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WEST BANK AND GAZA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM QUARTERLY REPORT V 1 OCTOBER–31 DECEMBER 2009



DECEMBER 2009

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development by ARD.

Prepared for the United States Agency for International Development under the Building Recovery and Reform through Democratic Governance (BRDG) Indefinite Quantity Contract (IQC), Contract Number DFD-I-04-05-00218-00, Task Order Number 4.

Implemented by:

ARD, Inc.
P.O. Box 1397
Burlington, VT 05402

Cover photo: (L) USAID/CEP, through Relief International, distributed non-food items in Rafah, Khan Younis, and the Middle Area in September 2009. The packages included bed sets, children's underclothes, towels, and hygiene materials. (R) USAID/CEP, through ACTED, distributed school uniforms and school supplies to needy families who lost their homes.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AADM	Al-Hares Association for Democracy and Media
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
AISG	American International School-Gaza
ANERA	American Near East Refugee Aid
AWCS	Adh Dhahiriya Women’s Charitable Society
AYSC	Adh Dhahiriya Youth Club
BCCI	Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry
BRCS	The Blind Rehabilitation and Care Society
BSM	Beit Sahur Municipality
BVC	Bizzariya Village Council
CB	Community Based
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEP	Civic Engagement Program
CHF	Community Housing Fund
CPF	Community Participation Forum
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOP	The Cooperative Society for Olive Pressing
GO	Government Organization
HA	Humanitarian Assistance
ICCE	International Center for Contemporary Education
INGO	International NGO
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities
IRD	International Relief and Development
IT	Information Technology
LGU	Local Government Unit
LHA	Life and Hope Association
MCI	Mercy Corps International
NCD	National Council for Development
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCBS	Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics
PCDCR	Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution

PCMC	Palestinian Center for Mass Communication
QADS	Qatanna Association for Development and Strengthening
RFA	Request for Applications
RI	Relief International
SCUS	Save the Children Federation
SPSW	Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Workers
SSC	Salfit Sport, Cultural and Social Club
TGYC	Tura al Gharbiya Youth Club
UHIGA	Universities and Higher Institutions Graduates Association
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VC	Village Council

I.0 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Civic Engagement Program (CEP) II aims to support US foreign policy objectives toward a viable, democratic Palestinian state living in peace and security with Israel and her neighbors by providing a flexible grants program focused on visibly improving the quality of life for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. CEP II, initiated in October of 2008, builds upon the interventions undertaken from June 2005 until December 2007 under USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) and those of CEP I (December 2007-May 2009) to bolster prospects for peace in the region. CEP II was originally a \$20,000,000 follow-on program to CEP I, but with the unexpected developments on the security situation in Gaza and the "Cast Lead" Operation, USAID added another \$40,500,000 (October 2009) to the program budget to allow for adequate humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

On the technical side, an important addition to the program is the capacity-building component that did not exist under OTI or CEP I. CEP has identified six institutions as long-term partners, including public and semi-public offices as well as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working in the different sectors. CEP will help improve their structure, efficiency, and service provision capacity. CEP submitted a list of these institutions to USAID and proposed activity ideas for each. Upon approval from USAID, CEP started working with the target institutions to develop an action plan to address their priorities, and identified the approaches and assistance packages to be provided (through grants and technical assistance). CEP will identify an additional four institutions during the next quarter to comply with the requirement of building the capacity of 10 institutions during the lifetime of the program.

Initially, in October 2008, CEP began with two strategic objectives aimed at promoting stability and democratic reform in the Palestinian Territory. Following the Israeli "Cast Lead" military operation that started 28 December 2008, and recognizing the critical role of humanitarian assistance to the people of the Gaza Strip, USAID added two new strategic objectives to the current program implementation phase. The four objectives of CEP are:

- 1) Support initiatives and processes that support a democratic, peaceful, and prosperous Palestinian state.
- 2) Strengthen reform-minded Palestinian leaders and institutions in support of improved service provision and increased responsiveness to citizen needs.
- 3) Supply basic humanitarian commodities to disadvantaged groups, to preserve hope and moderation among impoverished populations.
- 4) Distribute food and relief items directly or through work and training, to preserve hope and moderation among impoverished populations.

The program complements other activities of the USAID/West Bank and Gaza Mission, and targets critical, time-sensitive initiatives consistent with the Mission's transformational development goals and US foreign policy objectives.

This report covers the period from October through December of 2009.

2.0 PROGRAMMING

The quarter's major achievements included the following.

- During this quarter, CEP has completed, or is in the process of implementing, 52 grants for a total of \$13,203,978. These grants include Gaza humanitarian assistance emergency efforts, ongoing West Bank democracy and governance activities, and USAID logistics support operations.
- CEP has completed the third round of requests for applications (RFAs) for the Gaza Emergency Response for which eight US NGOs implemented humanitarian assistance projects. The American International School-Gaza (AISG) also received two grants for a total of \$452,182 to provide the school with textbooks and school supplies.
- Due to the successes of the first, second, and third rounds and upon a request from USAID, CEP has launched and processed the fourth round of RFAs to 10 US-based international NGOs (INGOs), which have the capacity and the presence in the Gaza Strip to provide additional humanitarian assistance with a ceiling of \$750,000 per grant. Seven of the 10 INGOs responded. In addition, unsolicited proposals from six US-based and two other international INGOs have been received to implement early recovery interventions. USAID has fixed a one-time limited ceiling of \$2 million for unsolicited proposals, valid until 15 January 2010.

The program's current activities are focused on two basic programming areas—emergency assistance grants in the Gaza Strip, and grant activities in the West Bank that promote political reform and moderation and improved service delivery. Highlights of those program areas follow.

2.1 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS – GAZA

As USAID continues its response to the humanitarian crisis that resulted from the Israeli “Cast Lead” operation in Gaza, every effort has been made to concentrate the Mission's collective resources to alleviate the suffering of disadvantaged people in Gaza. Due to the unique and flexible nature of the program's task order contract, CEP has been asked to serve as the primary mechanism for emergency response efforts by funding a group of high-value (\$250,000–\$750,000) grants to on-the-ground US organizations with the capacity to distribute a variety of food and non-food items to those in need throughout Gaza.

Under the initial response, CEP launched the **first round of RFAs** for Gaza emergency assistance. Six emergency grants were provided to six US-based INGOs. After the **second round of RFAs**, 10 grants were provided to nine US INGOs and one French-based INGO. The nine US INGOs included World Vision International, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Relief International (RI), Save the Children Federation (SCUS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Mercy Corps International (MCI), American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), CARE International (Care), and Community Housing Fund (CHF) International. The French-based Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) is the tenth INGO awarded a grant. These international NGOs were awarded grants up to \$750,000 each, to provide affected families with basic commodities consistent with USAID's humanitarian relief plans. The **third round of RFAs** resulted in eight grants to eight US INGOs, which included IOCC, RI, SCUS, CRS, MCI, ANERA, CHF

CEP Programs in Gaza January 2009 – Present

ARD/CEP implemented programs throughout the Gaza Strip:

- 85,523 families have benefited.
- 909,501 people have benefited.
- 40 projects have been completed, totaling \$12,447,500.
- 12 projects are under implementation, totaling \$5,509,055.
- 18 projects are under consideration, totaling \$20,238,768.
- 327 trucks have shipped goods to Gaza.
- 7,194 total pallets have been imported to families in need.

International, and International Relief and Development (IRD). As with the second round, these INGOs were awarded grants up to \$750,000 each, to provide affected families with basic commodities consistent with USAID’s humanitarian relief plans.

Under the **fourth round of RFAs**, seven grants are to be provided to seven US INGOs. The seven US INGOs include IOCC, RI, CRS, MCI, ANERA, CHF International, and IRD. These international NGOs are to be awarded grants for up to \$750,000 each, to provide affected families with basic commodities consistent with USAID’s humanitarian relief plans.

Unsolicited proposals for early recovery interventions have resulted in 10 grants to be provided to six US and two non-US INGOs. The six US INGOs include IOCC, RI, CRS, MCI, CHF International, and IRD. The two non-US INGOs are ACTED and Dan Church Aid. These INGOs will be awarded grants of up to \$2 million each to implement early recovery interventions such as small cleanup activities, cash for work, and fishermen and farmers support activities consistent with USAID’s Gaza recovery plans.

SPECIAL FOCUS: GAZA STRIP

As the recent crisis in the Gaza Strip unfolded in the aftermath of Israel’s “Cast Lead” military operation, USAID tasked CEP to immediately mobilize and shift their mission focus from ongoing democracy and governance grant activities to emergency grants designed to provide humanitarian assistance support in efforts to ease the suffering of families across Gaza. Within 10 days of the onset of the crisis, CEP’s staff had responded to the most urgent needs by implementing grants totaling \$206,496 worth of food, medical supplies, blankets and bedding for hospitals. In the months that followed, CEP continued to focus on humanitarian assistance by providing a wide range of grants through local and international organizations totaling \$16.7 million. CEP is currently implementing \$4.2 million in grants to INGOs as international assistance moves into the early recovery phase of operations.



Due to the unique and flexible nature of CEP’s task order contract, USAID was able to respond to the crisis effectively and efficiently, utilizing CEP to serve as the primary mechanism for emergency response efforts. By funding high-value (\$250K–\$2 million) grants to international and US organizations with on-the-ground capacity in Gaza, distribution of crucial humanitarian assistance of food and non-food items has reached almost a million beneficiaries throughout the Gaza Strip. To accommodate the ever-increasing transport need, USAID/CEP established the Logistic Support Unit for transport of commodities. This unit provides critical coordination for all needed procurement in the West Bank.

2.2 WEST BANK REFORM AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT

As noted in Section 1, CEP’s second strategic objective is to “Strengthen reform-minded Palestinian leaders and institutions in support of improved service provision and increased responsiveness to citizen needs.” CEP’s goal is to build the capacity of 10 Palestinian organizations. The program’s capacity-building approach draws on local knowledge of service provision gaps and each organization’s self-identified capacity weaknesses. CEP intends to build a sustainable institutional basis for service delivery while promoting stronger channels of communication between end users and institutional service providers for hands-on civic development.

CEP programs have worked with a number of Palestinian Authority (PA) entities and NGOs throughout the West Bank and Gaza at both the local and national levels. Through this wide network, CEP has selected six institutions (with USAID approval) to work with to date:

- Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce,
- Hebron South Chamber of Commerce,
- Palestinian Center for Mass Communication (PCMC),
- Palestinian Olympic Committee,
- Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Worker, and
- Life and Hope Association (LHA).

CEP began work with these six organizations and has identified a set of activities as the first phase in the process of building their capacity, and has established a tentative overall implementation schedule within a reasonable time frame. The CEP team is in the process of identifying the remaining four institutions.

SPECIAL FOCUS: HEBRON GOVERNORATE

Once the Palestinian Authority's (PA) Security Plan was implemented in November 2008, USAID/CEP identified Hebron Governorate as a target area for program assistance in the West Bank. To complement successes achieved by the PA on the security front, USAID/CEP has partnered with village councils, municipalities, and NGOs throughout Hebron Governorate, working to bolster implementation of the



USAID/CEP assisted rehabilitation of the Al Hussein Bin Ali Sports Field in Hebron City by contributing \$220,000 for the sports field's Astroturf. Prime Minister Salam Fayyad and the Mayor of Hebron inaugurated Al Hussein Bin Ali Sports Field on 10 September 2009, with 8000 people in attendance. The mayor stated, "thanks to USAID/CEP, the field is a dream come true, as Hebron municipality has fulfilled its promise to the youth in the city to establish a suitable place to practice sports and host championships."

Security Plan and improve the socioeconomic conditions of local residents.

USAID/CEP has particularly targeted areas in Hebron most affected by the Separation Barrier across the western and southern towns and villages of the governorate: Beit Ummar, Dura, Ithna, Kharas, Biet Ula, and Adh Dhahiriya. Throughout Hebron, USAID/CEP has identified potential opportunities to advance the peace process, and enhance moderate governmental and nongovernmental entities' responsiveness to citizens' needs. CEP has helped to rehabilitate facilities and provide equipment for youth sports (see box at left), repair critical municipal infrastructure, reactivate essential public services, and provide support for activities which help engage the local community.

For example, during Ramadan, USAID/CEP partnered with Hebron Municipality to revive the old city and create an attractive business environment and an enjoyable holiday season. Ramadan iftars were offered to 1,250 vulnerable families in the old city. USAID/CEP also provided 8,000 meters of decorative colored lights that were installed in the center of Hebron and the old city.

In Adh Dhahiriya, USAID/CEP played a critical role in building the capacity of the Adh Dhahiriya Youth Club (AYSC). The program provided the Club with furniture and equipment and five days of training on fundraising, organizational management, and how civil society can impact local governance. The training workshop was successful in strengthening AYSC's institutional capacity, and their grassroots credibility in the town of Adh Dhahiriya. AYSC's improved planning, public outreach, and community involvement, and new equipment and furniture have allowed them to perform their mission very effectively.

To enhance grassroots credibility within Adh Dhahiriya further, USAID/CEP provided the Adh Dhahiriya Women's Charitable Society (AWCS) with furniture and equipment to help them conduct trainings for women. Due to USAID/CEP's assistance, AWCS was able to move to a bigger center, and implement activities in partnership with UNICEF and Red Crescent. These activities included raising

women's awareness of their health and the effects of early marriage, and training jobless women in skills most needed in the marketplace. Because of CEP's assistance, the number of women participating in the trainings has increased considerably.

Another significant contribution of USAID/CEP in the governorate was its partnership with Kharas Municipality. Through this partnership, USAID/CEP helped strengthen the moderate leadership of Kharas and enhanced its public outreach among youth in the municipality. CEP also helped upgrade the town's sports field (below) to create a venue for youth to spend time in constructive social and sports activities.



USAID/CEP provided a grant to Kharas Municipality to enlarge the sports field, build the boundary walls, level the ground, and install fences and lighting.

The activity also included organizing a Community Participation Forum (CPF). Kharas organized the CPF to keep the local community informed on the achievements and the vision of the municipal council, and to engage the community and local leaders in collective actions to improve their city. The sports field has become a public venue for sports, cultural and social activities in Kharas, and has created public confidence in the moderate elected municipal leadership.

2.3 POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION

The main political trends and developments during the quarter are summarized below.

2.3.1 POLITICAL SITUATION

In September 2009, the Egyptians presented a comprehensive proposal to resolve the outstanding issues dividing Palestinians, building on seven rounds of dialogue since the early months of 2009, and based on holding elections in the first half of 2010. Fatah agreed to sign the proposal in late September and on 23 October 2009, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas issued a decree calling for free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories to be held on Sunday, 24 January 2010.

However, in the Gaza Strip, Hamas continued its control, using an iron hand policy to prevent political activities of other political groups. Hamas' *de facto* government in Gaza announced their refusal to conduct presidential and parliamentary elections in Gaza in January 2010, and refused to sign the Egyptian initiative for national reconciliation, decreasing the possibility to achieve serious development in local Palestinian politics.

PA officials have declared that holding the elections is impossible due to Hamas control over Gaza Strip and the unsuccessful efforts for Palestinian reconciliation. Given the situation, the Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization extended President Mahmoud Abbas and the Legislative Council's terms until an agreement between the Palestinian factions is reached.

Local Councils Elections. As the term in office for all the local PA councils expired, the Ministry of Local Governance issued a decision that all municipalities and acting local councils refrain from making any significant decisions. The decision means that the elections for local municipal councils will take place soon. The Minister of Local Governance (and other PA officials) indicated that local elections are likely to take place in May 2010.

Egypt has begun the construction of a metal wall along its border with the Gaza Strip. In December 2009, the Egyptian authorities began building an underground metal wall along their border with the Gaza Strip in an effort to shut down the smuggling tunnels. The wall will be nine to 10 kilometers long, and will reach 20 to 30 meters underground. Hamas officials declared their opposition to the Egyptian plan, which will add to the siege on Gaza. Citizens in the Gaza Strip are worried that materials available in the local market will disappear. Their worries appear to be realistic—prices of

materials coming to Gaza via tunnels have risen following the shutdown of some tunnels where the metal wall has been installed.

Prisoner exchange deal. The German mediation between the Israeli government and Hamas concerning a prisoners' exchange deal has still not reached agreement. Contradictory reports were issued in December about a deal in which Hamas would free Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, held hostage in Gaza since 2006, in exchange for hundreds of Arab and Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails. Israel wants to deport some of the prisoners outside the Palestinian territories under the swap, but Hamas is trying to reduce the number.

2.3.2 ECONOMIC SITUATION

The unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territories is still high, although the unemployment rate for the third quarter of 2009 decreased to 25.8%, compared to the second quarter of the year when it reached 27.5%. The unemployment rate for 2008 was 26.0%, for 2007 was 21.5%, and for 2006 was 23.6%.

Consumer prices also increased in 2009. According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Palestinian Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.63% in November 2009. The overall CPI for the Palestinian Territories uses 2004 as the base year (2004=100), and reached 127.01 in November 2009, an increase of 3.19% compared with November 2008.

Gaza Economy. Because of Israel's blockade, no Palestinian exports were allowed out during the reporting period, and there has been no significant improvement in access and movement. Imports into Gaza were mostly humanitarian assistance in nature, consisting of food and medical supplies. The short-term impact of the siege is apparent in the slow economic progress of Gaza's economy—resulting in almost a complete shutdown of the local industries and businesses. The longer-term consequences of the siege are of great concern, especially in terms of deteriorating public infrastructure and destruction of livelihoods among a population of whom half are children. Palestinians in Gaza continue to pin their hopes to the possible positive end to the case of the abducted Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit. For citizens in Gaza, closing this deal will mean the possible ending of the Israeli siege on Gaza.

2.3.3 PROGRAMMING IMPLICATIONS

In response to the political and economic conditions described above, and in continuation of the previous period's tendency to focus on satisfying the most urgent needs on the ground, CEP continued to identify opportunities to help economic recovery and political moderation with its partners while responding to emerging needs, especially in Gaza. Most of the activities the program team identified and cleared during the reporting period in the West Bank were infrastructure and capacity building oriented—meant to improve the daily life of Palestinians and to provide people with tangible results. Since the PA has been focusing on implementation of the Security Plan and improving law and order, USAID channeled its efforts to parallel the PA's effort and improve economic conditions. USAID/CEP's projects also focused on empowering local moderate leaders and councils, and supporting local initiatives to help build a democratic and peaceful Palestinian state.

3.0 SUCCESS STORIES

TOURISM PROMOTION FESTIVAL - BEIT SAHUR

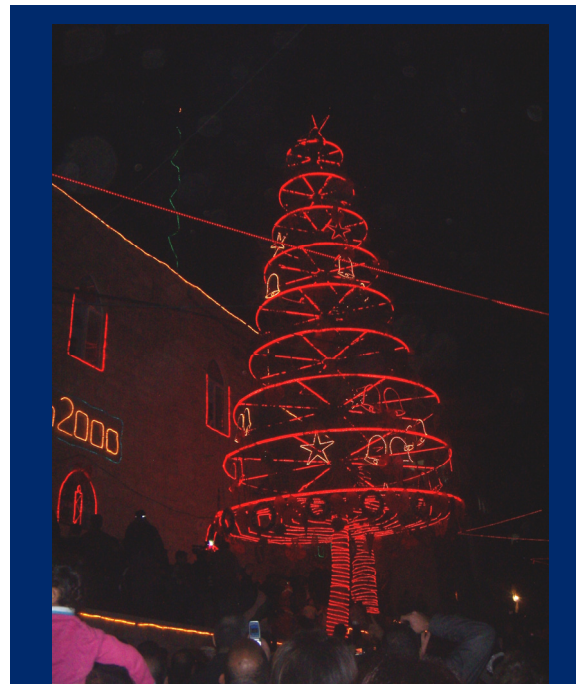
In partnership with Beit Sahur Municipality, USAID/CEP helped conduct a tourism promotion festival during the holiday season. The festival was inaugurated under the patronage of Prime Minister Fayyad, the Palestinian Tourism Minister, and Mayor of Beit Sahur with the participation of diplomatic mission representatives. USAID/CEP provided Beit Sahur with decorative lights, banners, posters, and billboards as well as Christmas gifts for visitors (mugs and diaries) and children (school kits). The program included the annual peace march in Beit Sahur, calling for peace and reconciliation among people in the Holy Land.

The celebration began with the announcement of Beit Sahur's building of a commercial center to support the city's commercial and business activities. The PA Ministry of Finance will finance it. Prime Minister Fayyad, along with the Mayor Hani Al Hayek, USAID Mission Director Howard Sumka, and Latin Patriarch Michael Sabbah unveiled the project plaque declaring its official beginning. The Prime Minister then led the peace march, which started at "Masmaka" square. Other marchers included the Mission Director, Beit Sahur Mayor, Latin Patriarch, the Director of the EU Mission, consuls of diplomatic missions, mayors of municipalities from Hebron and Bethlehem Districts, religious and social leaders, and about 5,000 people from Bethlehem governorate. The media presence at the event was remarkable—local TV stations and international satellite channels such as MBC and Palestine TV covered the event, and it was broadcast live on Al-Jazeera "Mubasher". Local newspaper correspondents such as Ma'an News Agency and Al Quds were also present and covered the event.

The general atmosphere during the peace march was festive because of the decorative colored lights, banners, flags, and posters installed along the march route, contributed by USAID/CEP. The different colors lit Beit Sahur's dark streets, leading the marchers and carrying the message of love and peace to the event site and the Christmas tree, just as the star led the shepherds with the "Peace on Earth" announcement about 2000 years ago in the same place.

When the march reached the event site, the mayor and his guests stood at the platform and the choir sang. The presenter welcomed everybody in the name of the municipality and the celebration started with the Palestinian national anthem while the participants stood in silence. Speakers included the Mayor, the Latin Patriarch, the USAID Mission Director, and the Prime Minister.

The USAID Mission Director, Howard Sumka, expressed the support of the US government to the establishment of a Palestinian state and to the efforts of the Prime Minister to build the PA institutions on a modern and effective basis. He thanked Mayor Al Hayek and hoped for the continuation of the Peace Park which was supported earlier this year by USAID. The Mission Director reiterated USAID's ongoing support to promote tourism in Beit Sahur and Bethlehem as the world's attention is focused on these areas during the holiday season. He also reaffirmed USAID's goal to improve the economic



A Christmas tree marks the culmination of the peace march in Beit Sahur, signifying "Peace on Earth".

situation in Bethlehem as well as other cities of the West Bank, to improve the living conditions of Palestinians and to give them hope for the better future. The Mission Director wished all a Merry Christmas and, “as per the message of the angels at the shepherds’ field, ‘Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will to men””.

The municipality, with the support of USAID/CEP, distributed 1,100 gifts for children at the kindergarten and first grade level in nine schools in Beit Sahur. The gifts were distributed to students of all religious backgrounds, reaching children in need who usually do not get gifts because of social or economic problems their families are facing.

SALFIT SPORTS’ CLUB



“Salfit Sport, Cultural, and Social Club is now best suited to meet the needs of its members and the youth population in the city, thanks to USAID/CEP’s support which enhanced the club’s social and sports activities.”
Dr. Iyad Rammal, Chairman of the Club Board.

USAID/CEP provided the Salfit Sport, Cultural and Social Club (SSC) with a modern gym hall; office equipment; sports equipment; mobile basketball rings; and equipment for the club’s football, basketball, and table tennis teams in addition to renovating the club’s premises. This grant has markedly developed the capacity of the club and enhanced its services to its members.

The gym hall, which was established with funds from USAID/CEP, has become a generator of income for the club, as approximately 100 youth have become active members who regularly train at SSC. This program has proven sustainable; SSC hired two full-time employees to maintain the program.

“USAID/CEP’s support was very helpful in providing many of the sport facilities which has encouraged the youth to join the club and participate in different games. Whereas, we have now about 80 players who are participating in different teams: football, basketball, handball and table tennis. Prior to USAID/CEP’s assistance, we hardly were able to recruit a football team and provide its members with the needed uniforms, but now all sports teams have a basic uniform and this was very encouraging for them...” stressed Mr. Rammal, the Chairman of the Club’s Board. The improvement of the club sports teams became apparent when club won the West Bank Table Tennis first-level league. The club’s improved

services have significantly empowered the teams, and as a result the table tennis team now qualifies to play in the West Bank championship league.

With the renovation of the club premises, the club now has more opportunities to offer better services not only to its members, but also to the local community. The club can be used for social and cultural events as well.

TULKARM MUNICIPALITY

Tulkarm Municipality was struggling to reorganize the traffic in their city. A grant from USAID/CEP paved the way for the municipality to build a new public transportation square to replace the old one and to reorganize the city traffic, as this square limited the disorder caused by buses and taxis in the city.

Tulkarm's contribution was about \$350,000 while USAID support reached \$190,000. USAID contributed the installation of 2,000 m² of shade coverings, 800 m³ of aggregate base, and 4,360 m² of sidewalk tile.

USAID and the Tulkarm Municipality inaugurated the new public transportation square in Tulkarem in the presence of the Governor of Tulkarm, Talal Dweikat, and Tulkarm Mayor Ahmad Abdel Raziq. When the transportation square was opened, the taxi drivers as well as the citizens found it difficult to move through the new square, according to municipality engineer, Oday Barqawi. However, after awhile people adjusted. Galeb Howety, a taxi driver was very happy with the new transportation square, which limited the chaos that existed with old transportation square. The Municipality Plan includes the creation of an open space in the market place within the transportation square by moving dozens of mobile retailers from the city center to the new transportation square.



Tulkarm's new transportation square.

GAZA EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Six hundred vulnerable families in North Gaza and Khan Younis received water tanks. Thousands of families lost their water tanks during the “Cast Lead” operation and were not able to replace them due to the high cost. USAID/CEP distributed water tanks to families in need through Mercy Corps. Two hundred water tanks were distributed in North Gaza and 400 in Khan Younis. Final distribution of tanks in Gaza (300) will take place this quarter.



Two thousand and twenty-five disadvantaged families with partially or wholly damaged homes across the Gaza Strip received school kits and school uniform vouchers. To provide vulnerable families with immediate and timely disaster relief, USAID/CEP distributed school uniforms and school supplies through ACTED to needy families who lost their homes. Distribution took place throughout the Gaza Strip: Beit Lahia (400), South Gaza (305), West Gaza (229), East Gaza (179), and North Gaza (209). This grant has significantly eased conditions facing families who lost their homes. Most families who came to the distribution centers expressed their gratitude to USAID/CEP for helping them provide for their children.

One thousand, six hundred and eighty-three families across Gaza received non-food packages. In its efforts to alleviate the suffering of disadvantaged families in Gaza, USAID/CEP distributed non-food items in Rafah, Khan Younis, and the Middle Area through RI on September 15, 2009. The packages included bed sets, children's underclothes, towels, and hygiene materials.

Disadvantaged families across the Gaza Strip attended lectures on healthy nutrition practices and received food, clothing, and hygiene kits. Through grants provided by USAID/CEP, IRD distributed 2,470 food packages to needy families on August 30 and 31 through seven local NGO partners. They planned 12 different activities for children; 1,512 children attended the activities and 2,489 recreational kits were distributed. IRD and the local NGOs conducted 11 personal hygiene promotion lectures and 10 lectures



on healthy nutritional practices to raise health awareness and improve the daily lives of Gazans; 2,538 people attended the lectures. IRD also distributed 2,491 clothing kits for unprivileged families.

As political tensions in the Gaza Strip have escalated, the situation for Gazans has worsened, with marked increases in unemployment, poverty, and deaths. Not only have people's livelihoods been severely affected, but entire families have been rendered homeless. The combination of unemployment, closures, and restrictions placed on workers, industries, goods, and services has severely impacted the Gazan population and they have become markedly dependent on humanitarian assistance.

In response to this complex set of problems, USAID/CEP has granted INGOs working in the Gaza Strip with funds to respond to emerging needs rapidly. Through such grants, USAID/CEP aims to help the international organizations present in Gaza to deliver better services to affected families internally displaced and/or directly impacted by the conflict.



Mrs. Ni'ma Al Hamss is a mother of seven, one of whom is handicapped. Her handicapped daughter is 43 years old, has chronic epilepsy, suffers from severe bouts of pain, and needs continuous treatment and medication. She primarily receives both from the local UNRWA clinic. The Al Hamss family's needs are greater than the available assistance, but USAID/CEP grants have helped Mrs. Al Hamss provide for her children and alleviate the suffering of the family. The 60-year-old unemployed mother has been receiving food and non-food assistance from USAID/CEP through CRS. This has helped in lessening hardships and challenges facing the family.

Mrs. Ni'ma Al Hamss said: "I have no idea what I could have done without the assistance from USAID/CEP. Today, the local organization informed me that I will receive assistance from USAID/CEP and this is not the first time to get such assistance through local charities. I have appreciation for all of those working to help me and my family. I pray with thankfulness for each and every one of them. This assistance helps me to know that I am not alone and it eases the pain of my daughter, and serves my other children."

She wiped her tears as she added:

"the physical damages to my home are much lighter than families who lost their home completely, however, I have to deal with the pain of seven children including my handicapped daughter and the complications caused by the sounds of bombing and lack of medications and food. I thank you for not letting my children starve; I thank you for helping me provide for my children...I thank you for giving me some light...I thank you for giving me hope..."

4.0 CEP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The following summarizes the specific project activities CEP implemented and completed during the past quarter.

4.1 PROJECTS COMPLETED

ARDWBG305 VC Main Road Beautification Deir Ghazala

USAID/CEP collaborated with Deir Ghazala Village Council (VC) to build retaining walls, install curbstones, and plant seedlings at the village's four entrances. In addition, the program is upgrading the VC accounting system so they will have an efficient and up-to-date system. The project is valued at \$208,950.

ARDWBG314 PCRC Equipment Workshop Bethlehem

The Palestinian Conflict Resolution Center (Wi'am) is a grassroots organization that strives alongside other moderate actors to build a democratic and peaceful society in Bethlehem and the West Bank. USAID/CEP assisted the transition of Wi'am to their new location by providing them with needed furniture and equipment to boost Wi'am's working and social mediation capacity. This included the computer center and meeting hall with all the complementary furniture and equipment. The new larger location and equipment will help Wi'am provide wider and better services to the local community and to international activists working to promote peaceful and democratic values. After the delivery of equipment, Wi'am will hold a five-day training workshop on mediation and social stability for its partners from Bethlehem and Hebron. The project is valued at \$52,978.

ARDWBG322 TGYC Sports Equipment Jenin

USAID/CEP provided the Tura al Gharbiya Youth Club with sports equipment, including gym equipment; equipment for the club's football, basketball, and volleyball teams; and essential furniture for the club. USAID/CEP grant funds also rehabilitated the only sports field in the village. Moreover, this grant had a public and community relations component in which students in the ninth and tenth grades, their teachers, and club members will be engaged in three-month interactive workshops that tackle good citizenship issues. The aim of these workshops was to come up with an agreed-upon principle for the village that highlights the role of youth in village society. The project is valued \$42,201.

ARDWBG354 ICCE Educators Training Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with the International Center for Contemporary Education (ICCE) to conduct a training course for 44 educators and to produce a guide/manual based on the training interaction and results. The manual was handed to the trainees at the end of the course to encourage active learning, and introduce supplementary educational techniques. ICCE also maximized its outreach by distributing the manual to 156 activists from 50 NGOs that work in the education field, active individual educators, and trainers. Moreover, the manual will also be a teaching guide for educators who will staff the ICCE Youth Club programs in Gaza in the future. The project is valued at \$40,794.

ARDWBG363 QADS Kindergarten Equipment Qatanna

Qatanna Association for Development and Strengthening (QADS) is an active moderate civil society organization (CSO), that works to improve child learning and health conditions in "Zuhur Qatanna" Kindergarten. USAID/CEP partnered with QADS to rehabilitate kindergarten spaces, and supply furniture to increase the functional capacity of the organization, enabling QADS to better serve the community in Qatanna. The project is valued at \$80,198.

ARDWBG370 IOCC Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP collaborated with IOCC, to provide short-term emergency humanitarian and life-sustaining assistance for vulnerable and displaced populations in the northern areas of Gaza, who have been severely affected by the recent war and conflict. The total beneficiaries are 4,355 families (30,485 individuals) targeted from 10 communities in different areas in Gaza. The project is valued at \$747,563.

ARDWBG371 CRS Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP helped CRS provide humanitarian assistance for vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip through distribution of food and kitchen accessories. The total beneficiaries of the project are 29,500. The project is valued at \$749,461.

ARDWBG372 RI Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with RI to reduce the continued hardship faced by 33,250 people (4,750 families) who are categorized as the most vulnerable and marginalized households in the Gaza Strip by distributing hygiene parcels, bed sets, and children's underwear to 3,000 families and basic food parcels to 1,750 fishermen. The total beneficiaries of the project are 4,750. The project is valued at \$749,992.

ARDWBG374 IRD Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with IRD to assist at least 2,500 vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip with food, clothing, hygiene, and children's recreational supplies through a targeted, community-based parcel distribution. IRD also donated disposable medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to seven independent community-based health care clinics, which serve 25,500 people annually. The total beneficiaries of the project are 2,500. The project is valued at \$747,408.

ARDWBG377 ANERA Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP provided a grant to ANERA to supply hygiene assistance to 7,400 families impacted by the latest crisis in Gaza, and to help the organization sustain its responsiveness to Gaza residents' priorities. The total beneficiaries of the project are 7,400. The project is valued at \$736,899.

ARDWBG387 ACTED School Uniforms Gaza

USAID/CEP awarded ACTED a grant to provide vulnerable families with immediate and timely early disaster relief by providing 4,000 vulnerable children aged 6-14 school supplies and vouchers for purchasing new school uniforms at a local retailer. These children are living in partially or wholly damaged homes. ACTED will also provide 20 poor families with cash assistance through cash for work activities. The total beneficiaries of the project are 14,565. The project is valued at \$249,100.

ARDWBG391 LHA School Clothing Jabalya

USAID/CEP supported Life and Hope Association's (LHA) distribution of school clothing and supplies to 2,900 needy school students from Jabalya Governorate. The supplies included school clothes, sport shoes, school bags, and basic stationery. This activity enhanced LHA's capabilities to meet the needs and priorities of the local community and to provide disadvantaged students with school supplies. This activity also helped alleviate the suffering of poor families that are unable to provide for the needs of their children. The total beneficiaries of the project are 2,900. The project is valued at \$6,065.

ARDWBG392 UHIGA School Clothing Khan Younis

USAID/CEP partnered with the Universities and Higher Institutions Graduates Association (UHIGA) to distribute school clothing and supplies to 2,900 needy students from Khan Younis Governorate. The supplies included school clothes, sport shoes, school bags, and basic stationery. This activity enhanced UHIGA's capabilities to meet the needs and priorities of the local community and to provide disadvantaged students with school supplies. This activity helped alleviate the suffering of poor families that are unable to support the basic needs of their children. The total beneficiaries of the project are 2,900. The project is valued at \$6,065.

ARDWBG394 MC School Clothing Abasan Al Kabira

USAID/CEP partnered with Abasan Al Kabira Municipality to distribute school clothing and supplies to 2,900 disadvantaged students from Abasan Al Kabira in Khan Younis Governorate. The supplies included school clothes, sport shoes, school bags and basic stationery. This activity strengthened the municipality's capacity to meet the needs and priorities of the local community, and to alleviate the

suffering of poor families that are unable to afford their children's basic needs. The total beneficiaries of the project are 2,900. The project is valued at \$6,065.

ARDWBG395 MC School Clothing Al Fukhkhari

In its efforts to help lessen hard conditions facing families in Gaza, USAID/CEP partnered with Al Fukhkhari Municipality to distribute school clothing and supplies to 2,900 needy school students from Al Fukhkhari in Khan Younis Governorate. The supplies included school clothes, sport shoes, school bags, and basic stationery. This activity strengthened the municipality's capacity to meet the needs and priorities of the local community, and to alleviate the suffering of poor families that are unable to afford their children's basic needs. The total beneficiaries of the project are 2,900. The project is valued at \$6,065.

ARDWBG401 JSC Cultural & Sports Nights Jenin

In its efforts to help engage youth in constructive activities, USAID/CEP partnered with Jenin Sports Club to conduct a variety of cultural and sports activities. USAID/CEP sponsored four cultural nights, in which school bags were distributed to the children. Jenin Sports Club hosted a volleyball mini-tournament at the Jenin Secondary School playground. USAID/CEP installed lights for the playground, as the mini-tournament took place during the evenings. The total beneficiaries of the project are 1,000. The project is valued at \$24,918.

ARDWBG408 UHIGA Ramadan Nights Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with UHIGA to implement 12 Ramadan socio-cultural nights in four areas in Gaza. Approximately 1,200 people attended events sponsored by four moderate NGOs, including UHIGA. Participants were provided a meal and a theatre show followed by discussions; and the NGOs' volunteers were awarded certificates and gifts at the end of the events. This activity spotlighted UHIGA's capabilities and enhanced its position in Palestinian society. The total beneficiaries of the project are 1,200. The project is valued at \$44,200.

ARDWBG410 AADM Ramadan Nights Bethlehem

USAID/CEP supported Al-Hares Association for Democracy and Media (AADM) to organize four night festivals during the month of Ramadan. This included a Ramadan cultural tent, Ramadan meals for 250 people, and theater plays which addressed social and current challenges for youth and women in marginalized areas and areas affected by the Separation Barrier. By conducting the cultural and folklore nights in the villages of Battir, Husan, Wadi Fukin, and Nahhalin, AADM increased people's confidence in moderate CSOs. Moreover, these events also raised AADM's profile, especially in these four villages which have been severely impacted by the Separation Barrier. The total beneficiaries of the project are 3,000. The project is valued at \$31,840.

4.2 PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION/ WEST BANK

ARDWBG301 VC Public Park Bizzariya

USAID/CEP partnered with Bizzariya Village Council to build a four-dunam (one acre) public park on top of a hill near the village. The assistance will include leveling/terracing of certain areas, building retaining and boundary walls, building a sanitary facility, and installing a children's play area and sunshades. USAID/CEP will contract a qualified contractor to execute the work. The project is valued at \$240,290.

ARDWBG302 MC Road Rehab Salfit

Many homes in Salfit Municipality are severely affected by rain during the winter. USAID/CEP is providing the municipality 1,350 m of curbstones, 2,500 m² of sidewalks, 436 m³ of retaining walls, and some excavation work to rehabilitate the main road in town, which will help alleviate the flooding problem. The total beneficiaries of the project are 9,000. The project is valued at \$236,620.

ARDWBG303 VC Public Park Al 'Aqaba

USAID/CEP, in corporation with the Al' Aqaba Village Council, will build a three-dunam public park to serve the village and the neighboring communities with an estimated population of 1,000 inhabitants. USAID/CEP assistance will include the construction of the park with a play area for children, a cafeteria, and a sanitary facility. The project is valued at \$190,610.

ARDWBG304 VC Girls School Jayyus

USAID/CEP partnered with Jayyus Municipality to construct a new primary girl's school. The two-story, 675m² building will consist of six new classrooms, a teachers' lounge, a corridor, and a sanitary facility. The municipality will contribute a 2,374 m² land plot, on which the school will be built. The project is valued at \$244,242.

ARDWBG306 VC School Building Al Tayba

USAID/CEP partnered with At Tayba Village Council to construct a new boy's primary school to replace the old dilapidated school in the village, which no longer meets the needs of the growing population. The grantee will contribute to this activity by demolishing the existing building, removing rubble, and preparing the site for the new construction, in addition to paying for the design preparation. The proposed school will be constructed on land that belongs to the council, and will consist of eight classrooms, a teachers' lounge, a conference room, a corridor, and a sanitary facility with a total area of about 755 m². The project is valued at \$240,340.

ARDWBG309 VC Main Street Rehab Deir Ibzi'

USAID/CEP supported Deir Ibzi' Village Council by providing the funds to upgrade the village's main entrance. This will include construction of sidewalks (around 1,500 m) and retaining walls (around 1,200 m²), in addition to painting crosswalks. The council will install lighting poles and fixtures, and assign a site engineer. The project is valued at \$123,350.

ARDWBG320 VC Girls School 'Anin

USAID/CEP partnered with Anin Village Council to construct an annex to the girls' secondary school. The school is suffering from a shortage of classrooms, and does not meet the needs of the growing population. The proposed annex will be constructed near the existing school, and will consist of three classrooms, a teachers' lounge, offices for the school manager and secretary, a corridor, and a sanitary facility with total area of about 540 m². The project is valued at \$217,768.

ARDWBG352 NCD Schools Rehabilitation Hebron

USAID/CEP provided the National Council for Development (NCD) with materials for painting classrooms, installing drinking water tanks, restoring doors and windows, building fencing, and planting seedlings for four schools in Hebron City. NCD will mobilize volunteers and skilled workers to do the rehabilitation and beautification work in cooperation with the schools' administrations and the parents' councils. Furthermore, USAID/CEP will establish two computer labs in two schools to introduce IT skills for students. The project is valued at \$61,695.

ARDWBG357 MC Children Park Al Yamun

USAID/CEP is supporting Al Yamun Municipality in its efforts to meet the needs of the town's growing population, helping to build a five-dunam public park on top of a hill nearby the town. The work will include leveling/terracing of certain areas, building retaining and boundary walls, building a sanitary facility, and installing a children's play area. USAID/CEP will hire qualified contractors to execute the work. The project is valued at \$212,000.

ARDWBG358 ACMD Forums Equipment Hebron

This activity seeks to build the public outreach capacity of two local NGOs in the Hebron area and help them fulfill their mission in mobilizing youth for the benefit of the public interests. USAID/CEP partnered with the Al-Istiqlal Center for Media and Development assisted by Tarqumia Charitable Society to conduct four local discussion forums to discuss role of the civil society and the challenges it faces in the state-building process. The two NGOs will establish and empower two action groups in each location (Hebron City, Tarqumia) to work on implementing initiatives that would support PA efforts to restore law and order. USAID/CEP's grant will equip the two partner NGOs to increase their institutional capacity and better enable them in implementing youth leadership programs. The project is valued at \$26,800.

ARDWBG359 BRCS Theater Equipment Jenin

USAID/CEP will supply needed equipment and furniture to the Blind Rehabilitation and Care Society's newly constructed theater and multi-purpose hall. This will include needed painting and false ceiling works for the hall and the theater, an LCD projector, a lighting system, and tables and chairs. BRCS will

also host 14 theater shows hosting 400 children from various communities within the Jenin Governorate. The project is valued at \$85,900.

ARDWBG378 AOCB Rehab Equipment Beit Sahur

USAID/CEP aims to enhance the capacity of the Arab Orthodox Club in Beit Sahur by renovating the main hall and the scouts' meeting room, in addition to providing equipment for its scout group. The program will also fund the furnishing and equipping of the club's new building that will serve as a youth center. As a side activity, the club will distribute 200 school packages to needy students among club members as a Christmas present. The project is valued at \$151,925.

ARDWBG379 SOJ Furniture Equipment Beit Sahur

USAID/CEP supported the School of Joy by providing the school with musical instruments and gym machines. The grant will also provide a laser wood carving/printing machine that would increase the quality of the products made by the students at their vocational training classes, thus making better revenue for them and the school. The project is valued at \$41,090.

ARDWBG386 VC School Labs Zabda

USAID/CEP associated with Zabda Village Council to build a 60-m² annex building to the village's secondary school. The annex will include two classrooms that will accommodate computer and science labs, also equipped through this grant. The grant will also fund construction and equipping of a school playground. The project is valued at \$193,542.

ARDWBG396 MC Schools' Access Road Rehab Al-Ubeidiya

This activity supported Al 'Ubeidiya Municipality to respond to urgent community needs by creating a safe walkway for young school students. USAID/CEP will partner with the municipality to widen and rehabilitate the schools' access road in Al 'Ubeidiya through constructing retaining walls and sidewalks, and asphaltting the street. The new 290 m walkway will serve more than 2,000 students who daily travel the dangerous narrow road. The project is valued at \$122,950.

ARDWBG397 JCDC Food Supplies Furniture Jerusalem

USAID/CEP seeks to improve the service provision of the Princess Basma Jerusalem Center for Disabled Children (JCDC) as a key CSO in East Jerusalem. USAID/CEP will provide JCDC with new furniture for the dormitories, and will upgrade the school classroom doors to open outward to ensure children's safety in cases of emergency. USAID/CEP will also provide JCDC with food items for in-patients, their mothers, and the resident disabled staff (three meals for about 45 persons each day). The project is valued at \$119,680.

ARDWBG398 HOH Rehab Furniture Bethlehem

USAID/CEP provided support to the House of Hope organization in Bethlehem to renovate and furnish the existing three-story (500 m²) dorm house allocated for the use of handicapped and visually impaired persons. The dorm will serve more than 80 disadvantaged persons belonging to poor families. The project is valued at \$241,705.

ARDWBG416 MC Tourism Promotion Festival Beit Sahur

USAID/CEP, in partnership with Beit Sahur Municipality (BSM), conducted a tourism promotion festival during the holiday season. The festival was inaugurated under the patronage of Prime Minister Fayyad, the Palestinian Tourism Minister, and Mayor of BSM with the participation of diplomatic mission representatives. USAID/CEP provided BSM with decorative lights, banners, posters, billboards as well as Christmas gifts for visitors including mugs and diaries in addition to school kits for children. The activity program included the annual peace march in Beit Sahur, conducted during the day of the festival (see Section 3 for full story). The project is valued at \$33,600.

ARDWBG424 CSPO Olive Press Rehab Bethlehem

USAID/CEP plans to enhance the service provision capacity of the Cooperative Society for Olive Pressing (CSOP) in Bethlehem. USAID/CEP will partner with CSOP to hire local contractors to renovate the existing soap factory and to maintain the olive pressing machines. The project is valued at \$99,680.

ARDWBG425 MC Health Clinic Yatta

USAID/CEP supported Yatta Municipality, south of Hebron Governorate, in responding to urgent needs of their community by funding the completion of the primary health care clinic. The clinic will offer mother and child care, emergency services, immunizations, and a pharmacy. USAID/CEP will help Yatta Municipality perform the internal finishing works and furnishing the clinic. The Ministry of Health will equip and provide medical staff to operate the clinic. The project is valued at \$120,850.

ARDWBG427 SPSW Treatment of Trauma and Psychological Disorders Nablus

USAID/CEP partnered with the Syndicate of Psychological and Social Workers (SPSW) to develop its capacity, especially in human resources and public outreach. USAID/CEP will help SPSW to conduct a seven-month project for the treatment of trauma using musical methods in 10 villages across Nablus Governorate. USAID/CEP, in coordination with the grantee, will hire professional trainers to conduct a one-month training for 30 volunteers from the 10 villages, who will provide treatment for the affected children. After the training, the treatment for children and their families will take place during a four-month period. Children will be divided in several groups and each group will consist of 15 children. Affected children and their families will evaluate the project through feedback on the effectiveness of the treatment through exercises where they express the difference in children's behavior before and after treatment. The project is valued at \$66,100.

ARDWBG432 BCCI IT Equipment Software Bethlehem

This grant seeks to enhance the IT capacity of Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI). USAID/CEP will provide BCCI with advanced IT equipment to help automate its ISO 9001 operational and managerial system. USAID/CEP will also hire local contractors to provide BCCI with technical assistance to review the existing operational system, then design a new system and adapt it to its operations. Moreover, the program will hire a consultant to build an interactive website to introduce BCCI as the first e-chamber of commerce and industry in the West Bank and Gaza. The project is valued at \$100,650.

4.3 PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION/GAZA

ARDWBG382 NSDL Women Psychosocial Support Workshops Rafah

USAID/CEP partnered with the National Society for Democracy and Law to conduct 40 three-day psycho-social support workshops for 800 women from Rafah that have been exposed to violence during the Gaza Strip incursions. The workshops will engage women between the ages of 18 and 40 years old to help them and their families return back to normal life. The workshops will include exercise, discussions, group work, and techniques to deal with stress during and after crisis. As a side activity, the workshops will include educational games for children between 1 and 5 years old. At the end of each workshop, mother and child kits will be distributed to each participant. The project is valued at \$183,401.

ARDWBG383 SYFS Women Psychosocial Support Workshops Gaza

USAID/CEP is supporting Save the Future of Youths Society to conduct 40 psycho-social support workshops for 800 women from Gaza that have been exposed to violence during the Gaza Strip incursions. The workshops engage women between the ages of 18 and 40 years old in over three days to help them and their families return back to normal life. The workshops include exercise, discussions, group work, and techniques to deal with stress during and after a crisis. As a side activity, the workshops will include educational games for children between 1 and 5 years old. At the end of each workshop, mother and child kits will be distributed to each participant. The project is valued at \$183,981.

ARDWBG384 LHA Women Psychosocial Support Workshops Jabalya

USAID/CEP is assisting LHA in conduct 40 psycho-social support workshops for 800 women from Jabalya that have been exposed to violence during the Gaza Strip incursions. The workshops engage women between the ages of 18 and 40 years old in over three days to help them and their families return to normal life. The workshops include exercise, discussions, group work, and techniques to deal with stress during and after a crisis. As a side activity, the workshops will include educational games for children between 1 and 5 years old. At the end of each workshop, mother and child kits will be distributed to each participant. The project is valued at \$183,581.

4.4 GAZA EMERGENCY RELIEF GRANTS AND SUBCONTRACTS

ARDWBG347 SCUS Emergency Response Gaza

This grant seeks to support Save the Children, an INGO working in Gaza Strip, help alleviate the humanitarian situation caused by the latest Israeli military operations in Gaza. Through this grant, in cooperation with USAID/CEP, Save the Children will provide immediate humanitarian assistance for 8,300 families in Gaza who are impacted by the crisis, by providing basic food and non-food items, such as cleanup kits, home repair kits, and clothing kits. Beneficiaries will be pre-identified in coordination with local community-based organizations (CBOs) who will play an active role in the distribution process. The project is valued at \$727,251.

ARDWBG373 CHF Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP supported CHF International to assist 3,500 conflict-affected households in meeting basic household needs by providing non-food items, including hygiene and cooking kits. Project beneficiaries totaled 3,500. The project is valued at \$749,329.

ARDWBG375 MCI Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

To improve the living conditions of families in Gaza, USAID/CEP partnered with MCI to lessen the suffering of 2,900 vulnerable families (roughly 17,400 individuals) in Gaza through the provision of food and non-food items, and livelihood materials. Approximately 20,300 benefitted from the project. The project is valued at \$750,000.

ARDWBG376 SCUS Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with SCUS to alleviate the suffering of children and families in Gaza who are most affected by the recent conflict. SCUS aims to increase access to humanitarian assistance and supplies that will strengthen its existing child-focused emergency relief activities in Gaza. The total beneficiaries of the project are 31,290. The project is valued at \$749,949.

ARDWBG388 AISG School Supplies Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with the American International School Gaza to help alleviate the educational aspect of the humanitarian crisis caused by the latest Israeli military operation in Gaza. The program helped provide quality educational services to 200 schoolchildren in Gaza, such as science lab supplies and furniture, IT equipment, furniture, infrastructure supplies, general office and schools supplies, and gymnasium and music tools and equipment. The project is valued at \$238,369.

ARDWBG389 AISG Textbooks Gaza

USAID/CEP granted AISG funds to help them through the crisis by providing quality educational services to 200 schoolchildren in Gaza, including textbooks and rental costs for a building to be used as a temporary school facility. The project is valued at \$213,813.

ARDWBG444 ANERA School Clothing Gaza

USAID/CEP is partnering with ANERA to distribute school clothing and supplies to 11,600 needy school students in Gaza. The supplies will include school clothes, sport shoes, school bags, and basic stationery. The project is valued at \$567,412.

4.5 INDICATOR REPORTING

Each CEP grant project measures progress against established project indicators (see Table 4.1). Program indicators were chosen by CEP staff in collaboration with USAID. They are predominately output indicators; that is, they measure the direct product of project activities. The table shows the actual outputs for CEP-completed grants (actual results achieved per indicator during the period 1 November 2008-31 December 2009).

TABLE 4.1. CEP INDICATORS			
(Actual results achieved per Indicator during the period 1 November 2008 - 31 December 2009)			
Sector	Sub-sector	Indicators	Total Outputs to Date
1. Education / Basic Education	Construction/renovation of classrooms and related facilities	Number of educational rooms constructed/ renovated/ rehabilitated	92
2. Education / Youth	Construction/renovation of facilities for youth	Number of youth facilities constructed (built)/ renovated/rehabilitated	3
		No. of youth facilities furnished/ equipped	
3. Water	Provision of emergency water related services	No. of water/ roof tanks provided	600
4. Roads /Other infrastructure	Construction / improvement of interior and connecting roads (non-agricultural)	Number of square meters of sidewalks, fences, school fences, retaining walls, terraces, shades, balconies, roofs, constructed, renovated, rehabilitated, or painted	6,200
		No. of community centers constructed/ renovated/ equipped	1
		No. of public parks/ recreational areas constructed/ renovated	3
5. Humanitarian Assistance	Supply of basic humanitarian commodities to disadvantaged groups	Number of students/children and individuals from disadvantage groups benefiting from humanitarian assistance (uniforms, bags, clothing, hot meals, household items, medical aids, coupons, stationary supplies, CBI kits, other)	13,957
		No. households benefiting from humanitarian assistance	95,753
		Metric tones of food commodities distributed	1,014
6. Democracy & Governance / Civil society	Support needy institutions to deliver better services (NGO, GO, private, etc...)	No. of CSO/NGOs, GOs and LGUs benefiting from TA/CB/infrastructure activities	43
		Number of workshops/events/media campaign/ TV messages and informal education conducted	203
7. Health/ Psychological	Provision of CBI training and Basic psycho-social support	No. of participants in psycho-social activities.	0
8. Economic Growth/ Agriculture	Assistance to small farmers and households (ag. olive, dairy, cisterns, fish)	Number of farmers and fisher folk benefiting	0
Crosscutting		No. of people employed in short-term jobs as a result of USG-supported social assistance programming	942
		Number of grants provided	92
		Person-Days of employment generated	34,764
		No. of people benefiting through CSO/NGO/LGU/HA activities	897,001

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION

During the reporting quarter, 20 activities were cleared valued at \$2,868,797. In addition to the emergency humanitarian relief assistance in Gaza, the new grants addressed a wide range of grant activity critical to the support of Palestinian reform-minded institutions and democratic processes. The following represents the various stages of CEP West Bank/Gaza grants:

- **Under Implementation** (currently active grants):
 - Gaza Strip: 12 grants valued at \$5,509,055
 - West Bank: 22 grants valued at \$3,171,387
 - **Total: 34 grants valued at \$8,680,442**
- **Completed** (grant activities completed but pending administrative actions such as final payments and title transfers before closing out):
 - Gaza Strip: 8 grants valued at \$4,065,417
 - West Bank: 6 grants valued at \$433,860
 - **Total: 14 grants valued at \$4,499,277**
- **Closed** (grant activities completed, reports, and payments accounted for, and final compliance check completed):
 - Gaza Strip: 0 grants valued at \$0
 - West Bank: 0 grant valued at \$0
 - **Total: 0 grant valued at \$0**
- **Cancelled** (previously “on hold” grants cleared by USAID to cancel, and met reporting and compliance requirements—the dollar figures below are only those expended to date and not the original obligated amount):
 - Gaza Strip: 4 grants valued at \$24,259
 - West Bank: 0 grants valued at \$0
 - **Total: 4 grants valued at \$24,259**
- **Rejected** (“yellow lighted” grants which were cancelled before the team had the chance to fully develop to be submitted for “green light”):
 - Gaza: 9 grants valued at \$16,714,066
 - West Bank: 0 grants valued at \$0
 - **Total: 9 grants valued at \$16,714,066**

6.0 ARD WORK PLAN WORKSHOP – LIMMASOL, CYPRUS

ARD/CEP held an annual planning workshop in Limmasol, Cyprus. The location made the workshop accessible to the program staff from Gaza, who face a number of obstacles to entering Israel for a meeting or workshop. ARD also sent the home office Project Manager (Ed Harvey), the home office Senior Technical Advisor/Manager (David Green) and a Facilitation & Training Specialist (Rebecca Kanaan). The participation of the Project Manager and Senior Technical Advisor/Manager enhanced the workshop, not only by bringing in ARD home office information, procedures and ideas, but also by allowing for teambuilding between the US and West Bank and Gaza staff.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Review program achievements, setbacks and challenges as we head into the next phase of programming;
- Create work plan matrices for each program functional unit, including Year 2 objectives, activities/tasks, timeline and responsibilities; and
- Contribute to teambuilding of the CEP team.

The workshop informed development of the program's second annual plan, which has been submitted to USAID.

U.S. Agency for International Development

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20523

Tel: (202) 712-0000

Fax: (202) 216-3524

www.usaid.gov