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Independent Media Program in the West Bank and Gaza
Quarterly Report
July – September 2009

Associate Award Number: 294-A-00-06-00208-00
Under Leader Award No. GEG-A-00-01-00005-00

Submitted by Pact on behalf of Internews Network, Inc.

I. Executive Summary

During the eleventh quarter of *Aswatona: Independent Media Program in the West Bank and Gaza*, Internews Network worked with media partners, the Ministry of Health and Flagship to create H1N1 informational spots and health programming, conducted an assessment of the health programming focus of partner media outlets, completed four third round subgrants and signed two sub awards. The Aswatona staff additionally held two meetings for interested parties to discuss the draft media law, including lawyers who drafted the law, representatives from the Ministries of Information, Interior, and Telecommunications, media institutes, CSOs and media owners. During this quarter, Internews Network additionally conducted two focus groups – one in Ramallah and one in Gaza – to review Aswatona activities to date and to discuss the next phase of programming with station owners and managers, staff and trainers. Finally Aswatona staff focused on the extension strategy, details for the implementation, and alignment of the pieces needed to proceed.

The deliverables for this period as outlined in the last report are below:

Activity	Activities of This Quarter	#s	Planned	Actual
1.1b	Open workshops on reporting on specific issues/topics	n/a	July	Delayed until October
1.2	Production Support	2 subawards signed and 4 subawards completed	April	August & September
1.4a	Media Law meetings	Twenty-one participants	June	July 25 & August 14 & 18
2.3a	Focus groups with media owners/managers on the Media Environment to explore issues of standards, professionalism, and interactions with each other and with government	Seventeen station owners and four trainers in the WB & seventeen journalists and three trainers in Gaza	August	September 14 & Sept 16

Background

The goal of *Aswatona: Independent Media Program in the West Bank and Gaza* is to enhance the role of local independent broadcast media in their local communities by strengthening reporting, enhancing business sustainability, and improving program production related to issues of local policies, good governance, civil society, and the aspects of democratic culture in the West Bank and Gaza.

The three main components are:

- 1) Strengthening the local media by creating self-sustaining business models, enhancing reporting and production capabilities, and skill-building on investigative and issue-specific journalism, and re-connecting the media outlets with their local communities by reporting on and working with local civil society organizations (CSOs) on field reporting.
- 2) Strengthening the knowledge base and awareness of the media and CSOs regarding each other's work, as well as strengthening the legal and regulatory sector that govern the media, and strengthening the networking and informal association of the media sector in order to professionalize the field.
- 3) Funding innovative program productions combined with training to build more cooperative, responsive and professional production capabilities, and implementing a small grants program focused on CSOs' communications and work with the media and community outreach.



Aswatona: Independent Media Program in the West Bank and Gaza runs from 24 October 2006 through 31 July 2010 with an award of \$6,000,000.

II. Objectives

Objective 1: Improved citizen awareness of and involvement in community-level democracy and governance issues.

In order to meet this objective, *Aswatona*'s local media partners continue to work on re-connecting with the communities through field reporting and local news as well as attracting and maintaining listeners and viewers with quality programming.

1.1b – Open Workshop on issue specific topics

The health journalism workshop with Flagship was delayed until October due to their staff travel, Ramadan and Eid Al Fitr. In July, *Aswatona* was contacted by Flagship regarding the dispersion of information on the H1N1 virus that had its initial outbreak in Nablus. The *Aswatona* staff worked with our media partners, the Ministry of Health and Flagship to create informational spots and health programming on the symptoms and measures people could take to protect themselves and their families.

In September, two meetings were held between *Aswatona* and Flagship. Before the second meeting, *Aswatona* spoke with the partner stations to determine the types of health programming and journalism currently being done. Below is the result of the conversations:

- 1) Wattan TV in Ramallah currently has no health program although they do news stories on specific alerts (e.g. Swine Flu).
- 2) Al-Mustaqbal Radio in Ramallah does not have any regular health program.
- 3) Radio Al Shabab FM in BirZeit has a 10-minute segment during their morning show that airs Sat-Thursday 8-10am, which covers health issues usually by interviewing a doctor.
- 4) Al Rou'ah TV in Bethlehem had a medical program with a doctor who hosted it. They have not done the program for about 6 months but are planning to do something in the future.
- 5) Bethlehem 2000 radio in Bethlehem has a 10-minute segment with a doctor every morning except Friday. The program airs between 8-10am with the 10-min segment covering a specific health issue.
- 6) Isis Radio in Bethlehem has a daily general health program where they choose a topic about health. The program right now runs from 11-11:30 am and is called "Your Health in Ramadan." They also have a regular segment during the morning program that talks about a health issue.
- 7) Al Nawras TV & Radio in Hebron: The radio has a health segment on the morning program 9:30-11:00, but the TV station does not.

8) Minbar Al-Hurriya Radio in Hebron has 2 segments in their morning programs. The first one called, “One Hour” is on the radio from 8-9 am and they interview a doctor on a specific topic. The second one is from 9-10am called, “NUR Al Sabah”, where various segments provide people with health advice.

9) Nablus TV only does specific issue spots (aka Swine Flu) but they don’t have a regular program. (They are a new partner)

10) Gama TV in Nablus is in the planning stage to launch a program after Ramadan. It will be a weekly program every Tuesday between 8:30- 9:30 PM called, “Health Education” that will be done between Gama TV and the municipality.

11) Tariq al Mahaba radio in Nablus has 2 health segments through their morning program, “Yomak Asal” that runs every day except Friday between 10-12am. They also have two spots every hour on health education.

12) Al Fajr Al Jadeed TV in Tulkarem has a weekly program called, “AlMajalh alTebeyah (The health magazine), on Mondays at 7 pm. The presenter of the program is a doctor.

13) Jenin Al Merkezi does not have a specific health program, but they have been running spots about the swine flu from the Ministry of Health (MoH) including: 6 spots each day; and after the first outbreak of swine flu, aired an interview with the MoH representative in Jenin.

14) Alwan Radio in Gaza produces several weekly health programs on various issues including: trauma and mental health; food and water safety; sickness; and first aid, etc.

15,16,17) Al Nour TV in Jericho, Balada TV in Qalqilya, and Palestine News Network have no regular health programs but do spots from time to time as issues arise.

As a result of these conversations, the stations stated their interest in attending this type of workshop as it would be beneficial for the programs they are already producing or to assist in the designing of new programming. Aswatona is currently conducting a survey of the stations to determine the type of health reporting training that will be most beneficial to them. There is ongoing discussion of including Ministry of Health representatives from the district offices in trainings. Said participation would help to foster stronger relations between these representatives and the local media while allowing for local media to better familiarize themselves with the Ministry of Health’s health focus and strategy for Palestine. This would serve the local media in being better able to cover the issues that are pressing and in accessing accurate information from the Ministry of Health.

In an effort to meet the young women journalists’ request for niche specific training, Aswatona will focus on the young female journalists in the partner stations, print, and electronic media.

1.2 Production Support

The third round of subawards continues to progress, with six awards supporting nine productions, totaling \$206,220. Currently the third round of subgrants has six productions successfully completed with Sada Network and Wattan TV signed and launched in late August/beginning of September. The latter two will continue into until November. The following provides an overview of the third round subgrants:

Completed Third Round Subgrants

Station: Tariq Al Mahaba Radio

Location: Nablus

Program(s): Shebab.com, Majallah Program

Total Value: \$24,620 (including provision of equipment)

Description:

Majallah Program: The weekly 45-minute magazine program continued to incorporate guests with field reports and audio clips that provided comprehensive news coverage to the citizens of Nablus. The additional funding provided in the third round expanded the team's ability to cover a greater amount of stories from throughout Nablus and surrounding villages. Topics such as court and municipality issues, elections, and the lack of access to potable water were examined.

Shebab.com: This twice a week 60-minute production, targeting men and women aged 18-25, was well received by the citizens of Nablus, and greatly assisted Tariq Al Mahaba's reconnection to the local community. A wide variety of stories, songs, reports, and features effectively educated and entertained the targeted demographics. Important issues such as employment and joblessness, life at university, and the role of youth in the community were also explored.

Observations: The third round subgrant awarded to Tariq Al Mahaba radio is considered a successful follow up to the original award approved last year. Although the two programs were suspended for the month of Ramadan, the next season will be in production in October. Additionally, the station Program Manager, Ala Badarna, has reported that the station has successfully raised funding through sponsorship and advertising directly linked to the two programs.

Station: Nawras TV

Location: Hebron

Program(s): Media and the Court

Total Value: \$23,340 (including equipment provision)

Description:

With the Palestinian Authority ruling opening up the court system, Nawras TV produced an original program that followed the Palestinian judiciary system, local and national cases, tribal councils, rulings, and provided the local community with analysis on how these laws and rulings affected them. Judges and lawyers served as guests, providing additional insights into the cases. The program also highlighted the activities of local municipalities in the Hebron governorate.

Observations: The unique nature of the program has been effective in reestablishing the connection between not only Nawras TV and the citizens of Hebron, but also in the reconnection of the justice system with the citizen of Hebron.

The only challenge encountered this period was due to the timing of the month of Ramadan. Typically stations prepared in advance a different and unique program lineup to be aired during the month, which takes much time and preparation, including the search for additional funds through sponsorship and advertising. Because of this, the station was not able to allocate all of the necessary resources to the program.

Toward the end of the production grant, station began contributing as the Hebron-based affiliate of the Sada Network. The network requires one 6-minute report each week for inclusion in the popular *Sada Filistene* program. Additionally, the station will be asked to produce a 12-15 minute piece for the newest Sada program, *Eyes on the Community*. The issue is whether or not the production of the two reports will be a drain on the resources of the station, namely, the camera and team that are necessary for the current Aswatona-funded production.

Station: Nablus TV

Location: Nablus

Program(s): Voice of the People (Consumer Interests)

Total Value: \$29,320 (including equipment provision)

Description:

This new and innovative program of the third round successfully shed light on key issues Palestinian consumers face on a daily basis, covering all aspects of consumption and investment. Utilizing effective investigative journalism techniques, the program comprehensively explored such issues as the illegal sale of spoiled food, educating the consumer on mobile phone plans and insurance policies, and informing the audience about health issues related to energy drinks. The target audience is the average Palestinian consumer, most likely with a low to medium income. Each week one issue was explored through the presentation of background information, field reports that utilized product surveying techniques, scientific analysis, and targeted camerawork. Additionally, further insight on the subjects was provided by experts in the studio.

Observations: The station has been commended for its consistent production of a high quality investigative journalism program. Nablus TV has proven its ability to select interesting and socially relevant stories and to cover and present them in a way that is both informative and entertaining. The audiences of Nablus have responded very positively to the unique nature of the program, often calling in to suggest potential issues to be explored. Furthermore, the allocation of a DV camera and tripod alleviated some of the resource issues the station was facing.

Station: Al Fajr Al Jadeed

Location: Tulkarem

Program(s): Tulkarem Today/This Week

Total Value: \$28,940 (including equipment provision and studio development)

Description:

The daily 60-minute program, broadcast at 7:30 pm, covers political, cultural, sports, economic, and social stories from the governorate and throughout the West Bank. The program was the most successful in the first round of subgrants in terms of significantly increasing public awareness of the station throughout the governorate of Tulkarem and helping to generate revenue through local sponsorship and advertising. In the third round of subgrants the station continued to produce and broadcast a recap of the main stories of the week with further analysis and in-depth coverage. The enhanced version of *Tulkarem Today/This Week* allowed Al Fajr Al Jadeed to fully realize the potential of the program. In addition, with Aswatona support, the station increased the area of their field reports such that 60% of the stories come from areas outside the city of Tulkarem. The program is expected to continue following the completion of the third round subgrant.

Observations: Aside from the success attributed to the production funding, the station also received \$5,000 for studio development. This small amount of money was instrumental in enhancing the look and décor of the station's studio which is evident in other programs in the stations' lineup.

Recently Signed Subgrants



Station: Wattan TV

Location: Ramallah

Program(s): Life Tour, Pioneers, and news team capacity building

Total Value: \$50,000 (including capacity development of newsroom)

Description:

Life Tour: This 60-minute program, the most popular program of Wattan TV to date, will continue to highlight Palestinian figures from ordinary backgrounds that have succeeded in their respective fields and contributed to their community. The third season, however, continues to be produced in documentary fashion, and features such prominent figures as Palestinian writer Faysal Horani, Nobel Prize winner Dr. Jumana Ouda, and activist Ibrahim Dakak. The show will continue to see the guests reflect on life lessons, the keys to success, and the importance of remaining committed to one's work.

Outstanding Personalities: This program differs from many other programs currently being produced in the West Bank, in that it focuses on young local leaders making a positive impact on their communities. Shot in a quasi-documentary talk show format, the program covers young leaders with guests from such fields as international NGOs, business, cultural, and civil society organizations. The show is pre-produced with additional segments with the personality in studio with a live audience which provides an opportunity for interaction. Call-ins also permit people outside of Ramallah to participate in the interview.

News Department Development: In accordance with Wattan TV now covering 80% of the West Bank and part of Gaza, terrestrially, Internews Network Aswatona project has recognized that the station's news department would greatly benefit from a capacity building grant. The funding provided for an experienced trainer/journalist to develop a strategy for the station, as well as to work in close coordination with two staff members to prepare them for the roles of Executive Producers. The strategy is founded on the importance of teaching sound story selection, story prioritization and coverage, effective studio setup, creating an interactive studio environment, research, and the organizational development of the news staff. Additionally, Wattan TV has reached an agreement with the Sada Network stations which will expand its coverage of the news stories from throughout the West Bank through the sharing of reports and features.



Station: Sada Network

Location: West Bank

Program(s): Sada Filistene, Sada Eyes on the Community

Total Value: \$50,000

Description:

Sada Filistene: The program, considered one of the success stories from the first and second rounds of subgrants, continues to be representative of many of the objectives of the Aswatona project, in that it gives each member station the opportunity to produce a local news segment to be compiled for collective broadcast on Friday evenings. Recently, the network has expanded to include Nawras TV of Hebron and Wattan TV of Ramallah, increasing the number of participating stations to 8 and thereby increasing the capacity of the program to reach every major city in the West Bank.

Sada Eyes on the Community: In an effort to further unify the eight stations that comprise the Sada Network, a second shared program, focusing more in-depth on social, cultural, and community issues is being produced. The format will be similar to that of *Sada Filistene*, though *Eyes on the Community* will feature four 12-15 minute segments from rotating member stations on such topics as civic responsibility, municipality issues, local development projects of the Palestinian Authority as well as international organizations, and highlight other positive stories from around the West Bank. The show will also feature a calendar that outlines upcoming cultural events from around the West Bank.

Subgrant to be Submitted

Station: Palestine News Network

Location: West Bank

Program(s): News Bulletin, Economic Program,

Total Value: \$50,000

Description:

News Bulletin

Duration/Airing: 30-minute bulletins at 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm. 5-minute bulletins at 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 5:00, 6:00 daily.

Description: The news bulletin will give participating radio stations the opportunity to provide their local audiences with hourly updates of current news items from contributing reporters throughout the West Bank. Utilizing resources from each station and reporters in the field, the news bulletin will dramatically improve the capacity of the stations to provide comprehensive, accurate, and timely news coverage.

My Pocket, Your Pocket: a weekly 30 minute radio program to be produced by PNN and its six affiliate stations as the first ever radio program in the West Bank and Gaza to cover a broad range of economic issues that affect all Palestinians in both urban and rural settings. Each of the PNN partner stations will be located to report all over the West Bank and Gaza on a wide array of financial news to include new investment, opportunities, financial policies that affect investments, being smart with money, cost of living for families, current markets, profiles of all variety of businesses, consumers, and will include advice for families and small businesses on how to survive amidst the current economic and volatile political climate in the West Bank and Gaza. The program series format will combine recorded interviews, narratives, dramatic portrayals and call-ins with financial experts, owners and operators of large and small businesses, employees and families on matters of mutual interests that pertain to everyone’s financial survival. As the title suggests, *My Pocket, Your Pocket* will demonstrate that financial growth interests are interlinked with individuals and families in communities whose needs are mutual.

Subgrants in the Upcoming Year

In accordance with the updated project objectives in the yearlong extension, the Aswatona team has begun preparing for the selection of the partner stations that will continue to receive funding. In order to increase the impact of the subgrants, the team has decided to identify a handful of ‘model’ stations that will receive funding. The project Grants Manager created a spreadsheet that details the performances of the stations throughout the subgrant period to be used as a tool to help determine which stations will continue working in collaboration with the Aswatona project.

Station/Network	# Grants	# Programs	Grant Value	Quality Narr. Reports	Quality Financial Reports	Report Timeliness
Wattan TV	3	10	\$181,477.00	excellent	excellent	excellent
1st Grant		5	\$87,312.00	excellent	excellent	excellent
2nd Grant		3	\$44,165.00	excellent	excellent	excellent
3rd Grant		2	\$50,000.00	excellent	excellent	excellent
Sada Network	3	4	\$182,721.00	good	poor	fair

1st Grant	1		\$88,325.00	good	poor	poor
2nd Grant	1		\$44,396.00	good	poor	fair
3rd Grant	2		\$50,000.00	good	poor	fair
Al Fajr Al Jadeed TV	2	2	\$51,860.00	good	good	good
1st Grant	1		\$22,920.00	good	good	good
2nd Grant	1		\$28,940.00	good	good	fair
Gama TV	1	2	\$18,520.00	fair	poor	poor
Baladna TV	1	1	\$16,620.00	fair	fair	excellent
Al Rou'ah TV	1	2	\$15,750.00	fair	poor	fair
Amwaj Radio	1	2	\$17,910.00	poor	poor	poor
Khalil Radio	1	2	\$16,745.00	poor	poor	poor
Nawras TV	1	1	\$23,340.00	good	excellent	fair
Tariq Al Mahaba	2	4	\$43,145.00	good	good	good
1st Grant	2		\$18,525.00	good	excellent	excellent
2nd Grant	2		\$24,620.00	fair	excellent	excellent
Nablus TV	1	1	\$29,320.00	good	excellent	fair
Palestine News Network	1	1	\$40,982.00	excellent	excellent	excellent
Farah TV	1	2	\$18,000.00	excellent	excellent	excellent
NUR Network	1	1	\$41,860.00	good	excellent	good

Additionally, to complement the new 'citizen journalism' component of the project, the Grants Manager has been in contact with the project vendor, Panorama PVS, in order to identify the best options of make/model for handheld cameras, outside recorders, and editing units. Once decided, the project will submit a request for an additional waiver to purchase the equipment, as the dollar amount from the waiver approved from the first round of subgrants will not cover the projected expenses of the next purchase.

1.4a Media Law

After months of meeting with the various deputy ministers in charge of the media - Information, Interior, and Telecommunications - and being told that they did not want to meet with the media outlet owners until the draft law was ready, Aswatona finally received a copy of the new draft law on 29 June 09. It was agreed that it could not yet be released but that Aswatona could

discuss the draft with the media owners to create a paper with recommendations and comments in preparation for a larger meeting with the owners, representatives from the Ministries and the lawyers who drafted it. A small focus group for the media owners was held to discuss the law and their concerns and recommendations ahead of the larger meeting held in early August.

The larger meeting, held at BirZeit, included the Law Institute lawyers who drafted the law, representatives from the Ministry of Information, Interior, and Telecommunications, media institutes, CSOs and a few key owners from the local media. There was a long and open discussion with plenty of critical feedback on the law. The BirZeit University Institute of Law and Ministry of Information representatives said that they would consider these comments and recommendations in the final version that will be submitted to the cabinet and asked participants to draft a letter with their comments. The draft law also falls short of many international standards and principles in this area. From the donors' perspective, article 33 of the draft law is also problematic, as it states that "broadcast media shall not receive any funds from foreign sources without prior permission of the Ministry of Information".

The Ministry of Information hoped to submit the draft within the next two weeks to the Council of Ministers and after that to the President's Office. The letter noting concerns and suggested amendments to the draft law was circulated to the media and media institutes and projects, including Aswatona, and was amended and signed then sent originally to the Ministry of Information. In fact, the Ministry of Information had submitted the draft law 'as is' to the cabinet's legal department before the letter from the workshop participants was sent.

The small group of organizations including the BBC Trust, Internews Network, Filastiniyat, AMIN, and UNDP decided to take the approach of soft lobby in order to exhaust all ways possible to influence the law before it is officially submitted to the cabinet. Another letter was drafted and addressed to the Secretary General of the Cabinet that contained the comments, concerns, and recommendations made by the participants as well as a request to review the redrafted version before the official submission.

As it stands now, the Cabinet sent the draft law, with the comments and letter, back to the Ministry of Information and BirZeit Law Institute to make changes. So far, they have reviewed and finalized 16 of the 38 articles and are expecting to have it complete by the end of October for review before it is resubmitted to the Cabinet. If it is approved then, it will be sent to the President for ratification.

(A copy of the translated draft law is attached)

Objective Two: Increased and improved coverage of local news, including local manifestations of broad themes such as rule of law, good governance, and corruption

2.3a Focus Groups with the media outlets



During the month of Ramadan, two focus groups were held with the owners and managers of Aswatona partner staff; one in the

West Bank and one in Gaza. The meetings were held after the *iftar* (breaking of the fast).

The Ramallah meeting, attended by four local trainers and seventeen station owners and managers, focused on reviewing the overall project and the providing general outlines of the next phase. The group talked about the changes in the environment, some for the better, and had questions about the next year that the staff answered. There was general support for the direction of the program and an excitement over the various activities being planned. It was also an opportunity to introduce the staff changes in the Ramallah office with the departure of the Grants Manager, Kevin Nolan. Another meeting will be held with those stations that will be selected to be the “model” stations.

Station	Representative
Jenin AlMerkezi TV	Sameer Abu Alrub
Wattan TV	Moamar Orabi Mohammad Ataya
Minbar AlHuriya Radio	Ayman Qawasmi
AlAhlam Radio	Mohammed Jarrar Rabab Jarrar
Bethlehem 2000 Radio	George Qanawati
Gama TV	Abeer Kilani Remah Kilani
Tariq AlMahaba	Alaa Badarneh
AlFajer Aljadeed	Dr. Rajaa
Nablus TV	Saleem Sweidan
Isis Radio	George Musleh
AlRou'ah TV	Hamdi Farraj
AlNawras TV	Bilal Khalil Dofash Khalid Massouda
Sada Network	Omar Samara

Trainers
Firas Abdul Rahman
Emad Ghuniem
Ahmad Zaki
Mohammed Alsaade



In Gaza, the meeting and *iftar* was attended by seventeen partner station owners and managers, as well as staff and three trainers. With only three partner stations in Gaza, staff members participated to demonstrate project unity between the West Bank and Gaza.

Participants discussed the media environment in Gaza, highlighting the challenges the media faces. A review of the project so far was completed and partner stations' staff members expressed their thanks for all the training that had

been provided. A general overview of the next year was provided and many participants had constructive input for future activities.

- 1) Najlaa Al Shawa, UNDP
- 2) Fathei Sabah, BBC
- 3) Sawqi Al Farra, Trainer
- 4) Wafaa Hamdan, Alwan Radio
- 5) Safaa Alhabeel, Alwan Radio
- 6) Taghreed Alomur, Alwan Radio
- 7) Mazen Al Belbesi, Alwan Radio
- 8) Mahmoud Al Mosalam, Alwan Radio
- 9) Rasha Al Zorai, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 10) Abd Allah Abu Ali, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 11) Rami Romana, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 12) Areej Nour, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 13) Wajdi Abu Senjer, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 14) Amani Al Hesei, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 15) Somaya Khaled, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 16) Amar Al Buhasi, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 17) Bassam Al Attar, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 18) Osama Abu Safar, Fursan Al Erada Radio
- 19) Moataz Khalaf, Gaza FM
- 20) Sami Abu Owali, Gaza FM



Interim Activities:

During the months of August and September, the Aswatona staff spent a good deal of time on the extension strategy, details for the implementation, and alignment of the pieces needed to proceed once it was approved.

The staff worked on the guidelines and qualifications for the citizen journalists and the model stations as well as putting together the equipment list needed to begin the waiver process. Visits to the stations were scheduled and began the last week of September. Universities in the West Bank that have journalism departments were also contacted to discuss assistance with identifying potential candidates for the citizen journalism activities. The Aswatona staff additionally identified and scheduled meetings with civil society organizations dealing with the media, elections, and civic education, to explore potential partnerships.

A visit to the Gaza office was also conducted during the second week of September and interviews were held with the top nine candidates to fill the media specialist position that had been vacant for some time. The final candidate, Mohammad Abu Asaker, was hired 1 October 2009. The transition of the staff in Ramallah was also done throughout the month of September with the departure of the Grants Manager, Kevin Nolan.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

- 1.1 Health Reporting workshop
- 1.1.2 Media and Civic Education workshop

- 1.1.5 Creating educational and informational spots
- 1.1.6 Moderating talk shows and debates
- 1.2.1 Station Assessment
- 2.2.1 Selection of young journalists

Timeline

- October
- November &
December
- December
- November
- October
- October & November

III. Success Stories and Recommendations

Making a Difference...

In July, Nablus TV aired an investigative report on an incident at the local amusement park during which a child fell from a ferris wheel due to broken equipment. The story exposed the history of this park, the owner, and the lack of ride maintenance. The broadcast of this story resulted in public outrage, causing the park to be shut down, and the owner arrested. The park owner was released three days later as the police continued their investigation into the accident.

Nablus TV continued to follow the amusement park owner, covering his purchase of new rides from China and subsequent park re-opening after his release from jail. Ongoing investigation by Nablus TV uncovered that the park owner's license had been revoked but the park remained open. When Nablus TV aired a follow-up story, revealing this information, the public demanded that the police and municipality take action to shut this park down. The authorities responded to this public outcry and ordered the closure of the amusement park. The owner refused and was arrested again. The local community thanked Nablus TV for following the story and exposing the dangers. This story was aired as an episode of the Aswatona-funded production on consumer issues, called, "Voice of the People".