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# WEST BANK AND GAZA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT VII & VIII  
I APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2010

SEPTEMBER 2010

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## **DISCLAIMER**

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACMD	Al-Istiqlal Center for Media and Development
ACTED	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
ADIL	Agriculture Development and Integrated Livelihoods
AHCS	Al-Aqsa Handicapped Charitable Society
AISG	American International School Gaza
AM	Azzoun Municipality
ANERA	American Near-East Refugee Aid
AOCB	Arab Orthodox Club in Beit Sahur
AQM	Aqraba Municipality
AUM	Al ‘Ubeidiya Municipality
ARIJ	Applied Research Institute Jerusalem
ATVC	At’ Tayba Village Council
AVC	‘Anin Village Council
AYM	Al Yamun Municipality
BCCI	Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry
BJM	Beit Jala Municipality
BoP	Bank of Palestine
BRCS	Blind Rehabilitation and Care Society
BVC	Bizzariya Village Council
BZM	Bir Zeit Municipality
CARE	Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe
CEP	Civic Engagement Program
CHF	Community Housing Foundation
COGAT	Israeli Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRS	Catholic Relief Services

CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOP	Cooperative Society for Olive Pressing
DIVC	Deir Ibzi' Village Council
EAVC	'Ein 'Arik's Village Council
FHSB	De La Salle (Frères) High school in Bethlehem
FIFA	<i>Fédération Internationale de Football</i> Association
GEAR	Gaza Emergency and Recovery
GEGNP	Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program
GO	Governmental Organization
GUARD	Gaza Urban Agriculture Revitalization and Development
HA	Humanitarian Assistance
HKS	Helen Keller School
HoH	House of Hope
ICDL	International Computer Driving License
IDF	Israeli Defense Force
INGO	International Nongovernmental Organization
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities
IRD	International Relief and Development
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IT	Information Technology
JCDC	Princess Basma Jerusalem Center for Disabled Children
JM	Jericho Municipality
JM	Jayyus Municipality
JSFCU	Jenin Society for Family Co-operation and Unity
JYWC	Jenin Young Women Club
LHA	Life and Hope Association
LDR	Local Democratic Reform Program
LGU	Local Governmental Unit
MCI	Mercy Corps International
NASCD	Nablus Association for Social and Community Development
NFI	Non-Food Items

NSDL	National Society for Democracy and Law
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCMC	Palestinian Center for Mass Communication
PFS	Patients Friends Society
PFLP	Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine
PLO	Palestinian Liberation Organization
PREP	Palestinian Reintegration and Enhancement Program
RFA	Requests for Application
RI	Relief International
SM	Salfit Municipality
SCUS	Save the Children Federation
SHCC	South Hebron Chamber of Commerce
SHS	Stars of Hope Society
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
SPSW	Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Workers
SYFS	Save Youth Future Society
TAM	Women Media and Development
TVC	Ti'innik Village Council
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WVI	World Vision International
YM	Yatta Municipality
ZVC	Zabda Village Council



# I.0 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Civic Engagement Program (CEP) supports US foreign policy objectives toward a viable, democratic Palestinian state living in peace and security with Israel and its neighbors by providing a flexible grants program focused on visibly improving the quality of life for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. It builds on previous United States Agency for International Development (USAID) initiatives to bolster prospects for peace in the region, and is the direct follow-on to CEP I which ran from January 2008 to June 2009. CEP II was originally planned as a \$20 million three-year follow-on program to CEP I. However, due to unexpected developments on the security front in Gaza and the “*Cast Lead*” Operation, USAID added another \$40 million to the program budget to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

On the technical side, an important addition to CEP is the capacity-building component that did not exist under previous programs. CEP has identified 10 institutions—public and semi-public offices as well as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working in the different sectors—as long-term partners to help improve their structure, efficiency, and service provision capacity. CEP submitted to USAID its list of proposed partner institutions and its plan for building the capacity of each. Upon approval from USAID, CEP started working with each target institution to develop an action plan of assistance to address their priorities and identified the specific capacity-building assistance to be provided (e.g., grants, technical assistance, etc.). CEP began implementation of this capacity-building project throughout the West Bank. An additional four institutions were identified as partners during this reporting period. CEP is in the process of developing action plans for assistance to the new partner institutions in order to meet the goal of building the capacity of 10 institutions during the life of the program.

CEP started in October 2008 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, USAID added two new strategic objectives focused on the humanitarian and emergency response needs of the Gaza Strip for the current phase of program implementation.

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 April through September of 2010.

# 2.0 OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

## POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **Gaza Strip.** Hamas continued its control over the Gaza Strip using the “Iron Hand Policy” to prevent activities of other political groups. In June 2010, the Gaza Strip witnessed worrying security developments as two Israeli soldiers were killed in clashes with Palestinian militants. Hamas and other Palestinian groups claimed responsibility for the attack, and the Israeli government vowed to respond. A senior Israeli minister warned that Israel would “liquidate” the Hamas-run government in Gaza. Internally, the Hamas government continues to pressure local and international organizations in an effort to control all relief activities in the Gaza Strip.
- **Palestinian reconciliation efforts.** As of the preparation of this report, progress was made in resolving the Palestinian political division using the Egyptian proposal (presented on 10 September 2009) as a basis. A meeting between Hamas leader Khaled Meshal and Fatah official Azzam al-Ahmed was held in Syria at the end of September 2010. Hamas official Izzat al-Rishq said the two sides would meet again in Damascus in October 2010 to try to solve differences over the Egyptian “reconciliation paper”. It was reported that two out of the three unresolved issues were decided during this meeting. Hamas had previously rejected the document and refused to travel to Cairo to sign it because the group considered it biased toward Fatah and felt it could result in Fatah maintaining control over the official Palestinian security apparatus. It is worth mentioning that the Egyptian proposal presents a comprehensive plan for resolving the outstanding issues dividing the Palestinians, building on seven rounds of dialogue since the early months of 2009, and based on holding elections in the first half of 2010.
- **Local council elections.** Following protests over the Palestinian Authority (PA) decision to conduct local elections on 17 July 2010, the PA decided to indefinitely postpone the municipal elections. The decision came on the deadline for the submission of electoral lists to the Palestinian Central Elections Commission. The PA Ministry of Local Government issued an explanation saying the decision to postpone the elections came in response to the demands of some Arab nations and a number of friends in the world. The calls from abroad advised the government to postpone elections to allow for a successful end to the siege on Gaza and for continued efforts at unity. At the time of writing this report, the PA still had not announced the new date for local elections.
- **Peace talks.** Months after the PA and the Israeli government engaged in indirect peace talks, the US administration successfully convinced the two parties to initiate direct peace talks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Washington on the eve of launching the direct peace talks. Senior officials from Israel, the PA and the United States held trilateral meetings, before Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Abbas sat down one-on-one to further discuss the framework for a peace agreements. Nonetheless—despite the optimism following the relaunching of the direct peace talks—Israel’s 10-month moratorium on settlement building in the West Bank ended on 26 September. The Israeli government did not extend the freeze on settlement building, and the Palestinian President has threatened to withdraw from the peace

talks unless the moratorium is extended. Despite the US administration's effort, along with the international community, the Israeli government did not announce the extension of the settlement building freeze in the West Bank. The Israeli Prime Minister urged the Palestinian President to continue with peace talks, despite the end of the West Bank construction freeze. Meanwhile, the US tried to bring about a last minute compromise to keep the Middle East deal on track. The PA said that a decision as to whether they would continue the peace talks would be made after consultation with the Arab League and the Palestinian leadership.

- **Public opinion poll.** A recent public opinion poll was conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PSR) in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip at the end of September 2010. The main finding of the poll was that in light of the resumption of settlement construction, two-thirds (66%) of the public want the Palestinian side to pull out of the direct negotiations while 30% say it should not pull out of the talks. The report indicated that a positive evaluation of the performance of the PA public institutions in the West Bank reached 43% and a negative evaluation reached 26%. By contrast, a positive evaluation of the performance of the public institutions of the dismissed government in the Gaza Strip reached 30% and a negative evaluation reached 31%. If new presidential elections are held today, and only two were nominated, Abbas would receive the vote of 57% and Haniyeh 36% of the vote of those participating. The rate of participation in such an election would be 61%. Last June, Abbas received 54% and Haniyeh 39%. If new legislative elections were held today with all factions participating, 69% say they would participate in such elections. Of those who would participate, 26% say they would vote for Hamas and 45% say they would vote for Fateh, 12% would vote for all other third parties combined, and 17% are undecided. These results are identical to those obtained in June. The vote for Hamas in the West Bank (27%) is higher than the vote it receives in the Gaza Strip (24%) and the vote for Fateh in the Gaza Strip (53%) is higher than it receives in the West Bank (41%). The percentage of the undecided in the West Bank reaches 19% and 14% in the Gaza Strip.
- **Arab League summit.** Arab leaders met for their yearly summit in the Libyan city of Sirte. The main outcome of this meeting was the Arab countries' warning that continued Israeli settlement building would end efforts to revive the Middle East peace process. Jerusalem was the focal point of the summit as Arab leaders pledged US \$500 million to support the city.

## PRIMARY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)** released the preliminary estimates of quarterly national accounts for the second quarter of 2010. According to the report, the unemployment rate in the Palestinian Territory for the second quarter of 2010 reached 22.9%, whereas it was 22.2% and 22.0% respectively during the second quarter 2009 and first quarter 2010. In addition, the report indicated a growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in the Palestinian Territory during the second quarter of 2010 compared with the first quarter of 2010. The preliminary estimates at constant prices for the second quarter of 2010 showed an increase of 5.5% in the GDP of the Palestinian Territory compared with the first quarter of 2010, and showed an increase of 9.2% compared to the second quarter of 2009 at constant prices (the base year is 2004).
- **Tourism.** PCBS issued a press release on World Tourism Day on 27 September 2010, reporting that the total number of guests in hotels during the first half of 2010 increased by 52% compared with

the number of guests for the same period last year. The results also indicate that 38% of households (one member at least) conducted domestic trips during 2009, of which 34% were from the West Bank and approximately 48% from Gaza Strip. In addition, results show that 16% of the households (one member at least) in the Palestinian Territory traveled outside the Territory, of which 22% were from the West Bank and less than 1% from Gaza. The total expenditure for external tourism by households reached \$137.2 million compared with \$10.5 million for domestic tourism by households.

- **PA new budget approved.** The PA cabinet approved a \$3.9 billion budget for 2010. The budget sets a goal of raising local revenues by 20% in 2010, to cover 65% of the PA's expenditures. Nearly half of the budget's disbursement will be spent in the Gaza Strip, with increased allocation for all social sectors including education, health, and social affairs.
- **National account.** PCBS released the preliminary estimates of quarterly national accounts (for the fourth quarter of 2009). The report is based on a number of short-term economic indicators compiled quarterly and covering various economic activities. The preliminary estimates at constant prices for the fourth quarter of 2009 shows an increase of 1.6% in the performance of the economy in the Palestinian Territory compared with the third quarter 2009, and shows an increase of 10.3% compared to the fourth quarter of the year 2008 at constant prices (the base year is 2004). Estimates of the GDP show general stability during the third quarter of 2009 compared to the second quarter, based on the second revision of the data.
- **Agricultural statistics released.** PCBS released agriculture statistics for 2007-2008. Field crops and vegetables comprised 26.7% and 10.1% of the cultivated Palestinian areas, respectively; 72.0% of the cultivated area in Gaza Strip relies on irrigation compared with only 8.7% in the West Bank. Livestock production was as follows: cattle = 32,986 in 2007-2008 compared with 34,255 in 2006-2007; sheep = 688,899 in 2007-2008 compared with 744,764 in 2006-2007, and goats = 322,082 in 2007-2008 compared with 343,565 in 2006-2007. The value added of agricultural production in the Palestinian Territory amounted to about \$876 million, an increase from \$496 million compared to 2007-2008. Plant production constituted \$649 million of the value added of agricultural production (\$462 million of which was from the West Bank, and \$187 million was from the Gaza Strip). The value of agricultural production in the Palestinian Territory amounted to about \$1,367,000, of which 60.9% was plant production and 39.1% was livestock production. The cost of intermediate consumption was about \$490 million, of which 37.2% was plant production and 62.8% was livestock production.
- **Consumer prices decreased.** According to the PCBS, the Palestinian Consumer Price Index (CPI) decreased by 0.28% compared with the month of January 2010. The overall CPI for the Palestinian Territory (base year 2004=100) reached 127.48 in February 2010; it increased by 4.88% compared with February 2009.
- **Gaza economy.** Due to Israel's blockade, no Palestinian exports were allowed out during the reporting period, and there have been no significant improvements in access and movement except for the recent announcement that clothes and shoes will be allowed into Gaza. Currently, imports into Gaza include mostly humanitarian assistance consisting of food and medical supplies. The short-term impact of the siege is apparent in the slow progress of Gaza's economy. The longer-term

consequences of the siege are of great concern, especially in terms of deteriorating public infrastructure and destruction of livelihood among a population of whom half are children

- **Local banks at risk in Gaza.** The PA Monetary Authority ordered the Bank of Palestine (BoP) to freeze the accounts of the Patients Friends Society (PFS) in Gaza based on Hamas' takeover of the society in 2009. The new PFS board took the case to court in Gaza, which recently ordered BoP to release PFS funds and allow them to be withdrawn. BoP refused to cooperate and informed the de-facto government that they receive their orders from the PA's Monetary Authority in Ramallah and that they are not allowed to deal with the de-facto government. Hamas police forced BoP to release PFS funds, which amount to ILS 1,400,000. BoP closed its doors after the Association of Banks in Palestine declared a strike on 30 March. The strike includes other banks working in the Gaza Strip in addition to the Bank of Palestine. This incident might put banks in the Gaza Strip at risk due to the lack of security.
- **Gaza driven to more conservatism.** As a result of the Hamas takeover and the tight blockade imposed after the Hamas coup in 2007, the Gaza Strip has been forced to adopt more conservative behavior. This is due to the influence of fanatic and extreme forces ruling the Gaza Strip, coupled with the lack of exposure of the overwhelming majority of Gazans who are cut off from the world because of the blockade. This year, Hamas has taken certain measures to "preserve general manners" such as sex segregation during wedding parties and local activities, a ban on serving sheesha/nargeela to females, a ban on allowing men to work in female hair salons, a ban on the display of feminine underwear in shop windows, a dress code (comprising of the veil and long, big gown for women working in the de-facto institutions), and separation of unmarried couples on beaches. Failure to comply with the de-facto measures is costly. Restaurants, hotels, hair salons, local NGOs, and summer camps have fallen victim to closures and sometimes violent attacks, which the de-facto Ministry of Interior has failed to investigate fully and apprehend the culprits. These measures coupled with Hamas' appointment of clerics and control of mosques, and use of the *Daawa* arm (a Hamas religious body) to reach institutions, all serve Hamas' aim to Islamize Gazan society.

In response to the above conditions, 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 also responding to emerging needs, especially in Gaza. Most of the activities identified and cleared during the reporting period in the West Bank were infrastructure oriented, in addition to the capacity-building component. This is meant to improve the daily life of Palestinians and to provide people with assistance that addresses concrete needs. Since the PA has been focusing on the implementation of the Security Plan, USAID has channeled its efforts into improving the economic conditions in parallel to the PA's efforts to improve law and order. Projects also focus on empowering local moderate leaders and councils, and supporting local initiatives to help build a democratic and peaceful Palestinian state.

In Gaza, the CEP grants continue to respond to the ongoing humanitarian crisis. Activities focused on the delivery of food and non-food items, hygiene and kitchen kits, and tents for displaced residents. Grants also funded initiatives designed to support the rehabilitation of livelihoods through a series of nine Early Recovery grants to international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs).

## OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

- **Procurement.** ARD experienced some difficulties with sourcing vendors in the South West Bank who were in good standing with the PA tax authorities and possessed current VAT exemption status. ARD began to request Deduction at Source Certificate from all offerors who participated in the bidding process from the South area of West Bank as pre-condition for signing the purchase order. This subsequently forced many of them to finalize their pending financial issues with the VAT department and become appropriate ARD partners.

ARD experienced significant delays in obtaining specialized machines and equipment from abroad, which were not available on the local market. ARD modified the procurement contracts to require additional documentation to show more clearly the procurement status and required contracted vendors to provide a bank guarantee. ARD also requested all the shipping documents that the supplier could obtain from the factory in order to make sure that the delivery process of commodities is in progress and can be justified for time extensions.

Finally, the back and forth regarding local procurement of materials in Gaza presented a challenge throughout the reporting period. However, close team work and problem solving initiatives from all stakeholders through USAID coupled with the negotiation skills with vendors by Gaza procurement team members ultimately obtained all the required documentations for chain of custody.

- **COGAT Approval Process.** Implementation schedules of the series of 9 Early Recovery grants in Gaza were seriously impeded due to significant delays in obtaining COGAT approvals for the commodities required to enter Gaza. On 02 August, ARD received partial approval for these commodities under 5 grants. As a result of these delays, programmatic modifications were required on some of the Early Recovery grants as activities had to be re-designed to ensure that they were still relevant to beneficiary needs given the influx of building materials into Gaza in August as a result of the easing of the restrictions. For example, CHF under, ARDWBG455 , needed to shift the 15 Cash-for-Work sub awards (based on using plastic sheets for basic and temporary home rehabilitation using plastic sheets) to one sub award using the aluminum windows and doors to provide a more permanent solution. By the end of the reporting period, all commodities had received approval to move into Gaza, and all the grants are now moving ahead, with appropriate time and programmatic modifications in place.
- **Transportation.** The commodities approved under the ER grants were new to ARD transportation system and the COGAT requirements for palletizing these items were a major challenge to CEP transportation system and consequently to partners. CEP has worked closely with the shipping company, Sepi Sun, and USAID to allow passage of materials through the Tarqumiya crossing where electronic scanning is utilized rather than trained explosive sniffing dogs.

- **USAID Regulatory Framework.** Under a couple of Early Recovery grants, CEP had to vet several third tier partners which CEP and USAID monitoring visits had revealed to be of possible concern . This hindered the progress of implementation to a small degree. CEP has kept a close watch through regular monitoring visits and discrete organizational checks to ensure that third, fourth and fifth tier partners are acceptable to work with USAID activities.

The biggest overall challenge for the INGO grants is to ensure that all INGOs partners are consistently in full compliance with USAID rules and regulations. To mitigate non-compliance, ARD sends regular alerts to all partners on new Mission policy and reminders to partners on procedures that are in frequent use by partners including adherence to the contact policy. CEP also holds periodic partner meetings with USAID to provide a forum for exchange of views and clarification of USAID policy directives. ARD held 4 partner meetings with all INGO grantees this reporting period along with almost daily telephone and email communication.

Other challenge CEP faced in the last period is that we cannot implement capacity building activities in Gaza for local NGOs due to the continuous intervention from the de facto government. There has been an alarming trend towards interference during legal election for NGOs boards and programs where Hamas has installed illegitimate board members.

- **Contracting Approval.** All six subcontracts submitted during the reporting period required more than 2 weeks for USAID approval. Two subcontracts took over 43 days to be approved, one of these having been re-bid as a result of contracting approval delays in the previous reporting period, as the contractor was not able to commit himself to the original prices offered. ARD regularly notified the COTR of the status of these contracts and engaged in continuous negotiation in an attempt to reduce the backlog. While the workload of the OCM office at USAID is staggering, working closely through the CEP COTR CEP management continues to advocate for the expedient processing by OCM to provide approval within the guaranteed price period.

## 3.0 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

CEP is distinguished for its rapid assistance and flexible support of US government (USG) initiatives in the West Bank and Gaza through in-kind and emergency grants. CEP works directly with Palestinian Authority ministries and local government entities as well as NGOs. In January 2009, CEP started programming humanitarian relief grants in response to the crisis that developed after the Israeli incursion into the Gaza Strip (Operation Cast Lead). As of January 2010, this programming now includes a portfolio of Early Recovery grants which provide direct relief assistance to support the recovery of livelihoods through cash for work initiatives.

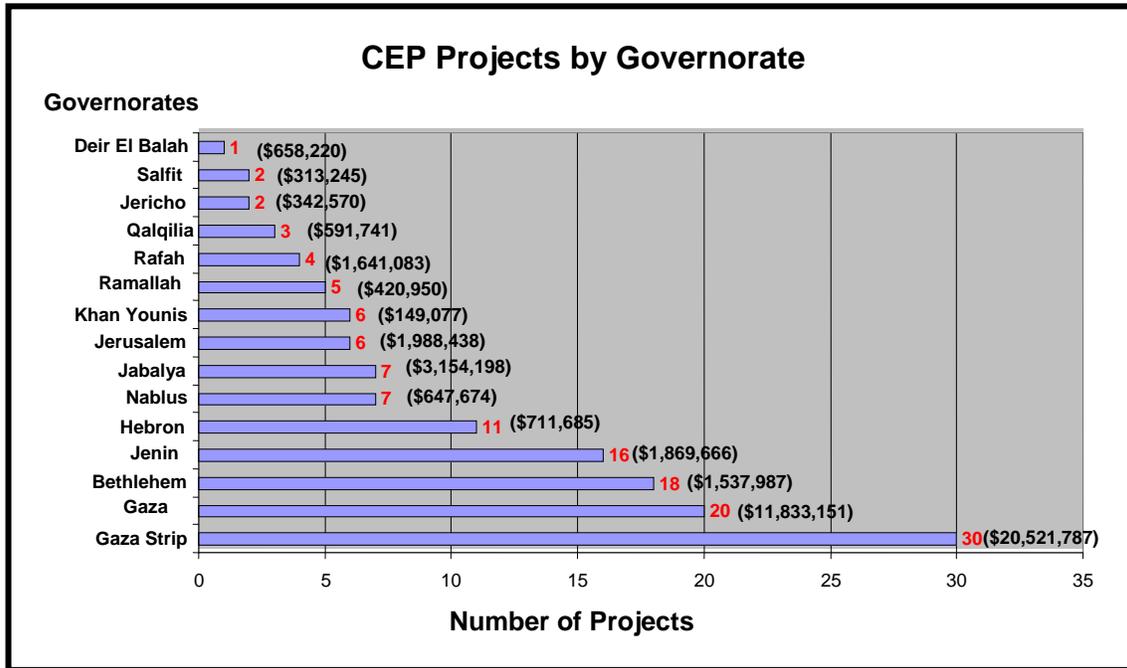
CEP supports a diverse range of project activities which include community infrastructure, youth activities, civic engagement forums, local NGO capacity building, humanitarian assistance, and the rebuilding of livelihoods in Gaza. By addressing the basic humanitarian needs of Gaza's citizens, CEP helps to reduce the economic stress of marginalized, vulnerable and isolated households, and works to identify and create sustainable economic opportunities.

CEP projects also seek to empower individuals, institutions and communities by improving access to, and the availability of, essential social services which empower local communities and improve living conditions throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

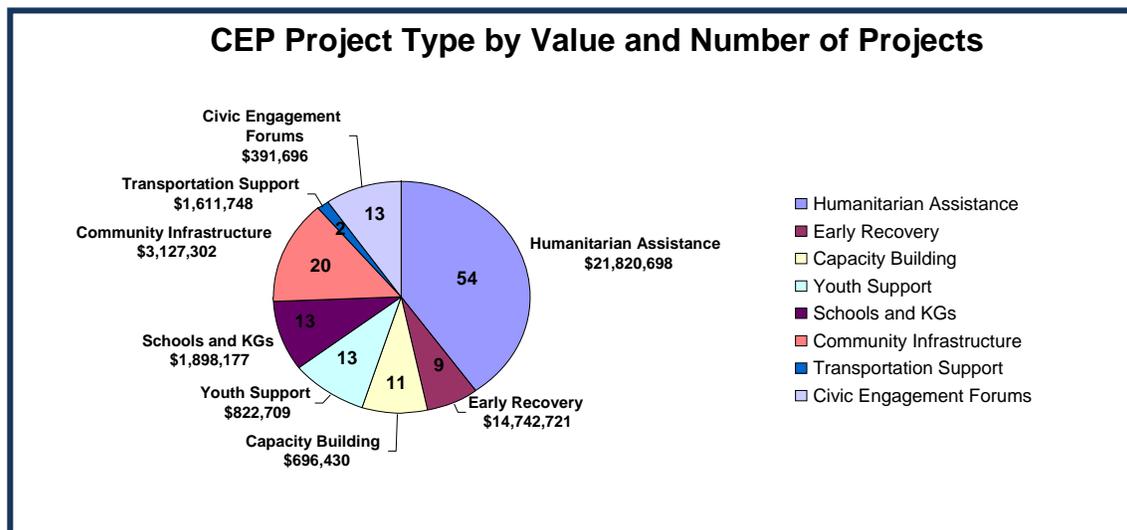
In line with the USG's transformational development objectives, the design and implementation of CEP grants is intended to make full use of the participatory process to promote beneficiary empowerment and the sustainability of project achievements. Geographical and institutional targeting ensures that grants also support the voices and forces of moderation, and identify and promote opportunities for communities to link tangible improvements in their daily lives with positive developments in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

The range of grants is substantial, from **\$1,271** to **\$1,999,971**. In total, grant activities have supported nearly **1,331,387** beneficiaries with either direct or indirect assistance. All ongoing and completed project activities are listed in Section 5.

During this reporting period, CEP has received approval for **14** new projects totaling **\$1,361,775**; completed **20** grants valued at **\$8,403,508**, and is currently implementing **43** grants valued at **\$19,685,070**.

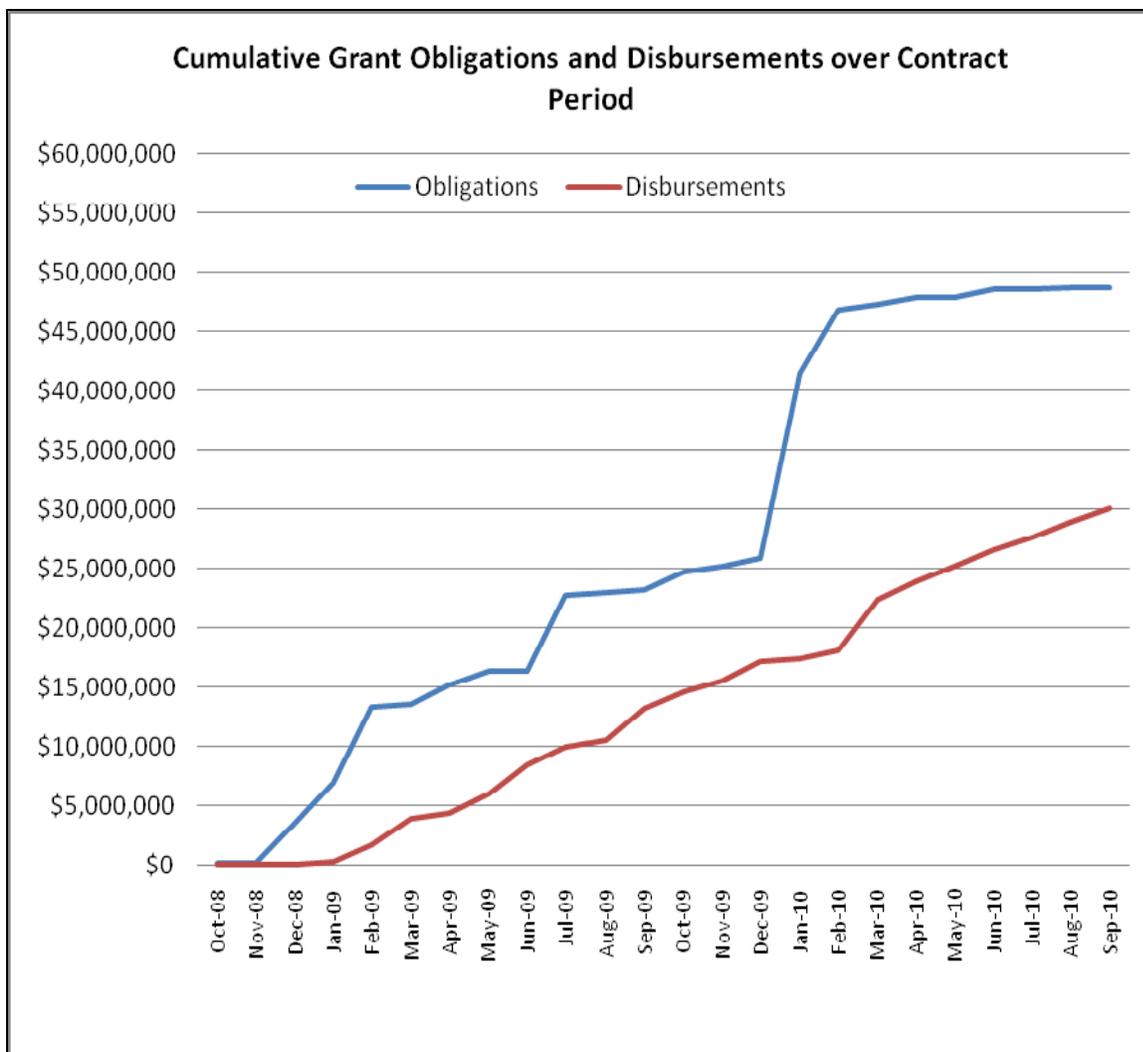


To date, CEP has implemented 138 projects in all 15 Governorates of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The chart above illustrates the number of projects implemented and the total funds allocated for projects in each governorate.



To date, CEP has implemented 135 projects, focused in eight areas of democracy and governance. The chart above illustrates the number of projects and total value for each project type.

CEP began obligating funds in October 2008 and made its initial disbursements in January 2009. The graph below illustrates the pace of obligations and disbursements over the contract period to date. During this reporting period, new obligations have been relatively small as the pool of grant funds was only replenished with an additional \$5 million at the end of September 2010. Disbursements have, however, remained steady over the reporting period.



Obligations to date total **\$48,681,887.16** and disbursements to date total **\$30,045,979**.

### 3.1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRANT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED UNDER OBJECTIVE I

**Support initiatives and processes that support a democratic, peaceful and prosperous Palestinian State.**

Grant activities under this objective focus on strengthening community linkages at the institutional and individual levels, helping to build more inclusive and connected communities, expanding opportunities for economic activity, and promoting constituencies for peace through participatory planning and practice.

**Achievements this reporting period**

- **14** events conducted
- **4,610** participants/beneficiaries

Two grants were completed under Objective 1 during this reporting period, valued at **\$102,725**. CEP provided support to the Ministry of Youth and Sports in Jenin Governorate and the Al Istiqlal Center for Media and Development in Hebron.

Both organizations sought to bring communities together during the Ramadan season, encouraging civic engagement and volunteerism aimed at strengthening networking and connections across and within local communities. These efforts have also played an important role in enhancing local economic conditions and rallying support for moderate organizations and institutions that work toward the development of a peaceful and prosperous Palestinian State.

## **BUILDING MORE INCLUSIVE AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES: EXTENDED/PARTICIPATORY CONSTITUENCY OUTREACH**

**ARDWBG477 - MOYS Cultural Sports Night Jenin Governorate:** In its continued support of the Palestinian Authority and the moderate civil society organizations (CSOs) in Jenin Governorate, CEP partnered with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to conduct a variety of social, cultural, and sports activities for impoverished families, in partnership with seven youth clubs/centers in Jenin Governorate. These social, cultural, and sports events included sports tournaments, quizzes, games, and Iftar meals for orphans and impoverished families. School bags were distributed to school students during each event. To encourage community support, the youth clubs used these events to mobilize volunteers to assist them with their community services. The final event attracted over 4,000 people with over 50% of attendees being female. This marked the first time in Jenin's history that women turned out in large numbers for such an event. These types of activities highlight positive youth civic engagement and strengthen the relationship between the PA and the local communities.



**ARDWBG478—ACMD Ramadan Tent of Friendship & Culture Hebron:** CEP provided support to the Al-Istiqlal Center for Media and Development (ACMD), a moderate NGO in Hebron, to conduct civic activities during Ramadan which provide local CSOs with a significant opportunity to enhance their relationships with grassroots organizations and the local communities of the West Bank while bringing together families. These types of activities significantly contribute to raising the confidence of the poor and marginalized. ACMD created the “Tent of Friendship and Culture,” with CEP’s support in Hebron City. The tent hosted six nights of cultural events, concerts, family activities and Iftar meals for the impoverished residents of Hebron. Two hundred children from the Hebron Governorate, particularly from Masafer Yatta, a remote and underserved area in East Hebron, were invited to feast with PA, local, and community leaders at the Iftar meals.



## 3.2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRANT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED UNDER OBJECTIVE 2

### Strengthen reform-minded Palestinian leaders and institutions in support of improved service provision and increased responsiveness to citizens needs.

During this reporting period, ARD's CEP continued to address the basic needs of communities by improving the service delivery capacity of public sector and private institutions. During this reporting period, **13** projects valued at **\$1,205,574** were completed under this objective, contributing to enhanced community infrastructure, strengthened institutional capacity, and the increased institutional ability to respond to the needs of their constituencies.

CEP funded the construction of an access road to improve transportation safety in Ubeidiya and in Salfit, an area prone to flooding. Furthermore, CEP played a vital role in the construction of a secondary girl's school to improve educational quality and accommodate the growing student population in Anin Village. In support of local institutions, CEP supplied the necessary resources and equipment to improve services at a women's health center and clinic in Aqraba, as well as women's sports club in Jenin which, because of CEP support, was able to establish the first women's soccer team. This quarter, CEP greatly contributed to the capacity development of organizations that cater to the needs of those less fortunate through services such as recreational support for victims of trauma, the visual and hearing impaired, and those living with mental or physical disabilities.

#### **Achievements this Reporting Period**

- **4** community infrastructure projects completed
- **\$594,708** worth of equipment put in place
- **48,464** individuals benefitted
- **3,688** working days generated
- **\$268,989** leveraged in community cost share

#### **COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE: IMPROVED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICE**

**ARDWBG302—MC Road Rehab Salfit:** Salfit is an area heavily affected by settlement expansion. Fifty percent of its land has been confiscated by the Israeli authorities to expand 17 settlements in the area. The town of Salfit is home to over 9,000 inhabitants, many of whom use the town's main road to travel daily to and from work and school. This section of the town is prone to flooding in the winter months, causing problems for the people who need to use the road in their daily commute. CEP supported Salfit municipality in the reconstruction of this road to address the flooding problem and provide safer conditions during travel. Mr. Nader Zohoud, a local resident, said, "The Street and the residents were suffering from the flooding problem during the winter and the frequent car accidents because of the lack of retaining walls." Mr. Jalal Ishtaya, deputy director of Al Fajer Charitable Society in Salfit, said, "The residents of the street are very happy with this project. It solves an important problem that people have been suffering from for the last 20 years, mainly the flooding problem."

**ARDWBG320—VC Girls School 'Anin:** Anin is a small village in Jenin Governorate, suffering from a shortage of classrooms to accommodate the growing student population. The secondary girl's school does not



have enough classrooms to accommodate all students, forcing parents to send their daughters to schools in neighboring villages. To address this concern, CEP worked with the Anin Village Council to build an annex to the school with classrooms, a computer lab, and school library. These additions have improved the school's educational quality and provided approximately 234 students with a safer educational institution, capable of accommodating the student population. Prior to the addition, the school library was used as a teachers' room and was poorly equipped. CEP coordinated with USAID and the US Consulate to organize a book donation campaign that would supply the school's library with a wide variety of enriching literature, further enhancing the quality of education. One student interviewed during the inauguration of the school mentioned to CEP, "I'm excited about this school now. I can't wait to go to school every day. I love reading and I'm happy that our school received these new books. I will be spending a lot of time in the library."

**ARDWBG396—MC Schools' Access Road Rehab Al-Ubeidiya:** In Al Ubeidiya, approximately 2,000



students often walk along a heavily trafficked road on their way to school each day. This road is 290 meters, is situated in a main thoroughfare, and is unsafe for young students as it lacked sidewalks and retaining walls, leaving students with no choice but to use street side dirt paths, close to traffic. To address this concern, CEP supported Al-Ubeidiya Municipality to repave the road, adding retaining walls, wider paved sidewalks, street signs and lighting. Now that the school year has begun, students are using the sidewalks to travel safely to school. In addition to the **2,500+** students that benefit

from this project, Al-Ubeidiya residents (approximately 12,000 people) access this road daily. Ms. Maha Abu Srour, the school's principal, was very pleased with this project and said, "After the rehabilitation of the street, there are almost no delays for the students in the morning. In the past, buses and parents dropped off their students at the main road and children had to walk a narrow, dusty and dangerous 300 meter road to reach the school. They used to arrive at the school tired and late to class. In the past, we also had two or three student injuries per day, because they would slip on rocks while walking to school. Now the school has been running for more than 15 days so far and we haven't had any cases of student injuries occur."

**INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING: IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY CAPACITY**

**ARDWBG380—MC Women's Center and Health Clinic Equipment Aqraba:** Aqraba Municipality established a Women's' Center and Health Clinic to address the needs of the female constituency of Aqraba. To enhance the municipality's capabilities, CEP furnished the health clinic with **\$41,727** in equipment to improve its services. By supplying the clinic and ensuring its success, CEP is strengthening the credibility of the moderate Aqraba municipal council among the local community. Approximately **2,500** residents in Aqraba have already made use of the health clinic and its services.

**ARDWBG397—JCDC Food Supplies Furniture Jerusalem:** The Princess Basma Jerusalem Center for Disabled Children (JCDC) is a charitable non-profit NGO, which was established in 1965 as a home for physically disabled children—mainly those suffering from Polio-Paralysis. A secondary school was integrated, allowing physically capable students to share classrooms and interact with disabled classmates

to promote equality. Currently the school serves 1,379 children, 750 of whom are disabled. The center has on its premises accommodations for 20 children and mothers. More than 65% of the center's running costs are covered by compensation from health insurance companies in Israel while the remaining 35% are covered by donations.



CEP, recognizing the importance of strengthening the center's ability to treat the physically challenged children through a comprehensive support system based on rehabilitation and nutrition, provided JCDC with new furniture for the dormitories and upgraded the school classroom doors to open outward to ensure child safety in cases of emergency. Additionally, food items for in-patients and their mothers as well as the resident disabled staff were provided approximately three meals a day for 45 people for an entire month. Yasmin Ateyah Genajra, a 7-year-old girl from Nablus, is a disabled child who has been treated at the center many times. During her treatments, she and her mother stay in one of the dorms. While she had difficulty sleeping in the past, her mother had said, "The new beds donated by CEP are very comfortable helping Yasmin to sleep soundly throughout the night so that she can wake up refreshed and relaxed for her treatments. The progress she has been making has been incredible. Our family is very grateful for the assistance."

**ARDWBG400—JYWC Sports and Office Equipment Jenin:** Jenin Young Women Club (JYWC) is a



club that provides services and hosts activities for the female population in Jenin. It was established in 1997, but its activities were halted during the second Intifada. Recognizing the importance of strengthening women's initiatives in the Palestinian Territories, CEP built the capacity of the organization to enable it to provide better services. The club was provided with a fully equipped gym, computer lab, and other necessary equipment. The grant led to the creation of an all woman football team, which participates in the Palestinian Women's Football League, under the Palestinian Football Federation. CEP supplied soccer uniforms, training gear and helped find an experienced training coach. The community's response has been very positive and the club, which has seen an increase in membership as a result of this project, now serves over 700 women.

**ARDWBG428—SPSW Provision of Equipment Nablus:** CEP provided the Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Workers (SPSW) in Nablus with essential office equipment and furniture to enhance the organization's capabilities. CEP further provided funding for the establishment of a specialized recreational support treatment room at the organization's premises. As the human resources and the administrative capacity for SPSW was improved, it was essential to provide SPSW with up-to-date equipment that would enable SPSW to better serve its constituency and provide a healthier environment for over 300 SPSW staff and members. Since the completion of this grant, residents of Nablus and the surrounding areas have been utilizing SPSW's services to treat conditions including post war trauma. These types of treatments are greatly appreciated by the community of Jenin, especially for treatments of younger residents.

**ARDWBG449—HKS Visually Impaired Equipment Jerusalem.** The Helen Keller School (HKS) rehabilitates and reintegrates visually impaired children or marginalized families in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The school relies very little on fees collected from families, but rather is supported by governmental and nongovernmental organizations. Due to the construction of the separation wall, which hinders transportation of students from their villages to HKS, the school had been suffering financial hardships. As travel restrictions and unemployment increased in the West Bank, students relied more on the school's dormitories, further causing financial burden upon the non-profit school. CEP helped ease the burden of operational costs by responding with donations of three closed circuit TV devices and software. Additionally, CEP provided a Braille reading device that helped increase the students' learning capabilities by rendering Arabic, English and Hebrew in Braille via a complex software program. Over 62 disabled children have benefited from this new system. CEP's support has helped relieve the social and economic hardships of both the school and families of the students.

### **BUILDING COMMUNITY: RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY NEEDS**

**ARDWBG506—BCCI Ramadan Business Promotion Bethlehem:** Bethlehem is an area rich with cultural and historical significance. To increase the influx of tourists to Bethlehem City and strengthen the



local business economy, the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) organized a festival, coinciding with the month of Ramadan, to highlight and promote local businesses through the support of CEP.

Attracting thousands from all over the West Bank and Israel, BCCI hosted live music, dancing and cultural activities with the featured event being an attempt at the Guinness Book of World Records for the world's largest Katayef, a traditional Palestinian pastry. The event mobilized the local community and raised confidence in the peace process and in moderate leadership among the business community in the Bethlehem area through initiatives demonstrated to improve the economic environment. BCCI Chairman Dr. Samir Hazboun said, "Bethlehem strives to become the capital of festivals and celebrations in Palestine but will continue to do so in a way that will bring the people together as Palestinian brothers and sisters. We are grateful for the support of BCCI and for helping our organization strengthen its role in the development of a future democratic Palestinian state."

## FOCUS ON HEBRON GOVERNORATE

ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP), recognizing Hebron Governorate as one of USAID's primary target areas in the West Bank, has implemented a range of projects aimed at improving the social and economic conditions in marginalized areas throughout the governorate. A particular focus has been in southern Hebron, dramatically affected by restrictions due to the separation barrier. Through strong partnerships with municipalities, local NGOs and CSOs, CEP has been able to effectively improve the lives of nearly 83,000 citizens in Hebron, thus far.

- CEP's contribution in Hebron has totaled **\$1,237,763.00**.
- Total number of beneficiaries in Hebron reached **82,646** people.
- Planned beneficiaries in Hebron reached **14,800** people for current and upcoming grants.

Throughout program implementation across Hebron, CEP has focused on increasing support for the Palestinian Authority and the peace process while simultaneously bolstering support for moderate organizations that effectively address the needs of Hebron's citizens. CEP's many achievements and activities have included rehabilitating schools in marginalized communities, enhancing facilities and providing equipment for youth sports, repairing critical municipal infrastructure, reactivating essential public services, developing the capacity of local businesses and organizations committed to the betterment of Hebron's communities through educational and employment opportunities, and engaging local communities through special events aimed at increasing civic unity.



One organization CEP has partnered with in Hebron is the Al-Istiqlal Center for Media & Development (ACMD) which has played a vital role in strengthening the community of Hebron through projects aimed at improving social, economic, and cultural networking within the Hebron Governorate.

Through CEP's support, ACMD erected the "Tent of Culture and Friendship," which hosted iftar meals for disabled and orphaned children during this year's Ramadan celebrations. ACMD has been able to engage the community of Hebron due to the successes of a CEP capacity development grant. As the beneficiary of this grant, ACMD has seen significant improvement to its organizational operations and services and has received additional resources, training and equipment for staff members, enabling them to address the needs of the community more effectively. Additionally, with the installation of a new computer lab, IT training is now available for 1,250 members in addition to the community of Hebron. As a result of this direct assistance, ACMD has now emerged as a leader in



support of economic and educational growth in Hebron and works to strengthen support for a moderate and democratic leadership in the local PA government by providing a venue for interactive workshops and seminars aimed at improving the exchange of ideas between community members and leadership.

CEP has also taken a leading role in positively engaging the people of Hebron by mobilizing volunteers in the rehabilitation of local communities. For example, CEP and USAID partnered with the National Council for Development (NCD) to revitalize four schools in marginalized areas of Hebron. This project has improved the schools by addressing the needs of 1,646 students and faculty. Revitalization of the schools was conducted through a volunteerism campaign that recruited eager community members to lend a helping hand by installing furniture, painting walls, and planting foliage. Furthermore, recognizing the importance for advanced child education, CEP installed and furnished a computer lab in each of the four schools. These labs have become an important resource for students who are now able to use the Internet as a tool for research and studies. Additionally, it has also enabled students and teachers to interact with other school children around the world.

In the town of Kharas, west of Hebron City, CEP provided support to the Kharas Municipality (KM) for the creation of a FIFA regulation-sized soccer field and youth club which would accommodate a population of 4,000 youths from Kharas and the neighboring villages. The new sports field has since



become a a public venue for sports, cultural and social activities in Kharas and created public confidence in the moderate elected municipal leadership.

ARD's CEP enhanced the capacity of the South Hebron Chamber of Commerce (SHCC), a moderate leading organization in the development of a national economy in a democratic Palestinian state. CEP strengthened SHCC services by training staff in the use of an ISO9001/2008 managerial system and moving the organization toward a more efficient and

streamlined method of rendering its financial services to over 3,000 current members. With the support of USAID and CEP, SHCC launched its official website, [www.southhebroncc.org](http://www.southhebroncc.org), which now serves as a means of outreach to businesses and communities by providing pertinent information for current members while forging new relationships with future clients and partners that would create further business opportunities for the people of Hebron. Through its ability to be accessed anytime and anywhere, the website will encourage economic growth and business investments.

### 3.3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRANT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED UNDER OBJECTIVE 3

**Supply basic humanitarian commodities to disadvantaged groups to preserve hope and moderation among impoverished populations.**

Grant activities under this objective address the immediate unmet needs of the most vulnerable households in times of acute crisis. All approved grant activities under this objective were implemented and completed from December 2008 through August 2009, in response to the immediate effects of Operation Cast Lead.

*There were no ongoing or completed grants under this objective, during this reporting period.*

### 3.4 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF GRANT ACTIVITIES COMPLETED UNDER OBJECTIVE 4

**Distribute food and relief items direct or through work and training, to preserve hope and moderation among impoverished populations**

Under this objective, CEP grants seek to improve access of poor and marginalized households to food and non-food items; expand employment opportunities for impoverished households, youth and women; enhance the ability of youth and women to deal with stress and feelings of hopelessness; improve shelter for vulnerable families; improve agricultural infrastructure; build capacity of local

NGOs in delivering relief and humanitarian assistance; expand sustainable revenue generation opportunities; and improve the psychological and physical status of children.

During this reporting period, eight grants were completed under this objective for a total value of **\$6,550,659**. One grant, ARDWBG471, was partially completed for a value of **\$605,000**. The commodities purchased under this grant will be distributed during the next quarter. CEP grant activities under this objective aim to improve the daily lives of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to effectively increase the region's ability to return to pre-war normalcy. By improving the economy in Gaza, which has been devastated by conflict, CEP's efforts not only addressed the humanitarian crisis but increased support for peaceful conflict resolution and moderate democratic reform.

Through partnership with nine international nongovernmental organizations (INGOs), humanitarian distributions addressed the alarming increase in unemployment and the resulting lack of affordability of most basic commodities. Furthermore, to address unemployment, CEP established the Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program (GEGNP) in partnership with International Relief and Development (IRD), creating temporary employment for 1,142 college graduates with 32 locally based NGOs and providing valuable work experiences for unemployed workers, generating new skills for future potential

#### **Achievements during this reporting period**

- **16,450** households (**127,716** individuals) reached with food and NFIs
- **232** metric tons of food distributed
- **3,126** working days created in the local economy through relief logistical support
- **96,000** working days created through Cash-for-Work activities

employment. Additionally, by strengthening the infrastructure of the Gaza Strip, such as schools and moderate institutions, CEP is ensuring that the projects implemented in Gaza will have a long-lasting effect.

### RECONSTITUTING BASIC SERVICES: IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



**ARDWBG388—AISG School Supplies GAZA.** CEP supported the American International School in Gaza (AISG), a moderate institution working in Gaza Strip since 2000, to repair heavy damage to the school caused by the last Israeli offensive. CEP responded by financing the reconstruction of the school and provided furniture, textbooks, and school supplies. The school’s computer, science, and music labs received new equipment and the school’s playground was repaired in addition to the school’s infrastructure. As a result, AISG was able to reopen and accept students. The first graduating class at

AISG since its repair, consisting of 15 students, accepted their diplomas at a ceremony in June of this year. This September, AISG has reopened and currently has 200 students enrolled in the school. Inas Soboh, a 6th grade student at AISG mentioned how the new school has positively affected the lives of students, “The school is much better than before. Today, we can hold activities and have fun in the new playground. Before, there wasn’t anything to do. We would stay in the classrooms during lunch.”



## FOCUS ON AISG SCHOOL IN GAZA

Following Israeli Operation Cast Lead, the educational capacity of many Gaza schools suffered greatly as the necessary teaching tools, materials and resources were often limited and/or denied entry into the region causing further damage to an already weakened educational infrastructure and denying the population of children in Gaza their right to empowerment through a good education.

- CEP provided a **\$238,369** Grant (ARDWBG388) to AISG for the procurement of school supplies and equipment.
- CEP provided a **\$213,813** Grant (ARDWBG389) to AISG for the procurement of school textbooks.
- **200** adolescent school students are the initial beneficiaries.
- School Rehabilitation included provisions for Art Studio, Computer and Science Labs, Physical Education Gymnasium, Music Class and Outdoor Playground.
- Goal is to alleviate the educational aspect of the humanitarian crisis and provide a more enriching education for children in

American International School in Gaza (AISG), a moderate educational institution nicknamed the “oasis of learning”, has played the leading role in educating the children of Gaza and functions under the same principles and guidelines that make up the foundations of many private American schools today. During the time since AISG’s inception, it has been repeatedly targeted by both Palestinian Militants and the Israeli military and has survived militant attacks, artillery fire, and even the kidnapping of foreign staff members.

In January 2009, the school was targeted by the Israeli Air Force, killing one staff member and leaving a noticeable gap in the already deteriorating educational system.



Recognizing the importance of strengthening the educational system in Gaza, USAID and CEP sought to assist in the rebuilding of the American International School in Gaza (AISG) through two grants which were used for the restoration and

expansion of the school, and to acquire teaching materials following its destruction. Despite worsening conditions, AISG remains committed to the pursuit of educating youth. Through the relief provided by USAID/CEP, the school was able to re-open and accept enrollment for the following year.

As the school’s Director, Rebhi Salem recognized the assistance of USAID and expressed AISG’s gratitude in allowing the school to continue its work, “After the war on Gaza, AISG was left without its physical structure, infrastructure, books and equipment. It was only with USAID assistance that AISG was able to stand back on its feet and continue to render its services.” The first component of this project allowed specific school curriculums to be strengthened and saw vast improvement through the acquisition of educational materials. The Sciences and Computer Labs received new equipment, tools and resources to better educate students and provide hands-on experience through lab experiments and projects using equipment procured through USAID/CEP.

The students were very excited about the new lab and couldn’t wait to conduct experiments and participate in interactive learning. The Music and Art curriculums were also revitalized and specific rooms with the proper equipment and resources were provided for each program, allowing students to

learn while expressing their creativity through the visual and performing arts. The second component provided 200 school students with new updated textbooks. Previously there were not enough books for all students and many had to photocopy pages or share with their classmates to do their assignments. AISG Director Salem stressed the importance of these fundamental resources, “Before receiving textbooks, we relied on copying and printing. It was a very costly substitute for textbooks.” Recently, Democratic Congressman of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District of Washington State, Brian Baird, was among the first U.S. officials to visit Gaza to witness the effects of the recent conflict. While in Gaza, Congressman Baird visited AISG and was very impressed with the new moderate American textbooks being used by the students; these books are very similar to the textbooks currently being used by students in the United States.



Thanks to USAID and CEP’s assistance, AISG can once again accept enrollment, a great concern of residents as the new school year was quickly approaching. New classrooms were finished to accommodate 200 primary and secondary students for the new school year. The classrooms and administrative offices also received new furniture and school supplies. A new gymnasium for sports, physical education, and school functions was also completed and an outdoor playground was expanded onto the facility, allowing the children to play outdoors in a safe environment. Air conditioners, backup electrical generators, a water pump, floodlights, and other infrastructure supplies and equipment were added to ensure the school’s capability to continue functioning in Gaza, a region that is still quite unstable.



Now that the American School in Gaza is restored, it can continue to provide an exceptional level of quality education to its 200 enrolled students. They feel that the school is much better than before and that the facilities have positively impacted the students’ morale. They are genuinely excited to attend the school and to learn each day. Despite worsening conditions in Gaza, AISG remains committed to its students in their pursuit of quality education and interactive learning. AISG students are now more confident and willing to freely express their thoughts and participate in an exchange of ideas with their peers and AISG faculty. As the Physical Education teacher, Mohannad Sourani noted, “AISG is meeting students’ demands again. The other day, one of my students said that the American School is the best school in Gaza.”

## ENHANCING FOOD SECURITY: IMPROVING ACCESS OF POOR AND MARGINALIZED HOUSEHOLDS TO FOOD AND BASIC HUMANITARIAN COMMODITIES

**ARDWBG444—ANERA School Clothing Gaza:** The humanitarian crisis in Gaza left many Palestinians unemployed and unable to secure the most basic necessities. With the beginning of the new school year approaching, families were making sacrifices to provide their children with their educational needs. Many families would ration food or forego purchasing meal items to save enough money to purchase notebooks and book bags for their children. Given the closure, many of these items were not widely available and those that were came with a heavy price tag. Recognizing this problem, CEP partnered with American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) to distribute school clothing, shoes and stationary supplies, targeting **11,600** school children between the ages of 6 and 14 years of age, across Gaza. Um Adham, a mother of six children, two of which are attending a local elementary school, expressed her appreciation by saying, “Now, I don’t have to worry about affording my kids’ school uniforms for the new school year.” Zakaria Al Helou, a father of three girls, explained, “My salary is not enough to cover all of my family’s basic needs but this assistance removed a big part of my responsibilities toward my girls at the beginning of the school new year.”



**ARDWBG470—RI Relief and Assistance Gaza:** Children constitute 50% of the Gaza Strip’s population. The conflict in Gaza left hundreds of thousands of children at risk, as evidenced by the increased reports of anxiety and conflict trauma. The situation is compounded by a slow and persistent deterioration of health and nutritional status, leading to increased vulnerability to disease due to further declines in socioeconomic and security conditions.



As winter approaches, public health challenges for children become critical. Personal hygiene and warm clothing are crucial to the preservation of healthy living. However, with more than 56% of Palestinian households under the national poverty line, and 40% of households suffering from critical poverty, increasing numbers of families are unable to provide their children with much needed hygiene materials and winter clothing. To address this concern, CEP supported Relief International (RI) in distributing winter clothes and hygiene kits to 3,840 Palestinian children between 6 and 10 years old. The distribution created 61 days of work for temporary employees hired through RI. Active learning techniques and awareness-raising activities centered on positive health practices managed by experienced health educators were incorporated into the distribution process and an awareness campaign was conducted to encourage targeted children to use their newly acquired hygiene kits and clothes to bolster improved health practices. Mothers were pleased with the kits their children received and were relieved to receive the warm clothing, in particular, as many of them cannot afford to purchase new clothes.

**ARDWBG471—CARE Relief and Assistance Gaza:** Since the end of Operation Cast Lead, over 20,000 displaced people in Gaza have continued to live in tents and/or in houses damaged during the military offensive. As the winter approaches, these war-affected families are still in desperate need for food and winterization support to protect them from the rain and cold during the next few months. CEP supported CARE to distribute 2,000 packages to residents of four areas of Gaza: Juhor ad Dik, Al Atatra, Siafa and Ezbet Abed Rabou. These four communities have received some but not adequate support during the past few months and hence, required additional support. The packages contained food items, diapers, olive oil and other crucial necessities. Due to unforeseen circumstances, CARE was unable to distribute the commodities and currently CEP is coordinating with local NGOs in Gaza to commence the distribution.

**ARDWBG472—CRS Relief and Assistance Gaza:** As part of CEP’s Emergency Response project in Gaza, this grant assisted Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in the distribution of food and household commodities. Due to restrictions caused by the blockade, food and commodity prices have increased while unemployment continued, causing most families to make extreme sacrifices to afford many of their necessities. Families would often ration food or forego the purchases of food or children’s clothing to be able to save and afford other items. CRS, supported by CEP, devised and implemented a system through coordination with local NGOs to distribute food and commodities across all five



Governorates of the Gaza Strip, successfully targeting 45,533 beneficiaries. One beneficiary, Naziha Abu Mghasib, is a mother of five children. Her husband has been unemployed since 2006. Naziha commented, “This food and hygiene kit is helpful because it has basic items that we use daily.”

**ARDWBG473—IOCC Relief and Assistance Gaza:** As part CEP’s Emergency Response in Gaza, the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), recognizing the burden of a weakened Gazan economy on the estimated 1.5 million Palestinian inhabitants, was provided with support to improve living conditions in the region by providing humanitarian relief to impoverished families living across seven remote and border areas of the Gaza Strip, which have suffered damage to agricultural land, factories, businesses and many homes. More than two-thirds (69%) of the damages caused to the Gaza Strip occurred in these areas with over 10,000 homes completely or partially damaged. CEP assisted IOCC in distributing a total of \$2 million in food and commodities, which arrived regularly in Gaza via truck freight on 508 pallets.



The items distributed included basic necessities such as sugar, canned meat, rice, cooking oil, tea, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and detergent. Forty-four year old Ahmed Abu Mour is the provider for 12 family members. He worked as a laborer in both Israel and Gaza prior to the blockade. In 2009 during the Israeli incursion, his home was completely destroyed. “We’ve lost everything. Two of my children suffer from severe war trauma. The aid we received has helped alleviate some of the pressure our family has been facing while trying to cover some of our basic needs.”

## FOCUS ON THE GAZA TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Since Israel began enforcing the blockade on Gaza, now in its fourth year, the Israeli government has tightly controlled all shipments that enter and leave the Gaza Strip. Due to restrictions imposed on the shipment of necessary commodities into the region, the people of Gaza are experiencing massive shortages of almost all basic needs, resulting in a high dependency on humanitarian aid from international nongovernment agencies (INGOs). Currently, over 80% of the Gaza Strip's population relies heavily on foreign assistance.

- **\$1.5 million** – CEP Transportation System value.
- **1,215,894** total CEP Beneficiaries.
- **444** Trucks delivered aid into Gaza so far.
- **9,344** pallets equal to **9,100** metric tons delivered to date.
- **4** rounds of humanitarian assistance implemented to date in Gaza.
- **\$4,411,653.85** total food distribution value.
- **2** CEP staff members monitor the transportation system to increase effectiveness and

In response to the situation in Gaza, USAID and ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP) have shifted focus from democracy and governance to emergency grants that provide support for humanitarian relief and aid assistance to the people of Gaza. To improve the efficiency of humanitarian aid shipments, CEP developed a new transportation system, managed by the ARD/CEP International Grants Manager and Warehouse Supervisor, which has proven to be a cost-effective and efficient solution to ship items to Gaza. In the short time since the transportation system has been in operation, there has been a noticeable increase in successful shipments into Gaza.



However, regional and political challenges that

hinder the transport of humanitarian aid into Gaza continue, despite the increased effectiveness of CEP's transportation system. Prior to initiating the transport of goods from the West Bank to Gaza, USAID and its partners must receive written authorization from the Israeli Coordinator for Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT). It is necessary for all shipments into the Gaza Strip to obtain COGAT approval and documentation; failure to do so can prevent shipments from entering Gaza, resulting in unnecessary waste of resources. Despite obtaining COGAT approval, entry into Gaza is not guaranteed as all shipments must pass inspections prior to entry. It can sometimes take over 12 hours to deliver a shipment into Gaza, as the shipments can be delayed while they await inspection.

There are three Israeli checkpoints that all shipments must pass through prior to entry into Gaza; each one has its own inspection process. The first checkpoint that the trucks must pass through is at Betounia where IDF and Israeli border guards use trained dogs to inspect packages; usually, if dogs cannot smell the contents of a package, it is rejected. This process often causes damage to the items contained in the shipment. In one particular incident, CEP delivered 127 pallets of commodities to Gaza. Of these, 117 pallets contained school clothing for young children. During the inspection process in Betounia, the border control's dogs tore into the packages. When the packages were inspected at the CEP warehouse in Gaza, it was noticed that many of them were so badly damaged that they could not be used. If however, the shipment passes through Betounia successfully, it will travel next to Tarqumia.



The second Israeli checkpoint at Tarqumia has a more rigorous inspection process in which all packages must be unloaded from their trucks, thoroughly inspected and reloaded onto a second truck. Due to this long process, shipments are often delayed, delicate food items may spoil, and the chances of theft often increase as the inspection process is prolonged. Additionally, if one item is rejected, Israeli officials are given the authority to use their discretion in rejecting an entire truckload. Further complicating the process, Israel has failed to produce clear guidelines for the approval of items,

causing confusion and more unnecessary delays.

The final inspection occurs at the Kerm Shalom checkpoint. Items waiting here are at a high risk of being stolen, lost or confiscated, especially high-priced items such as laptops, cameras, televisions, etc. In October, CEP delivered a shipment which included 18 pallets of science lab items, office equipment, furniture and other necessary equipment needed to improved education at the American School in Gaza (AISG).

The shipping contents included 30 laptop computers which were intended to be used for a student computer center at the school. While the shipment was undergoing inspection at Kerm Shalom, a driver noticed Israeli intelligence officials tearing open the nylon wrapping that protected the pallets. Later during check in, it was noticed that one laptop was missing. An investigation in coordination with the IDF and border control was conducted but the missing laptop was never recovered.



Inside Gaza, the de-facto government is requesting that all organizations intending to deliver aid into the region must first complete registration and submit Coordination Letters addressed to their Ministry of Social Affairs. These letters must provide specific details on all shipments such as their contents, locations and dates of delivery, and distribution and descriptions of intended recipients. Furthermore, as shipments enter the Gaza Strip, they must be inspected by the local government. Since the United States government does not recognize the legitimacy of the government in Gaza, a Contact Policy is being implemented which prohibits American organizations and their partners from addressing or making contact with Gazan officials. However, to expedite the flow of shipments, USAID has granted permission to its partner organizations, allowing them to submit the required paperwork to the appropriate channels under the advisement of ARD's CEP. USAID and CEP remain resolute in their mission to ease the suffering of the Palestinians living in Gaza through the continued shipments of basic household commodities, clothing, food, and other necessities delivered via CEP's transportation system.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CEP TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

<b>Humanitarian Assistance</b>	<b>Total</b>
Household Beneficiaries	1556,192
Food Packages Distributed	72,600
Children's Kits	7,850
Water Tanks Distributed	900
School Clothing Distributed	10,030
Blankets Distributed	51,000
Plastic Sheets Distributed	28,000
Medical Supplies Distributed	5 (metric tons)
Working Days	23,951.67
Positions Created	876
<b>Food Packages Distributed</b>	<b>Total</b>
Distributed under round 1+2+3	4,411,653.85
Distributed under round 4	685,050.94
Early Recovery	505,400.00
Amount of Food Packages	5,602,104.79
<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Pallets Delivered	9,344 (9,100 metric tons)
Trucks Carrying Shipments	444



**ARDWBG474—IRD Relief and Assistance Gaza:** CEP provided support to International Relief and



Development (IRD), which coordinated with local NGOs in Gaza to provide humanitarian relief to 3,500 impoverished families in marginalized areas. Due to the climbing unemployment rates across the Gaza Strip, many Palestinians could not afford to cover their most basic needs. During the distribution process, families received food, clothing, health and hygiene kits, and children’s school supplies. The elderly and disabled, who are often overlooked, have also received these commodities.

Akram Fayeq Al Helou is the unemployed head of a family of 13 members, three of which require special assistance. “My family barely has something to eat at home. I have three handicapped children and I am overwhelmed by their needs as this economy is deteriorating. I need help, like many families all over Gaza. We were provided with winter clothing and diapers for my disabled children, which has helped us.”

**ARDWBG475—ANERA Relief and Assistance Gaza:** CEP partnered with ANERA to complete the distribution of winter and school clothing in the Gaza Strip through a grant valued at approximately \$750,000. Targeting children between 6 to 8 years old, the packets contained jackets, gloves, wool hats, socks and thermal pants to 47,758 children. “These things are good to have ready for the approaching winter. Now I don’t have to worry about the coming winter as I do each year.” Each of the packets contains a jacket, a pair of gloves, a wool hat, a pair of socks and a pair of thermal pants. Every item was manufactured in the West Bank in four factories, creating jobs for 150 women. “My children love their new things,” exclaimed Reem, a mother of three children.



**ARDWBG476—CHF Relief and Assistance Gaza:** Cooperative Housing Foundation International (CHF International) sought the support of ARD’s CEP to alleviate the suffering of Gazans in conflict-affected communities. To meet this goal, CEP provided a \$749,982 grant to CHF International for the procurement and distribution of food and household commodities to 2,265 households. The project was implemented over the course of four months in locations across five Governorates and created 27 temporary jobs and 1,640 working days during the distribution. “I’ve been a widow for 10 years now and have no source of income to rely on,” said Munira Al Mudalal, a mother and sole provider of seven family members. “It is really nice to know that there is someone outside Gaza thinking about us and tries to help us to survive the very hard situation we are living in.”



## EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN: INCREASED EMPLOYMENT AND REVENUE GENERATION

**ARDWBG456 - Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program:** The Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program (GEGNP) addressed the rise of unemployment in Gaza as a result of

- USAID and ARD's CEP supported IRD in creating GEGNP
- **1,142** unemployed graduates placed with 32 NGOs for four months
- **96,000** working days created through GEGNP
- **22,840** people assisted by GEGNP participants during employment
- **29,692** total indirect GEGNP beneficiaries
- NGOs focused in four sectors: education, health, community development, and the empowerment of women

movement restrictions caused by the blockade. There are currently 1.5 million people living in the Gaza Strip, more than 37% of the labor force in Gaza Strip are unemployed while 21% had been permanently affected by the destruction of businesses under the last Israeli offensive. According to the Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), unemployment is highest among people in the 15-24 year age group, which is 36% of the total population in the Gaza Strip. Young males account for 45% of the unemployed, while 93% of women in this group are unemployed.

CEP supported International Relief and Development (IRD) to place 1,142 unemployed college graduates, from marginalized families, in temporary employment positions with 32 local NGOs in the Gaza Strip, creating 96,000 working days under the program. With an average of six family members per graduate, the employees were able to support 6,852 people. While employed,

each intern assisted an average of 20 people, resulting in 22,840 Gazans benefiting from temporary employment. GEGNP has assisted 29,692 indirect beneficiaries. After the program's conclusion, IRD held four job fairs, one for each sector, to counsel the participants in useful job hunting tactics. GEGNP participants were pleased with the experiences gained through GENP and used the skills gained to enhance their abilities to acquire permanent employment.



### GEGNP PROGRAM OUTPUTS

<b>Temporarily Employed College Graduates</b>	1142
<b>Participating NGOS</b>	32
<b>Working Days Generated</b>	96,000
<b>Post Employment Sector Specific Job Conferences</b>	04
<b>Approximate Family Members in Employee Households</b>	06
<b>Indirect Family Beneficiaries</b>	6,852
<b>Approximate Number of People assisted by Employees</b>	20
<b>Total Beneficiaries of Employee assistance</b>	22,840
<b>Total Indirect GEGNP Beneficiaries</b>	29,692

## FOCUS ON GAZA WORK GENERATION THROUGH NGOS PROGRAM

Since the start of the Israeli Blockade in Gaza in 2007, travel restrictions have limited or denied the ability of Gazans to cross over into the West Bank, Israel, and Egypt for employment. The effect of these travel restrictions has been widespread unemployment across Gaza and has caused poverty for many of Gaza's citizens; significantly increasing the demand for foreign aid assistance.

Conflicts in this region have destroyed Gaza's infrastructure and many businesses while others were rendered inoperable due to the limitations set by the blockade. USAID and ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP) sought to lessen the impact of unemployment by supporting International Relief and Development (IRD) in creating the Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program (GEGNP). This program temporarily placed 1,142 college graduates in internships with 32 locally based NGOs for a period of four months.

GEGNP focused primarily on skills development and job creation for unemployed youth, enabling young participants to obtain steady income for their families. Those with the most critical needs were given priority, such as participants who come from families led by a matriarch, those affected by poverty, or those participants who are the sole means of income for their families. NGOs were able to strengthen their capacity by employing these graduates to conduct tasks such as surveying community needs, organizing events and distributions, conducting home visits and relief operations, and carrying out basic administrative and human resource tasks. The employees were placed with organizations that best matched their experiences in one of four primary sectors: education, health, community development, and the empowerment of women. In the education sector, GEGNP interns helped increase the educational achievements of learning-challenged students by providing educational awareness workshops for parents, and sessions and supplementary classes for students. Through the program, 9,609 students benefited from supplementary classes and non-formal educational sessions.



GEGNP successfully enhanced the services of local NGOs in the health sector by increasing the outreach of health services to local communities. Interns conducted recreational support counseling and therapy sessions for victims of conflict trauma through activities such as Health Awareness Workshops and field studies of children's nutrition. Recreational support sessions (31,043) were conducted and 11,478 people participated in 614 health awareness workshops during the four-month period. Interns also conducted field studies in child nutrition and surveyed disadvantaged people in the Rafah Governorate.

Empowering women in Gaza was especially important as according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), young women make up 93% of the unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip. Women graduates constituted 63% of the enrolled GEGNP participants. Capacity development and advocacy

programs were conducted by NGOs to accurately assess the needs and concerns of women living in Gaza. Seminars were held to address women's rights while literacy, skills, and vocational sessions provided enhanced educational training for women. Assigned tasks included conducting field studies to discuss women's rights, divorce, and relationship issues. Under the program, GEGNP conducted 614 women's rights workshops, attended by 3,197 women.

In the community development sector, NGOs conducted assessment studies in marginalized areas of Gaza by assigning GEGNP interns to gauge the specific needs of local communities through focus studies. These studies helped the organizations determine the most effective actions for improving the living conditions in Gaza. Community assessments were conducted in Al Fukhary, Al Mawasy, Deir Al Balah, Jabalia, and Beit Lahia as well as in the eastern sections of Gaza City.

Overall, the program created 96,000 working days. Additionally, with an average of six family members per graduate, the employees were able to support 6,852 people. While employed, each intern assisted an average of 20 people, resulting in 22,840 Gazans benefiting from temporary employment. GEGNP has assisted 29,692 indirect beneficiaries. After the conclusion of the four-month program, IRD held four job fairs, one for each sector, to counsel the participants in useful job hunting tactics.



The effects of GEGNP have extended beyond employment generation. It has provided participants with valuable NGO work experiences, increasing the likelihood of acquiring further employment. NGOs were strengthened and able to provide better services due to the additional staff members they received. The program has also indirectly alleviated the effects of impoverishment and stimulated the fragile Gazan economy through wages earned by the participants. While it was a short-term program, the effects of GEGNP will surely have a long-term impact on the people of Gaza.

### **GEGNP WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

<b>Women's Rights Awareness Workshops Conducted</b>	614
<b>Women's Rights Awareness Participants</b>	3,197
<b>Women Beneficiaries of Life Skills Home Visits</b>	6,264
<b>Women's Advocacy Activities Conducted</b>	09
<b>Skills Training Courses Conducted</b>	32
<b>Skills Training Participants</b>	586 women
<b>Literacy Courses Conducted</b>	440
<b>Literacy Course Participants</b>	185 women
<b>Vocational Sessions Conducted</b>	613
<b>Vocational Session Participants</b>	122 women

### GEGNP EDUCATION SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>Supplementary Classes/ Non-Formal Educational Sessions</b>	42,346
<b>Student Beneficiaries</b>	9,609
<b>Disabled Student Beneficiaries</b>	176
<b>Educational Sessions Conducted</b>	5,223
<b>Parents enrolled in Educational Awareness Workshops</b>	3,343
<b>Home Visits</b>	1,976
<b>Parent Beneficiaries of Home Visits</b>	1,288

### GEGNP HEALTH SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>Child Recipients of Medical Screenings</b>	4,000
<b>Recreational Support Sessions Conducted</b>	31,043
<b>Recreational Support Session Participants</b>	16,936
<b>Health Awareness Workshops</b>	614
<b>Health Awareness Workshop Participants</b>	11,478 People suffering from trauma
<b>Health Services Conducted</b>	23,041
<b>Recipients of Health Services</b>	12,919
<b>Child Nutrition Field Studies Conducted</b>	01
<b>Disability Field Studies Conducted in Rafah Gov.</b>	01

### GEGNP EDUCATION SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS

<b>Supplementary Classes/ Non-Formal Educational Sessions</b>	42,346
<b>Student Beneficiaries</b>	9,609
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<b>Educational Sessions Conducted</b>	5,223
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<b>Parent Beneficiaries of Home Visits</b>	1,288



## 4.0 SUCCESS STORIES

### ***Children Coping with War Trauma through Music Therapy in Nablus—ARDW427***

While living under occupation in the West Bank, young children are often exposed to violence that can have severe adverse affects on their psychological well-being. With the limited availability of



professional healthcare clinics that treat psychological disorders, many of these children go untreated and become more detached from their emotions following exposure to traumatic events. This has become a growing concern, particularly in the northern West Bank area of Nablus Governorate.

Recognizing the need to resolve this important issue, the Syndicate of Psychological and Social Workers (SPSW)

sought the support of USAID and ARD’s Civic Engagement Program (CEP). Together, USAID/CEP and SPSW developed an alternative form of trauma rehabilitation, which used music therapy to treat young children between the ages of 9 and 16. USAID/CEP hired certified professionals who trained 30 volunteers from 10 villages across Nablus Governorate during a one-month period; these volunteers conducted the music therapy workshops, spanning four months, in which approximately 500 children participated and were successfully treated. Many of the children had never played musical instruments but were eager to learn. Parents had hoped that not only would music therapy offer a creative outlet but would also increase cultural knowledge and music appreciation.

One mother from Sara village mentioned that “since the beginning of the second intifada, several developments took place which affected my kids in a negative way. They developed very hostile behavior. These kinds of workshops have played a significant role in changing their behavior for the better. During the music therapy sessions, it was noticeable that my child was becoming friendlier.” Sessions began with group conversations which encouraged children to openly discuss their fears and express their thoughts with their peers and counselors. Each session was divided into three topics: group building, open dialogue, and music therapy. Through this combination, SPSW fostered a safe and welcoming environment that encouraged participation.

Rawan, a young student in the program, felt encouraged by the sessions to open up about her own fears, “This program taught us to trust each other through some of the games. Also, the relaxation session was very good. We used to imagine good things and speak about our fears and problems.”

Mr. Kamal Shoraty, the SPSW Director, stated that “the significance of this project is that it did not tackle the treatment of trauma via traditional methods such as painting and therefore the desire to participate on this project among children and their parents were very high. The media coverage for the project was also the largest during the lifetime of SPSW thus far.”

Overall, the music therapy program conducted by the SPSW was very successful, highlighting the organization's community outreach and strengthening their relationships with local communities. Parents and local community members were very pleased with the changes witnessed in children and expressed their support for continuing similar programs that would not only include children but also those with special needs and even perhaps sessions for parents. While SPSW's program suggested that living conditions in the occupied West Bank are closely related to the root causes of psychological trauma in Palestinian children, there are at least 500 children in Nablus Governorate who are now much more capable of coping with their problems, thanks to the support of USAID and ARD's CEP.

#### ***Gaza Students more Prepared for the New School Year—ARDWBG444***

USAID and ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP), in cooperation with American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA), completed an emergency assistance grant project valued at \$567,000 which aimed to improve the lives of young school children in the Gaza Strip. The project began in February and ended in June 2010. The Israeli Cast Lead offensive, coupled with the continuing blockade of Gaza, helped create instability in many schools as they were unable to acquire the necessary supplies and resources for continuing educational services. Additionally, many students come from impoverished families which cannot



afford the basic necessities. Those who can afford their supplies often do so by sacrificing other important daily needs such as food. Therefore, to help resolve this problem, USAID/CEP worked closely with ANERA to distribute school packages through four local organizations to over 11,600 school children in grades 1 through 8.

The packages held a retail value of about \$70 each and contained school aprons, backpacks, stationery supplies, t-shirts, jeans, and shoes. This project also helped lessen the burden of unemployment by employing 25 volunteers and workers during the course of three months to carry out the distribution at the four locations. Parents were very grateful for the assistance and were relieved that they did not have to worry about how to afford their children's basic school necessities for the upcoming year. For example, Ghefra Al-Sawarha, a mother whose two children received school packages, was very pleased with USAID and CEP's support and mentioned, "They'll keep the school packages for next year. They're valuable and worth too much, particularly the bag and shoes." Despite her family's small poultry business, they are still largely dependent on international assistance for survival. "Every week, we sell some eggs and earn 20 shekels to support the family. We used to save some of the money to get the school supplies for the children. We don't have to worry about that now." Ghefra's son, Sixth Grader Taleb Al-Sawarha, spends 2 hours each day walking back and forth to school. He had a pair of torn sandals that he wore each day but after receiving the school package, he now owns a new pair of shoes. "They will start the school year with full energy. My husband is jobless, and I can't afford buying new clothes for everybody. Each year, each one of my children can get only one new item. Now, they get the full package," said Ghefra.

### **Gaza's Youngest Residents are Overcoming Post-War Trauma—ARDWBG450**



ACTED, through the support of ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP), launched a comprehensive intervention, through the use of recreational support in nine kindergartens across the Gaza Strip. Young children were provided with nutritious daily cooked meals, counseling, and game play sessions. The project helped ease the suffering of young children affected by post-war trauma, which if left untreated can develop into severe behavioral and emotional problems. Young children are especially susceptible to suffer trauma, as this is a critical stage of mental and physical development in their lives.

Since *Operation Cast Lead*, five-year-old Abed Al Rahman Shoeshaa' a has had behavioral problems that prevented him from learning and interacting with other children. He lives with his mother, six siblings, and his grandfather in a small apartment in the village of Al-Tufah, one of the worst hit areas during the last offensive.

Abed witnessed violence which left him in distress and unable to cope with the trauma he began to suffer. "He couldn't sit still; he kept asking to go to the bathroom so he could run away from the classroom", his teacher explained. "During the meal distribution, he threw his food and showed disrespect to the volunteers and other children. He kept damaging his classmates' belongings," a volunteer recalled. Abed's behavioral problems affected his education. "He had a speech impediment that prevented him from pronouncing words correctly. It caused him embarrassment which was worsened by the mocking of his classmates," his teacher remarked.

"After the intervention, he became a peaceful boy. He now shares with others and has learned good eating habits; he eats with utensils instead of his hands and waits for others to start before eating." His teacher agreed, "I'm very happy that he has learned how to use the spoon and sit on a chair to eat well." The volunteers also observed significant changes in his character. "Abed is now very organized and cooperative in playing," they noted. Abed has grown fond of the program and now enjoys participating in the activities and sessions. When asked about the program, he eagerly explains how he enjoys the daily meals, milk, juice, and vegetables as well as the daily games he plays with the volunteers. Hopefully with this intervention and continued support, Abed will overcome his trauma and continue to live a happy life.

### **World Record Pastry Unites Palestinians in Bethlehem—ARDWBG506**

On August 27, The Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI) welcomed 5,000 visitors from all over the West Bank and Israel as they converged upon the Courtyard of Catholic Action to attend a special event coinciding with this year's Ramadan celebration.



Sponsored by USAID and ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP), the event marked BCCI's commitment to the community of Bethlehem by fostering unity and civic pride while strengthening the financial capacity of local businesses through tourism and business promotion, during this special holiday season.

The highlight of this event was BCCI's Guinness World Record for the largest Qatayef, a traditional



pastry made popular during Ramadan. 15 bakers, assistants and BCCI volunteers created the Qatayef under the supervision of Rami Dana, the Managing Director Bethlehem's Dana Bakery. As the crowds waited in excitement during preparation, they were treated to musical entertainment courtesy of the Edward Said Conservatory for Music and as each stage of the Qatayef was completed and announced, the crowds went wild with energy.

People from all backgrounds and areas united and celebrated together. Many families came out to the event with their young children who happily cheered and clapped. When the Qatayef was completed, the P.A. Minister of Tourism Khuloud Duaibes and the Governor of Bethlehem Abdel Fattah Hamayel presented the Qatayef to the crowd. It was measured and weighed by Guinness officials resulting in a pastry that was 3 meters wide and weighed 105kg. It truly was the world's largest Qatayef.

"We have not had events like this for many years," said Mrs. Nasser, a long time resident of the Bethlehem's old city. "People may think we are crazy, but it feels very good to be part of this." BCCI Chairman Dr. Samir Hazboun, one of the organizers of this event, explained that holding these types of cultural events in Bethlehem would convey a message of brotherhood between Muslim and Christian Palestinians. "Bethlehem strives to become the capital of festivals and celebrations in Palestine but will continue to do so in a way that will bring the people together as Palestinian brothers and sisters. We want to thank the institutions and the private sector for their continued physical and moral support and specifically my immense gratitude toward USAID and ARD/CEP for supporting BCCI and helping our organization strengthen its role in the development of a future Democratic Palestinian State."

### ***Feeding the Hungry and Improving Lives in War Torn Gaza—ARDWBG473***

CEP, recognizing the burden of a weakened economy on the estimated 1.5 million Palestinian inhabitants, is working through partnership with IOCC to improve living conditions in the region by providing humanitarian relief to impoverished families living in poor conditions across seven remote and border areas of the Gaza Strip. These areas were Beit Lahiya and Beit Hanun in the North Gaza Governorate, Ash Shuja'iyeh, At Tuffah and Az Zaitoun in Gaza Governorate



and Rafah and Shokat as Sufi in the Rafah Governorate. These chosen villages were the most widely damaged areas during the Israeli incursion, and have witnessed severe damages caused to agricultural land, factories, businesses and many homes. 69% of the damages caused to the Gaza Strip occurred in these areas with over 10,000 homes completely or partially damaged.

To implement the relief effort in these areas, CEP assisted IOCC to distribute a total of two million dollars in food and non-food items which arrived regularly in Gaza via truck freight on 508 pallets. Many of the items distributed included basic necessities such as sugar, canned meat, rice, cooking oil, and tea. Additionally, non-food items crucial for everyday living were also distributed and included tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, towels, pillows, blankets, and laundry detergent. Despite the de-facto government's constant attempts to interfere with the aid distribution, all the commodities that arrived in Gaza were distributed to beneficiaries successfully. The families were very grateful for the aid they received and remained hopeful that it would continue.

Ahmed Abu Mour, a 44 year old resident of Shokat As' Sufi in Rafah, is the head of a family of 12. Ahmed worked as a laborer in both Israel and Gaza prior to the blockade. In 2009 during the Israeli incursion, his home was completely destroyed, leaving him and his family with no choice but to move to a much smaller rented house. "We've lost everything. Two of my children suffer from severe war trauma. The aid we received has helped alleviate some of the pressure our family has been facing while trying to cover some of our basic needs." Odeh Hussein Abu Mour, also of Shokat As' Sufi in Rafah, is 75 years old and the sole provider of his family of 7. Odeh worked as a farmer but in January 2009 had lost his job. "Before the conflict, I was able to assist my family. We lost everything. The aid we received has helped us to survive and we hope that more is coming in the near future."

In total, 3,350 families and 23,450 individuals have been assisted through this grant, thereby further weakening the grip of unemployment and poverty on the Gaza Strip and strengthening the support for needed recovery.

#### ***Humanitarian Assistance is changing the Lives of Impoverished Gazans—ARDWBG474***

USAID, through ARD's Civic Engagement Program (CEP), provided a grant to International Relief and Development (IRD) working with local nongovernmental agencies to provide humanitarian relief to 3,500 impoverished families in Gaza. Through USAID/CEP funding, these families received food, clothing,



health and hygiene kits, and children's school supplies. Health and hygiene kits were also supplied to the elderly and the disabled. Unemployment continues to rise as families in Gaza look to assistance from NGOs to help them alleviate their suffering, one year after the cessation of hostilities.

Among the aid recipients benefitting from USAID/CEP's grant to IRD, is the family of Akram Faye Al Helou. Of the thirteen members of his family, three require special assistance. Formerly employed in Israel, Al Helou now finds himself unable to find

work and support his family in the aftermath of the previous Israeli incursion into Gaza. “No one is helping us. My family barely has something to eat at home. I have three handicapped children and I am overwhelmed by their needs as this economy is deteriorating. I need help, like many families all over Gaza. We were provided with winter clothing and diapers for my disabled children, which has helped us.” Al Helou was very grateful for the assistance provide to his family and was pleased with the workshop he had attended, saying “It was a wonderful workshop that helped raise my community’s awareness toward the rights of people with special needs. Surely, this will impact the way they treat them.”

# 5.0 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

This section summarizes achievements to date, across all contract objectives and lists all ongoing and completed grant activities.

## OBJECTIVE ONE

Number of Completed Grants	Value	Events	Participants/Beneficiaries
9	\$288,568	21	10,616
<b>Ongoing Grants</b>			
0	0	0	0

## OBJECTIVE TWO

Completed Grants	Value	Community Infrastructure	Beneficiaires	Working days Generated	\$Value of Community Cost Share
39	\$2,950,663	16	105,598	10,007	\$362,421
<b>Ongoing Grants</b>					
32	\$4,579,434	18 ongoing	85,302 (est.)	19,986 (est.)	\$452,350 (est.)

## OBJECTIVE THREE

Completed Grants	Value	Households Reached	Metric Tonnes of Food Provided	Value of NFIs	Individual Beneficiaries
20	\$7,557,259	100,601	721	3,984,627	648,123
<b>Ongoing Grants</b>					
0	0	0	0	0	0

## OBJECTIVE FOUR

<b>Completed Grants</b>	28
<b>Value</b>	\$15,471,280
<b>Households Reached with Food and NFI</b>	54,021
<b>Individual Beneficiaries</b>	479,223
<b>Metric Tonnes of Food Provided</b>	621
<b>Working days Generated through support to relief logistics</b>	20,242
<b>Working Days Created through Cash-for-Work activities</b>	96,000
<b>NGOs with increased capacity</b>	32

<b>Ongoing Grants</b>	10
<b>Homes Renovated</b>	127
<b>Value</b>	\$14,357,352
<b>Working Days created through Cash-for-Work activities</b>	14,498
<b>Training days</b>	5,798
<b>Children's meals provided</b>	123,525
<b>Dunums of land rehabilitated</b>	107
<b>Farmers trained</b>	1,000
<b>Urban home gardens built</b>	500
<b>Training days in educational and recreational support skills</b>	21,460
<b>Days of recreational activities</b>	9
<b>Children benefitting</b>	1,525



**OBJECTIVE I: SUPPORT INITIATIVES AND PROCESSES THAT SUPPORT A DEMOCRATIC, PEACEFUL AND PROSPEROUS PALESTINIAN STATE.**

<b>Objective I: West Bank Projects Completed to Date</b>			
<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG310	JEC Improvements Equipment Jericho	Jericho Equestrian Club	\$95,249
ARDWBG355	MC Peace Run Beit Sahur	Beit Sahur MC	\$2,798
ARDWBG356	Al Ihsan Peace March Beit Jala	Al Ihsan Society	\$18,620
ARDWBG358	ACMD Forums Equipment Hebron	ACMD	\$26,740
ARDWBG402	Amideast Cultural Movie Outing Nablus	Direct Implementation	\$1,271
ARDWBG416	MC Tourism Promotion Festival Beit Sahur	Beit Sahur Municipality	\$29,505
ARDWBG477	MOYS Cultural Sports Night Jenin	Ministry of Youth & Sports	\$77,925
ARDWBG478	ACMD Ramadan Tent of Friendship & Culture Hebron	ACMD	\$24,800
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$276,908</b>

*There were no grants under implementation in the West Bank under Objective 1, during this reporting period.*

<b>Objective I: Gaza Projects Completed to Date</b>			
<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG315	PCDCR Democratic Forums Gaza (257)	PCDCR	\$11,660
		Sub-total	\$11,660

*There were no grants under implementation in Gaza under Objective 1, during this reporting period.*

**OBJECTIVE 2: STRENGTHEN REFORM-MINDED PALESTINIAN LEADERS AND INSTITUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVED SERVICE PROVISIONS AND INCREASED RESPONSIVENESS TO CITIZENS NEEDS**

<b>Objective 2: West Bank Projects Under Implementation</b>			
<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG301	VC Public Park Bizzariya	Bizzariya VC	\$240,290
ARDWBG306	VC School Building Al Tayba	Al Tayba VC	\$240,340
ARDWBG307	VC Road Rehab 'Ein 'Arik	Ein 'Arik VC	\$111,000
ARDWBG309	VC Main Street Rehab Dier Ibzi'	Dier Ibzi' VC	\$123,350
ARDWBG327	MC Main Square Rehab Jericho	Jericho MC	\$247,321
ARDWBG357	MC Children Park Al Yamun	Al Yamun MC	\$212,000
ARDWBG378	AOCB Rehab Equipment Beit Sahur	Arab Orthodox Club	\$151,925
ARDWBG381	MC School Building Azzoun	Azzoun MC	\$234,150
ARDWBG386	VC School Labs Zabda	Zabda VC	\$193,542
ARDWBG390	VC School Building Ti'nnik	Ti'nnik VC	\$246,570
ARDWBG398	HOH Rehab Furniture Bethlehem	House of Hope	\$241,705
ARDWBG403	JSFCU Theater Equipment Jenin	JSFCU	\$173,100
ARDWBG417	FHSB Facilities Rehab Bethlehem	FHSB	\$86,170
ARDWBG419	MC Guest House Bir Zeit	Bir Zeit MC	\$45,000
ARDWBG422	AHCS Health Al-Samou'	AHCS	\$127,000
ARDWBG423	MC Park Rehab Al Doha	Al-Doha MC	\$140,380
ARDWBG424	CSPO Olive Press Rehab Bethlehem	CSPO	\$99,680
ARDWBG426	SPSW Human Resources and Administrative Systems Development Nablus	SPSW	\$122,439
ARDWBG432	BCCI IT Equipment Software Bethlehem	BCCI	\$100,650
ARDWBG436	SHCC ISO9001 Certification Hebron	SHCC	\$34,160
ARDWBG437	SHCC IT Equipment and Furniture Hebron	SHCC	\$53,570
ARDWBG438	PCMC Training Institute Hebron	PCMC	\$60,390
ARDWBG481	NASCD Naseej Center Nablus	NASCD	\$135,403
ARDWBG482	MC Schools Road Rehab Beit Jala	Beit Jala MC	\$140,000
ARDWBG483	MC School External Works Jayyus	Jayyus MC	\$134,616
ARDWBG488	SHS Equipment & Furniture Ramallah	Stars of Hope Society	\$70,000
ARDWBG492	Alnayzak Mobile Experiment Equipment Ramallah	Alnayzak	\$71,600
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,836,351</b>

**Objective 2: West Bank Projects Completed To Date**

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG300	YC Rehab/Equipment Salfit	Salfit Social Cultural Club	\$76,625
ARDWBG302	MC Road Rehab Salfit	Salfit MC	\$236,620
ARDWBG304	VC Girls School Jayyus	Jayyus VC	\$222,975
ARDWBG305	VC Main Road Beautification Deir Ghazala	Deir Ghazala	\$207,591
ARDWBG308	LC Road Rehab Al 'Ezariya	Al 'Ezariya	\$156,892
ARDWBG312	MC Sports Field Rehab Kharas	Kharas MC	\$127,907
ARDWBG313	CACB Rehab Equipment Bethlehem	CACB	\$136,947
ARDWBG314	PCRC Equipment Workshop Bethlehem	Wi'am	\$52,978
ARDWBG320	VC Girls School 'Anin	Anin VC	\$231,798
ARDWBG322	TGYC Sports Equipment Jenin	Tura al Gharbiya Club	\$42,201
ARDWBG333	VC Road Beautification Rummana	Rummana VC	\$1,440
ARDWBG352	NCD Schools Rehabilitation Hebron	NCD	\$60,985
ARDWBG353	MC Roads Rehab Beit Jala	Beit Jala MC	\$77,995
ARDWBG359	BRCS Theater Equipment Jenin	BRCS	\$90,104
ARDWBG363	QADS Kindergarten Equipment Qatanna	Qatanna Village	\$80,198
ARDWBG379	SOJ Furniture Equipment Beit Sahur	School of Joy	\$27,233
ARDWBG380	MC Women Center and Health Clinic Equipment Aqraba	Aqraba MC	\$41,727
ARDWBG396	MC Schools' Access Road Rehab Al-Ubeidiya	Al-Ubeidiya MC	\$122,950
ARDWBG397	JCDC Food Supplies Furniture Jerusalem	Princess Basma	\$119,680
ARDWBG400	JYWC Sports and Office Equipment Jenin	Jenin Young Women Club	\$76,610
ARDWBG401	JSC Cultural & Sports Nights Jenin	Jenin Sports Club	\$24,918
ARDWBG404	YYSC Cultural & Sports Nights Al Yamun	YYSC	\$20,091
ARDWBG405	RUSC Cultural & Sports Nights Jenin	RUSC	\$11,997
ARDWBG406	YSC Sports & Cultural Nights Jenin	Ya'bad Sporting Club	\$19,438
ARDWBG410	AADM Ramadan Nights Bethlehem	AADM	\$24,615
ARDWBG421	MC Old City Ramadan Business Reviving Hebron	Hebron MC	\$39,147
ARDWBG425	MC Health Clinic Yatta	Yatta MC	\$120,850
ARDWBG427	SPSW Treatment of Trauma and Psychological Disorders Nablus	SPSW	\$66,100
ARDWBG428	SPSW Provision of Equipment Nablus	SPSW	\$30,794
ARDWBG449	HKS Visually Impaired Equipment Jerusalem	Helen Keller School	\$19,920
ARDWBG506	BCCI Ramadan Business Promotion Bethlehem	BCCI	\$35,800
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$2,605,127</b>

### Objective 2: Gaza Projects Under Implementation

Grant Number	Grant Title	Grantee	Dollar Value
ARDWBG382	NSDL Women Recreational Support Workshops Rafah	NSDL	\$183,401
ARDWBG383	SYFS Women Recreational Support Workshops Gaza	SYFS	\$183,981
ARDWBG384	LHA Women Recreational Support Workshops Jabalya	LHA	\$183,581
ARDWBG411	NSDL After School Activities Rafah	NSDL	\$95,920
ARDWBG412	SYFS After School Activities Jabalya	SYFS	\$96,200
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$743,083</b>

### Objective 2: Gaza Completed to Date

Grant Number	Grant Title	Grantee	Dollar Value
ARDWBG316	UHIGA After School Program - Khan Younis	UHIGA	\$49,967
ARDWBG317	LHA After School Program - Jabalya	Life and Hope Association	\$48,006
ARDWBG354	ICCE Educators Training Gaza	ICCE	\$38,191
ARDWBG360	MC Water Tanks Al Fukhkhari	Al Fukhkhari MC	\$40,444
ARDWBG362	MC Water Tanks Abasan Al Kabira	Abasan Al Kabira MC	\$40,444
ARDWBG408	UHIGA Ramadan Cultural Nights Gaza	UHIGA	\$25,760
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$242,811</b>



**OBJECTIVE 3: SUPPLY BASIC HUMANITARIAN COMMODITIES TO  
DISADVANTAGED GROUPS TO PRESERVE HOPE AND MODERATION AMONG  
IMPOVERISHED POPULATIONS**

<b>Objective 3: Gaza Projects Completed to Date</b>			
<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG321	Ahli Arab Hospital Food Gaza	Ahli Arab Hospital	\$18,994
ARDWBG323	Ahli Arab Hospital Medicine Gaza	Ahli Arab Hospital	\$21,151
ARDWBG324	PFBS Medical Supplies Gaza	PFBS	\$17,501
ARDWBG328	CHF Plastic Sheets Gaza	CHF	\$204,304
ARDWBG329	PCDCR Milk & Blankets to Gaza	PCDCR	\$154,468
ARDWBG332	MCI Emergency Assistance Gaza	MCI	\$246,782
ARDWBG334	CHF Emergency Assistance Gaza	CHF	\$197,295
ARDWBG335	CRS Emergency Assistance Gaza	CRS	\$226,832
ARDWBG336	CARE Emergency Assistance Gaza	CARE	\$244,859
ARDWBG338	RI Emergency Assistance Gaza	RI	\$262,923
ARDWBG339	ANERA Emergency Assistance Gaza	ANERA	\$239,412
ARDWBG341	CHF Plastic sheets Gaza	CHF	\$211,538
ARDWBG342	MCI Emergency Response Gaza	MCI	\$713,838
ARDWBG343	ANERA Emergency Response Gaza	ANERA	\$658,220
ARDWBG344	IOCC Emergency Response Gaza	IOCC	\$694,518
ARDWBG345	CARE Emergency Response Gaza	CARE	\$703,271
ARDWBG346	CRS Emergency Response Gaza	CRS	\$674,922
ARDWBG347	SCUS Emergency Response Gaza	SCUS	\$714,253
ARDWBG348	CHF Emergency Response Gaza	CHF	\$740,409
ARDWBG349	WV Emergency Response Gaza	WVI	\$611,770
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,557,259</b>

*There were no grants under implementation in Gaza under Objective 3, during this reporting period.*

**OBJECTIVE 4: DISTRIBUTE FOOD AND RELIEF ITEMS DIRECTLY OR THROUGH WORK AND TRAINING, TO PRESERVE HOPE AND MODERATION AMONG IMPOVERISHED POPULATIONS**

<b>Objective 4: West Bank Projects Completed to Date</b>			
<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG340	Creche Fuel and Food supplies Bethlehem	Creche	\$48,036
ARDWBG409	NCD Ramadan Food Baskets Old City Hebron	NCD	\$36,136
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$84,172</b>

*There were no grants under implementation in the West Bank under Objective 4, during this reporting period.*

<b>Objective 4: Gaza Projects Under Implementation</b>			
<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG450	Gaza Strip Early Childhood Development Education Support and Private Kindergarten Rehabilitation	ACTED	\$747,805
ARDWBG451	Early Recovery Gaza	MCI	\$1,970,949
ARDWBG453	Gaza Emergency & Recovery	CRS	\$1,970,491
ARDWBG454	Atfaluna Amaluna	WVI	\$1,251,963
ARDWBG455	Palestinian Reintegration & Enhancement Program (PREP)	CHF	\$1,995,774
ARDWBG464	Gaza Urban Agriculture Revitalization & Development	CHF	\$1,408,621
ARDWBG465	Gaza Emergency Work Opportunity and Relief Support Program	IOCC	\$1,999,970
ARDWBG466	Agriculture Development & Integrated Livelihoods	WVI	\$1,400,031
ARDWBG500	Sepi Sun Transportation Gaza	Sepi Sun Holding Ltd.	\$985,585
ARDWBG501	Concord Warehousing Gaza	Concord Co. A.F Ltd.	\$626,163
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$14,357,352</b>

**Objective 4: Gaza Projects Completed to Date**

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>Grant Title</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Dollar Value</b>
ARDWBG351	RI Emergency Assistance Gaza	RI	\$750,000
ARDWBG365	ACTED Emergency Response Gaza	ACTED	\$246,517
ARDWBG370	IOCC Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	IOCC	\$747,563
ARDWBG371	CRS Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	CRS	\$689,047
ARDWBG372	RI Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	RI	\$749,992
ARDWBG373	CHF Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	CHF	\$749,329
ARDWBG374	IRD Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	IRD	\$739,936
ARDWBG375	MCI Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	MCI	\$750,000
ARDWBG376	SC-US Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	SCUS	\$717,337
ARDWBG377	ANERA Humanitarian Assistance Gaza	ANERA	\$701,709
ARDWBG387	ACTED School Uniforms Gaza	ACTED	\$248,819
ARDWBG388	AISG School Supplies Gaza	AISG	\$238,369
ARDWBG389	AISG Textbooks Gaza	AISG	\$223,622
ARDWBG391	LHA School Clothing Gaza	LHA	\$6,074
ARDWBG392	UHIGA School Clothing Khan Younis	UHIGA	\$6,074
ARDWBG394	MC School Clothing Absan Al Kabira	AKM	\$6,074
ARDWBG395	MC School Clothing Al Fukhkhari	AFM	\$6,074
ARDWBG444	ANERA School Clothing Gaza	ANERA	\$567,412
ARDWBG456	Gaza Employment Generation Through NGOs Program	IRD	\$1,997,117
ARDWBG470	RI Relief and Assistance Gaza	RI	\$750,000
ARDWBG471	CARE Relief and Assistance Gaza	CARE	\$748,284
ARDWBG472	CRS Relief and Assistance Gaza	CRS	\$748,672
ARDWBG473	IOCC Relief and Assistance Gaza	IOCC	\$749,972
ARDWBG474	IRD Relief and Assistance Gaza	IRD	\$749,135
ARDWBG475	ANERA Relief and Assistance Gaza	ANERA	\$750,000
ARDWBG476	CHF Relief and Assistance Gaza	CHF	\$749,982
		<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$15,387,108</b>



## 6.0 OVERALL PROJECT STATUS

During the reporting period, 14 activities were approved valued at \$1,361,775. In addition to the emergency humanitarian relief assistance in Gaza, the new grants addressed a wide range of activities 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: 16 grants valued at \$15,848,719
  - West Bank: 27 grants valued at \$3,836,351
  - **Total: 43 grants valued at \$19,685,070**
- **Completed** (grant activities completed but pending administrative actions such as final payments and title transfers before closing out):
  - Gaza Strip: 9 grants valued at \$7,300,659
  - West Bank: 11 grants valued at \$1,102,849
  - **Total: 20 grants valued at \$8,403,508**
- **Closed** (grant activities completed, reports, and payments accounted for, and final compliance check completed):
  - Gaza Strip: 5 grants valued at \$204,620
  - West Bank: 25 grant valued at \$1,298,148
  - **Total: 30 grant valued at \$1,502,769**
- **Cancelled** (previously “on hold” grants cleared by USAID then cancelled. The dollar figures below are only those expended to date and not the original obligated amount.):
  - Gaza Strip: 0 grants valued at \$0
  - West Bank: 0 grant valued at \$0
  - **Total: 0 grant valued at \$0**
- **Rejected** (“yellow-lighted” (initially approved) grants which were cancelled before the team had fully developed the concept; prior to submission for final approval):
  - Gaza: 0 grants valued at \$0
  - West Bank: 0 grants valued at \$0
  - **Total: 0 grants valued at \$0**

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