

## CHF International West Bank & Gaza

# Local Democratic Reform Program (LDR)

TAWASOL - تواصل

Cooperative Agreement # 294-A-00-05-00242-00

## Eleventh Quarterly Report

I April—30 June 2008



**Picture on Front:** Minister of Youth and Sport and USAID Mission Director at Illar Football Field Inauguration Ceremony on 22 April 2008 during a Football Tournament

**Prime Implementing PVO:** CHF International – West Bank / Gaza

**Sub-Contractors:** ARD Inc. and the Center for Engineering and Planning (CEP)

**USAID Program:** Local Democratic Reform-TAWASOL

**Funded by:** USAID

**Cooperative Agreement #:** 294-A-00-05-00242-00

**Modifications:** 8

**Award Level:** \$20,999,952

**Obligation Level:** \$18,522,156

**Agreement Officer:** Roy Plucknett

**USAID Head of DG Officer** Nancy Shalala (During April 2008)

**USAID Acting Head of DG Office** Cara Stern (May-June 2008)

**USAID CTO:** Cara Stern

**CHF Chief of Party:** Lana Abu Hijleh

**Quarterly Report No.:** 11

**Reporting Period:** 1 April—30 June, 2008

**Date of Submission:** 31 July, 2008

**Prepared by:** LDR Team

**Approved by:** Lana Abu-Hijleh

**Submitted to:** USAID West Bank & Gaza

IP	Implementation Plan
APLA	Association of Palestinian Local Authorities
CA	Cooperative Agreement
CDP	Community Development Project
CEP	Center for Engineering and Planning
CEP	Civic Engagement Project (of ARD Inc.)
CHF	CHF International
COP	Chief of Party
CTO	Cognizant Technical Officer
JDEC	Jerusalem District Electricity Company
DGO	Democracy and Governance Office
LAC	Local Action Committee
LDR	Local Democratic Reform program
LGSP	Local Government Support Program (UNDP)
LGUs	Local Government Units
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDLF	Municipal Development & Lending Fund
MoEHE	Ministry of Education and Higher Education
MoLG	Ministry of Local Government
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIS	New Israeli Shekel
PA	Palestinian Authority
PARCS	Palestinian-American Recreation and Conservation Services
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PECDAR	Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction
PMEP	Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan
PPM	Participatory Performance Monitoring
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PPW	Participatory Planning Workshop
RFEI	Request for Expression of Interest
RFP	Request for Proposal
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	West Bank
WBG	West Bank and Gaza

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## Executive Summary

This 11<sup>th</sup> Quarterly report for the Local Democratic Reform program (LDR) covers the progress and achievements of the program during the period of 1 April – 30 June 2008 under Cooperative Agreement (CA) number 294-A-00-05-00242-00. This report continues to follow the activities proposed in the Implementation Plan submitted to USAID on 31 October 2006, covering the period 1 October 2006-31 March, 2008. The new Implementation Plan covering 1 April, 2008-29 September, 2009 submitted to USAID in April 2008 went through a revision process and was not approved until 25 June 2008. The complementary PMEP is currently under development for submission by end of July 2008.

On 21 March 08, CHF submitted to USAID a request for a no-cost extension of the LDR program. Modification eight to the CA was instituted on 05 May 2008 extending the program duration by one year from 30 September 2008 until 30 September 2009 and providing additional incremental funding in the amount of US\$2,537,413 increasing the total obligated amount to US\$18,522,156.

During this reporting period activities to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) continued. The institutional assessment and stakeholder analysis of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) was finalized. Assessment results were reviewed during a first of its kind and highly successful MoLG senior leadership workshop organized by LDR on 8 and 9 May 2008. The Workshop was led by the Minister of Local Governance, Mr. Ziad Bandak, with the participation of the Deputy Minister, Mr. Mazen Ghneim, and 15 senior staff representing various Ministry departments and District Offices. The findings of the institutional assessment will be discussed during a Ministry wide participatory planning workshop under organization by the LDR team and the Deputy and Assistant Deputy of MoLG.

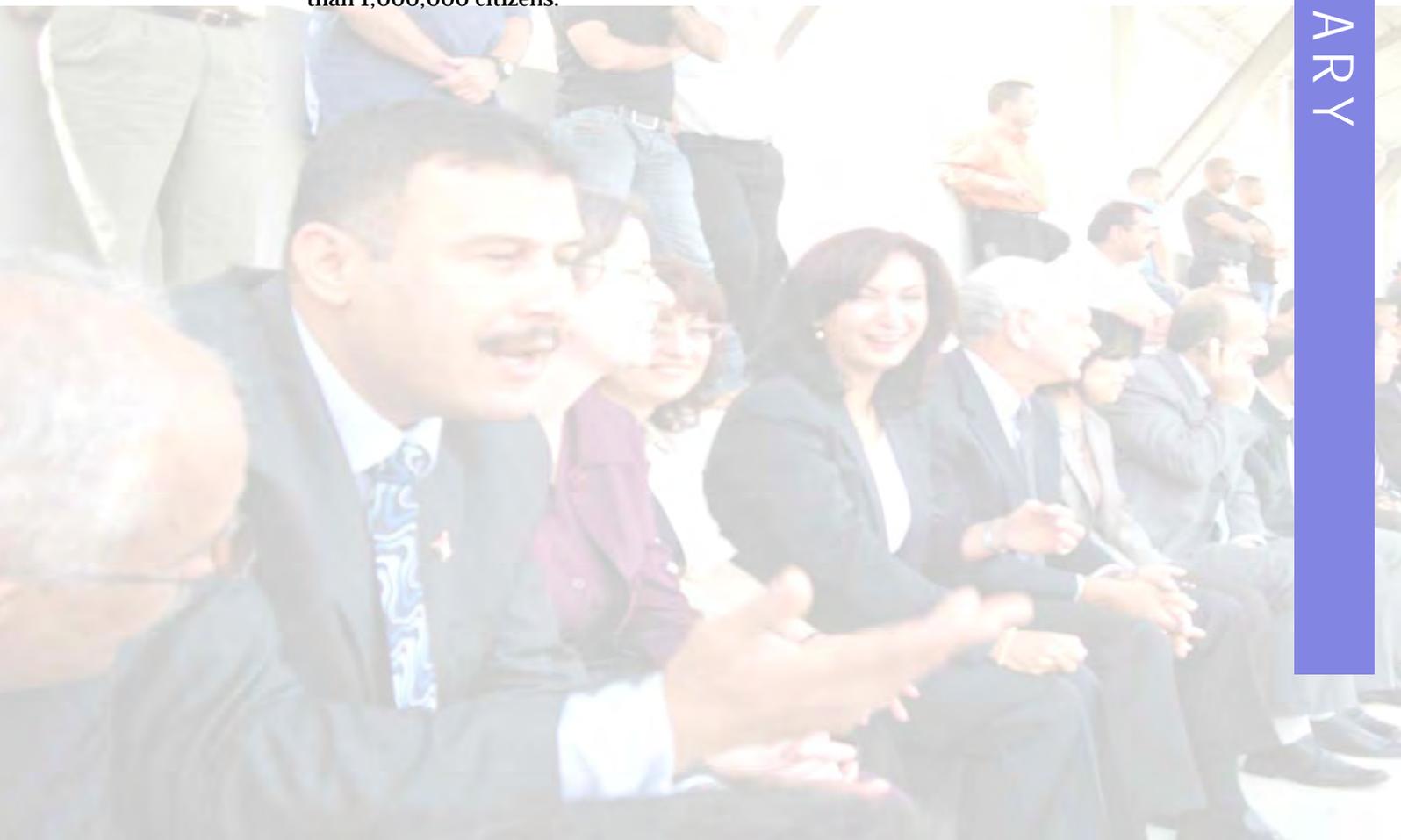
At the local level LDR activities aim to strengthen local government institutions and leadership to enhance their ability to plan for and manage basic service delivery effectively, transparently and in a participatory manner. The design and implementation of USAID approved priority Community Development Projects (CDPs) in partner Local Government Units (LGU) is in full gear. During this reporting period 11 CDPs were approved by the CTO, 9 projects are in the final design stage to be tendered for construction during the next quarter, 8 new construction contracts were signed, 7 projects are in various stages of implementation, 1 project was preliminary handed over by the contractor and 1 project was completed. The LDR team is diligently following up with LGU engineers regarding quality control and assurance of the delivered capital projects. All LGU engineers are trained in construction management techniques by LDR team and consultants. Additionally, two highly successful inauguration ceremonies for completed projects in Illar (a football field) and Arrabeh (a multi purpose community hall) were organized on 22 April and 10 June 2008 respectively. Ceremonies were attended by USAID Mission Director and Deputy Director, PA officials including Minister of Youth and Sports, Governor of Tulkarem, MoLG representatives, community members and surrounding LGU representatives. The mayors and community leaders of the two towns recognized the strengthened municipal-citizen relationship that has been garnered through the LDR program and expressed full appreciation to the American people for their generosity and support of their community. The two ceremonies were highly publicized by the local media.

Capacity Building for Municipal Development activities have included the continued financial systems development, Preparation of Annual Budgets and End of Year Financial Statements training,

Participatory Performance Measurement training, Development of Strategic Frameworks training, Anti-Corruption and Good Governance training, Environmental Impact Assessment Training, a Introduction to Physical Planning for Municipal Engineers Public Procurement and Tendering Review Consultancy, Vocational trainings for municipal engineers and technicians, and Project Management. Civil Society Participation and Oversight activities have included ongoing Local Action Committee meetings as well as regular engagement of the community in municipal planning and outreach.

The following summarizes the program achievements to date:

- Participatory Planning Workshops (PPWs) have been conducted in 41 communities involving over 1400 representatives from the LGU's elected officials, staff, civil society organizations and concerned citizens of these targeted communities.
- 34 Local Action Committees representing civil society and community-based organizations have been formed in partner communities and trained in local government oversight and support.
- 367 local government officials and their staff are being trained in subjects including financial management systems, budgeting, physical and strategic planning, performance monitoring and evaluation, project management, maintenance and operation, vocational training, project design and efficient tendering & procurement procedures, community outreach and engagement, and LGUs administration.
- 26 LGUs and 111 participants have been trained in initial Participatory Performance Measurement.
- 29 Community Development Projects (CDPs) have been completed to date under Phase I and II of the program. 9 additional projects are presently under design, 7 are in the implementation stage and 4 are pending to determine available budget sufficiency. These projects will ultimately benefit more than 1,000,000 citizens.



# 1. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

## 1.1 COORDINATION WITH USAID

Coordination with USAID actively continued with the designated CTO, Ms. Cara Stern. Several meetings were held during the quarter to discuss the implementation plan and review progress and program achievements. After receiving the CTO comments on the submitted Implementation Plan (IP) to cover 1 April, 2008-29 September, 2009, the plan went through various revisions until it was finalized and approved on 25 June 2008.

On 21 March 08, CHF submitted a request to USAID for a no-cost extension of the LDR program. Modification eight to the CA commenced on 05 May 2008 extending the program duration by one year from 30 September 2008 until 30 September 2009 and providing additional incremental funding in the amount of US\$2,537,413 - increasing the total obligated amount to US\$18,522,156.

In early May 2008 the Director of the Democracy and Governance Office (DGO) of USAID, Ms. Nancy Shalala, resigned her position and LDR CTO, Ms. Cara Stern, assumed the position of Acting Office Director. A new DGO Office Director, Mr. Chris La Fargue was assigned and assumed the position at the end of June 2008. Further, towards the end of this reporting period, on 27 June 2008, Mr. Marc Ellingstad, was designated as the new CTO for LDR.

Further, Ms. Nisreen Najjar, the USAID Activity Manager, started to visit the West Bank regularly. As such, she held several coordination meetings with the LDR team and conducted many monitoring visits to the field as well as observed training workshops. Her active engagement is highly appreciated by LDR team.

## 1.2 PROGRAM STAFFING

A revised program staffing structure was submitted with the IP based on the proposed An evaluation of the planned Capacity Building and Civic Engagement activities highlighted the

extensive field monitoring, technical support and management requirements of the LDR approved and planned activities. The following developments took place during the reporting period:

**Program Manager** – The recruitment process for this position was initiated following agreement with the CTO. A detailed job description was developed and approved by the CHF Human Resources Department and Regional Director. Local recruitment was not feasible for this position as it requires advanced English language competency for report writing duties. Overall, the candidate must have extensive program, award management and planning skills, hence, it was agreed with the CTO to seek an expatriate candidate.

**Program Management Specialist:** Ms. Suad Jarbawi resigned her position to leave as of the first week of July 2008. This position has been removed from the organizational structure and its functions incorporated into the Program Manager position referenced above.

**Senior Civic Engagement Specialist – Ms. Majida Awashreh:** was recruited on 1 June, 2008 to fill this position. With a strong background in civil society and local governance, Ms. Awashreh started leading the civic engagement component of the program working closely with the CoP and the component team leaders. She will be supported by a team of field based advocacy and community relations officers who will be working closely with the LACs, the LGUs and relevant civil society organizations.

**Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Specialist** – On 15 May 2008 the LDR Monitoring and Reporting Specialist, Ms. Jennifer Jordan, resigned from her position to assume a senior position with the Canadian Government. Several potential candidates were interviewed during May and June without success in identifying a suitable incumbent. This position is still actively being recruited for.

**Capacity Building Activity Coordinator:** The position was advertised during this quarter with limited returns. To this point a suitable candidate has not been identified. The position

description was revised and re-advertised in July with recruitment expected in August.

**Field Training Coordinators:** The training coordinator position for south West Bank region based in LDR Hebron office was filled by Mr Loay Qabajeh who assumed his position on 15 June 2008. As for the north West Bank position to be based in Nablus office, Mr. Samer Jebrien assumed this role on 20 July, 2008.

### 1.3 PROCUREMENT

CHF continues to submit the LDR Sub-awards Reports to the USAID contract office on the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month. During the reporting period 8 construction contracts were signed with local contracting firms. The new construction contracts follow the decision of the Palestinian Cabinet with regards to the use of local currency and price adjustments based on the construction materials index issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS). CHF kept USAID fully informed of developments in the contracting sector following the resolution of the contractor's strike that escalated due to the US dollar devaluation and sharp increase in construction material costs.

Under the capacity building component a number of consultancy service contracts were signed with local consulting and training companies. These included a consultancy contract with Ritaj Co. to implement a series of trainings on budget and end-of-year financial statements for LGUs; a consultancy contract with The Palestinian Water Training Center to deliver a number of vocational training sessions targeting technicians and engineers in partner LGUs; and a consultancy service contract with the Jerusalem District Electricity Company Training Center to deliver trainings related to maintenance of electricity networks.



## 2. PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION BY OBJECTIVES

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### OBJECTIVE ONE

**“ To Enhance the Capacity of MoLG to effectively assume a leading role towards the development and implementation of a vision, policies, regulations, and institutional frameworks for a democratic local governance system in WBG”**

#### 2.1 OBJ1-ACT1: “Ministry of Local Government Institutional Assessment and Stake Holder Analysis”

The institutional assessment and stakeholder analysis of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) was finalized. Assessment results were reviewed during a first of its kind and highly successful MoLG senior leadership workshop organized by LDR on the 8th and 9th of May 2008. The Workshop was led by the Minister of Local Governance, Mr. Ziad Bandak, and included the participation of the Deputy Minister, Mr. Mazen Ghneim and 15 senior staff representing various Ministry departments and District Offices. Recommendations from the workshop and several follow up meetings with the Minister, Deputy and MoLG staff, were incorporated in an Institutional Development Framework Report prepared by LDR Consultant, ID Management Firm, and submitted to the Ministry end of June 2008. The findings of the institutional assessment, the development framework and proposed interventions will be disseminated to a wider group of the Ministry staff (approximately 50-70 contributors) during a participatory planning workshop to be organized by LDR on 21 August 2008.

As an initial follow up to the assessment recommendations, the Minister established a Committee led by the Deputy Minister and made up of various department heads. This Committee is focused on proposing guiding policies, establishing clear and transparent selection criteria for projects to be proposed to donors and other stakeholders. Capacity building initiatives are targeted in particular to ensure optimal impact in critical areas and to benefit the appropriate ministry personnel.

#### 2.2 OBJ1-ACT2: “Development of 3-5 Years Strategic Development Plan for the MoLG”

Based on the assessment report, the review workshops and meetings held with the LDR team, Ministry staff and all active donors in the sector, a framework for the MoLG strategic development plan was drafted and submitted to the Ministry and CHF by the Consulting Firm. The framework covers the Ministry’s vision, mission, general policies, objectives and roles as stipulated in the law and perceived by the present leadership. This Committee is focused on proposing guiding policies, establishing clear and transparent selection criteria for projects to be proposed to donors and other stakeholders. Capacity building initiatives are targeted in particular to ensure optimal impact in critical areas and to benefit the appropriate ministry personnel. The Plan covers four major areas: 1) MoLG Policies; 2) Regulatory Framework; 3) Administration and Human Resources; 4) Donors, Partners, and Projects Coordination.

The framework pillars and various dimensions will be discussed and developed further in the ministry wide meeting. The final proposed actions will form the basis for the development of the 3-5 year strategic development plan. Further, the results will be also presented to the Donor community during the sector working group initially planned in July but recently postponed to September 2008.

#### 2.3 OBJ1-ACT3: “Implementation of MoLG Development Activities”

Once the Ministry grants final approval of the Institutional Development Plan it will guide overall priority interventions of the LDR program. USAID will support the Ministry regarding final approvals and the incorporation of the Institutional Development Plan into the detailed Implementation Plan.

At this stage the LDR team focus is on ensuring a full buy in from all ranks in the Ministry in reference to the outcomes of the assessment,

recognizing the Ministry's strengths and weaknesses, soliciting ideas for improvement and ensuring full endorsement at all levels of the Ministry to enhance the chances of success of any interventions. LDR moves forward with the above while taking into consideration lessons learned from past initiatives which have failed due to a lack of engagement by relevant stakeholders in the process.

## OBJECTIVE TWO

**“To Strengthen Local Government Institutions and Leadership to more Effectively and in a Transparent , Democratic and Accountable Manner: Assess and prioritize needs; implement integrated strategic planning and performance monitoring processes; deliver and manage infrastructure and basic services.**

Activities under Objective Two are grouped under three main components:

- **Component A:** Needs Assessment, Participatory Planning and Performance Monitoring Processes.
- **Component B:** Delivering and Managing Infrastructure and Basic Services.
- **Component C:** Civic Engagement and Good Governance Promotion.

When interlinked jointly, the three components contribute to strengthening the overall capacity of each targeted LGU towards meeting the set objective. Progress made in each of these areas is highlighted in the respective sections below.

## COMPONENT A

#### 2.4 Activity- OBJ2-CA-ACT1: “Community Mapping Exercise”

The LDR team started preparing the Scope of Work for the Community Mapping Exercise in line with the activity description outlined in the IP. Capacities of local consulting firms are being reviewed to initiate the solicitation process in the third quarter of this year as stipulated in the IP.

#### 2.5 OBJ2-CA-ACT2: “Identify and Prioritize Community Needs Utilizing Participatory Process”

Identification of priority needs of the 43 partner LGUs was completed in previous quarters. During this quarter, 6 Community Project profiles were developed in full consultation with partner LGUs and submitted to USAID for approval. By the time of preparing this report all submitted CDP profiles were approved by the CTO. Three additional CDP profiles are under preparation to be submitted to USAID for approval during the next quarter.

#### 2.6 OBJ2-CA-ACT3: “Build LGUs and Citizens Capacity in the Design and Implementation of Participatory Planning Processes”

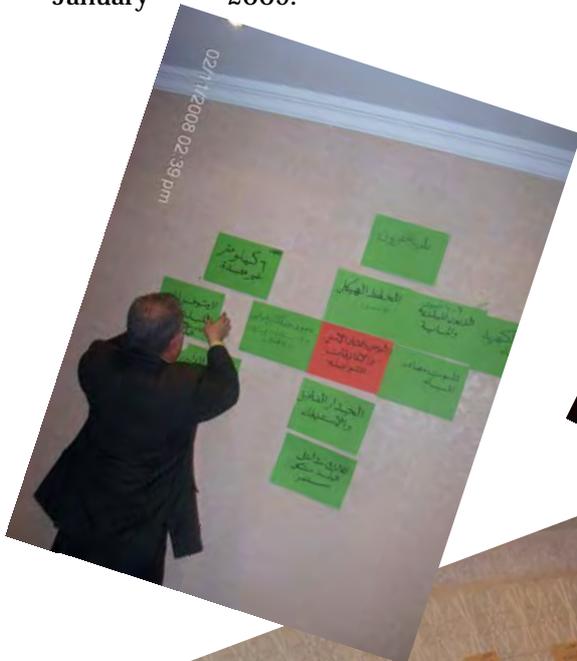
The design of the Community Participatory Planning Facilitations Skills workshop was completed during this quarter. The training to be carried out by CHF specialist Scott Yetter and LDR Specialist Mohammad Hmaidid will take place Mid July. Selection of LGU, LACs and LDR team participants was completed based on agreed upon selection criteria with the LDR CTO.

**2.7 OBJ2-CA-ACT4: “Strategic Development Frameworks”**

Following the completion of the first two parts of the training workshops on Strategic Planning for the 10 Partner LGUs (Al-Ram, Abu-Dies, Al-Thahrieh, Beit Fajjar, Azzoun, Bir Zeit, Bani Zeid, Tubas, Yatta, Ithna) CHF initiated its preparation to contract a consultancy firm to facilitate the development of the “Strategic Development Frameworks” for each of these 10 LGUs. The Request for Expression of Interest (RFEI) and Request for Proposal (RFP) documents were finalized during this quarter. Additionally, official approval of these requests from each LGU was acquired. This assignment is expected to start in August 2008 and end in January 2009.

**2.8 OBJ2-CA-ACT5: “Participatory Performance Measurement Training”**

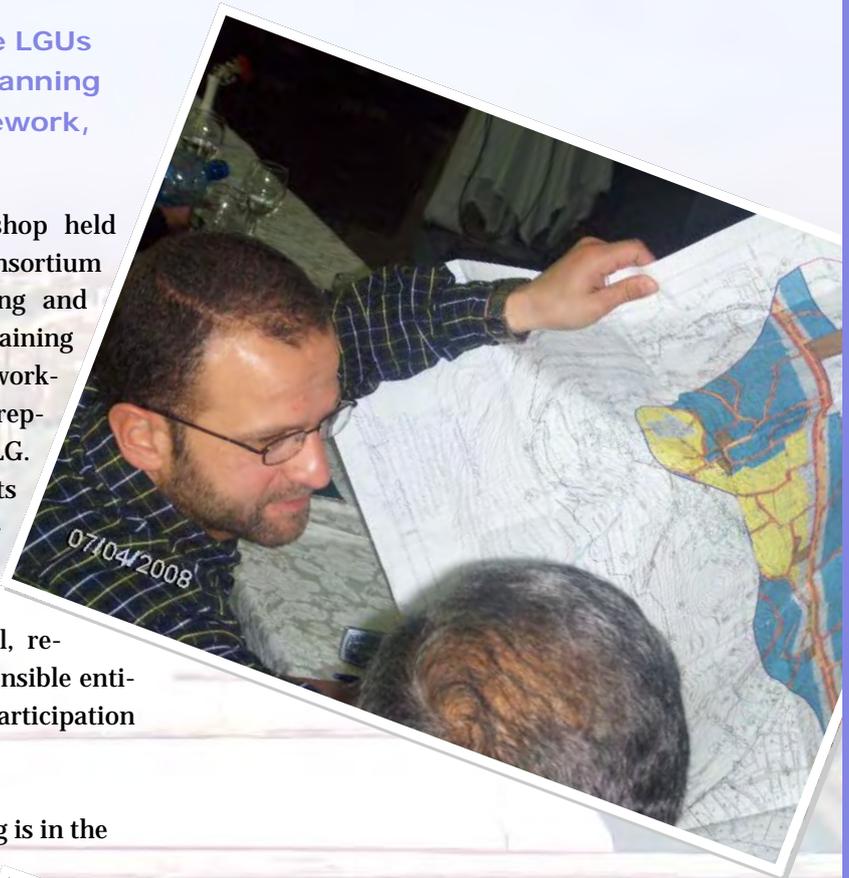
Training workshops under this activity were completed in previous quarters. The total number of participants who joined the training in the series of PPM workshops held to date is **86 municipal officials** and staff members representing 26 LGUs and 23 Local Action Committee Members, for a **total of 111 participants**. The first localized workshops to review the LGU’s self assessment results and set improvement plans are scheduled for July-August 2008.



## 2.9 OBJ2-CA-ACT6: "Enhance LGUs Understanding of Physical Planning Processes, Regulatory Framework, Methodology and Tools"

Following the first training workshop held during the past quarter, an LDR consortium member, the Center of Engineering and Planning (CEP) held the second training workshop on April 7th, 2008. The workshop was attended by 36 engineers representing 28 WB LGUs, and the MoLG. The workshop provided participants an overview of town planning components, international standards, national regulations, planning methodologies, tools, required local, regional and national approvals, responsible entities, methodologies of community participation and integrated development plans.

Additional physical planning training is in the pipeline in accordance with the IP.



## COMPONENT B

### 2.10 OBJ2-CB-ACT1: "Implement Identified Priority Community Development Projects"

The design and implementation of USAID approved CDPs in partner LGUs is in full gear. During the reporting period, 11 CDPs were approved by the CTO, 9 projects are in final design stages to be tendered for construction during the next quarter, 8 new construction contracts were signed, 7 projects are in various stages of implementation, 1 project preliminarily handed over to the contractor and 1 project completed. The LDR team is diligently following up with LGU engineers on quality control and quality assurance of the delivered capital projects. The following is a detailed status report of all approved CDPs.

#### Round I LGUs:

**Arrabeh, Jenin Governorate. Construction of a Multipurpose Hall, \$152,000 (USAID), \$15,015 (Community) – 100% complete.** The 350 m2 hall was inaugurated on 10 July 2008 (see section4 page 30). Even prior to the official inauguration the hall was rented out by the municipality for several social, cultural and educational events, providing a much needed service to the community and generating good income for the municipality. Many surrounding villages are also using the facility which is located in a beautiful public park realized due to the generous support of the American People provided through USAID. The municipality is using the local media to publicize the availability of the hall for rent for various activities taking place in the Jenin area.

**Azzoun Project 1, Qalqilia Governorate. Construction and Equipping of a Public Library - 100% complete.** The library will be officially inaugurated in August 2008 to ensure the presence of USAID representatives. The municipality hired a librarian and several educational activities are already taking place at the library including a writing competition organized by LDR, the municipality and the LAC.

**Azzoun Project 2, Qalqilia Governorate. School Construction - 10% Progress.** The project was tendered in May and the construction work started at the end of June. The school is comprised of a ground floor equalling 630m2



(5 classrooms and administration rooms), sanitary units, surrounding walls, asphalted yards and other external works. This project is expected to be completed by end of calendar year.

**Sabastia Project 1, Nablus Governorate. Provision of Waste Containers and an Educational Program, \$15,000 (USAID) - 100% Complete.** 60 solid waste containers procured and delivered in previous quarters are still in use by the municipality of Sabastia.

**Sabastia Project 2, Nablus Governorate. Retaining Walls– 70% Progress.** The construction of a critical retaining wall, 100 linear meters in length, sidewalk and cladding of stonewall is almost 70% complete. The retaining wall provides protection to a main road in the town allowing for road expansion and construction of sidewalks. Implementation activities started on 5 June. Expected completion is in August 2008.

**East Salfit Cluster, Salfit Governorate. Expansion and Development of an Existing Youth Community Recreation Center, \$260,000 (USAID) - 100% Progress.** The first stage of project hand over was carried out in the end of June 2008 and an official inauguration ceremony is planned for August 2008.

**Bani Zeid Project 1, Ramallah Governorate. Completion of a Public Community Center (Construction and Finishing), \$138,500 (USAID) - 100% complete.** As reported last quarter, the 800 m2 skeleton was completed and handed over to the municipality to be made available for use by local community groups and NGOs.

**Bani Zeid Project 2, Ramallah Governorate. Playground Construction - 20% Progress.** During this quarter the project designs were completed and the tendering process finalized. The construction started in May 2008 and is expected to be completed in October 2008. The project will result in a regional facility being constructed which will serve all communities west of Ramallah. The Minister of Youth and Sport approved a matching contribution for this project corresponding to US\$80,000. (See commitment letter from Minister in Annex C)

**Abu Dees Project 1, Jerusalem Governorate. Support for Master Planning and Support to Selected Local NGOs through the Rehabilitation and Upgrading of their Facilities, \$40,000 (USAID) - 90% Progress.** All activities except for a short list of equipment that requires a USAID waiver for the Source, Origin and Nationality have been completed.

**Abu Dies Project 2, Jerusalem Governorate. Playground Construction - 0% Progress.** The project scope is still under discussion by the Municipality, the Ministry of Youth and Sports and neighboring communities to ensure an appropriate facility for the entire region needs is designed. The general concept of supporting a Youth and Sport CDP for Abu Dies was preliminarily approved by the CTO in May 2008 based on the recommendation of the USAID Front Office under the condition that a total of US\$350,000 would be contributed by LDR and the USAID Emergency Jobs Program (EJP). LDR's responsibility would be US\$250,000 while EJP would be responsible for up to US\$100,000.

**Beit Fajjar, Bethlehem Governorate. Community Social Center, \$128,000 (USAID) - 100% complete.** LDR contribution was completed and the facility was officially inaugurated in March 2008. The LDR team provided all needed information to the ARD Inc.'s Civic Engagement Project (CEP) to provide a grant to the Center for the procurement of equipment and furniture.

**Al-Thahrieh Project 1, Hebron Governorate. Construction of a Public Parking Facility, \$166,000 (USAID) - 100% complete.** Although the construction of the parking facility was viewed as a major priority for safety and eased traffic movement, the town municipality is facing problems with forcing the taxis to use the facility as they would like to remain in the town center. CHF and CEP have discussed their potential engagement in Thahrieh to help the municipality advocate with the local NGOs and drivers association. As the ARD Inc.-CEP program decided not to engage Thahrieh it was decided that the LDR Civic Engagement Team would work on the issue with the LAC during the next quarter.

**Al-Thahrieh Project 2, Hebron Governorate. School Construction - 100% complete.** The school which includes 7 classrooms, a teachers' room, two basement rooms, external works and sanitary unit was handed over as planned in Mid May 2008.

**Illar, Tulkarem Governorate. Construction of a Football Stadium. \$147,000 (USAID) - 100% complete.** The football field was officially inaugurated on 22 April 2008 by the USAID Mission Director and the Minister of Youth and Sports. The inauguration ceremony was a great success! See story on impact of Playground on local economy of Illar.

**Tubas Project 1, Tubas Governorate. Aerial Photograph, Mapping Plotter and Training on Usage and Equipment. \$39,000 (USAID) - 90% Progress.** The Remaining equipment to be provided awaits Source, Origin and Nationality waiver with USAID.

**Tubas Project 2, Tubas Governorate. Youth Activities Center -0% Progress.** CDP profile finalized for submittal to USAID.

**USAID Approved Round II LGUs:**

**Aqqaba, Tubas Governorate. Construction of a New Boys' Primary School – 5% Progress.** The tender for the new boys' primary school to be built in Aqqaba was issued in June 2008. The selected Contractor was awarded the project and implementation will start at the beginning of next quarter. CHF has received written commitment from the MoEHE regarding the provision of required teachers and equipment, as well as preserving the school as a primary boys' school for the future. The school consists of a ground floor of 620m<sup>2</sup> area, sanitary unit, surrounding walls, and asphalted yards.

**Kufur Ni'meh, Ramallah Governorate. Construction of a Primary Girls' School – 15% Progress.** The project is comprised of the rehabilitation of an existing ground floor of 450 m<sup>2</sup> and construction of two additional floors for a total area reaching 900 m<sup>2</sup> (additional 10 classrooms). Implementation started in middle of June and is expected to be completed in November 2008. See story on Kufur Ni'meh.

**Kufur Thulth, Qalqilia Governorate. Construction/Rehabilitation of Internal Roads. 5% Progress.** The work includes laying 6,000 m<sup>2</sup> of asphalt, 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> of base course, pipe culvert of 800mm diameter and a retaining wall of 40 linear meters. The project is under implementation and work started at the end of June to be completed in October.

**Ithna, Hebron Governorate. Rehabilitation of Internal Roads. 20% Progress.** The work includes ground displacement, spreading a base course layer of 5m wide, an asphalt layer of 3 m wide for 4.3 km of internal roads in addition to construction of pipe culverts and retaining walls. Construction started early June to be completed in October 2008.

**Kober, Ramallah Governorate. Construction/Rehabilitation of Internal Roads. 5% Progress.** The work includes construction and rehabilitation of 3km of internal roads.

Work consists of laying base course and asphalt layer, protection of the road shoulders and small retaining walls. The site was handed over to the contractor in Mid June and the work will be completed in September 2008.

**Baqa Al-Sharqiyeh, Jenin Governorate. Rehabilitation of Internal Roads. 5% Progress.** The work includes laying of an asphalt layer of 7,000 m<sup>2</sup>, 9,000 m<sup>2</sup> of base course, a small rubble retaining wall in addition to protection of the road shoulders. The project will be awarded in July as we await the selected contractor vetting outcome from USAID.

**Doha, Bethlehem Governorate. Construct/Rehabilitate the Hurieh Main Road and Connecting Segment. 20% Progress.** The work includes road rehabilitation equaling a length of 900m and a width of 8m. Renovation includes replacing the existing deteriorated pavement layers, adding drainage system, culverts and retaining walls. Implementation started in June and will be completed October 2008.

**Huwwara, Nablus Governorate. Rehabilitation of Internal Roads. 5%.** The project involves rehabilitation of 4 internal roads that serve most of the town population. The project is in the tendering stage and implementation is anticipated in August with completion in November 2008.

**Hebron, Hebron Governorate. Construction of a Public Park. \$700,000 (USAID) – 5% Progress.** A full proposal for the Hebron Project was prepared and submitted to USAID. Two community workshops were held for the area residents to give input on the park design. Additionally, a special children's design workshop was held to further community participation. Another workshop was held for the Architecture students of the POLYTECHNIC. Participants were given an assignment to work on the design of the park. Design work will be completed in August and tendering will follow. The Palestinian Prime Minister indicated that the PA has interest to contribute to the Park's construction. USAID will be informed when the promise is realized.

**Tulkarem, Tulkarem Governorate. Construction of a Sports Hall – 5% Progress.** Design work is in the final stage and tendering is expected in early August 2008. Minister of Youth and Sport has sent a commitment letter to CHF indicating the PA's willingness to contribute US\$220,000 to the project.

**Ya'bad, Jenin Governorate. Construction of a Second Floor of the Boys' School – 15% Progress.** The project consists of construction of a second floor of area 650m<sup>2</sup> (8 classrooms) and external work (boundary walls, re-asphalting of yards and furnishing of playgrounds). Work started in late May and is expected to be completed by late September 2008. Corner stone was laid during a ceremony with the participation of USAID Deputy Mission Director, Mr. David Harden on 10 June 2008.

**Birzeit, Ramallah Governorate. Aerial Photo for Master Planning, Old City Preservation, Water Network Rehabilitation. 5% Progress.** Tender documents for aerial photo were prepared and a request for quotations will be issued in late July. Verification of ownership of the old buildings to be preserved is ongoing and tendering will also be initiated in early August. Water network rehabilitation is in the tendering stage. Construction works to start in August 2008.

**Yatta, Hebron Governorate. Construction of the West Wing of Yatta Stadium. 5% Progress.** The project aims to serve the youth sector in Yatta and the surrounding area which lacks such facilities. The project is composed of construction of 20 concrete spectators' rows at the western wing of Yatta sport stadium in addition to other needed facilities like changing rooms, a first-aid unit, and sanitary units. The project is in the tendering stage.

**Beit Jala, Bethlehem Governorate. Construction of a Public Library. 5% Progress.** Currently, the municipality operates a library in a rented building where the space is extremely limited and the proper display of their books is impossible. The project is currently under design and the tender documents are being prepared, which will include the construction of a new library. The project will be tendered in late July.

**Al-Ram, Jerusalem Governorate, Multipurpose Building, 5% Progress.** The MP building will have a public library, a children's library, a games library for older children and teenagers, a multipurpose hall, and a computer center. Design works are in the final stage and tendering is expected in early August 2008.



Kufur Nimeh Girls School Project to Serve 350 Students



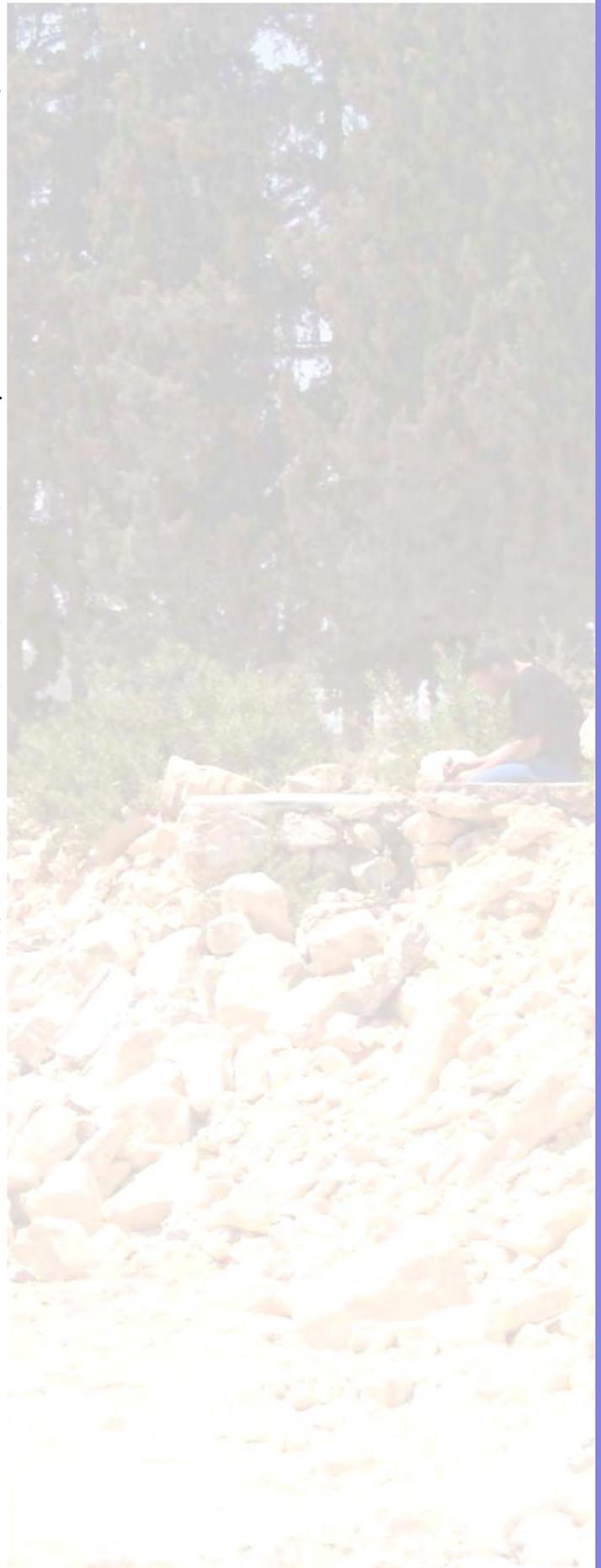
Existing conditions of Kober Roads

**Al-Jeeb, Jerusalem Governorate, Building Community Center, 5% Progress.** The project is to construct a two floor building with two separate entrances/ exits. The first and second floors will house a clinic and a youth club, respectively. Tender Documents have been prepared and tendering will be initiated in late July 2008.

**Rafat, Jerusalem Governorate, Rehabilitation of Internal Roads, 5% Progress.** The project includes asphaltting/ rehabilitation of a number of internal roads of 3.0 km in length. Tendering was launched in June and bids are under evaluation. It's anticipated that implementation will start in August and be completed in November 2008.

**Bir Nabala, Jerusalem Governorate, Service Center 5% Progress.** Bir Nabala has a plan to construct a building that includes a Service Center, Municipality Facilities and a Post Office. The project is still under design.

**Zababdeh, Jenin Governorate. Construction of a Multipurpose Hall. 5% Progress** A multipurpose hall to serve as a venue for cultural and youth activities will be constructed. The municipality is working on finalizing the Tender Documents and tendering is expected to be launched in August 2008.



# ILLAR FOOTBALL FIELD REVIVES LOCAL ECONOMY

November 11<sup>th</sup> 2007 was the day in which LDR handed over to the municipality of Illar a completed football field worth over US\$ 230,000 contributed by USAID and the community (\$147,616 in federal funds and \$83,917, over 36% of total cost, was community match). By the time the official inauguration took place a few weeks later, the project has evidently become a vital facility to the community of Illar and neighboring villages. Illar's Football field proved to have a far reaching socio-economic impact on the town than was anticipated.

First, the football field is breathing life into the battered local economy: it had generated about 864 work days for unemployed local workers. Today the football field is bustling with life; a number of social, youth and athletic events have already taken place at the field. This is a clear positive indicator that the football field was indeed a high priority to the community.

The existence of this facility has contributed to enhancing the bond between neighboring communities and alerted them to the importance of sports to the development of their children and youth, females and males alike. A regional football tournament was organized through local initiatives bringing all of the area's soccer leagues to Illar. Females are also encouraged to use the facility although this is not a usual practice in conservative societies. Due to this, the community decided to dedicate a day, Fridays, for females to use the field.

Further, the field is complemented by a playground area for children, which has brought families together.

The Municipality dedicated Thursday for family-focused activities. The youth of Illar are learning to channel their energies through healthy fun and positive social interactions. The organization of various events at the field proves how committed the municipality is to improving the daily lives of its citizens giving the moderate mayor a lot of credit. Nonetheless, a major factor behind the success of Illar football field has been the tireless efforts and dedication of the Local Action Committee (LAC) members who in cooperation with the municipality coordinated activities with the different stakeholders and ensured proper management and implementation of these activities. This was done through leveraging other institutions to host activities, providing financial support and forming a number of support committees including: security, follow up, cleanness and public relations. The creation of a first aid committee is in progress. Facility maintenance and monitoring plan is also being prepared jointly by the LAC and the local council.



## **Kufur Ni'meh Women Set New Standards for Participation**

The renovation and expansion project for the aging, a one story building that is home to the sole girls' school in the town, was initially at risk due to insufficient funds being available for construction of the facility. However, LAC members and the municipality rose to the occasion and put together a plan to mobilize Kufur Ni'meh citizens, to raise the needed funds.

The village council and LAC members, consisting of mainly women, had previously held a meeting for parents and families where a decision was unanimously taken to raise funds for the project from the local residents of the village and to also seek external support. Three teams were formed, one to approach the local residents, another to request assistance from the national institutions including the PA ministries, and a third team to travel to Jordan hoping to appeal to the Town's expatriates to give back to their younger generation.

The team working within the communities suggested a NIS100 per household and was able to collect NIS50,000 locally. The team that went to Amman came back with US\$60,000, while the team working with the PA institutions raised US\$45,000.

The local community's response to the call to contribute to the projects that serve them was overwhelming: Out of the project expected total cost of \$245,000 almost 43% was donated by the community, in cash and kind, while LDR allocated \$140,000 USD.

Against all odds and widespread economic hardships, the town's women and men donated generously and proved that 'cost is not an issue' for the poorer communities and mothers when it comes to the education of their daughters. It is important to note that the local team comprised of all women carried out a door-to-door campaign and succeeded in collecting a total of 11,000 USD, i.e. more than double the amount raised by the men's team. Women are more than able to find creative forms of participation with such tenacity and determination as to develop the quality of lives and future opportunities for their youth.



**School During  
Construction**



**LAC meeting- Kufur Ni'meh- June 2008**

**2.11 OBJ2-CB-ACT2: “Develop Sound Project Construction Management Practices in all LGUs”**

During this quarter the LDR team held the second training on Project Construction Management between 9-10 June 2008. The training was attended by a total of 30 participants representing a total of 27 WB LGUs.

The training workshop aimed at acquainting municipal engineers to common procedures and best practices for managing construction projects’ resources. Main subjects covered: planning, scheduling, organizing project activities, logical diagram, networking analysis through forward pass, backward pass, critical path and floats

During this quarter, the LDR team finalized the RFQ for the delivery of advanced training on “Project Management” targeting seasoned engineers in Municipalities “A” and “B”, and is expected to exceed a total of 100 hrs of training. The RFQ will be released next quarter.



Environmental and Developmental Considerations Workshop  
14-15.05.2008  
Ramallah, May 2008

**2.12 OBJ2-CB-ACT3: “Environmental Impact Measurement and Project Design Considerations”**

The first training workshop entitled “Environment and Development Considerations in the work of LGUs” was delivered on the 14th and 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2008. The workshop was attended by 52 LGU members representing a total of 29 WB LGUs. This is the second training to be delivered regarding this topic as the first workshop was conducted during the previous quarter in Gaza.



06/09/2008 03:22 pm

Project Management Workshop—Ramallah, June 2008

**2.13 OBJ2-CB-ACT4: “Vocational Training”**

As stipulated in the IP, substantial focus will be given to vocational training of LGU technicians and engineers in several relevant areas. The first training entitled “Safety measures in streets lighting” was delivered between 21-22 May 2008, to a total of 9 electricians and engineers from 7 LGUs. A second training workshop was delivered between 11-12 June 2008, to another 14 electricians and engineers from 11 LGUs. The two trainings were delivered by the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC)

(September), training will re-start in early October 2008 throughout June 2009.

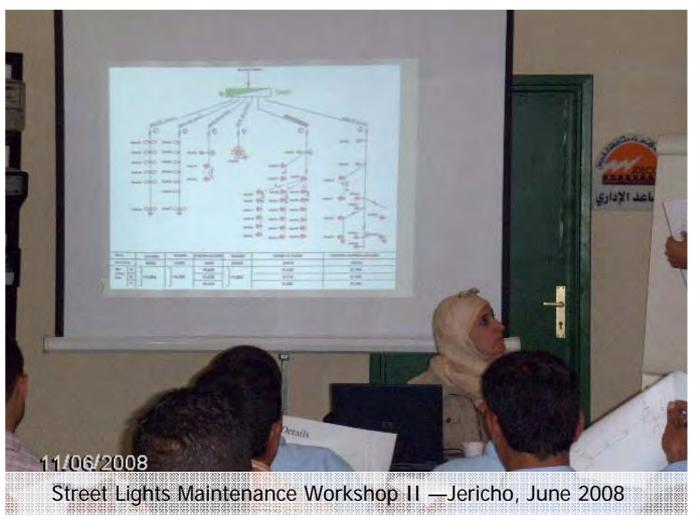
It is also worth noting that at this stage the LDR team has finalized preparations for the delivery of a number of vocational trainings during the months of July and August, targeting water services provision such as; “Water Networks Management” for engineers and “Water Leakage Detection” for technicians in partner LGUs in the WB.



Street Lights Maintenance Workshop I —Jericho, May 2008

Training Center in Jericho. Participants were introduced to various components and materials utilized in networking street lights and utilization of testing equipment.

Additional trainings focusing on the management and maintenance of electricity services and networks will continue focusing on enhancing the reliability and efficiency of electricity services provided to citizens in the communities targeted by LDR. Due to the fact that the JDEC Training Center is closed during the summer (July—



Street Lights Maintenance Workshop II —Jericho, June 2008

### 2.14 OBJ2-CB-ACT5: “Internal Municipal Functions: Development of Public Procurement and Tendering Procedural Manual”

By end of June 2008, New Vision consulting firm, the responsible company for this deliverable contracted by LDR in February 2008, finalized the assessment of the 18 targeted LGUs, and is currently preparing the performance enhancement action plans. The plans along with the assessment reports will be presented in a workshop to be held during August 2008 in the presence of the Ministry of Local Government and targeted LGUs. New Vision has also submitted the first draft of the “Public Procurement and Tendering Procedural Manual”. The draft Manual will be reviewed by all stakeholders including the MoLG before finalization and dissemination.

### 2.15 OBJ2-CB-ACT6: “Internal Municipal Functions: Develop and Install a Computerized Financial Accounting System in 11 LGUs”

#### **Installation of Computerized Financial Management System:**

Al-Isra’ Software & Computer Co., contracted by CHF on 25<sup>th</sup> September under sub-award no: 24018-07-WB-SA34 to develop and install a computerized financial management software for 8 WB LGUs (Arrabeh, Azzoun, Beit Jala, East Salfit Joint Services Council, Bani Zeid, Tubas, Al-Tharriyeh, Al-Doha) continued its support and on the job training. A total of 13 additional Licenses were installed in 6 partner LGUs.

#### **Training on Budget and Financial Statements Preparation**

The LDR team has contracted a local consulting firm “Ritaj” to deliver a series of training workshops on the topic of Budgeting for LGUs. The training workshops aim to increase the LGU’s accountants knowledge of MoLG regulations and financial reporting requirements

and enhancing their capacity in the utilization of budgets as planning and monitoring tools.

The first training on “Budget and Financial Statements Preparation for LGUs” was delivered on 22-25 June to a total of 15 accountants from 13 WB LGUs. Participating LGUs in the training were Hebron, Al- Dahrya, Idna, Doha, Baqa Al Sharqieh, Kufar Thulth, Illar, Tubas, Beit Jala, Arraba, Al- Ram, Kufar Diek, and Hiwara. The training focused on

- **Changing from a Cash to a Modified Accrual Financial basis**
- **Budgets as Management Tools**
- **Asset Management**
- **Preparation of end of year Financial Statements**
- **Practical Hands on Training on Excel**

The Second Budgeting Workshop is scheduled from 6-9th of July 2008.



### 2.16 OBJ2-CB-ACT7: "Internal Municipal Functions: Establish a Record Management and Archiving System in 3 LGUs"

During this quarter the LDR team started coordination with the 3 targeted LGUs for the implementation of the assignment "Establishment of Record Management and Archiving Systems in 3 LGUs". LDR is currently finalizing the TOR and scope of work needed for the delivery of this consultancy. The request for expression of interest is expected to be released during August 2008.



### 2.17 OBJ2-CB-ACT8: "Internal Municipal Functions: Implement a Management Restructuring and Business Process Management Project for Hebron Municipality"

Following the approval of LDR's Implementation Plan, meetings between the LDR team and the Technical Staff of Hebron Municipality started during this period in order to agree on the scope of work and required consultancy services needed for the successful implementation of this critical activity. The first draft of the request for expression of interest has been prepared and submitted by LDR to the Technical Staff of the Municipality. Amendments on the Request for Expression of Interest will be finalized before the end of July 2008.

## COMPONENT C

### Civil Society Engagement and Oversight

So far, all civic engagement activities have been focused on the establishment of LACs and the involvement of the local community in the planning and implementation phases of CDPs. Following the approval of the IP the LDR team immediately embarked on detailing the planned activities under this component aiming to initiate implementation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2008. In coordination with operational planning, the LDR team initiated the recruitment process of the field team and conducted a stakeholder and partners' identification process.

#### LAC Meetings and Activities

During this reporting period a total of 7 regular meetings were held by LACs especially in localities where CDP projects are being designed, launched or implemented requiring community support. LACs are actively engaged in supervising and facilitating the implementation of most CDPs guaranteeing continued public engagement and oversight of the LGU development projects and service delivery.

In many localities LACs role is exemplified in various forms such as mobilizing resources to complement donor funds, organizing and holding cultural and educational events at LGU public facilities provided under LDR, organizing official project inaugurations, and in some cases participating with LGU in organizing delivery of certain services. Many success stories, including the two in this report for Illar and Kfur Ni'meh LGUs, attest to LACs efforts and community citizens' engagement and commitment.

To ensure citizens' oversight of LGU work and to institutionalize transparent practices by the LGU, LACs take part in project tendering processes and meetings with selected contractors and following up on the project's actual progress. In some cases the civic engagement of LACs goes beyond the project level which is one of the LDR main objectives.

Some LACs are already working on enhancing positive practices in their community, reigniting the sense of volunteerism amongst citizens, bringing the LGU and citizens closer to help resolve possible conflicts between the local council and community members.

Annex No. D contains a list of all events implemented by LACS or in partnership between the committees and LDR and/or the LGUs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2008.



### 3. CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Cross cutting themes such as Support to Moderate Leaders, Youth Positive Engagement, Gender Mainstreaming and Citizenship Promotion continue to be fundamental principals to the implementation of all of LDR's activities.

#### Support to Moderate Leaders

LDR partner LGU mayors, all considered moderate leaders, are enjoying higher respect and recognition by their citizens. To give two examples visibly clear this quarter:

**Illar Mayor**, Sufian Shadid, and **Arrabeh Mayor**, Adeeb A'rda, substantially benefited from LDR support gaining recognition and respect from their citizens. Their practices are more transparent as they engage citizens in many LGU activities. They are perceived as responsive mayors that improved the services provided to their citizens and responded to their concerns. In the two ceremonies organized to inaugurate Illar and Arrabeh projects this quarter, hundreds of citizens participated, gave praising speeches, talked to LDR team and donor representatives about their improved impressions of their "active and responsive" mayors.

#### Youth Engagement

In appreciation of the importance of youth engagement, several meetings were held with the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mrs. Tahani Abu Dagga, to brief her on the LDR goal, objectives and activities. The focus was on the role of Youth in the governance process and how the program is targeting youth whether through the relevant CDPs (youth facilities like Illar project, Salfit Cluster project, Yatta Stadium, Beit Jala Library, Tulkarem in-door sports hall, West Bani Zeid Cluster football field etc), youth engagement in the LACs, the proposed youth shadow councils under the new LDR AIP, etc. The Minister expressed her willingness to pro-

vide support to LDR including Youth related CDPs, to provide all necessary support to Youth organizations engaging with LDR LGUs and to work on specific regulations related to the proper use and safety considerations for youth facilities particularly involving swimming pools.

**Gender Mainstreaming:** Many women are actively engaging in LDR activities as members of LACs and as participants in trainings and planning workshops. Female members of LACs are much more active and concerned in many communities. For example:

**Female members of Kufr Ni'me** LAC took the lead in raising funds to ensure that the construction of the girls school is realized. Although the village is very conservative, the women went door to door collecting donations for this noble cause and gained the respect of their male colleagues in the LAC as well as the village council.

**Female members of LACs** are participating in trainings organized by LDR. Overall a total of 25 women participants received training in this quarter, which included Physical Master Planning, Project Management and Environmental Impact Assessment trainings.

#### Democratic Participation

In its conceptualization, design and implementation, LDR program has emphasized the importance of democratic public participation as an essential feature of the good local governance model LDR is advocating for. LDR has introduced many important tools to LGUs to contemplate, practice in practical activities then adopt as standard management practices. Council Members and LGUs' staff participated in various activities and training workshops to enhance their awareness and appreciation of the concepts and practices of democratic local governance.

Presently, LDR partner LGUs regularly invite their citizens for discussion and to provide feedback on the selection of community priorities and plans of action amongst other important

areas. Mayors and staff in LDR partner LGUs welcome citizens engagement in the design of community development projects, implementation and performance evaluation. In Hebron, the Mayor and municipal staff initially did not accept LDR proposal to engage citizens in the design of the public park, but after seeing the outcome of the participatory workshop and listening to the participants valuable comments and appreciation of what they referred to as “the municipality new approach” they want to consider ways to institutionalize this participatory democratic approaches in the new municipality management and business processes structure LDR will help them implement.. LDR will continue working on this theme, by focusing on citizen and LGU awareness of democratic practices through awareness raising campaigns, training workshops, and other community based activities, as described in the IP.

### **Transparency, Accountability and Anti Corruption**

With the introduction of computerized financial systems in eight LGUs in the WB, and the implementation of the consultancy entitled “Enhancement of Public Procurement and Tendering Procedures in LGUs”, LDR program aims at enhancing principles of transparency and systems of accountability within local government units. Once finalized and implemented the previously described consultancies, should provide all 37 LGUs in the WB with important anti-corruption tools that would greatly minimize the environment allowing corrupt practices. Moreover the introduction of citizens engagement in the governance process through the LACs and other activities enhances LGUs openness and transparent practices.

### **Civic Awareness**

Civic awareness is the logical prerequisite for democratic local governance and community participation. LDR activities are designed to enhance awareness of citizens, elected officials and LGUs of their rights, roles and functions.

With enhanced awareness relationships are defined in a positive and constructive environment. So far, LDR was successful in engaging citizens through their representative LACs or directly with their LGUs based on clarity and awareness of roles and duties resulting in achievement of greater good for the community at large. An example is the active participation of citizens in leveraging resources for their LGU to complete approved CDPs and to match donor funds provided through LDR. Further, as highlighted under Democratic Participation section above, local communities can facilitate and support LGU role in several areas such as planning, projects’ design and implementation, sustaining public facilities, advocating with national entities for public interest etc. Based on this perspective, LDR is launching a wider civic engagement component under which the interactive community/civil society – LGU relationship model will be enhanced through improved and streamlined communication, advocacy campaigns and joint activities. A new tool will be introduced to LGUs and citizens, which will give a greater weight to input from local citizens and CBOs , namely the “Citizens Satisfaction Index” which will provide LGUs with necessary feedback and indicators to help them indentify gaps and means for improving their functions and services to better meet citizens expectations.

### **Local Governance Dialogue**

Starting from next quarter, preparations will start for launching concrete dialogue between public, private, and civil society stakeholders starting with a conference that focuses on initiating constructive dialogue between various actors on ways and means for promoting local economic development and Democratic Governance practices.

## *MS. Najwa Edwan*

Is a recently graduated engineer from Az-zoun, Qalqilia District. Soon after the local council selected her to join the municipal engineering team, she started to face many obstacles and her lack of experience in the engineering profession, mainly male dominated. Najwa eagerness to learn and prove herself as a young female engineer working was the driving force for her to seek active participation in the training courses organized by LDR.

For example, she took the opportunity to join the physical master planning course in April 2008 to strengthen her skills in this critical area. In the course she learned how to manage and respond to community reservations and objections to the municipal master plan when it was presented for community discussion and approval. In addition, Engineer E'dawn also attended the project management training and the environment assessment workshops held in May and June 2008, respectively. When Najwa is asked of how she benefited from the LDR training courses she said "they provided me an opportunity for real in depth learning from the experts that gave the workshops as well as from interacting with my fellow experienced engineers working at other municipalities. Also, the workshops' environment was comfortable and encouraging for engineers and municipal staff, especially women. I networked and exchanged practical information and approaches to dealing with challenging professional tasks we face at our municipalities particularly as young women engineers"



## 4. VISITS & VISIBILITY

During the reporting period, two inaugurations took place in Illar, Arrabeh, and the corner stone was laid for Ya'abd school in the presence of USAID and PA representatives, CHF-LDR staff, and representatives from the partner local councils, LACs and residents of the targeted towns.

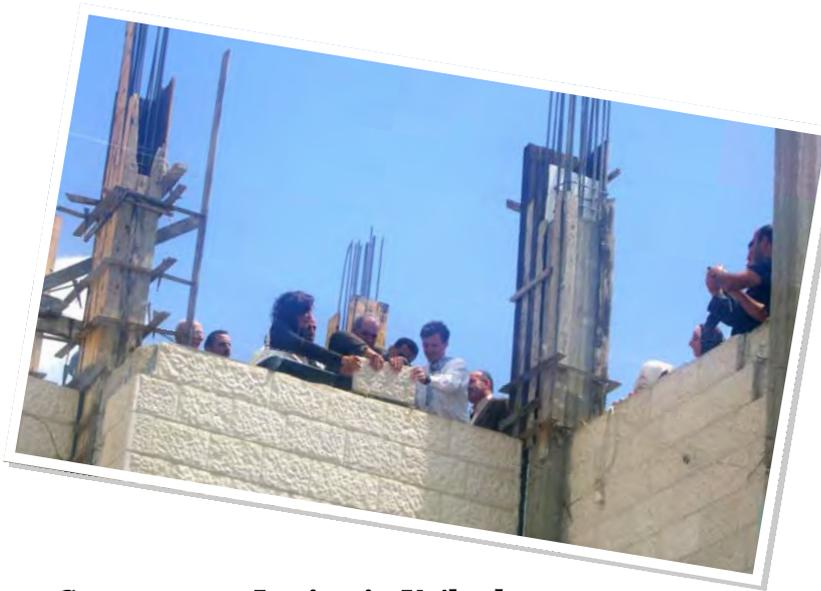
### **Inauguration of Illar football field**

On 22 April 2008 the inauguration of Illar football field took place. Dr. Howard Sumka, USAID Mission Director, a USAID and US Consulate Delegation, the Minister of Youth and Sport, Tulkarem Governor, Mayor, Council Members, many dignitaries and CHF delegation attended the highly successful ceremony which was filled with activities organized by the LAC and youth organizations in the area.

### **Inauguration of Arrabeh Multipurpose Hall**

In addition, LDR organized the inauguration of the multipurpose hall in Arrabeh, Jenin, on 10 June 2008. The event was attended by the USAID Deputy Mission Director, David Harden and a USAID and Consulate Delegation, representatives of the governor of Jenin, the MoLG, neighboring communities, NGOs, regular citizen and CHF delegation. The inauguration activities and level of attendance was an opportunity to demonstrate the strong relationships between the community, the LAC and the Municipality.





### Cornerstone Laying in Ya'bad

On the same day 10 June 2008, the USAID delegation led by the Deputy Mission Director, laid the corner stone for the construction of the second floor of a boys school in Yabad, Jenin. The event was attended by the Mayor, council members, school teachers, Ministry of Education representatives and LAC and other community members.

### HEBRON MEDIA TOUR

Project inaugurations were not the only highlight of the reporting period. The USAID Public Affairs Office organized a media tour to Hebron Governorate on 29 April 2008 during which the LDR projects in Thahrieh were visited and the Mayor and direct beneficiaries were interviewed by the press. The impact of LDR and other programs supported by the American People was praised during the interviews for improving the quality of life and advancing democratic governance for local communities.

All above events were highly publicized in local newspapers (see press releases in Annex E)



## 5. COORDINATION & LEVERAGING

The LDR team, led by the CoP, has been meeting regularly with all donors active in the sector to coordinate and ensure that overlapping is reduced to maximize benefit and best practices in the sector.

During this quarter several meetings were held as follows:

- World Bank Local Governance Expert Ms. Mesky Brhane consulted with LDR CoP several times with regard to the new World Bank Community Development Project implemented by the MoLG.
- Danish Deputy Representative Mr. Rasmus Crue Christensen met LDR CoP to coordinate LDR activities with the Danish support provided to the sector through the Municipal Development Fund and to consult on Scope of Work of the municipal development and local governance sector working group .
- German Technical Cooperation Local Governance and Civil Society Program Team Leader Ms. Christiane Einfeldt met to coordinate LDR activities with the GTZ ongoing and planned interventions in the sector particularly at the national level.
- LDR CoP participated in the Sector Working Group as an observer based on the request of the Minister and USAID.

LDR strongly believes that continuous communication and coordination is required to maximize the impact and sustainability among all LG initiatives that are ongoing and are being planned in the Sector.

Leveraging continued with the USAID CEP program being implemented by ARD Inc. during this quarter including cooperating on the provision of urgent support to Gaza LGUs and providing all needed information and facilitation to CEP team engaging in LDR LGUs including Beit Fajjar, Beit Jala and Tulkarem.

Cooperation and Leveraging with PA Ministries evolved this quarter with an agreement with a Minister of Youth and Sport to sign a Memorandum of Understanding stipulating the support the Ministry will provide to LDR activities. After several meetings with LDR, and attending the Illar inauguration ceremonies hearing from the LGUs and citizens their positive views of LDR, HE the Minister sought additional government resources to match LDR and other USAID project activities implemented by CHF. The Minister sent CHF a letter on 1 June 2008 confirming the PA's commitment to provide \$400,000 in support of Tulkarem, Yatta and Bani Zeid Youth and Sport related CDPs.

Cooperation and leveraging with the Ministry of Culture also bore fruit with the Minister of Culture's commitment to cover the deficit in the Al-Ram Cultural Center and Beit Jala Library.

Cooperation and leveraging with the Palestinian Council for Development and Reconstruction (PECDAR) resulted in PECDAR's commitment to cover the deficit in Al-Ram CDP.

Close cooperation and continuous meetings with the Mayor of Hebron, Mr. Khaled A'saily, an accomplished business and political leader, resulted in the organization of a visit by the Prime Minister, Salam Fayyad to the site of the Hebron LDR CDP and the Peace Park. During this visit Dr. Fayyad pledged to cover the deficit in the park budget recognizing LDR work in this field.

## 6. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED

Several reports were submitted to USAID on challenges faced due to the increase in construction material costs and devaluation of the US dollar. As decided by the Palestinian Cabinet and adopted by the CHF programs, the New Israeli Shekel (NIS) has been adopted as the construction contracts' currency. The continued deterioration of the US\$ value versus the NIS has become even more critical. With every incremental drop in the US\$ versus the NIS rate of exchange, the cost of construction projects, in US dollars, is increasing. For example, a contract is signed at NIS 400,000 was recorded in the books in early May 2008 as US\$120,000. Within a couple of weeks the US\$ exchange rate dropped and consequently the project value in the books increased to US\$125,000. This trend has become regular as the NIS continues to rise and the dollar continues to drop. This scenario poses a real challenge to any kind of financial planning and requires serious attention including maintaining a huge contingency budget to cover the deficits caused by exchange rate discrepancies.

## 7. MONITORING & EVALUATION

Immediately following the approval of the IP, the LDR team embarked on updating and finalizing the Performance Monitoring and Evaluation plan to be submitted by end of July. Tracking of USAID OP, GIS and quantitative indicators continued throughout the reporting period. Furthermore, the LDR team continued to submit bi-weekly progress reports with highlights of critical achievements to USAID. 6 reports were submitted during the quarter. Performance Indicators have been carefully selected to contribute to monitoring LDR outcomes by collecting data through activity reports, MoLG and LGU data sources, output monitoring (trainings, publications, meetings, workshops, number and type of participant, etc.),

interviews with beneficiaries/stakeholders where possible and appropriate and general implementation observations.

Data collected is analyzed on a monthly and quarterly basis, with a comprehensive analysis being conducted for inclusion in each quarterly report. All reflected in this Progress Reports.

As will be detailed in the new PMEP, during the time remaining in the program more focus will be given to qualitative impact monitoring and evaluation. Program impact will be monitored against set expected results (ERs) and evaluation indicators. LDR direct impact at the local level is primarily linked to LGUs' capacity to respond to community priority needs, develop its' internal structures, deliver efficient services, and engage its' citizenry to enhance transparency. It is equally important to assess how these LGU changes lead to increased trust and level of satisfaction in the local governance entities. Additionally, LDR impact on the regional or national levels will be manifested through the level of interaction with the MoLG, which unfortunately started relatively late in the program's life and is influenced by a larger context (political, economic, institutional etc). In such a short timeframe it would be farfetched to expect that deep impact would actually take place, let alone being able to discern which developments can be attributed to LDR or to other outside factors. When possible, indirect impact will be investigated when deemed necessary or suggested by initial, positive or negative influences.

GIS Indicator	Planned Vs Actual	Total
D401 A - # of LGUs who receive USG assistance to improve their performance	Planned	44
	Actual	37*
D401 B - # of LGU citizen engagement, participation activities/sessions/forums etc.	Planned	68
	Actual	43
D401 C - # of implemented LGU infrastructure activities with citizen engagement	Planned	31
	Actual (Completed)	16
D401 D - # of systems developed/implemented I LGUs (MIS, Financial, Procurement etc.)	Planned	45
	Actual	21
D401 E - # of procedures/templates/tech reports developed/improved	Planned	47
	Actual	5
D402 A - # of LGU staff members trained in Fiscal Management, Decentralization, etc. (male)	Planned	1835
	Actual	1684
D402 A - # of LGU staff members trained in Fiscal Management, Decentralization, etc. (female)	Planned	1457
	Actual	1476
D402 C - # of LGU committee members trained /participating (female)	Planned	997
	Actual	659
D402 D - # of LGU committee members trained/participating (male)	Planned	1907
	Actual	1892

LGU	No. of projects considered by LDR	Project Name
<b>Round I Projects</b>		
Arrabeh	1	Multipurpose Hall
Tubas	2	1- provision of plotter, and areal photograph and 2- a youth center
Illar	1	Football Play ground
Azzoun	2	1- Establishing a public Library (as part of a future community center), and 2- boys school
Sabastia	2	1- Waste containers and an educational program, and 2- retaining walls
East Salfeet Cluster	1	Expansion and development of existing community recreation and youth and facilities
Bani Zeid	2	1- Public center (to use the existing facility), and 2- Rehabilitation of football playground
Abu Dis	3	1. Support for master planning process. 2. Support to local NGOs through rehabilitation and upgrading of their facilities, and 3 - sports facilities
Beit Fajjar	1	Community social center
Al-Thahrieh	2	1- Public Parking Facility, and 2- Abu Obaida boys school
Al Zahra	1	Municipal wall and some landscaping
Al Musader	1	Widening of city entrance, and street rehabilitation
Abassan Al Jadideh	2	1- Internal roads, and 2 - a community center
Fukhari	1	Agriculture Road Opening
Qarara	2	1- Internal roads, and 2- connecting roads
Abassan Kabira	2	1- internal roads, and 2- community information center

LGU	No. of projects considered by LDR	Project Name
<b>Round II Projects</b>		
Round II		
Hebron	1	Public Park Construction
Ithna	1	Rehabilitation of Internal Roads and Asphaltting
Yatta	1	Construction of the West Wing of Yatta Stadium
Doha	1	Road Construction and Rehabilitation
Beit Jala	1	Construction of the Public Library
Al-Ram	1	MP building/ social center/library, computer center
Bir Nabala	1	Service Center
Rafat	1	Internal Roads
Kufur Aqab	1	Rehabilitation of Drainage System at Samir Amees
Al-Jeeb	1	Service/ social center: clinic, youth club
Bir Zeit	3	1- Aerial Photo, 2- rehabilitation of segments of the water network, 3- consolidation and preservation of the Faqade
Kufur Ni'ma	1	Construction of the Female Primary School
Kober	1	Internal roads
Kufur Thelth	1	Internal roads and side walks
Tulkarem	1	MP Sports Hall
Baqa Al-sharqieh	1	Asphaltting of internal roads
Aqqaba	1	Construction of primary school
Zababdeh	1	Social center/ MP hall
Ya'bad	1	Second Floor of Boys School
Hiwwara	1	Rehabilitation of internal roads
Aqraba	1	Health/ women center
Kufer Al-Deek	1	Construction of girls primary school
Salfeet	1	Dynamometer

Palestinian National Authority  
Ministry of Youth & Sport  
Minister Office



السلطة الوطنية الفلسطينية  
وزارة الشباب والرياضة  
مكتب الوزير

Date:..... 01/05/2008 التاريخ:

No.:..... 1298 الرقم:

حضرة الأخت لنا أبو حجلة المحترمة  
مؤسسة CHF الدولية

المدير العام

تحية طيبة وبعد،

بالإشارة إلى اجتماعنا السابق ولاحقاً لرسالتكم بتاريخ 2008/05/13، والمتعلقة بالمساعدة في تمويل المشاريع التي ستقوم مؤسستكم بتنفيذها، فإنه يسعدني إعلامكم بموافقتنا على تنطية العجز في هذه المشاريع على النحو التالي:

- صالة طولكرم 220,000 دولار
- ملعب يطا 100,000 دولار
- ملعب بني زيد 80,000 دولار

أما فيما يتعلق بمشروع أبو ديس فقد تم مخاطبة رئيس بلدية أبو ديس السيد إبراهيم جفال لتحويل مشروع الملعب المقترح إلى مسبح أولمبي، حيث تم الاتفاق على أن تقوم البلدية بإعداد اللازم من أجل البد بالتنفيذ.

راجين منكم اتخاذ اللازم من أجل البدء بتنفيذ هذه المشاريع

مع فائق الاحترام

تهاني أبو دقة

وزيرة الشباب والرياضة



M:\ysl185.doc صادر الوزير/ منقرقات

Ramallah P.O. Box 52 Tel. 02-2967890 - Telefax 2935991  
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youth@p-ol.com

Activity/Month	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08	Total	Localities
LAC regular meetings	6	1		7	Al-Ram, Bir Nabala , Salfeet, Yatta
<b>LAC ACTIVITIES</b>					
Facility/project Sustainability planning			1	1	Illar
Fundraising/resource mobilization			2	2	Illar, Azzoun
Tournaments			1	1	Illar
Supervision visits to project sites			1	1	Ithna
Participation in CDPs tendering process			3	3	Kufur Thuluth, Aqqaba, Baqa Al-Sharqeya,
Town hall meetings w/LGU			1	1	Huwwara
<b>Sub-Total</b>				<b>16</b>	
<b>LDR ORGANIZED COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES</b>					
Community consultation meetings	1		1	2	Bir Zeit, Hebron
Corner stone laying		1		1	Y'abad
Inaugurations	1		2	3	Illar, Arrabeh
Focus groups with LACs/LGUs			1	1	Arrabeh
Media Tours	2			2	Hebron, Al-Thahereya
Meetings with LACs			2	2	Arrabeh
<b>Sub-Total</b>				<b>11</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>27</b>	







### استعدادا لبطولتي بلدية رام الله وعميد الصحافة المرحوم محمود ابو الزلف

## فريق صحيفة القُدس يفوز على معلمي وطلاب المدرسة الرشيدية بأربعة أهداف لهدفين



فريق صحيفة القُدس، حقل قزوه، معاً في المباراة الودية بين ناديي رام الله ورام الله، في المباراة الودية بين ناديي رام الله ورام الله، في المباراة الودية بين ناديي رام الله ورام الله...

القدس - فاز نادي رام الله على فريق صحيفة القُدس، في مباراة الودية التي أقيمت في حقل قزوه، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري، بفوز رام الله بهدفين مقابل هدفين. وتعد هذه المباراة الودية من أهم مباريات استعدادية لفريق القُدس، الذي سيشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين لكرة القدم، التي ستقام في رام الله، في الفترة من 23 إلى 27 من الشهر الجاري.

في المباراة الودية التي أقيمت في حقل قزوه، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري، فاز نادي رام الله على فريق صحيفة القُدس، بفوز رام الله بهدفين مقابل هدفين. وتعد هذه المباراة الودية من أهم مباريات استعدادية لفريق القُدس، الذي سيشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين لكرة القدم، التي ستقام في رام الله، في الفترة من 23 إلى 27 من الشهر الجاري.

### افتتاح الملعب البلدي المشعب في غلار

القدس - افتتح ملعب المشعب البلدي في بلدة غلار، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري، بحضور عدد من المسؤولين المحليين والإقليميين. وتعد هذه المباراة الودية من أهم مباريات استعدادية لفريق القُدس، الذي سيشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين لكرة القدم، التي ستقام في رام الله، في الفترة من 23 إلى 27 من الشهر الجاري.

### يظا ووادي النيص اليوم في بطولة الدجاني

القدس - سيقام اليوم في بلدة الدجاني، بطولة كرة القدم التي تنظمها جمعية الدجاني، بمشاركة ناديي يظا ووادي النيص. وتعد هذه المباراة الودية من أهم مباريات استعدادية لفريق القُدس، الذي سيشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين لكرة القدم، التي ستقام في رام الله، في الفترة من 23 إلى 27 من الشهر الجاري.

### الزمن الجميل من ارشيف وكالة بال سبورز من ينسى ابن الخليل ظريف شبانة؟

القدس - تذكروا الزمن الجميل من ارشيف وكالة بال سبورز، من ينسى ابن الخليل ظريف شبانة؟



القدس - تذكروا الزمن الجميل من ارشيف وكالة بال سبورز، من ينسى ابن الخليل ظريف شبانة؟

### وصول بعثة دالاس القدس الى عمان

القدس - وصلت بعثة دالاس القدس، التي تتكون من لاعبي كرة القدم، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري، في مطار عمان. وتعد هذه البعثة من أهم بعثات استعدادية لفريق القُدس، الذي سيشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين لكرة القدم، التي ستقام في رام الله، في الفترة من 23 إلى 27 من الشهر الجاري.



### نداء جين يهني الوحدات يفوزة ببطولة الدوري الأردني

القدس - فاز فريق نداء جين يهني، من نادي الوحدات، ببطولة الدوري الأردني لكرة القدم، في المباراة النهائية التي أقيمت في عمان، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري.

### تسعة أندية نسوية تشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين الأولى لكرة الطائرة

القدس - ستشارك في بطولة كأس فلسطين لكرة الطائرة الأولى، تسعة أندية نسوية، في المباراة النهائية التي أقيمت في عمان، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري.

### الأولمبية تدعو اتحادي السباحة والعب القوي للاجتماع

القدس - تدعو اللجنة الأولمبية، في رام الله، اتحاد السباحة والعب القوي للاجتماع، في عمان، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري.

### بلدوة من المدرب علاء عبد ربه

القدس - سيقام في بلدة علاء عبد ربه، بطولة كرة القدم التي تنظمها جمعية علاء عبد ربه، بمشاركة ناديي بلدوة من المدرب علاء عبد ربه.

### مسكر "تاي تشي" تحت اشراف الخبير "فونغ ها"

القدس - سيقام في بلدة مسكر، بطولة التاي تشي التي تنظمها جمعية مسكر، تحت اشراف الخبير فونغ ها، بمشاركة ناديي مسكر.

### مشاركة ناجحة لشركة سبورز لاين في معرض بالمانيا

القدس - حققت شركة سبورز لاين، في عمان، مشاركة ناجحة في معرض بالمانيا، الذي أقيم في عمان، مساء يوم الأربعاء الموافق 17 من الشهر الجاري.

### بلدية بيت لحم تنظم خماسيات الأول من ايار

القدس - تنظم بلدية بيت لحم، في عمان، بطولة الخماسيات الأولى من ايار، بمشاركة ناديي بيت لحم.

### الجمعية الأيريمية تنظم بطولة الوفا، للاسرى

القدس - تنظم الجمعية الأيريمية، في عمان، بطولة الوفا للاسرى، بمشاركة ناديي الجمعية الأيريمية.

ANNEX E  
PRESS RELEASES

رئيس هيئة البترول الفلسطينية يتهم «حماس» بمصادرة ٢٥ ألف لتر من السولار من مستودعات الهيئة بالقطاع

بمصادرة ٢٥ ألف لتر من السولار من مستودعات الهيئة بالقطاع... رئيس هيئة البترول الفلسطينية يتهم «حماس» بمصادرة ٢٥ ألف لتر من السولار من مستودعات الهيئة بالقطاع...

اللجنة الإدارية تصدق في الأقصى والقدس نخسص مليوني دولار مساعدات طبية وغذائية لقطاع غزة

اللجنة الإدارية تصدق في الأقصى والقدس نخسص مليوني دولار مساعدات طبية وغذائية لقطاع غزة... اللجنة الإدارية تصدق في الأقصى والقدس نخسص مليوني دولار مساعدات طبية وغذائية لقطاع غزة...

تعمل بنصف طاقتها فقط التعمري يطالب بالتحقيق في اسباب عدم اصلاح ابار المياه في بيت لحم

تعمل بنصف طاقتها فقط التعمري يطالب بالتحقيق في اسباب عدم اصلاح ابار المياه في بيت لحم... التعمري يطالب بالتحقيق في اسباب عدم اصلاح ابار المياه في بيت لحم...

جامعة القدس تختتم أعمال مؤتمرها الأول حول الحماية القانونية للممتلكات الثقافية والمباني

جامعة القدس تختتم أعمال مؤتمرها الأول حول الحماية القانونية للممتلكات الثقافية والمباني... جامعة القدس تختتم أعمال مؤتمرها الأول حول الحماية القانونية للممتلكات الثقافية والمباني...

هود سونكر رئيس بعثة الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية: مساعدات الوكالة مستمرة في غزة وقضية الخليل المعقدة يجب حلها خارج نطاق الوداع

هود سونكر رئيس بعثة الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية: مساعدات الوكالة مستمرة في غزة وقضية الخليل المعقدة يجب حلها خارج نطاق الوداع... هود سونكر رئيس بعثة الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية...

وزارة بنية التحتية الفلسطينية: ٦٠٠ ألف دولار في طريقها لقطاع غزة

وزارة بنية التحتية الفلسطينية: ٦٠٠ ألف دولار في طريقها لقطاع غزة... وزارة بنية التحتية الفلسطينية: ٦٠٠ ألف دولار في طريقها لقطاع غزة...

مطالبة السلطة الوطنية بإصدار قانون يحمي الموروث الثقافي من مخاطر التدمير

مطالبة السلطة الوطنية بإصدار قانون يحمي الموروث الثقافي من مخاطر التدمير... مطالبة السلطة الوطنية بإصدار قانون يحمي الموروث الثقافي من مخاطر التدمير...

الاحتجاجات ثلاثية جوار زمامية

الاحتجاجات ثلاثية جوار زمامية... الاحتجاجات ثلاثية جوار زمامية...

تقوم بكتابة النالي

- 1. استشارات تقنية وتدريبية
2. اعادة لتقويم ودراسات تقنية
3. رزمة ومعدات وتوثيق الوثائق الوطنية
4. كتابة لوائح ونظم العمل والقطاع والزراعة
5. تطوير نظم المعلومات
6. كتابة لوائح العمل
7. كتابة لوائح العمل
8. كتابة لوائح العمل
9. كتابة لوائح العمل
10. كتابة لوائح العمل
11. استشارات تقنية لشركات وتدريب وتوثيق الوثائق
12. اراضي وعقارات واياة نويج
13. تصنيع واثان امنية واخرية وتصنيع طلائع تقوية

اعلان شاعر

اعلان شاعر... اعلان شركة جود لاك لتأجير السيارات بالقدس عن شاعر ولقائمة التاليف...

اعلان سائق

اعلان سائق... اعلان شركة جود لاك لتأجير السيارات بالقدس عن سائق ولقائمة التاليف...

Jerusalem Electric Co. Ltd. شركة الكهرباء العامة في القدس. خدمات كهربائية متنوعة.

المعمارة والاستشارات الخفيفة والتأهيلية. خدمات استشارية في البناء والتشييد.

المعهد الوطني للتكنولوجيا المعلومات. برامج تدريبية متخصصة في الحاسب والمعلومات.

سيارات لوجيستك. خدمات تأجير سيارات متنوعة مع سائقين مهنيين.

منتجع الكهوف السياحي. منتجع سياحي في كهف الكهوف مع مرافق ترفيهية.

المعهد الوطني للتكنولوجيا المعلومات. برامج تدريبية متخصصة في الحاسب والمعلومات.

USAID Media Tour To Hebron Governorate

ANNEX E PRESS RELEASES

# افتتاح قاعة عراية المتعددة الأغراض ووضع حجر الأساس لبناء الطابق الثاني في مدرسة يعبد

المتين والثمانين طالباً. وخلال استقباله لوفد ال يو اس ايد قال وليد العبادي رئيس بلدية يعبد، «أن هذا المشروع سيلبي الحاجة المحلية للصفوف الدراسية للسنوات الثلاث المقبلة، وسيوفر التعليم للطلاب داخل بلدة يعبد دون الحاجة للسفر إلى البلدات المجاورة»، وشكر العبادي الشعب الأميركي ممثلاً بال يو اس ايد على دعمهم المتواصل لعملية البناء في المنطقة.

ويهدف برنامج الإصلاح الديمقراطي المحلي (تواصل) إلى تقوية العلاقة بين البلدية والمواطن من خلال دعم البلديات في مجال بناء القدرات وتلبية احتياجات المواطنين بتنفيذ مشاريع تطويرية تحدد بناءً على احتياجات وأولويات المجتمع المحلي. هذا وتم الانتهاء من تنفيذ المرحلة الأولى من المشاريع في عدد من البلديات حيث تم تشييد موقف عام للسيارات في الظاهرية و مكتبة عامة في عزون ومركز مجتمعي في بني زيد ودعم لعدد من المؤسسات المحلية وللقدرات التخطيطية لمجلس حبلو ابي ديس، بالإضافة إلى مركز خدمات مجتمعية في بيت فجار، والعمل لا زال مستمر في سبعة وثلاثين بلدية الشركاء في المشروع في الضفة.

يذكر أن الحكومة الأميركية أنفقت منذ عام 1993 أكثر من 1.7 مليار دولار أميركي عبر مشاريع الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولية (USAID) في الضفة وغزة لمحاربة الفقر وتحسين مستويي الصحة والتعليم وخلق الوظائف والترويج للحكم النزيه.

اكمل وجه كما حصل بين برنامج تواصل وبرنامج الحدائق. وفالت لنا أبو حجلة «لقد تم تنفيذ هذه القاعة بعد ادراجها كأولوية ضمن ورشة التخطيط بالمشاركة المجتمعية التي تم عقدها العام الماضي في بلدة عراية بمشاركة كافة مؤسسات المجتمع المحلي وممثلين عن المواطنين، حيث تم وضع أسس خطة تطويرية للخدمات المقدمة من البلدية للمواطنين ورفع قدراتها وقام مشروع تواصل بتنفيذ جزء من الأولويات المحددة ويستمر في الفترة الحالية بتقديم الدعم المؤسسي للبلدية ورفع قدرات العاملين فيها. كما يتم تنفيذ كافة الأنشطة الداعمة بما فيها مشروع القاعة والحديقة بشراكة تامة بين فريق مؤسسة ال CHF وبين طاقم البلدية ومجلسها ورئيسها والذين قدموا كافة إمكانياتهم لضمان نجاح المشاريع».

ويذكر أن حديقة عراية قد تم تنفيذها بميزانية تزيد عن مئة ألف دولار على مساحة أربعة دونمات وهي تستقبل أهالي البلدة منذ العام 2006 وشيدت القاعة على أرض مجاورة وبميزانية وصلت إلى مئة وخمسين ألف دولار.

كذلك تم الاحتفال أمس بوضع حجر الأساس لبناء الطابق الثاني من مدرسة يعبد الأساسية للذكور، حيث يعمل برنامج «تواصل» بالشراكة مع بلدية يعبد على تنفيذ المشروع والذي سيضم ثمانية صفوف دراسية ستؤمن متؤم الحاجة التعليمية لما يقارب



قص شريط الافتتاح.

الماضي ومن المتوقع أن يتم استخدامها بشكل مكثف في فترة الصيف ما يشكل أيضاً مصدر دخل للبلدية. وثوّه في نهاية كلمته إلى الاحتياجات الأخرى للبلدة وفي مقدمتها المخطط الهيكلي واكد هارن، على التزام الشعب الأميركي بدعم الشعب الفلسطيني في كافة مناحي الحياة وصولاً بهم لحياة كريمة، موضحاً أن برنامج (تواصل) أحد المساهمات المباشرة لتحقيق احتياجات المجتمع الفلسطيني بكافة شرائحه عبر دعم الهيئات المحلية والترويج للحكم الرشيد، وأشار إلى أهمية الربط بين البرامج المختلفة التي تمولها الوكالة لتؤدي وظيفتها في خدمة الشعب الفلسطيني على

الحدائق الفلسطيني الأميركي وغيرها من البرامج التي مولتها الوكالة الأميركية لصلحة الشعب الفلسطيني. وأكد العارضة على الأثر الإيجابي الذي أحدثته الحديقة والقاعة على نمط حياة أهالي عراية والقرى المجاورة حيث تفقّر القرية والمنطقة لمثل هذه المواقع والتي يتم استخدامها في المناسبات الخاصة والعامية والاجتماعات والدورات التدريبية التي يتم عقدها من قبل المؤسسات الأهلية والبلدية والمؤسسات الدولية الداعمة، وأكد أنه حتى قبل افتتاح القاعة بشكل رسمي فإن الحاجة الملحة دفعت البلدية للسماح لأهالي باستخدامها لأكثر من مناسبة فأقيمت عدة أفراح واجتماعات لبعض المؤسسات في الشهر

جنين - الكليان - احتفال أهالي بلدة عراية أمس بافتتاح قاعة عراية متعددة الأغراض وذلك على أرض حديقة عراية والتي تم تنفيذها ضمن برنامج الإصلاح الديمقراطي المحلي (تواصل) للمول من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولية (USAID). وتم الاحتفال تحت رعاية بديفد هارن نائب رئيس بعثة الـ USAID للضفة الغربية وغزة وأديب العارضة رئيس بلدية عراية ولنا أبو حجلة مدير عام مؤسسة CHF الدولية في الضفة وغزة المنفذة للبرنامج إضافة لممثل محافظ جنين وممثلاً عن وزير الحكم المحلي، وعدد من أعضاء المجلس البلدي وممثلين عن البلديات المجاورة والمؤسسات الأهلية والقطاع الخاص ووجهاء البلدة، إضافة إلى ممثلي لجنة المجتمع المحلي والتي تم تشكيلها من خلال المشروع للعمل مع بلدية عراية على تخطيط وتنفيذ المشاريع التنموية المختلفة. ويذكر أن القاعة متعددة الأغراض تمت إقامتها على أرض حديقة عراية العامة والتي أقيمت في عام 2006 ضمن برنامج الحدائق الفلسطيني الأميركي (PARCS) للمول أيضاً من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية والمنفذ من قبل مؤسسة الـ CHF الدولية.

عبر أديب العارضة، رئيس بلدية عراية وفي كلمته خلال مراسم الافتتاح، عن امتنان أهالي عراية للشعب الأميركي لما قدمه من خدمات لسكان البلدة عبر برامج الـ USAID المختلفة، خاصة بالذكر برنامج الإصلاح الديمقراطي المحلي «تواصل» وبرنامج

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بدعم من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية

## الاحتفال بافتتاح قاعة عرابة ووضع الحجر الأساس للطابق الثاني من مدرسة يعبد



افتتاح القاعة.

بمشاركة كافة مؤسسات المجتمع المحلي وممثلين عن المواطنين، حيث تم وضع أسس خطة تطويرية للخدمات المقدمة من البلدية للمواطنين ورفع قدراتها، وقام مشروع تواصل بتنفيذ جزء من الأولويات المحددة ويستمر في الفترة الحالية بتقديم الدعم المؤسساتي للبلدية ورفع قدرات العاملين فيها، كما يتم تنفيذ كافة النشاطات الداعمة بما فيها مشروع القاعة والحديقة بشراكة تامة بين فريق مؤسسة الـ CHF وطواقم البلدية ومجلسها ورئيسها، الذين قدموا كافة امكانياتهم لضمان نجاح المشاريع.

وتم تنفيذ الحديقة بميزانية تزيد على مئة ألف دولار، على مساحة اربعة دونمات، وهي تستقبل اهالي البلدة منذ العام ٢٠٠٦، وشيدت القاعة على ارض مجاورة وميزانية وصلت الى مئة وخمسين ألف دولار.

من جهة اخرى، تم الاحتفال، امس، بوضع الحجر الاساس لبناء الطابق الثاني من مدرسة يعبد الاساسية للذكور، حيث يعمل برنامج «تواصل» بالشراكة مع بلدية يعبد على تنفيذ المشروع، والذي سيشتمل ثمانية صفوف دراسية ستؤمن الحاجة التعليمية لما يقارب المئتين والثمانين طالباً. وقال وليد العبادي رئيس البلدية «ان هذا المشروع سيلبي الحاجة المحلية للصفوف الدراسية للسنوات الثلاث القادمة، وسيوفر التعليم للطلاب داخل بلدة يعبد دون الحاجة للسفر الى البلدات المجاورة، شاكرًا الشعب الأميركي ممثلاً بـ (USAID) على دعمهم المتواصل لعملية البناء في المنطقة».

يذكر ان الحكومة الأميركية انفتحت منذ العام ١٩٩٣ أكثر من ١٧ مليار دولار عبر مشاريع الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولية (USAID) في الضفة الغربية وغزة، لحاربة الفقر، وتحسين مستوى الصحة والتعليم وخلق الوظائف والترويج للحكم النزيه.

وفي كلمته خلال مراسم الافتتاح، عبر العارضة، عن امتنان اهالي عرابة للشعب الأميركي لما قدمه من خدمات لسكان البلدة عبر برامج الـ (USAID) المختلفة، خاصا بالذكر برنامج الإصلاح الديمقراطي المحلي «تواصل» وبرنامج الحدائق الفلسطيني الأميركي، وغيرها من البرامج التي مولتها الوكالة الأميركية لمصلحة الشعب الفلسطيني، مشيراً الى الاثر الإيجابي للحديقة والقاعة على نطق حياة اهالي عرابة والقرى المجاورة.

واكد هاردين التزام الشعب الأميركي بدعم الشعب الفلسطيني في كافة مناحي الحياة، وصولاً بهم لحياة كريمة، موضحاً ان برنامج «تواصل» احدى المساهمات المباشرة لتحقيق احتياجات المجتمع الفلسطيني بكافة شرائحه، عبر دعم الهيئات المحلية والترويج للحكم الرشيد، مشيراً الى اهمية الربط بين البرامج المختلفة التي تمويلها الوكالة لتؤدي وظيفتها في خدمة الشعب الفلسطيني على اكمل وجه، كما حصل بين برنامج تواصل وبرنامج الحدائق.

وقالت ابو حجلة: «لقد تم تنفيذ هذه القاعة بعد ادراجها كأولوية ضمن ورشة التخطيط بالمشاركة المجتمعية التي تم عقدها العام المنصرم في بلدة عرابة».

رام الله- «الإيام»: احتفل اهالي بلدة عرابة، امس، بافتتاح قاعة عرابة متعددة الأغراض، على ارض حديقة عرابة، التي تم تنفيذها ضمن برنامج الإصلاح الديمقراطي المحلي «تواصل»، الممول من الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية الدولية (USAID).

وتم الاحتفال تحت رعاية ديفيد هاردين نائب رئيس بعثة الـ (USAID) للضفة الغربية وغزة، واديب العارضة رئيس بلدية عرابة، ولنا ابو حجلة مدير عام مؤسسة CHF الدولية في الضفة وغزة، المنفذة لبرنامج، اضافة لممثل محافظ جنين، وممثل عن وزارة الحكم المحلي، وعدد من اعضاء المجلس البلدي وممثلين عن البلدات المجاورة، والمؤسسات الاهلية والقطاع الخاص ووجهاء البلد، وممثلني لجنة المجتمع المحلي، والتي تم تشكيلها من خلال المشروع للعمل مع بلدية عرابة على تخطيط وتنفيذ المشاريع التنموية المختلفة.

يذكر ان القاعة متعددة الأغراض تمت اقامتها على ارض حديقة عرابة العامة، التي اقيمت في العام ٢٠٠٦، ضمن برنامج الحدائق الفلسطيني الأميركي (PARCS) الممول ايضاً من قبل الوكالة الأميركية للتنمية، والمنفذ من قبل مؤسسة الـ CHF الدولية.



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