equipped the parents and guardians' room, providing appropriate accommodation and facilities for rest when away from their child's bedside. The room is now supporting 15 companions per day.

Our Chairman Martin Linton visits Palestine and reviews progress of WA's emergency interventions and equipment provided Al Makassed Hospital, with WA West Bank Programmes Director Khaled Daoudi, July 2022.



Supporting the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Al Makassed Islamic Charitable Hospital (Stage 2)

This project began in late 2021. The Paediatrics Open Heart (POH) surgery department required a fully digital ultrasound system to serve both paediatric and adult patients. In addition, the unit required a Synergy UHD 4K camera system, as well as a range of catheterisation lab equipment and consumables. This project provided this essential equipment, in order to increase the POH department's capacity, and improve the specialized ICU paediatric unit and thoracic surgery services provided at Al Makassed.

Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Services for Children with Disabilities in the North of Gaza

This 9-month project provided a range of community-based rehabilitation services for children with disabilities (CwD) in Gaza. According to Population, Housing and Establishments Census (PHEC), persons with disabilities in Palestine constitute 2.1% of the total population.¹⁸ Mobility disabilities account for the highest proportion of these disabilities, and 20% of persons with disabilities in Palestine are children under 18 years old. CwD are one of the most vulnerable and often most disadvantaged of all groups in Gaza. The conditions in Gaza, with a closed economy, high unemployment rates and a health service under tremendous pressure, have led to a lack of specialised and mainstream services responding to the needs of those with disabilities.

The project aimed to improve the health and mobility of 75 CwDs in Gaza through: home-based nursing, physical and occupational therapy, counselling

sessions, the provision of disability aids, the facilitation of inclusion in schools (where possible) by liaising between families and schools, and to raise awareness through meetings within the local community. Project activities started in September 2020 and were extended due to COVID-19 lockdowns, and again due to the Israeli military bombardment of Gaza in May 2021. The project was finally completed successfully in April 2021. Despite the delays and challenges 100 children were supported.

A planned series of therapeutic / recreational events for CwDs and their families, were replaced with 100 therapeutic, recreational activity kits for CwDs. Additionally: 566 psychological therapy sessions and 566 family counselling sessions were provided, 75 children are now back attending daily school classes, six children had school tuition and transport costs covered, 75 kits of essential 'back-to-school' items were distributed, five awareness-raising sessions were provided in schools, 100 Ramadan fresh food parcels were distributed to each child's family to support their health and well-being and 93 COVID-19 hygiene kits were distributed.



Providing Access to Healthcare for Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon

This 12-month project began in July 2021, providing access to healthcare for up to 48 Palestinian refugees, and will be implemented by WA and the Health Care Society. Approximately 95% of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon (PRL) do not have health insurance and cannot access services provided by the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) provides full coverage of primary healthcare services for Palestine refugees in Lebanon. However, it only provides partial support for some tertiary healthcare and treatment required for



chronic conditions and diseases such as: neurological conditions, cardiovascular diseases, transplants, cancer, multiple sclerosis, or kidney failure. According to UNRWA, 37% of all PRL and 33% of all Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) have a chronic condition. The situation of elderly PRL and PRS is even worse, as 87.6% have some type of chronic disease (according to the UNRWA and American University of Beirut (AUB) study published in 2015). Due to their age and medical conditions many require hospitalisation, which is partially covered by UNRWA and other NGOs. By the end of 2021, 16 patients, (nine men and seven women) had received support, they are from the Palestinian refugee camps in North Lebanon (Nahr El Bared & Beddawi) and Beirut (Burj El Barajneh). The majority with chronic cardiovascular or orthopaedic issues.

Music Therapy for Traumatised Children in the Camps in Lebanon

This 7-month project focused on the Palestinian refugee camps located in Tyre, South Lebanon (primarily in Burj El Shemali), and enabled traumatised children (4-14 years old) to engage in a range of music therapy activities, to reduce stress and increase self-confidence (a lack of opportunities for children and youth to gather and engage in healthy social and community activities, further contributes to the sense of exclusion and marginalisation). Activities included one-on-one sessions and group activities, to benefit the children in different ways. Music therapy is well-known to help children develop their musical capabilities, confidence, self-esteem, motivation, and focus. Through these positive changes, children can begin to move on from any behavioural problems or negative coping mechanisms they

¹⁸ Population, Housing and Establishments Census, 2017. http://www.pcbs.gov.ps/portals_pcbs/PressRelease/Press_En_3-12-2019-dis-en.pdf

may have developed due to trauma, depression, or isolation. The group classes provide an opportunity for the children to engage with one another, reduce tension, form friendships and to build a sense of community between themselves. These relationships and inclusion can be vital to re-engaging with their education and peers, helping to prevent children from dropping out of school. All the sessions were delivered with an emphasis on Palestinian and Arabic music and culture, helping to foster in the children a sense of pride, identity, and kinship with their peers. A number of different instruments were offered to the children, enabling them to find an instrument they felt comfortable with and to help them fully engage.

The project successfully provided 148 music therapy lessons (individual and group), which were delivered to a total of 80 children, three times a week (60 minutes each). In order to ensure COVID-19 safety, precautionary procedures were followed during the sessions; participants wore masks and the total number of participants was lowered for each session to ensure social distancing, with regular sanitising of the instruments, hands, rooms, etc. Live lessons were replaced by online sessions over Zoom during the two lockdowns: two weeks from 14 to 28 November 2021, and 10 weeks from 8 January to 21 March. Of the 80 children, 32 aged 10-14 also received professional choir singing training, the choir sang Palestinian cultural heritage songs and other popular songs. Additionally, the project purchased some instruments such as; nay (flute), cello, drums and saxophones, to add an element of sustainability beyond the end of the project. The types of instruments played by children include: drums, dabrouka, saxophone, percussion, strings, bass, wind, cello, nay.



Our Board Member Sarkis Nehme (back-left) visits projects in Lebanon including a performance with some of the children from the Music Therapy Project, August 2021.



Education

Improving Educational Facilities at Al Aqsa Schools, East Jerusalem

Al Aqsa Schools were established in 1976, to help cover the shortage in classrooms for Palestinian children in Jerusalem. They are a group of three schools located in Jerusalem's Old City covering grades 1-12. The schools provide a high-quality education to disadvantaged students in the Old City. This project funded the refurbishment of several rooms at the Reyad Al Aqsa school and provided essential new equipment (projectors, smart boards, PCs, laptop, printer, desks, and chairs) for a fully-furnished computer lab. Due to COVID-19, the project started later in the



2020 - 2021 academic year, and was again extended due to lockdown and the East Jerusalem emergency situation in May 2021. Despite the delays, the project was successfully completed.

A Note of thanks from Mr. Nabil Hamoudeh – 'Deputy chairman of the board' Al Aqsa Schools

"Despite the challenges of moving the computers to the school inside Al Aqsa Mosque walls, we managed to do this project. The lab is now fully functioning and will serve about 540 students. Students will be coming back to school in September 2021 to enjoy the new computer lab facility. Many thanks to the Welfare Association who helped us in improving the learning environment at Riyadh Al Aqsa school at a much-needed time when there is limited support coming into the education sector in Jerusalem".



Improving Educational Facilities at Al Fatah Girls Secondary School, East Jerusalem

Al Fatah Girls Secondary School was established in 2003 in response to a shortage in classrooms for female students in Jerusalem. It is located in Wadi Al Joz (Valley of the Walnuts), a Palestinian neighbourhood (with approx. 13,000 residents) in East Jerusalem, just outside of the Old City walls. In contrast to the otherwise affluent Palestinian areas in North-central Jerusalem, Wadi Al Joz is marked by poorer areas that are largely clustered around the industrial zone in the valley. The school has: four floors with 19 classrooms, a computer lab, science lab, library, principal's and



administration office, and rest room facilities, as well as a meeting hall and playground. Classes run from 5th grade up to 12th grade. The school is considered one of the best secondary schools in the surrounding area of Jerusalem, with a student body of 600 girls. As with many institutions in the Jerusalem directorate, the school does not receive local government funding and required essential renovation works. This project (from May to December 2021) contributed to the building works, mechanical and electrical works, and also provided some new sports equipment.

Distance Education Capacity Building in Palestine

This project provided a 4-week programme in March 2021. It supported the development of key faculty members at four universities (Birzeit, An-Najah, Bethlehem and Al-Azhar) in Palestine, in online and blended learning. Training was delivered by the internationally leading Centre for Distance Education (CDE) at the University of London, developed with input from Palestinian stakeholders. The course covered core themes in the design of effective teaching, learning and assessment at distance. The intervention responded to the urgent needs of Palestinian university faculty, who were conducting teaching online since the COVID-19 pandemic reached Palestine, in order to increase the universities' distance-learning capacity. The project has ensured sustainability by adopting a cascade-learning approach, with dissemination activities planned at participant universities. This project was funded by Friends of Birzeit University (FoBZU) and WA. At least 30 faculty members from the universities participated in this CDE-organised training, with an estimated 35 hours of participant engagement.

Supporting Higher Education at Birzeit University (BZU)

This project between WA and Friends of Birzeit University supported Palestinian students' tuition fees at BZU for the academic year of 2020 - 2021 (November to July). The project supported the BZU Academic Excellence Programme, providing scholarships to outstanding students who are unable to afford tuition fees. FoBZU and BZU selected five such students based on financial need and academic merit (one master's and four undergraduate). These students and their families are facing severe financial hardship and without this financial support are at great risk of having to drop out of university. The project was completed successfully, with all five students supported through the scholarship and achieving impressive academic results.

West Bank Childcare Programme

This ongoing programme began in April 2019, to support very vulnerable children, the majority having lost one or both of their parents. The project sought to improve their standard of living through the provision of key food, hygiene, and school items; in addition to giving the children access to basic educational services, and safeguarding the children and their guardians through awareness-raising and support. This is done through the provision of quarterly vouchers, which can be exchanged for the specified items at pre-qualified locally-owned shops, and in August there is an additional voucher round for 'Back-to-School' items (textbooks and school uniform). The shopkeepers selected in the project are also supported, as the pre-qualification and voucher system affords them a secure and predictable income throughout the project duration. During 2021, an average of at least 1,300 children were supported in each quarterly voucher distribution. We are keen to increase this programme as this level of child support is greatly needed in the West Bank.

Education Programme at the Palestinian Museum

This 2-year grant is funding a series of public and educational events that will include: book launches, literary events, symposia, panel discussions, workshops, tours, film screenings, an exhibition related conference, and two original publications, as well as conference proceedings and papers. In addition, the first project will deepen and strengthen qualitative research on art in Palestine, historically and critically, with an in-depth insight into its material, and socio-economic and political contexts from the nineteenth century to the early 1990s. This project began in 2020, however with the impact of COVID-19 the project team



rescheduled some of the activities and extended the implementation period from two years to three. In 2021 activities included: (1) a symposium entitled: 'The Political and Cultural Space in the Palestinian Coastal Cities'. (2) a podcast production. (3) the inaugural symposium for the PM's annual exhibition 'A People by the Sea: Narratives of the Palestinian Coast'. (4) a book launch for 'Open Gaza: Architectures of Hope'. (5) a lecture, featuring a discussion between Salman Abu Sitta (photo) and Jonny Mansour entitled: 'Unforgettable: Palestine in Two Thousand Years of Documentation'.

Development of the Conservation Studio at the Palestinian Museum

Following the conflicts in Palestine, huge numbers of paper-based documentation was destroyed, looted and lost; and what remains is often fragile or damaged. The conservation studio was established to protect these fragile documents, restoring what can be saved, and maintaining and protecting historic documents from ongoing risks. The Palestinian Museum (PM) team extended the range of services offered by the conservation studio, to now be able to conserve extremely frail paper-based documents of historical and cultural significance. This 12-month project, funded by the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund in partnership with the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, was completed by March 2021. The staff at the PM received training and support from a team of experts at The British Library, and new equipment, materials, and tools (used in paper document conservation) were purchased. Throughout the project the team at the PM, with the guidance and mentoring of the British Library, restored almost 2,000 badly damaged historic documents. A series of four specialised workshops on conserving archives took place between 21-30 September 2021, with a total of 93 participants. An animated film for children and a digital instruction manual for adults were also produced.

Emergency & Humanitarian Relief

Emergency Winter Support for Families in North Gaza

This 3-month project was completed in February 2021, in order to protect the health and wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable children from the poorest families in Beit Lahia, Gaza, through the harsh winter weather. The project provided 205 families with double-packs of blankets, and 410 children received a full set of winter

clothing (winter jacket, trousers, jumper, pyjamas, underwear, socks, gloves, hat, and scarf). The children were able to go with their parents and choose their clothing at an open day the project team arranged with the supplier. This was an activity the children enjoyed, and it allowed them to pick out clothing styles and materials they preferred and ensured that the clothing fit them well. All these children were also provided with PPE kits, to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 (pack of masks, hand sanitiser, pack of hand soap).¹⁹ The project was completed just before a severe storm and freezing spell hit the region.



Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels in Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Jabalia, North Gaza

This 4-month project was completed just before the Israeli military bombardment of Gaza began. It provided a lifeline to hundreds of families by providing fresh food packs when they most urgently needed help and it was not safe to go outside. The project included some of the most marginalised families in North Gaza, living in Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Jabalia. They were provided with weekly fresh food parcels, each week for the five weeks during the Holy Month of Ramadan. The freshly harvested fruit, vegetables and herbs were bought from farmers in our projects restoring farmers livelihoods – to



give them an additional marketing channel as they get back on their feet. They are then able to generate an income and support their families and replant their land next season. Their crops were packaged each week and distributed to families whilst still very fresh along with fresh chicken or eggs (as a source of protein). Families received high quality, fresh and healthy food packages to prepare their meals. Families could also request specific items for the next week's packages and where possible this was arranged, to be flexible in serving families' needs and providing fresh items that were readily available from the farmers.

The packaging and distribution provided jobs for unemployed labourers, and in the last week of the project freshly baked cookies were purchased from local women's cooperatives and included in the food packages, to help families celebrate Eid. This project is benefiting some of the most impoverished families, local farmers, unemployed labourers and women's cooperatives; ultimately providing support on several levels and all feeding back into the Gaza economy. This project helped a total of 10,814 beneficiaries both directly and indirectly. In total, 5,750 weekly fresh food parcels were delivered to 1,150 families. This in turn helped 175 farmers to sell their freshly harvested crops, as well as creating working opportunities for 24 labourers in the packaging and distribution stations, and for 48 women in local cooperatives.



Distribution of Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels for Impoverished Families in Khan Younis, Southern Gaza

This project was also implemented during Ramadan 2021, and supported destitute families in marginalised localities in Khan Younis through the provision of urgently needed fresh food parcels each week for the five weeks of Ramadan. This project also provided a PPE kit (containing three packs of face masks [50 per

¹⁹ PPE = Personal Protective Equipment.

pack], instant spray sanitizer [1 litre], hand sanitiser gel [500ml]), for each family to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. In total, 1,035 fresh food parcels were provided for 207 destitute families each week, together with 207 PPE kits. The crops of 48 local farmers were purchased, and seven unemployed labourers worked in the packaging and distribution stations, 14 women in two cooperatives provided the Eid goods for the final week packages.



Distribution of Ramadan Fresh Food Parcels in Beit Lahia, North Gaza

Again, this project was implemented in Ramadan to support some of the most marginalised families in Alshaima'a, Alsiafa and Alatrata neighbourhoods in Beit Lahia, Gaza. This project distributed fresh food parcels at the end of Ramadan for two weeks, once during Eid and once the week after Eid. These food parcels were provided just before the bombardment of Gaza started. When families were under attack and it was not safe to go out, this extra food was considered a lifeline, and was made possible thanks to the generous donations of our WAUK supporters. During the project, 463 struggling families received two rounds of fresh food parcels; another 20 families were also able to receive a single food parcel as a result of savings made during the project by the programme team. A total of



483 families received food packages containing fresh fruits, vegetables, herbs, chicken or eggs, and goods from local women's cooperatives. The fresh food items were purchased from 39 local farmers, Eid goods were purchased from a local women's cooperative employing 18 women: six workers were employed (for six working days each) for a total of 36 working days, in addition to a station foreman for 10 working days.

Emergency Support for Frontline Responders & Hospitals, and Food Vouchers for Families in East Jerusalem

As the violence from Israeli police and military forces escalated in May 2021, hundreds of Palestinian worshippers in and around Al Aqsa Mosque, East Jerusalem, were injured and required urgent medical treatment. This project supported the frontline medical responders of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS) and emergency and surgical teams at Al Makassed Hospital, in East Jerusalem. The PRCS received essential medical supplies, and funds for their ambulances to be repaired and re-fuelled, so they could continue to be on duty 24/7. Al Makassed Hospital was in short supply or had run out of a number of essential medicines and medical supplies required to treat the high numbers of people injured and save lives. Across all the equipment and supplies provided in this project, an estimated 1000-2000 patients benefitted each month of the project's 4-month duration. In addition, the project aimed to support some of the most impoverished families, those most badly affected by the political and economic conditions in East Jerusalem, through the distribution of food vouchers to help families through the next month. Vouchers were distributed to 900 families in East Jerusalem, and they were able to exchange these food vouchers in pre-qualified stores and select the items they needed most. A total of approximately 4,500 individuals benefitted from the family food vouchers intervention.



Emergency Support for Frontline Responders in East Jerusalem and Gaza



This 2-month project was an emergency response in May 2021, as many Palestinians were seriously injured in East Jerusalem by the violence of the Israeli police and military forces, and then in Gaza by the bombardment of Israel's military forces. In East Jerusalem, support

was provided to the PRCS's Emergency Medical Services (EMS), who are the first aid responders on the ground and ambulance teams. Medical supplies were provided and 45 responders from three EMS teams were equipped and ready to respond; 55 different types of medical supplies were provided for PRCS. In addition, ambulances were re-fuelled and repaired, as many were targeted and damaged in the violence. Project activities included repairs for 12 ambulances and 2,166 litres of fuel provided to keep them running. Approximately 30,000 people benefitted from this project's activities.

In Gaza, the project supported hospitals, providing medical supplies that were at low stock or out of stock and required to continue to treat those injured. WA procured supplies directly from the Palestinian Ministry of Health's (MoH) priority needs list – which were then in turn supplied to the emergency rooms and hospitals most in need. The medical supplies this project provided to the hospitals in Gaza helped the MoH increase their service speed and capacity, providing first aid treatment to an estimated 10,000 injured patients.

Emergency Support for Al Makassed Hospital, East Jerusalem

This rapid emergency intervention enabled Al Makassed Hospital in East Jerusalem to purchase additional emergency medicines and medical supplies. These medical supplies (including consumables and disposables) were required to replenish



depleted stocks and restore the hospitals readiness, to continue to treat those injured and save lives. Stocks of 11 different emergency medicines and 63 types of consumables and medical supplies were provided, used to treat more than 560 patients throughout the project implementation period plus additional patients once the project ended.

Jerusalem Emergency Appeal 2021

This project's aim was to purchase emergency medical equipment, disposables and ambulance fuel for frontline Emergency Medical teams of the PRCS in Jerusalem, in order to build resilience and preparedness, and to continue to treat those injured in and around East Jerusalem. This support enabled frontline responders to continue to provide urgent first aid treatment, and transport those with serious injuries to hospital to help save lives. Thanks to the WAUK Emergency Appeal for Jerusalem, and all our supporters who generously donated, this project was able to provide medical equipment including four pulse oximeters, 17 spider trauma straps, eight HeartStart defibrillators, 10 HeartStart paediatric pads (which allow use of the defibrillators on small children), a range of disposable equipment; as well as 1,500 litres of fuel for ambulances. The items purchased helped to equip 24 ambulances, and the fuel was enough to keep 15 ambulances running for at least one week of 24/7 emergency coverage.

Emergency Appeal to Support Displaced Families in Gaza

At the height of Israel's military bombardment of Gaza in May 2021, 120,000 displaced people were seeking shelter and protection in schools and hosting centres. According to local authorities, over 2,075 housing units were totally destroyed or too severely damaged to live in. An estimated 15,000 further housing units also sustained varying degrees of damage. This 4-month project was initiated thanks to our WAUK Gaza Emergency Appeal and the very generous support we



received, to help some of the most vulnerable of these displaced / homeless families, with their immediate needs. The project intended to support 205 families, but thanks to savings made by the project team an additional 89 families were able to benefit, bringing the total number of beneficiary families to 294. All families received food packages, hygiene kits, a set of clothing for women, and two sets of clothing for their children.

Emergency Support for Local Hospitals, Schools & Small Businesses, Gaza

This emergency project was in response to the bombardment of Gaza by the Israeli military in May 2021, and supplied emergency medicines and medical supplies to eight hospitals and health centres in Gaza totalling more than US\$ 160,000. The project improved access to healthcare, as the medical supplies treated more than 42,000 patients in a 2-month period. Many schools were hit by the military strikes, with varying levels of damage and destruction. It is very important that children can safely access education, and so the WA project team coordinated with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the UN Education Cluster to review high priority schools that were in need of urgent repair and came within the project's budget. The two schools that this project rehabilitated and made safe again are: Suad Al-Sabah Secondary School and Lulwa Abdul Wahab Al Qatami Primary School. Rehabilitation included: concrete and building work, steel and aluminium work, electrical repairs, water and sewage network renewal, plastering and tiling, as well as clearing away all the rubble and debris. All work was successfully completed, enabling 1,972 students to return to their schools.

Israel's targeted bombardment of Gaza also resulted in significant damage to many small businesses and owners had to close their businesses and lay staff



WA's Emergency Planning Meeting with Local NGOs in Gaza

off. As so many businesses had been badly affected, our project team had to extend the time to review applications. The project team completed a mapping exercise of all affected SMEs.²⁰ Service-provision SMEs were prioritized in this project, and 41 were found to be eligible. Following further assessment, the final 10 SMEs to be supported were selected, seven SMEs were located in the Gaza Governorate, while the remaining three were located in the North Gaza Governorate. Beneficiary companies included a small sewing workshop, with damage to the workshop and loss of equipment. The project was able to replace essential machinery, equipment and materials and get their 20 employees back to work. Also included were a technology company with loss of the building they worked in and all their equipment (four full time employees supporting their families, a total of 30 people). The project was able to replace the destroyed equipment and they relocated. Business is better than before; they now have seven full time employees. In total, 10 small business owners benefited from this intervention, and their 70 staff were able to report back to work so their families have an income again.

Restoring the Livelihoods of Marginalised Farmers in Southern Gaza – Year 2

The second year of this project was completed in December 2021, despite a delay in May when all activities were suspended due to the Israeli military bombardment. In total, this project worked with 195 farmers in Khan Younis and Rafah, in Southern Gaza. Of these, 160 farmers were able to rehabilitate and plant 320 dunums of open land / fields with fruit trees and vegetables, including: zucchini, melon, green pepper, aubergine, corn, watermelon, tomato, parsley, onion, potato, radish, cucumber, cabbage, and other herbs.²¹ Rehabilitation works included clearing and ploughing the land, supply and installation of dripping irrigation networks, and the supply and planting of seedlings of both fruit trees and vegetables. To offset harsh winter weather conditions at the start of the year, young vegetables were protected under plastic sheets. In all, 9,600 fruit trees were planted, including: olive trees, citrus, peach, custard apple (Annona), and apricot trees. Each farmer benefited from planting 60 fruit trees in their rehabilitated two dunums of land (i.e. average 30 trees per dunum). The total yield from the open fields was in excess of 1,000 tons of vegetables; with just small quantities used in the homes of the farmers, the bulk was sold. In addition, 97,400 units of cabbage

²⁰ SME = Small and medium-sized enterprises / businesses.

²¹ 1 dunum = 1,000M2.



and corn were also harvested and sold, generating an income for their families, and enabling the farmers to replant their land in the coming seasons.

A further 35 farmers were supported to repair and plant 35 greenhouse (GH) units, each of one dunum area (one per farmer). Rehabilitation works included the installation of plastic sheeting for the GH, the supply and planting of fruit / vegetable seedlings (e.g. tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and bell peppers, aubergines and mulukhiyeh), and the supply and installation of irrigation networks. Continuous technical support and guidance was provided for the farmers on the best agricultural practices, including best choice of vegetables according to farmers' soil type, water availability and gaps in the market; as well as environmentally-friendly farming practices. The yield from the greenhouses: tomatoes = 312 tons, cucumbers = 27 tons, pepper and bell peppers = 24 tons, aubergines = 11 tons, and mulukhiyeh = 1.8 tons. A total of 375.8 tons, which ensures an income for the farmers and their families, as well as funds to replant in the coming seasons.

During implementation of the project, 5,500 working days were created for 110 local unemployed labourers, helping them to support their families. In addition, the project worked with a local women's cooperative, helping to develop their capacity. The cooperative in Rafah, South Gaza, purchased specific crops from the farmers in this project and processed and packaged them for new markets. The project provided the assistance of a local marketing expert, as well as providing essential tools and equipment to expand their product range with training in packaging and labelling. Due to this increase in capacity, the cooperative was able to employ a further six previously unemployed women, and very impressively marketed their goods to five new retail outlets in Gaza. This provides additional marketing channels for the farmers' produce.

Stories from the field

The Fayyad Family*

Al Qarara, East of Khan Younis, South Gaza

The Fayyad family is a large family living in a small house in Al Qarara. Hanan and her husband, who suffers from a chronic disease, have nine children. Her two eldest daughters have completed university studies, but cannot graduate and receive their certificates as they are unable to pay their fees. Another daughter had to drop out of university altogether, and her sons who are still in school will not be able to attend university due to the family's financial trouble.

In 2014, the family lost the income they relied on from their land because it was ruined and their equipment destroyed in the Israeli military assault. The family fell into debt and were unable to rebuild, receiving food parcels from charities just to be able to feed themselves.

Through this project, Hanan was able to rehabilitate her land, replant it with seedlings, and acquire the agricultural equipment required to farm the land. Hanan and her family now grow peppers and baby aubergines (pictured), which they pickle themselves and sell to shops and traders. This income has allowed the family to begin paying their way out of the debts that had built up while their livelihood was lost.

Hanan said: *"Thank you WA for giving my family and me this opportunity to become self-sufficient. Planting our land brought us hope for the future. I now use the output of my land as an input for my business of pickling. Our economic situation is much better, I have repaid old debt. I also paid the tuition fees for one of my daughters to study at university, as I need my children to become educated and assist me in managing my business. Our income has improved, we have regular income from the business. Thank you WA."*

*Names have been changed



Emergency Support to Restore Gaza Farmers' Livelihoods (2020-2021)

This 8-month project in Khan Younis and Rafah, was completed in April 2021 and provided emergency assistance to struggling farmers by rehabilitating their damaged agricultural property, restoring productivity and linking farmers to potential future marketing channels. Project activities included: clearing, ploughing, installing irrigation pipes, fitting protective plastic sheeting (to protect the seedlings from the harsh winter weather), and planting the land using intercropping techniques. Initially, 44 farmers were selected to have two dunums of land each restored (from 110 applicants, demonstrating the desperate need for this project), but thanks to savings made by the project team during implementation, the project ultimately helped 46 farmers to rehabilitate their land; a total of 92 dunums. The crops were harvested successfully before the end of the project, and many of them were purchased as part of WA's Ramadan 2021 fresh food parcels project, distributing food parcels to impoverished families.



Emergency Support to Restore Gaza Farmers' Livelihoods (2021-2022)

This 7-month project in Khan Younis and Rafah, began in October 2021, to support local marginalised farmers to return to planting their lands, harvesting their crops and earning an income; and also to meet local market needs for crops (including vegetables and fruits). It takes into consideration lessons learned and recommendations of previous projects and aligns the implementation period with the agricultural season, to ensure the maximum yield in terms of quantity and quality. The project period and type of intervention also considered the need to link the farmers' crops with the next season of Ramadan where possible, which is due to begin around 2 April 2022, in order to market their crops through the potential fresh food parcel distributions. As in the previous phases, this project will continue the provision of coaching and technical



support for farmers on which crops are best suited to their soil type and when and how to plant and irrigate their lands and greenhouses most appropriately – to maximise crop quality and quantity and meet local market needs. This project is working with 100 farmers who will benefit from the rehabilitation of 35 greenhouses and 60 dunums of open fields.

Emergency Winter Assistance and Shelter Rehabilitation in Lebanon

This 6-month project began in November 2021 and is providing essential winter assistance to some of the most vulnerable families living in Wavel Refugee Camp in the Bekaa Valley, and urgent shelter rehabilitation for marginalised families living in very poor accommodation in Burj El Barajneh Refugee Camp in Beirut. The project is providing 300 Palestinian refugee families in Wavel Camp with emergency vouchers exchangeable for the fuel they need for heating, to help them survive the freezing temperatures of winter. It will also provide 15 of the most vulnerable households in Burj El Barajneh camp with urgent shelter rehabilitation support, focussing on the most essential structural safety (e.g. cracks, corrosion, ceilings, roofing, electrics); health and hygiene (particularly in kitchens and bathrooms); and security, privacy and weather protection issues. By the end of 2021 activities were well underway.



Wavel Refugee Camp in The Bekaa Valley

Stories from the field

The Rahman family*
Wavel Refugee Camp, Bekaa Region, Lebanon

Families living in Wavel Camp face harsh winters of severe storms and freezing temperatures. The Rahman family struggle to stay warm, and worry if it will rain or snow every day, as their shelter can hardly withstand the weather. Water will seep through cracks in the roof and walls, making their living conditions even worse.

The Rahman children, Mariam (6), Yehia (5), Zakaria (4), and Raya (2) sit with their mother close to the stove to try to stay warm. Kassem, their father, is forced to look through rubbish piles for things to burn and has no choice but to burn things like plastic to keep his family warm. He said: "They cause smoke and odours that spread through the house, it's not healthy at all."

Through WA's project, the Rahman family received winter assistance vouchers to purchase fuel, Kassem said:

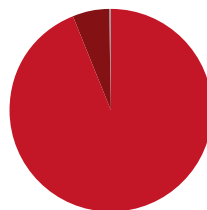
"My family want to stay warm but they can't. We need fuel to keep warm but can't afford it. We have the opportunity to secure heating fuel thanks to the vouchers provided by WA. This amount of fuel will keep us warm for the remaining winter season, and we will be able to stop burning rubbish and plastic."

*Names have been changed



Welfare Association in Numbers

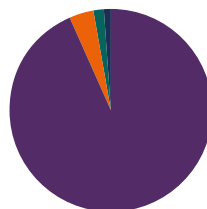
(1 January 2021 – 31 December 2021)



Income

Restricted Programme Funds	£2,407,130
General Donations	£155,575
Investment	£64

TOTAL INCOME £2,562,769



Expenditure

Restricted Programme Grants	£2,316,315
Project Activity Costs	£96,298
Raising Funds	£37,231
Awareness Raising	£25,760

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £2,475,560

Acknowledgements

The Trustees and staff of Welfare Association thank all our supporters in the UK and overseas, for all of your generous donations received throughout 2021 and 2022. Special thanks to our new supporters in Belfast, Derry and Tyrone for your generous support in 2022. We responded to a number of critical emergencies in Jerusalem and in Gaza and your support helped to save lives and made a difference to Palestinian families living in very difficult conditions.

We have also benefitted from a number of gifts in kind. In particular, the charity greatly values the continued support of Mr. Omar Al-Qattan and the Qattan Foundation, for generously providing us with free office accommodation. We would also like to thank all our volunteers who assisted us throughout the year. Thank you very much for all your wonderful support!

Breaking News: Welfare Association is upgrading!
Please look out for our new website, coming soon!
www.welfareassociation.org.uk



WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Humanitarian and Development Projects for Palestinians

226 Cromwell Road
London SW5 0SW
Tel: 020 7259 2454

Email: info@welfareassociation.org.uk

www.welfareassociation.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1020238