



**First Quarter FY 2012
Performance Monitoring Report
October 1-December 31, 2011**

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Education and Higher Education

Palestinian Faculty Development Program

AMIDEAST partners with the Open Society Institute (OSI)/Soros Foundation, and varying university partners. PhD and MA graduates and short-term fellows were mobilized to share the knowledge and skills gained with their peers and colleagues. The ultimate goal of the program is to improve the quality of higher education, and support the emergence of a new generation of academic leaders.

Submitted by: PFDP/AMIDEAST Staff

Contractor or grantee name: PFDP/AMIDEAST

USAID West Bank/Gaza, Samer Saad, AOR

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Open Society Institute

**PALESTINIAN FACULTY
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PFDP)**

First Quarter
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1. Promote the expansion, retention, and professional development of promising academics teaching in the social sciences and humanities.

1.1 PhD Scholarships to the U.S.: News and Achievements

The PFDP PhD grantees continued their studies and research. During the quarter, Emad Dawwas returned to An Najah University with a doctoral degree in Urban Planning. Bilal Younis also graduated and returned to Aroub College with a PhD in Education.

1.2 MA Scholarships to U.S.

The seven MA grantees successfully continued with their studies and research. They are all expected to return home by the end of July 2012.

1.3 Short-Term Fellowships (STF) to the U.S.

Travel arrangements were made for short-term fellow Dr. Salaheddin Juneidi who will be traveling on his second visit at Columbia University (Teachers College)) in January.

2. Revitalize and reform teaching at Palestinian higher education institutions.

2.2 SET Master Trainers

Dr. Rima Dabdoub and Dr. Sami Basha received short term grants to participate in a panel at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (ISSOTL) conference in the USA. ISSOTL has held conferences on scholarship of teaching and learning annually since 2006. This years conference took place from October, 20 through October, 23 in Milwaukee under the title “Transforming the Academy through theory and practice of SOTL”. The conference offered different presentations by scholar academics on teaching and learning in addition to research issues.

Rima and Sami also conducted university study tours at Northwestern University and two campuses of Saint Mary University.

2.3 English Training for Academics (PED)

In the West Bank, Aroub College and Al Ahliya University started part two of PED. A new class started in Palestine Technical University Kadoorie. Also, in Gaza the three PED groups of 2nd cohort completed the first 100 hrs of PED in October. In December they began the 2nd phase which involved academic writing courses for Group 1 and 2 and TOEFL for group 3.

2.4 National Roundtable Series

PFDP National Roundtable Two

The second PFDP National Roundtable was held on October 22-23, 2011 at the Jacir Palace Intercontinental Hotel Bethlehem and focused on “Principles and Methods of Evaluation in Higher Education”

Current and future leaders of Palestine’s higher education sector have expressed a strong interest in reviewing basic principles and methods of evaluation, as well as examining current effective at other universities in the region as well as in other areas of the world. In response to these requests, PFDP’s second National



Roundtable provided a forum for international and Palestinian experts and specialists to discuss the principles, methods, tools and approaches to various types of evaluation. The goals of the sessions were to:

- Introduce and review the current state of the field and of research in evaluation at a global level, with a particular emphasis on the monitoring of teaching effectiveness and learning outcomes
- Review international and Palestinian examples of good practice at the institutional, program and project levels
- Consider appropriate performance indicators for measuring effectiveness of individuals, academic units, and institutions
- Identify critical issues and priorities for enhancing evaluation at Palestine’s universities
- Define policy recommendations or action steps necessary to improve evaluation throughout Palestine’s higher education system.

An outstanding team of international and Palestinian experts led the sessions and invited active engagement of all participants. Discussions included several examples of international and Palestinian best practices. The roundtable concluded with an open discussion of critical issues and policy recommendations to strengthen the culture of quality assurance and evaluation in all facets of Palestine’s higher education system.

PFDP National Roundtable Three 1

The third National Roundtable was titled “Strategic Planning In Higher Education” was held on November 18-19 2011 at Intercontinental Hotel in Jericho.

The Roundtable on Higher Education focused on the principles, processes and best practices of strategic planning in Palestine's universities as well as in selected international universities. Specific goals included:

- Providing an introduction to the history and basic elements of strategic planning in higher education for those who have had little or incomplete exposure to them
- Updating the national context for strategic planning in Palestine's higher education system through an analysis of the latest (and perhaps the next) national strategic plan for education developed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education
- Using a specific example of strategic planning at one Palestinian University to illustrate the application of strategic planning at the institutional level
- Exploring the importance of strategic planning for quality assurance and public accountability through institutional scorecards that measure progress towards specific institutional goals



PFDP assembled a strong team of Palestinian and international specialists in strategic planning for higher education that led and facilitated activities of this Roundtable. And, as always, the Roundtable provide ample opportunity for questions, discussion and hands-on group work that pursues specific questions and topics in greater depth.

PFDP National Roundtable Four

The fourth PFDP National Roundtable was held in Ramallah on December 3 and 4 2011. It focused on Quality Assurance in Distance Education. Representatives of the Accreditation and Quality Assurance

Commission came together with faculty and administrators of Palestine's universities as well as with two senior representatives of the Sloan Consortium, Penn State University (by video conference) and Northwestern University (by video conference). Together, they explored various approaches to quality assurance employed at several different universities around the world and discussed how these might be useful in the



Palestinian context. They also provided examples of e-learning or blended programs that have successfully demonstrated their conformity to the very highest standards of quality.

It is PFDP's hope that these discussions will advance the cause of high quality e-learning and blended learning at Palestine's universities as they enter an exciting new phase of development in these important areas. The ultimate goal, of course, is for universities in Palestine to design e-learning and blended learning courses and programs that are *equal to or better than* their corresponding traditional courses and programs.

3. Promote an institutional culture of teaching and learning.

3.1 US Palestinian Partnership Grants / Centers for Teaching Excellence

During the last quarter of 2011, work at the three centers in ANU, BU, and HU proceeded as planned in their Milestone Plans. Below is a summary of main activities and achievements at the three centers:

In line with the CTE's Evaluation Plan, the two external evaluators (Dr. Christopher Knapper and Professor Robert Cannon) conducted their first visit with the three centers, from Sep. 29th – Oct. 25th, 2011. During this time, several visits and meetings were made by both to ANU and BU centers in addition to a one day visit with HU center. At ANU, both evaluators also offered a seminar on evaluation for departments Deans and Chairs on Oct. 13th. In addition to their work at both universities, Chris and Bob participated as the international experts in PFDP's second roundtable seminar on "Principles and Methods of Evaluation in Higher Education" held in Bethlehem. We received their Interim Report which was received in mid November and was shared with the two centers at ANU and BU for comments.

A team of three Teaching Fellows from ANU CELT: Suzann Arafat, Baker Abdelhaq, and Walid Basha, visited Northwestern University for 14 days, from the 15th-30th of October 2011. A full schedule for this visit was developed by both teams and during this visit, three fellows attended (with NU's team) the Teaching Fellows for the International Society for the Scholarship of Learning and Teaching (ISSOTL) conference held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from Oct. 20th – 23rd, 2011. There the ANU CELT and Searle Center for Teaching Excellence at Northwestern presented two joint papers: "Enhancing Learning and Teaching in the Middle East: a Palestinian-American Collaboration" and "A Cascading Training Model for Academic Excellence and Innovation".

A team of eight from Bethlehem University's CETL visited PSU from Oct. 30 – Nov. 4th, 2011. The BU team participated in several meetings, workshops, and gatherings that were organized by and at PSU. During this visit, BU visiting Teaching Fellows attended the POD (Professional & Organizational Development Network in Higher Education) conference held in Atlanta, Georgia from Oct. 26th -30th, 2011 where a formal presentation and interactive session titled "Worlds Apart: Partnership for Faculty Development in Palestine and USA" was conducted on Oct. 27th as part of the POD conference schedule. This presentation was jointly developed by BU CETL and PSU's center teams.

At HU's Center for Teaching Excellence, worked progressed as planned and included offering workshops and seminars at the center including workshops on developing needs assessment tools in addition. The Center also produced a report on the need assessment that was carried across disciplines at the beginning of their grant. Also, the center designed and printed a brochure (in both Arabic and English) for the center and developed a website for the center.

3.3 Faculty Grants for Teaching and Learning

Grant # 09. Maher Hashweh completed his second FG with submission of a final report. This grant focused on using video cases in pre-services teacher education. The grant aimed to develop the teaching of a second course in this diploma, education 330, teaching strategies and techniques the project aims to review and update the content of the course to introduce promising new methods in teacher education and to help the student-teacher bridge the gap between theory and practice. The total amount of this grant is \$33,000 and ran from August 5th 2010 till October 15th 2011. The location of the activity was Birzeit University.

Grant # 20. Imad Eshtayya conducted three workshops in different West Bank governorates which aimed to train participants of faculties in different Al Quds Open University branches to monitor and supervise field training on social work according to the new produced curricula in the previous phase of the project. Each workshop trained around 30 participants. The workshops took place on October 12th, November 14th and December 12 of 2011 in Tubas, Ramallah and Hebron respectively.

Grant # 21. Saida Affouneh's grant titled "Believe it or not math can be exciting" with a conducted two workshops during the first quarter from October till December. The first workshop which was held on October 3rd and the second workshop which was held on November 14th, aimed to train the students on preparing the required math material games, puzzles and to present the developed material and discuss it and finalize it on and prepare them first draft of the guide. The attendees of each workshop were 60 students from different faculty who will be graduate as math teachers. The Location of the activities was Al Quds Open University in Ramallah.

Grant # 23. Hisham Hidmi grant titled "Rethink I'm here, Increasing Students' Role in the Education Process" conducted two workshops during this quarter. The workshops were on October 5th and November 15th which focused on training the students on collecting data, making interviews and forming focus groups, in addition to writing and presentation skills. Analyzing their findings and prepare them for the conference. The project team members worked with the participating students hand in hand to analyze the findings. The Location of the Activity was Al Quds Open University in Ramallah.

Grant # 29. Saqer Darwish Grant titled "Mentoring Program Al Quds University" with conducted a workshop on October 7th in Al Quds University in Abu Dis to conduct an assessment of mentorship program at three colleges in AL Quds University. The workshop was held at AbuDis campus with 35 participants.

Grant # 28. Anwar Abdelrazeq has a grant titled “Developing a Practicum Training Course for Pre-services Teachers” and conducted two workshops at Birzeit University this quarter. The first workshop was held on October 2nd, 2011 which aimed to design, a questionnaire and train student’s teachers on reflections and journalizing. The second workshop took place on November 17th where the hosting teachers observed student teachers for appraisal. The followed up by interviewing student’s teachers every month on a one to one basis for feedback.

Grant # 16. Ahmad Abu Hammad has a grant titled “Societal Environmental Awareness: A pilot application at Birzeit University using Blended E-learning Curricula”. The grant conducted one workshop during this quarter and it was on November 30th at Birzeit University that intended to prepare of the e-enabled material of the course to prepare for the e-enabled course.

Grant # 24. Belal Abu Eideh has a grant titled “integrating curriculum evaluation and research methods in education courses: a problem based approach” signed on July 1st 2011 till June 30th 2012. Conducted two workshops one on October 1st, cost 7000 dollars and aimed to design the e-version of the two courses and the second one took place on October 27th 2011 and aimed to upgrade the content of the two courses. Both activities took place in An-Najah University. The total of the grant agreement is 21000 dollars.

Grant # 22. Wael Abu Hasan has a grant titled “Improving of Teaching Research Methods Practices across Disciplinary Courses: the case of medical and social sciences” and conducted two activities this quarter for the conference that will be held on June 28th 2012. In November there was call for conference abstracts concept papers to the c from interested academics. The second activity which took place on December was for reviewing and evaluating participant’s abstracts.

Grant # 19. Mustafa Abu Safa has a grant titled “Identification of PPU Academics Staff Training needs, Construct and Implement a Relevant detailed training program”. This quarter involved the identification of the needs along with implementation of the first half of the training hours.

3.7 Bard – Al Quds MAT program

The Bard-Al Quds MAT program is proceeding as planned with the students engaging in the program smoothly.

Open Society Foundations US-Based Activity

Short-Term Faculty Visit Planning

Throughout the quarter OSF coordinated the initial arrangements and logistics for the visit of Dr. Salaheddin Juneidi at Columbia University. In addition, OSF staff began coordinating the spring 2012 short-term faculty visit of Dr Ayesha Al-Rifai at the

University of California-Berkeley and continued facilitating arrangements for the summer 2012 visits of Dr. Osama Ata (Villanova University) and Dr. Abdulkareem Eideh (University of Michigan).

Ongoing Contact with Grantees and Host Universities

Throughout the quarter OSF staff:

- Responded to grantee questions about summer courses and independent research policies;
- Conducted outreach to current PhD, MA, and STF host universities by e-mail and phone;
- Answered questions from host universities about issues such as grantee health insurance coverage and grantee tuition / fees billing.

Grantee Monitoring

Throughout the quarter OSF staff continued:

- To answer grantee questions related to the end of the PFDP Program and the terms and conditions of the grant;
- To respond to host university questions related to the close out of the PFDP;
- To field questions from host universities concerning grantee tuition/fees;
- To process the payment of tuition invoices from host universities and living, book, and professional development allowances for grantees;
- To facilitate discussion of the future of the PFDP community and the possibility of continuing grantee study beyond the program's close-out date.

PFDP Grantee Conference Planning

In December OSI finalized arrangements with the University of Denver to host the sixth annual PFDP Grantee Fellows' Conference. The conference will be held from March 23-25, 2012.

New OSF Program Coordinator: Mr. Russell Koff

In December Russell Koff replaced Patrick Hynes as OSF's PFDP program coordinator after Mr. Hynes moved to a new position in another organization.

PFDP Administration and Reporting

Financial

AMIDEAST submitted its 2nd quarter financial pipeline report on December 15, 2011.

USAID

During this quarter, PFDP staff also continued to work closely with USAID WB/G Mission personnel in the Education, Contracts, Measurement and Evaluation, and Media/PR offices.

Visas and Permits

The various issues, logistical arrangements, and procedural questions regarding the granting of permits to travel by Israeli authorities and visas for entrance to the US continue to occupy time for PFDP staff. Issues dealt with during this quarter include:

- Processing J-1 visas for , Short-Term Fellows, Teaching Fellows of Centers for Teaching Excellence and PhD Fellow Renewals
- Obtaining permits for PFDP staff to travel to Jerusalem.

University Outreach/Communications

A series of university visits occurred during this quarter from various project staff. During the visit of Professor Torgny Roxa AlQuds University, An Najah University and Hebron University welcomed him for a seminar.