



USAID
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WEST BANK AND GAZA CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

QUARTERLY REPORT VI
1 JANUARY – 31 MARCH 2010

APRIL 2010

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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
ATVC	At Tayba Village Council
AVC	‘Anin Village Council
AYM	Al Yamun Municipality
BCCI	Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and Industry
BRCS	The Blind Rehabilitation and Care Society’s
BSM	Beit Sahur Municipality
BVC	Bizzariya Village Council
BZM	Bir Zeit Municipality
CARE	Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe
CEP	Civic Engagement Program
CHF	Community Housing Foundation
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSOP	The Cooperative Society for Olive Pressing
DIVC	Deir Ibzi’ Village Council
GEAR	Gaza Emergency And Recovery

GEGNP	Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program
GUARD	Gaza Urban Agriculture Revitalization and Development
HKS	Helen Keller School
HoH	House of Hope
ICCE	International Center for Contemporary Education
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities
IRD	International Relief and Development
JCDC	The Princess Basma Jerusalem Center for Disabled Children
JM	Jayyus Municipality
JM	Jericho Municipality
JSFCU	Jenin Society for Family Co-operation and Unity
JYWC	Jenin Young Women Club
LHA	Life and Hope Association
MCI	Mercy Corps International
NASCD	Nablus Association for Social and Community Development
NCD	National Council for Development
NSDL	National Society for Democracy and Law
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PA	Palestinian Authority
PCMC	Palestinian Center for Mass Communication
PREP	Palestinian Reintegration and Enhancement Program
QADS	Qatanna Association for Development and Strengthening
RFA	Requests for Application
RI	Relief International
SM	Salfit Municipality
SCUS	Save the Children Federation
SHCC	South Hebron Chamber of Commerce
SPSW	Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Workers
SOJ	School of Joy
SYFS	Save Youth Future Society
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

WVI	World Vision International
YM	Yatta Municipality
ZVC	Zabda Village Council

I.0 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Civic Engagement Program (CEP) supports establishment of a viable, democratic Palestinian state living in peace and security with Israel and her neighbors. The program provides grants that visibly improve the quality of life for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. It builds on interventions to bolster prospects for peace in the region that were originally undertaken from June 2005 until December 2007 through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID's) Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI).

CEP I began in January of 2008. CEP II started in October 2008 as a 24-month, \$20 million follow-on program to CEP I. The two programs operated in parallel until June of 2009 when CEP I ended. In October 2009, in response to the Israeli military operation "Cast Lead" in the Gaza Strip and the humanitarian consequences of that incursion, USAID added another \$40.5 million to the CEP II budget to allow for an enhanced humanitarian assistance operation. The contract budget is presently \$60.5 million.

CEP II began with two strategic objectives aimed at promoting stability and democratic reform in the Palestinian Territory. In recognition of the critical role humanitarian assistance plays for the people of the Gaza Strip, USAID added two additional strategic objectives. The four objectives of CEP now 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 U.S. foreign policy objectives.

An important addition to the program is a capacity building component that did not exist under OTI or CEP I. Through this component, CEP will work with 10 institutions (public and semi-public offices as well as non-governmental organizations working in different sectors) as long-term partners to help improve their structure, efficiency, and service provision capacity. CEP will work with the target institutions to develop an action plan of assistance to address their priorities and will design a package of assistance to be provided (through grants and technical assistance) to each organization.

This report covers CEP activities undertaken during the period from January through March of 2010.

2.0 CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES

The main political developments that occurred during the quarter are summarized in the following.

- **Gaza Strip:** Hamas continued its control over the Gaza Strip using the “Iron Hand Policy” to prevent the activities of other political groups. During the last weeks of this reporting period, 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 minister on Sunday warned that Israel would “liquidate” the Hamas-run government in Gaza, following deadly clashes that killed the two Israeli soldiers. 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 preparation of this report, there has been no progress resolving the Palestinian political division using the Egyptian proposal (which was presented on 10 September 2009) as a basis. The Palestinian president blamed the division on Hamas because Hamas refuses to sign the Egyptian proposal (which Fatah agreed to sign in late September). 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 Councils Elections:** The Ministry of Local Governance issued a decision stating that all municipalities and local councils are serving as “acting” councils only, which has prevented the councils from taking any significant decisions. The Palestinian Authority (PA) then announced that local elections would take place on 17 July 2010.
- **Peace talks:** After the U.S. administration succeeded in convincing the PA and the Israeli government to engage in indirect peace talks under the American administration’s patronage, U.S. Vice President Biden paid a visit to the region to announce the launching of these talks. During the visit, however, the Israeli government announced its plans to build 1,600 new apartments in east Jerusalem. This announcement led to a freeze in the peace talks. The action prompted a rare public criticism of Israel by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and other top U.S. administration officials. In the aftermath of this event, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu met with U.S. president Barack Obama in order to resolve the dispute, but the meeting reputedly did not resolve their differences. The U.S. administration asked the Israeli government to announce a freeze in all settlement-building activities in order to re-launch the peace talks. As of this report, the Israeli government has yet to respond to the American administration’s request, and Mr. Netanyahu left the White House without commenting on the substance of these discussions.
- **Arab League summit:** The 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 to support the city with \$500,000,000.

Primary economic events included the following.

- **PA New Budget Approved:** The Palestinian Authority cabinet approved a \$3.9 billion budget for 2010. The budget sets a goal of raising local revenues by 20 percent in 2010, to cover 65 percent of the PA's expenditures. Nearly half of the budget's disbursement will be spent in the Gaza Strip, with an increased allocation for all social sectors including education, health, and social affairs.
- **National Account:** The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics released the preliminary estimates of quarterly national accounts (Fourth Quarter 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 percent in the performance of the economy in the Palestinian Territory compared with the Third Quarter 2009, and showed an increase of 10.3 percent compared to the Fourth Quarter of the year 2008 at constant prices (the base year is 2004). The estimates of the GDP show general stability during the Third Quarter 2009 compared to the Second Quarter of the year 2009 based on the second revision of the data.
- **Agricultural Statistics released:** The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) released agriculture statistics for 2007/2008. Field crops and vegetables comprised 26.7 percent and 10.1 percent of the cultivated Palestinian areas, respectively; 72.0 percent of the cultivated area in Gaza Strip relies on irrigation compared with only 8.7 percent 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 322,082 goats 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 of the Palestinian Territory amounted to about US \$1,367,000, of which 60.9 percent was plant production and 39.1 percent was livestock production. The cost of intermediate consumption was about \$490 million, of which 37.2 percent was plant production and 62.8 percent was livestock production.
- **Consumer prices decreased:** According to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), the Palestinian Consumer Price Index decreased by 0.28 percent compared with the month of January 2010. The Overall Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Palestinian Territory (base year 2004=100) reached 127.48 in February 2010; it increased by 4.88 percent 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, the 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 Friends Patients Society (FPS) in Gaza based on Hamas' takeover of the society in 2009. The new FPS board took the case to court in Gaza, which recently ordered BoP to release FPS 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 FPS 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.

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 that were 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 tangible results. Since the PA has been focusing on the implementation of the Security Plan, USAID channeled its efforts into improving the economic conditions in parallel to the PA's efforts to improve law and order. Projects also focused 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 responded to the emergency humanitarian situation. Activities focused on the delivery of food and non-food items, hygiene and kitchen kits, and tents for displaced residents. CEP is also currently processing grants to U.S. nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) present in Gaza for early recovery activities.

3.0 PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

During this quarter, CEP has completed, or is in the process of implementing, 62 grants for a total of \$30,287,453. The project's current activities are focused on three basic programming areas: (1) emergency assistance grants in the Gaza Strip; (2) grant activities in the West Bank that promote political reform, moderation, and improved service delivery; and (3) capacity development for civil society organizations in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Highlights of those program areas are as follows.

Emergency Assistance Grants – Gaza

USAID/CEP Continues to Work with Communities in Gaza through World Vision International

(WVI): Through two projects with a total of \$2.7 million funded by USAID/CEP, WVI through the “Atfaluna Amaluna” project will contribute to the well-being of children in northern and southern Gaza Strip. The grant will enhance the communities’ capacities to provide broad-based support for integrated life skill programs for children. The support created for children will focus on three main areas: knowledge, practices, and creating an enabling environment for learning and development. Through the “ADIL” project, WVI will work with communities and households to rehabilitate and recover lost private assets and improve food, agricultural, and livelihood security. This will contribute to improved food security at the household level through increased food production, improved assets for agricultural livelihoods, creation of temporary employment, and rehabilitated water supply for consumption and irrigation.



CHF Continues to Support Humanitarian Needs in Gaza: With an amount of \$1.4 million funded by USAID/CEP, CHF International has started preparation for introducing urban gardening and animal husbandry activities on private premises, appropriate to the conditions of targeted beneficiaries, to improve nutrition, food security, and greater self-sufficiency. Implementing this project will help vulnerable families produce nutritious foods for household consumption. Coordination with other international organizations including FAO has begun. CHF, through the \$2 million Palestinian Reintegration and Enhancement Program, will facilitate the reintegration of Gazans back into their communities by improving damaged shelter and supporting livelihoods recovery through income earning opportunities.

10,000 Gazans will benefit from More Services through Mercy Corps’ “Cash-For-Work” Program:

With \$2 million funded from USAID/CEP, Mercy Corps will provide services to communities in Gaza by creating 850 temporary jobs for vulnerable individuals. The services will include, but are not limited to, providing assistance to farmers and fishermen, cleaning and beautification of neighborhoods, providing assistance to disabled people, and helping to distribute humanitarian commodities to vulnerable families. Approximately 10,000 people will directly benefit from the CFW projects.

10,094 Individuals will Benefit from \$2 Million Invested to Respond to the Humanitarian Situation in Gaza:

The International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) will assist nearly 10,094 individuals through the “Gaza Emergency Work Opportunity and Relief Support” project, which consists of short- to medium-term cash-for-work opportunities, and assistance in recovering a degree of agricultural capacity, psychosocial support, and humanitarian non-food assistance for the poor and vulnerable populations of the northern areas of Gaza most affected by the recent conflict.

The Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) Continues to Address Children’s Humanitarian Priorities in Gaza: Through nine privately owned kindergartens serving impoverished communities in Gaza, ACTED with USAID/CEP funding, will target 1,391 children 4-6 years of age who have been exposed to conflict and/or ongoing poverty, by creating an environment conducive to providing a safe, secure, and stimulating learning space. The program will also develop the capacities of 73 private sector kindergarten teachers and staff in the areas of psychosocial methodologies, recognition of psychological problems, and contemporary pedagogical approaches.

Psychosocial Support, Cash-For-Work, and Food Assistance Continues to be a Priority in Gaza: Two million dollars funded by USAID/CEP will be invested by CRS to fund psychosocial interventions, food processing, cash-for-work, and “Cash-for-Internship” activities. This project aims to directly serve 1,545 individuals and 2,000 beneficiary families. The uniqueness of this project is the food processing component that will help empower 200 women who are skilled in home-based food production.

USAID/CEP Distributes School Uniforms to Children in Gaza: Save the Children (SCUS) continues its humanitarian activities in Gaza through the support of USAID/CEP by distributing health, protection, and education supply items to needy families who were directly affected by the latest Israeli military operations. In Beit Hanoun, a town in North Gaza, SCUS distributed 245 school uniforms for boys and girls. SCUS will continue the distribution of school supplies, female kits, and newborn kits. All the supplies will be distributed in cooperation with education, health, and protection departments of SCUS. Save the Children is planning to reach 10,204 school children in first grade.



3,500 Families across Gaza Received Humanitarian Kits:

Through a grant provided by USAID/CEP, CHF International completed the distribution of approximately 500 humanitarian kits to disadvantaged families from Gaza City who were extremely delighted that CHF resumed its activity in the Gaza Strip. CHF provided a minimum of 3,500 families with humanitarian commodities through the third round of the humanitarian assistance grants, of which 30 percent are beneficiaries from the first and second round. All beneficiary households received food packages, while 2,000 of the most vulnerable families received hygiene packages, and 1,000 received food, hygiene, and cooking kits. CHF International will continue to target highly vulnerable families in areas of the Gaza Strip where large numbers of people have either been affected by the conflict or are displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict.

Women’s Psychosocial Support Workshops in Rafah and Gaza: As part of USAID’s efforts to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, USAID/CEP is funding two grants to implement psychosocial workshops for stay-at-home women from Rafah and Gaza Governorates in cooperation with two local partners: the National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL), and Save Youth Future Society (SYFS). The workshops include exercises, discussions, group work in addition to presentations on techniques to deal with stress during and after crisis, which will be followed by days out for the participating groups to engage the women in constructive activities. NSDL and SYFS are planning to



reach 1,600 women in Rafah and Gaza through 80 psychosocial workshops to help them return to normal life by specifically educating them on techniques to preserve the well-being of their families and children.

USAID/CEP Funded the American International School in Gaza with School Equipment and Furnishings:

USAID/CEP, with its continued effort to promote and improve education in the Palestinian territories, has funded two grants to provide assistance to the American International School in Gaza (AISG). The assistance included providing textbooks, science lab supplies and furniture, IT equipment, infrastructure supplies, general office and school supplies, in addition to a gymnasium and music tools and equipment. USAID/CEP assistance has reflected positively on AISG students and administration. It has given AISG hope and the ability to continue its mission to provide an American liberal arts education in Gaza.



The AISG Director stated that “after the war on Gaza, AISG was left without its physical structure, infrastructure, books, and equipment. It was only with USAID’s assistance that AISG was able to stand back on its feet and continue to render its services.”



Capacity Development Component

Through the Capacity Building component, USAID/CEP has partnered with five local organizations who significantly contribute to advancing the economic, social, and political environment of the Palestinians. These organizations are provided with grants aimed at strengthening the institutions and providing them with the necessary resources to increase their effectiveness in addressing the needs of their citizens. The capacity building activities are holistic interventions which provide a package of assistance to each local organization in order to increase the institution’s overall capacity. One such engagement is with the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce (BCCI). With USAID/CEP support, BCCI saw the construction of an additional floor to their office building which has provided them with a location for their business training center. USAID/CEP provided BCCI with information technology and networking equipment and servers for the business center. In addition, USAID/CEP trained business women in marketing, business management, and languages so that they are better prepared for meeting the challenges of operating successful businesses. These resources improved the level of BCCI’s services to the community of Bethlehem and helped establish BCCI as the first e-Chamber of Commerce in the West Bank and Gaza. USAID/CEP also assisted the South Hebron Chamber of Commerce (SHCC). The SHCC was provided with management systems, administrative procedures, and training for their staff. SHCC was also provided with office equipment, furniture, and information technology equipment. These grants not only enhanced the appearance and professionalism of the South Hebron Chamber of Commerce but also allowed it to increase its ability to provide assistance to the people of Hebron and the surrounding villages.

The Palestine Center for Mass Communication (PCMC) plays a vital role in the redevelopment of civic society through positive engagement with the community and NGOs in Hebron Governorate. Through USAID/CEP, PCMC has finally realized the renovation of their Applied Science Institute and their language and computer labs and lecture hall. This USAID/CEP assistance has enabled PCMC to engage 15 NGOs in Hebron, strengthening its outreach towards women. Another capacity building grantee, the Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Workers (SPSW), the only institution that provides trauma treatment in Nablus, was provided with a trainer to teach the SPSW staff and members in human resource practices and English language training. Human resources and financial software systems were also provided to SPSW, allowing them to manage and maintain their databases. This training will increase SPSW’s overall administrative and technical capacity improving their administrative systems as well as supplementing the existing trauma

treatments that are provided. Musical Instruments were provided to SPSW for use in music therapy, as an alternative method for treating trauma. The program worked with 250 children between the ages of 9 and 12. To further address local needs, SPSW partnered with USAID/CEP to provide training to healthcare workers from Nablus and the surrounding villages so that they may effectively treat children suffering from trauma.

West Bank Political Reform Component

USAID/CEP has provided grants to organizations and communities in the West Bank to improve local development efforts and support communities through revitalization activities. USAID/CEP funding contributed to the rehabilitation of roads, schools, public parks, and recreational health and fitness centers. In Jenin, USAID/CEP partnered with the Jenin Young Women's Club and provided this health and fitness club with the necessary sports equipment and resources to better serve the community. USAID/CEP's assistance played a monumental role in the creation of the club's first ever women's soccer team. The creation of this team helped inspire and positively impact young women in Jenin, raising their morale and encouraging them to reach for higher goals. Jenin was a targeted recipient for USAID/CEP funding. USAID/CEP also supported the Jenin Society for Family Co-operation (JSFCU) in their mission to revitalize the JSFCU's theater, a venue for hosting cultural events, educational workshops as well as music and theater performances. The theater's interior was completely furnished, and lighting, audio, and visual equipment was installed.

USAID/CEP also supported schools in Tayba, Zabda, and Anin, providing them with the capacity to accommodate the increased youth population and the demand for improved educational standards by constructing additional classrooms and additions to the school buildings. USAID/CEP provided better learning equipment such as computer labs and instructed teachers on how to use these new resources.

Travel between towns and villages is now much safer for Palestinians in Salfit, Deir Ibzi, and Al Ubeidiya due to USAID/CEP's roads rehabilitation projects which repaved the surfaces, installed safety guard rails, and traffic lighting and signs where required.

USAID/CEP improved the provision of health care in the West Bank through the rehabilitation of a health clinic in Yatta, The Helen Keller School for The Blind in Jerusalem, the Women's Center, the School of Joy for children with special needs in Beit Sahur, and a Health Clinic in Aqraba. The staff members in these organizations have all been provided training and are now better prepared to respond to the needs of their communities. School of Joy, in particular, is now able to rehabilitate children with special needs through focus and sports exercises. This rehabilitation process has helped these children strengthen brain and muscle functions, allowing them to learn and develop more successfully.

4.0 SUCCESS STORIES

The following summarizes several of the more noteworthy and successful examples of CEP's current activities.

“ZUHUR QATANNA” KINDERGARDEN - FROM THE VERGE OF CLOSURE TO THE TOP OF MOTION

USAID's Civic Engagement Program rehabilitated the “Zuhur Qatanna” kindergarten in January 2010. The new kindergarten will provide new opportunities for over 80 children to study and grow up in a healthy environment. Zuhur Qatanna kindergarten was established in 1984 to provide pre-school services to the children in Qatanna village. Since its establishment, the kindergarten has not been maintained or upgraded to meet modern teaching techniques and standards, the increasing number of children, and basic safety requirements. In the summer of 2009, the Ministry of Education issued the last warning to the school administration to close the kindergarten but with the assistance of \$70,000 in USAID funds, the kindergarten was redesigned and developed to better serve the children of the 7,000 people in Qatanna village west of Jerusalem.



The kindergarten yards are now enclosed with a new colored gate, side fences, outdoor slides, and a rubber floor, which made it safer for the children to play. “The parents are now assured that their children have a safe and clean place where they can play together and practice physical and mental games that are important for healthy muscle growth. We are now able also to conduct social activities with other kindergartens; we recently had a joint open day with the Bridge Kindergarten who visited us from Al-Bireh, and the children were playing the bag-jumping contest in the yard. It was funny that one boy turned from the middle and he wanted to win,” reported Mrs. Hiam Shamasneh, the Principal of the kindergarten. Mrs. Hiam believes that the kindergarten is one of the successful women's institutions in the village because, for many years, they were able to sustain the running costs for this kindergarten out of fees collected from children's parents. However, because the families in Qatanna are poor and suffer from high unemployment, they were unable to save money for the rehabilitation of the kindergarten.



Last winter, Sidin Al-Faqih (4 years old) and the other kindergarten children had to go outside to use the school's only toilet, despite the cold, wind, and rain. The toilets were not suitable for human use; there were deteriorated tiles, rusted pipes, broken windows and cracks, causing Sidin and her friends to become sick on many occasions. The newly renovated kindergarten has an inside toilet unit for the use of children in cold weather, and the outside toilets were rebuilt and improved. The kindergarten classroom floors are covered with rubber to help insulate the classes and to keep the children warm. The drinking water is clean thanks to

the new water tanks, pipes, and faucets. The lights are suitable for the children's eyes so that they may read their books and see the blackboard more clearly.

Rawan Hoshiyeh, 26 years of age, was one of the first children who studied in this kindergarten. Rawan has finished high school and studied Arab Literature at the university, which was uncommon for girls at that time and perhaps would not have been possible if she had not gotten a good start at the kindergarten. She is now a teacher at the kindergarten. For her, the kindergarten represents a successful model of women's ability to run institutions for the future of their children. If the kindergarten was closed, she would have lost all hope and the monthly income for her and the other five women teachers. Rawan says that many women who were studying in Zuhur Qatanna Kindergarten are now mothers and their children are now in the same kindergarten.

Recently, the supervisor of the Ministry of Education, Mrs. Suhair Awad, conducted a regular check on the kindergarten, and she was surprised with the new and improved facilities. The kindergarten will keep their gate open to receive new students to build a bright future for them all. Sidin and the other children are now enjoying their time and feel like they are the flowers of Qatanna, just as the name of the kindergarten means—"Zuhur Qatanna."

SCHOOL OF JOY FOR SLOW LEARNING CHILDREN - BEIT SAHUR

USAID's Civic Engagement Program provided music instruments, sports equipment, furniture, and an olive wood carving machine to the School of Joy for slow learning children in Beit Sahur. The new items are used to enable children to practice physical exercises to relieve their psychological stress and to enhance their learning capacity. In the West Bank, children with learning disabilities cannot go to conventional schools. But with special attention and a lot of devotion, they can be taught basic skills and knowledge either to relatively catch up with their generation or to acquire a simple profession to be integrated into the Palestinian society.



The School of Joy (SOJ) is a little school in Bethlehem. It was established in 1993 to respond to the increasing needs of mentally challenged children. The six teachers are serving 70 children from 70 families in the Bethlehem area. The children usually suffer from low academic achievement due to dyslexia, autism, and other disabilities. The SOJ works with these children and provides them with a future career to be more involved and useful in their community. Children in the SOJ come from different communities around Beit Sahur, including Bethlehem, Beit Jala, and the rural villages.

"The sports exercises are activating the nerve system in addition to helping children focus and urge the brain of the slow learners to relate movement of muscles with the brain orders. It is very important to rehabilitate children with mental disorders. Before we had the sports hall, children were somehow losing the concentration power because this kind of treatment needs both physical and mental rehabilitation. Now we give two sports classes every day and the children are responding, which makes the work of the teacher easier and more effective. Children now love the school to the extent that some days they want to stay and not want to go home after school," said Haifa Awwad a teacher at the school.



Mohammad Karram likes the electrical organ. He and Janette Al-Halteh both enjoy the music classes. The music teacher said that music creates a sense of joy and hope inside the children and encourages them to interact with other children

socially and mentally. From now on, the music lesson will be twice a week, and the next activity will be a music concert performed by children whose parents thought they would never be able to perform such activities due to their condition.

Father Mamdouh Abu Sa'da, the founder and principal of the school said that teaching the mentally challenged children is very important for society. If kept at home, students will develop far more serious problems, and will likely become a burden to their families both socially and economically. In some cases, they are locked up in a closed room to be hidden from the community and to not cause problems for the neighbors. Tamer Hanna, from Beit Sahur is one of the school's students. When he was enrolled, his father was sad and regretful for bringing his child due to their hard financial condition. However, Tamer with his enthusiastic and passionate spirit learned to use the olive wood carving machine and made souvenirs last Christmas and sold them to tourists' shops with the assistance of the school. Surprisingly, the father of Tamer did not have work that winter and the slow learning child assisted his family's survival during the rough months. Rehabilitating 70 children is saving 70 families and making a better Palestinian society. The \$30,000 fund has increased the capacity of the school to accept more children next year, to diversify educational and vocational training methods and to sustain a moderate income for the school and youth.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY EDUCATION – GAZA

USAID funded the International Center for Contemporary Education (ICCE) to conduct a training course for 44 educators, to produce a manual for educators to help them create a peaceful teaching environment and to introduce supplementary educational techniques. The training included 72 training hours on active learning, communication skills, independence and critical thinking, respect for diversity, conflict management, and social responsibility. The training was conducted by professional Palestinian trainers in cooperation with, and under the supervision of, ICCE professionals in Pennsylvania.



Trainees were divided into two groups based on their work background. The first group consisted of newly graduated educators expected to start their career in education, while the second group consisted of 20 UNRWA teachers who teach Arabic, English, Science, and Social Studies. ICCE, the trainers, and USAID/CEP teams worked on designing techniques that avoided traditional lectures and speeches. Trainers used group work, free discussion, role-play, drawing, gathering data, experimenting, brainstorming, and daily evaluation.

Bassam Salha, Arabic language and human rights teacher, and Jehan A'shour, English language teacher, both spoke about their experiences before and after this grant and gave strong recommendation to continue the work with teachers to change their attitudes and improve their skills. Jehan said, "This training helped me to improve the school's relations with the community and parents. I have learned to name it 'social responsibility and volunteerism'! I feel professional while talking to parents and key figures in the community. My school and students gained much from me, having me as part of the ICCE educators training."

"Building and equipment can help in the school education process but the key for success is the ability of the teacher to help his/her students to speak out and express themselves and ask their questions! After the training, I asked to become the teacher for students with difficulties and low grades. I consider myself as a

teacher in love with his job and his students. This love was reinforced by the participation in the training course and getting the manual. After this training, I made a promise to make only what students like in the classroom,” Bassam Salha said.

Jehan A'shour concluded her participation in this training by giving the example of assisting in building and maintaining the school blog where girls are able to exchange positive topics that help them to concentrate only on optimistic and constructive use of the internet, and bring the ethics and principles of the training to the girls.



DEIR GHAZALA VILLAGE COUNCIL – JENIN

Deir Ghazala village, west of Jenin is one of the small and marginalized villages in Jenin governorate. USAID/CEP previously collaborated with Deir Ghazala Village Council to construct a public garden and rehabilitate the community hall in the village. The entrances of the village and the roads need improvement and rehabilitation.

Deir Ghazala is now enjoying 1,800 meters of newly constructed retaining walls which were built by USAID/CEP. USAID supported construction of 1,000 meters of retaining walls and 1,300 meters of sidewalks, in addition to upgrading the council accounting system to increase and update its efficiency. The newly rehabilitated roads demonstrated to the broader community the benefits of paying their municipal dues as the council was able to contribute funds to build an additional 800 meters of retaining walls.



The head of Deir Ghazala Village Council Mr. Ghassan Zakharna said that the recently constructed retaining walls helped ease pedestrian and vehicular traffic problems, and helped with flood control. The village was able to contribute \$20,000 to the project from funds generated from income earned by a village public park that was constructed under another USAID/CEP project. There was also a community participation component—citizens had a role in defining the places in which the retaining walls were built. Supporting Deir Ghazala Village Council's building of retaining walls has played an essential role in enhancing the council's responsiveness to local citizens' needs and creating law and order.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DEVELOPMENT - HEBRON

With USAID/CEP funding of \$60,985, a school rehabilitation project was completed which improved conditions in four schools in Hebron. The project included installing new water tanks to provide students with clean drinking water; installing new wooden doors; painting classrooms and corridors; beautifying the school's playgrounds; installing stone benches, flower planters, and fences; and establishing computer labs in each of the four schools.

Hebron Primary Boys' school is now clean, students love studying in the new environment and the teachers are encouraged to teach. The principal of the school talked about the huge difference and how the school became a nice place to study whereas before it was more like a “scrap place.” He thanked USAID/CEP and the grantee for this project and hoped that follow-up projects will be implemented in the future.

The students' parents contributed to the project. They paid for skilled workers, and for building materials. This activity and the approach with which it was implemented has established a new sense of cooperation in the community, and created a sense of commitment and participation. The parents said that they were surprised to be called in by the school to contribute to the improvement of their children's school. One of the fathers said that, in the past, he was only called if there was a problem with the student. The students were pleased that they could participate in doing something for the sake of making their school a better place and could see their school clean and beautiful. The students worked as much as they could to carry



a bucket of water to be used in the stone mortar, and then shared a hot cup of tea. At the end, they were confident that they were part of a positive change in their school that would last, as would the smiles on their faces.



"This was one of the worst schools in Hebron, because in Hebron the maintenance and development of schools depends directly on the students' annual fees and the donations from the student's parents, and because this is a very poor area, the school is in very bad situation. With this initiative, I become encouraged to come to school, the teachers are inspired to teach and the students feel an existence of a new place," says Mr. Rawhe Al Zaru, the school principal of the Hebron Primary Boys' School.

The project was the result of mutual cooperation and work between the school principals, teachers, and the community who provided the laborers for the flower planters and the painting works and some of the building materials. This cooperation has proved the importance of the relationship between the community, government institutions, and NGOs in improving the daily lives of people and the Palestinian community. Dr. Basel Al Natsheh, the NCD manager, mentioned that student leaders have been assigned to take care of the plants and gardens in the schools in addition to maintaining the cleanliness of the school yards and the classrooms.

5.0 CEP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

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

5.1 PROJECTS COMPLETED

ARDWBG304 VC Girls School Jayyus

USAID/CEP partnered with Jayyus Municipality (JM) to construct a new primary girl's school. The new two-floor building consisted of six new classrooms, teachers' room, a corridor, and a sanitary unit with total area of about 675 m². The municipality contributed to this activity by providing a land plot of 2,374 m², on which the school was built. This grant strengthened the moderate council and Mayor of Jayyus Municipality, which was placed in charge after a transfer of responsibilities. It also demonstrated the ability of moderate leadership to improve the daily lives of its constituency and engage in constructive relations with the international community. The project is valued at \$244,242.

ARDWBG347 SCUS Emergency Response Gaza

USAID/CEP supported Save the Children (SCUS) to help alleviate the humanitarian situation caused by the latest Israeli military operations in Gaza. Through this grant, SCUS provided immediate humanitarian assistance for 8,300 families in Gaza who were impacted by the crisis through the emergency provision of basic food and non-food items, such as cleanup kits, home repair kits and clothing kits. This kind of humanitarian support intervention during times of crisis proved essential during previous conflicts to help people maintain confidence and trust in international institutions working in Gaza. The project is valued at \$727,251.

ARDWBG352 NCD Schools Rehabilitation Hebron

USAID/CEP provided the National Council for Development (NCD) with materials needed for painting classrooms, installing drinking water tanks, restoring doors and windows, fencing and planting seedlings for four schools in Hebron city. NCD mobilized volunteers and skilled workers to carry out the rehabilitation and beautification work in cooperation with the schools' administrations and the parents' councils. Furthermore, USAID/CEP also established two computer labs in two schools to introduce IT skills for students. This activity aimed to support NCD's efforts to establish students' environment committees aimed at conducting environmental awareness training sessions for students and teachers. In addition, this activity positively impacted students' academic achievements through improving the extremely bad physical study environment, and created a sense of attachment between students and their schools through voluntary work, awareness sessions, and introduction of computer technology. The project is valued at \$60,985.

ARDWBG358 ACMD Forums Equipment Hebron

USAID/CEP, in partnership with Al-Istiqlal Center for Media and Development (ACMD), was assisted by Tarqumia Charitable Society (TCS) to conduct four "Local Discussion Forums" (LDFs) to discuss the role of civil society and challenges it faces in the state-building process. USAID/CEP also furnished and equipped

the two partner NGOs to increase their institutional capacity and to better enable them to implement youth leadership programs. This activity empowered two moderate NGOs in Hebron and helped establish a network of active organizations to start collective grassroots' initiatives to generate public support for the PA's actions to restore law and order. The project is valued at \$26,740.

ARDWBG359 BRCS Theatre Equipment Jenin

Through this grant, USAID/CEP provided needed equipment and furniture to the Blind Rehabilitation and Care Society's (BRCS) newly constructed theatre and multi-purpose hall. It also included needed painting and false ceiling works for the hall and the theatre, an LCD projector, and a lighting system in addition to tables and chairs. Fourteen theatre shows were conducted, hosting 400 children from various communities within the Jenin Governorate. This grant strengthened the relations between the NGOs and the community. The project is valued at \$98,680.

ARDWBG373 CHF Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP collaborated with the Community Housing Foundation (CHF International), to distribute food items (192,500 canned vegetables, 84,000 tomato paste, 14,000 liters of vegetable oil, and 8,015 liters of olive oil) and non-food items to 3,500 conflict-affected households. The project is valued at \$749,328.

ARDWBG375 MCI Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

USAID/CEP helped Mercy Corps International (MCI) to improve the living conditions of 2,900 vulnerable families (roughly 17,400 individuals) in Gaza through the provision of food (10,000 kg of rice, 20,000 kg of sugar, 6,000 liters of vegetable oil, and 6,000 liters of olive oil) and non-food items/livelihood materials (1,000 plastic water tanks). The project is valued at \$750,000.

ARDWBG376 SC-US Humanitarian Assistance Gaza

Save the Children Federation (SCUS) in Gaza, with funding from USAID/CEP, alleviated the suffering of 31,290 children and families in Gaza who were most affected by the recent conflict. The grant provided humanitarian assistance and supplies (10,000 clothing packages, 16 medical aid units). The project is valued at \$749,949.

ARDWBG379 SOJ Furniture Equipment Beit Sahur

USAID/CEP supported the School of Joy (SOJ) by providing the school with musical instruments and gym machines. The grant also provided a laser wood carving/printing machine to increase the quality of the products made by the students at their vocational training classes, thus increasing revenues for them and the school. The project enhanced SOJ service provision and improved the learning environment for more than 80 students from Beit Sahur and the larger Bethlehem Governorate. This grant helped to relieve the social and economic hardship of families with mentally disabled children and helps to integrate the students into society. The project is valued at \$41,090.

ARDWBG389 AISG Textbooks Gaza

USAID/CEP supported the American International School in Gaza (AISG) with equipment and construction so that AISG could once again provide quality educational services to 200 school children in Gaza. The project is valued at \$243,813.

ARDWBG416 MC Tourism Promotion Festival Beit Sahur

USAID/CEP partnered with Beit Sahur Municipality (BSM) to conduct a tourism promotion festival during the holiday season. The festival was inaugurated under the patronage of Prime Minister Fayyad, Palestinian Tourism Minister and Mayor of BSM, with the participation of representatives of diplomatic missions. The

grant also provided BSM with decorative lights, banners, posters, and billboards as well as Christmas gifts for visitors including mugs and diaries as well as school kits for children. The project is valued at \$29,505.

5.2 PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION/ WEST BANK

ARDWBG301 VC Public Park Bizzariya

USAID/CEP partnered with Bizzariya Village Council (BVC), in order to build a four-dunam public park on top of a hill nearby the village. The works will include leveling/terracing of certain areas, building retaining and boundary walls and a sanitary facility, and installing children's games and sun shades. USAID/CEP will contract a qualified contractor to execute the works. The project is valued at \$240,290.

ARDWBG302 MC Road Rehab Salfit

This grant provided Salfit Municipality (SM) with 1,350 m of curb stones, 2,500 m² of sidewalks, and 436 m³ of retaining walls, in addition to some needed excavation work, for the rehabilitation of the main road in the town. Building retaining walls and installing curbstones will resolve the flooding problem (many homes are severely affected by rain during the winter season). There are 9,000 total beneficiaries of the project. The project is valued at \$236,620.

ARDWBG306 VC School Building Al Tayba

USAID/CEP partnered with At Tayba village council (ATVC) to construct a new boys' basic school because the old school in the village does not meet the needs of the growing population. The grantee will contribute to this activity by demolishing the existing building, removing rubble from the site, and preparing the site for the new construction, in addition to paying for the design preparation. The proposed school will be constructed on a land that belongs to the Village Council. The new building will consist of eight classrooms, a teachers' room, a conference room, a corridor, and a sanitary unit with a total area of about 755 m². The project is valued at \$240,340.

ARDWBG309 VC Main Street Rehab Deir Ibzi'

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

ARDWBG320 VC Girls School 'Anin

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

ARDWBG327 MC Main Square Rehab Jericho

USAID/CEP will help Jericho Municipality (JM) rehabilitate Jericho's main square at the town center—a hub for local residents and tourists. USAID/CEP will also support JM in upgrading and rehabilitating the parking areas, sidewalks, street lighting, canopies, and the reconstruction of the municipality entrance. Rehabilitating Jericho's main square will enhance JM's responsiveness to citizens' needs. Additionally, rehabilitating the main

square will enhance public safety and create a positive environment for local residents and tourists, which in turn will help revitalize the local economy. The project is valued at \$247,321.

ARDWBG357 MC Children's Park Al Yamun

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

ARDWBG378 AOCB Rehab Equipment Beit Sahur

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

ARDWBG380 MC Women's Center and Health Clinic Equipment Aqraba

This grant will complement USAID/LDR's project and support Aqraba Municipality (AQM) in providing better services to its constituency. USAID/CEP will equip and furnish the second floor of the municipality which was built by USAID/LDR that consists of a women's center and a health clinic. This is in addition to some small-scale external works aimed at beautifying the back yard of the women's center and the health clinic. Assisting Aqraba Municipality via providing office equipment and furniture to the new second floor of the municipality will enable it to open new departments that would better serve the local population. The project is valued at \$72,641.

ARDWBG381 MC School Building Azzoun

USAID/CEP will support Azzoun Municipality (AM) to build a 680 m² first floor for the town Basic Boys' School in order to complement the USAID/LDR project and to meet the needs of the growing population in the village. The project includes construction of eight classrooms as a first floor on top of the ground floor that was recently built by USAID/LDR. The project includes construction of 350 m² of shade covering in the playground area. Assisting Azzoun Municipality via building a second floor for the newly constructed Boys' Basic School will demonstrate to the broader community the municipality's commitment to create positive change at the local level. The project is valued at \$234,150.

ARDWBG386 VC School Labs Zabda

USAID/CEP associated with Zabda Village Council (ZVC) to build an annex building to the Secondary School with an area of about 60 m². The annex building will include two classrooms that will accommodate a computer lab and a science lab, which will be equipped through this grant. Also under this grant, a school playground will be constructed and equipped. The project is valued at \$193,542.

ARDWBG396 MC Schools' Access Road Rehab Al-Ubeidiya

This activity supported Al-Ubeidiya Municipality (AUM) to respond to urgent community needs by creating a safe walking road for young school students. USAID/CEP will partner with AM to widen and rehabilitate the schools' access road in Al-Ubeidiya through constructing retaining walls and sidewalks, and asphaltting the street. The 290 m road serves more than 2,000 students traveling amid the dangerous narrow road. The project is valued at \$122,950.

ARDWBG397 JCDC Food Supplies Furniture Jerusalem

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

ARDWBG398 HOH Rehab Furniture Bethlehem

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

ARDWBG400 JYWC Sports and Office Equipment Jenin

Through this grant, USAID/CEP will partner with Jenin Young Women's Club (JYWC) in order to equip a gym hall and a computer lab, in addition to provide the club with essential sports and office equipment. This will include providing 15 desktop computers, a counter and chairs, a LCD TV, a copying machine, a digital camera, and furniture for the gym hall, in addition to providing the grantee with essential sports equipment for the club's sports teams. Moreover, this grant aims to increase the human resource capacity of the club by hiring a professional football trainer for the club football team which will start playing in the Palestinian Women's Football League in the coming few months. The project is valued at \$76,610.

ARDWBG403 JSFCU Theatre Equipment Jenin

This grant will support the Jenin Society for Family Co-operation and Unity (JSFCU) in its efforts to revive the cultural life in Jenin Governorate by equipping and furnishing JSFCU's cinema/theatre building. This will include finishing works for the skeleton cinema/theatre building, gypsum decoration works, lighting and electrical works, installing an audio and visual system, chairs, and other needed plumbing and sanitary works. The grant also supports the hosting of a cultural week that will take place at the newly equipped cinema/theatre to be organized by the grantee in cooperation with other local NGOs in Jenin Governorate. This includes performances by local theatre bands, sessions of educational and documentary movies that tackle conflict mitigation issues, and other cultural activities. The project is valued at \$173,100.

ARDWBG419 MC Guest House Bir Zeit

USAID/CEP will provide Bir Zeit Municipality (BZM) with kitchen equipment to allow for putting into operation the newly established guest house in support of the municipality's efforts to revitalize the old town center. This includes providing essential refrigeration, cooking, and food preparation equipment to ensure a fully functional guest house kitchen. This grant will support the initiative of Bir Zeit Municipality and its partner Riwaq Center that serves as a pilot model for the public-private partnership and will encourage similar business entrepreneurship to improve internal tourism and trade. The project is valued at \$45,000.

ARDWBG422 AHCS Health Al-Samou'

This grant seeks to develop the capacity of Al-Aqsa Handicapped Charitable Society (AHCS) and improve its ability to provide services to more than 800 handicapped people in As-Samou' village, south west of Hebron. Through this grant, USAID/CEP will support AHCS by doing the internal finishing work of the skeleton first floor, including concrete block partition, mechanical and electrical works, plastering, tiling, and painting. The grant will also rehabilitate an outdoor joint space for the handicapped children and other people to perform physical exercise and treatment activities. The project will improve the professional rehabilitation services of AHCS which currently affects about 800 handicapped people, enabling them to engage in

partnerships with other donors for the support of the handicapped, and contributes to a large extent in integrating them into society. The project is valued at \$127,000.

ARDWBG424 CSPO Olive Press Rehab Bethlehem

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

ARDWBG425 MC Health Clinic Yatta

USAID/CEP supported Yatta Municipality (YM), south of Hebron Governorate, in responding to urgent needs of the community through funding the finishing work for the primary health care clinic with an area of 250 m². The plan is to have a clinic that offers mother and child care, emergency services, immunizations, and a pharmacy. USAID/CEP will help Yatta Municipality perform the internal finishing work and furnishing of the clinic. The Ministry of Health will equip and provide medical staff to operate the clinic. The project is valued at \$120,850.

ARDWBG426 SPSW Human Resources and Administrative Systems Development Nablus

USAID/CEP will partner with the Syndicate of the Psychological and Social Workers (SPSW) to develop its professional staff capacity as well as to strengthen its administrative procedures and systems. In addition, it will assist in the hiring of a professional consultancy firm and professional trainers to execute the identified capacity-building activities such as proposal writing, strategic planning issues, and ICDL, SPSS, and English language courses. The project is valued at \$122,439.

ARDWBG427 SPSW Treatment of Trauma and Psychological Disorders Nablus

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

ARDWBG432 BCCI IT Equipment Software Bethlehem

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

ARDWBG436 SHCC ISO9001 Certification Hebron

This grant seeks to upgrade the management capacity of South Hebron Chamber of Commerce (SHCC) through the design and establishment of a systematic, structured, and professional approach in order to qualify for the ISO9001:2008 certification. Accordingly, USAID/CEP will hire external consultants to

provide technical assistance for SHCC in five main working areas: Quality System, Management Responsibility, Resources Management, Product Realization, and Data Analysis and Improvement. This grant will increase the service provision capacity and effectiveness of SHCC. It will also help motivate staff by defining their key roles and responsibilities. The project is valued at \$34,160.

ARDWBG437 SHCC IT Equipment and Furniture Hebron

This activity seeks to develop the functioning environment of South Hebron Chamber of Commerce (SHCC) through the provision of IT equipment and furniture that will advance the staff's performance and improve the chamber's services, environment, and performance for both staff and members. Accordingly, USAID/CEP will establish a computer lab and lecture hall for continuing education and members' services in addition to upgrading the internal network, computers, and software to connect the branches of SHCC to the main office in Adh Dhahiryia. It will also improve the archiving space, members' reception area, and office use for staff with the provision of adequate furniture. This grant will improve the service provision, performance, and environment at SHCC while motivating staff and helping define their key roles and responsibilities. The project is valued at \$53,570.

ARDWBG438 PCMC Language Lab Equipment Hebron

USAID/CEP will enhance the educational services capacity of the Palestinian Center for Mass Communication (PCMC) by revitalizing its Applied Science Institute. USAID/CEP will provide IT equipment and furniture for the establishment of a language lab in addition to rehabilitating the lecture hall and the computer lab. USAID/CEP will also provide funds to help PCMC conduct three training workshops in topics related to NGO management, English language, and fundraising. The grant will increase the service provision capacity and effectiveness of the chamber and assist PCMC in its public outreach to women, youth, and students in Hebron by responding effectively to their actual needs for tutoring, education, and social and cultural orientation. The project is valued at \$60,390.

ARDWBG449 HKS Visually Impaired Equipment Jerusalem

USAID/CEP will support the Helen Keller School (HKS) by providing the school with three devices of Closed Circuit TV and their software. The grant will also provide a Braille reading device that would increase the learning ability for school children. In addition, USAID/CEP will assist in enhancing the Helen Keller School's service provision and improve the learning environment for more than 62 visually impaired students from Jerusalem and the West Bank. This will help in relieving the social and economic hardship of families with impaired children. The project is valued at \$24,220.

ARDWBG481 NASCD Naseej Center Nablus

Through this grant, USAID/CEP will provide the newly established Naseej Center with office equipment and furniture, including 12 desktop computers, a printer, and a copying machine. The grant envisages also providing training on different subjects including computer use, NGO management, and proposal writing. The Center, through USAID/CEP Support, will also provide a handicrafts workshop and training, where the women may be able to carry out activities to manufacture goods—in particular, producing olive oil soap, embroideries, and handicrafts like purses, decorations, etc. The project is valued at \$135,403.

5.3 PROJECTS UNDER IMPLEMENTATION/GAZA

ARDWBG382 NSDL Women Psychosocial Support Workshops Rafah

USAID/CEP partnered with the National Society for Democracy and Law (NSDL) to conduct 40 psychosocial support workshops for 800 women from Rafah who have been exposed to violence during the Gaza Strip incursions. The workshops will engage women between 18 and 40 years of age in three-day

psychosocial workshops to help them and their families return to normal life. The workshops will include exercise, discussions, and group work in addition to techniques to deal with stress during and after crisis. The workshops will also include, as a side activity, educational games for children between the ages of 1 and 5. At the end of each workshop, mother and child kits will be distributed to each participant. The project is valued at \$183,401.

ARDWBG383 SYFS Women’s Psychosocial Support Workshops Gaza

USAID/CEP is supporting Save Youth Future Society (SYFS) in conducting 40 psychosocial support workshops for 800 women from Gaza who have been exposed to violence during the Gaza Strip incursions. The workshops engage women between 18 and 40 years of age in three-day psychosocial workshops to help them and their families return to normal life. The workshops include exercise, discussions, and group work in addition to techniques to deal with stress during and after crisis. The workshops also include, as a side activity, educational games for children between the ages of 1 and 5. At the end of each workshop, mother and child kits will be distributed to each participant. The project is valued at \$183,981.

ARDWBG384 LHA Women’s Psychosocial Support Workshops Jabalya

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

ARDWBG388 AISG School Supplies Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with the American International School Gaza (AISG), to help alleviate the educational aspect of the humanitarian crisis caused by the latest Israeli military operation in Gaza by providing science lab supplies, furniture, IT equipment, infrastructure supplies, and general office and schools supplies, in addition to a gymnasium and music tools and equipment. The total beneficiaries of the project are 200. The project is valued at \$238,369.

ARDWBG444 ANERA School Clothing Gaza

USAID/CEP partnered with the American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA) to distribute school clothing and supplies to 11,600 needy school students in Gaza. The supplies will include school clothes, sports shoes, school bags, and basic stationery. The project is valued at \$567,412.

ARDWBG450 ACTED Gaza Strip Early Childhood Development Education Support and Private Kindergarten Rehabilitation

This project supports the Gaza Strip’s nine existing private kindergartens and their staff in providing safe and secure learning environments for early childhood development while enhancing the mental and physical well-being of the children. The total targeted beneficiaries are 1,504. The project is valued at \$747,805.

ARDWBG451 MCI Early Recovery Gaza

This project aims to improve the well-being of the affected population in the Gaza Strip by providing temporary economic relief, through short-term employment opportunities and community services. The total targeted beneficiaries are 12,650. The project is valued at \$1,970,949.

ARDWBG453 CRS Gaza Emergency & Recovery

This project aims to alleviate poverty by providing youth with temporary work opportunities and supporting women who are skilled in home-based food production. It also conducts psychosocial training for youth, covering the topics of psychosocial intervention and self-care. The total targeted beneficiaries are 15,545. The project is valued at \$1,970,491.

ARDWBG454 WVI Atfaluna Amaluna

“Atfaluna Amaluna” means “Our Children our Hope.” This project aims to contribute to the well-being of children in northern and southern Gaza Strip. WVI expects to enhance the community’s capacity to provide broad-based support for integrated life skill programs for children. The support created for children will focus on three main areas: knowledge, practices, and creating an enabling environment for learning and development. The total targeted beneficiaries are 2,680. The project is valued at \$1,251,963.

ARDWBG455 CHF Palestinian Reintegration & Enhancement Program (PREP)

This grant aims to facilitate the reintegration of conflict-affected Gazans into their communities by improving damaged shelter and supporting livelihoods recovery through the provision of income-earning opportunities. The total targeted beneficiaries are 13,335. The project is valued at \$1,995,774.

ARDWBG456 IRD Gaza Employment Generation through NGOs Program

International Relief and Development aims through this project to temporarily employ 1,055 college graduates by providing services to 32 different local NGOs. College graduates will support local NGOs to conduct relief operations, survey community needs, organize events, and conduct regular home visits to people with special needs and the elderly. The total targeted beneficiaries are 1,055. The project is valued at \$1,997,118.

ARDWBG464 CHF Gaza Urban Agriculture Revitalization & Development

This project establishes a home gardens program to increase the availability of a variety of fresh, nutritious foods from local sources that are unaffected by border closures. It also improves the participant’s growing/animal raising conditions, and increases their knowledge and skills. As a result, it will help vulnerable families and communities identify opportunities to make the most of their limited resources through improving awareness for the value of urban agriculture. The total targeted beneficiaries are 7,000. The project is valued at \$1,408,621.

ARDWBG465 IOCC Gaza Emergency Work Opportunity and Relief Support Program

This project aims to provide short- to medium-term cash-for-work opportunities, assistance in recovering a degree of agricultural capacity, psychosocial support, and humanitarian non-food assistance for the poor and vulnerable populations of the northern areas of Gaza most affected by the recent conflict. The total targeted beneficiaries are 10,094. The project is valued at \$1,999,970.

ARDWBG466 WVI Agriculture Development & Integrated Livelihoods

World Vision, with funding from USAID/CEP aims to reduce Poverty through the Agricultural and Fishing Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project. The total targeted beneficiaries are 5,008. The project is valued at \$1,400,031.

ARDWBG470 RI Relief and Assistance Gaza

Relief International (RI) will address the essential winter preparation needs of Palestinian school children through a fund from USAID/CEP. The project targets Palestinian primary school students ages 6-10. RI will focus its distribution of student hygiene items and warm winter clothing. Active learning techniques and awareness-raising activities centered on positive health practices managed by experienced health educators will be incorporated into the distribution process. RI will cooperate with a number of child education experts to design an awareness campaign using active learning methods and games to encourage targeted children to use their newly acquired hygiene kits and clothes to bolster improved health practices. The project is valued at \$750,000.

ARDWBG471 CARE Relief and Assistance Gaza

With funds from USAID/CEP, CARE will be working on two parallel levels. The project addresses the immediate and unmet needs of the most vulnerable population while simultaneously investing in early recovery efforts and sustainable livelihood to the extent that the situation permits. The support will be used to address these needs in the most vulnerable communities in Gaza. The main purpose is to address part of the unmet humanitarian needs of 2,000 vulnerable Gaza families living in four communities that were internally displaced and/or directly impacted by the “Cast Lead” conflict, providing them with 2,000 family packs. The project is valued at \$748,283.

ARDWBG472 CRS Relief and Assistance Gaza

Catholic Relief Services, via funding from USAID/CEP, will provide humanitarian assistance for vulnerable families in the Gaza Strip, through the distribution of food, kitchen sets, and accessories. The project is valued at \$748,672.

ARDWBG473 IOCC Relief and Assistance Gaza

International Orthodox Christian Charities will provide short-term emergency and life-sustaining assistance of food and non-food items to 3,350 vulnerable families in the poor and remote border areas of Gaza severely affected by the conflict. The project is valued at \$749,972.

ARDWBG474 IRD Relief and Assistance Gaza

International Relief and Development, through a fund from USAID/CEP, will assist 2,000 vulnerable families (estimated 13,000 people) in the Gaza Strip with food, winter clothing, shelter NFIs, and children’s school supplies through a targeted, community-based and staged parcel distribution. Families with elderly and people with disabled family members will receive additional assistance through the distribution of diaper kits for those families with special needs. The project is valued at \$749,136.

ARDWBG475 ANERA Relief and Assistance Gaza

American Near East Refugee Aid aims, through this project, to contribute to the improved well-being of children ranging from 6 to 8 years of age by providing them with good quality winter clothing. This goal will be fulfilled by focusing on providing 45,000 6-8 year old children with good quality winter clothes lasting for a minimum of two years, minimizing the susceptibility of students catching colds during the current and the next winter. The project valued at \$750,000.

ARDWBG476 CHF Relief and Assistance Gaza

Community Housing Foundation’s over-arching programmatic goal is to alleviate human suffering in conflict-affected communities in Gaza. In order to meet this goal, CHF will procure and distribute food and non-food items to 2,265 conflict-affected households. CHF will implement this program over a period of four months in locations across five governorates. The project valued at \$749,982.

ARDWBG500 Sepi Sun Transportation Gaza

USAID/CEP funded Sepi Sun Holdings Ltd. Company in providing a common transportation facility that is practical and efficient to facilitate the humanitarian relief efforts in favor of the Gaza population. The project is valued at \$785,585.

ARDWBG501 Concord Warehousing Gaza

USAID/CEP funded Concord Co. A.F. Ltd. Company in providing a common warehouse facility that is practical and efficient to facilitate the humanitarian relief efforts in favor of the Gaza population. The project is valued at \$541,320.

5.4 INDICATOR REPORTING

Each CEP grant project measures progress against established program indicators (see the following table). CEP indicators were chosen by CEP staff in collaboration with USAID. They are predominately output indicators; that is, they measure the direct product of project activities. The table below shows the actual outputs for CEP-completed grants (actual results achieved per indicator during the period of 1 November 2008–31 March 2010).

TABLE – CEP INDICATORS			
(Actual results achieved per Indicator during the period 1 November 2008 - 31 March 2010)			
Sector	Sub-sector	Indicators	Total Outputs to Date
1. Education / Basic Education	Construction/renovation of classrooms and related facilities	Number of educational rooms constructed/ renovated/rehabilitated	12
2. Education / Youth	Construction/renovation of facilities for youth	Number of youth facilities constructed (built)/renovated/rehabilitated	2
		Number of youth facilities furnished/ equipped	3
3. Water	Provision of emergency water related services	Number of water/ roof tanks provided	600
4. Roads /Other infrastructure	Construction / improvement of interior and connecting roads (non-agricultural)	Number of square meters of sidewalks, fences, school fences, retaining walls, terraces, shades, balconies, roofs, constructed, renovated, rehabilitated, or painted	12,875
		Number of community centers constructed/ renovated/ equipped	3
		Number of public parks/recreational areas constructed/renovated	2
5. Humanitarian Assistance	Supply of basic humanitarian commodities to disadvantaged groups	Number of students/children and individuals from disadvantaged groups benefiting from humanitarian assistance (uniforms, bags, clothing, hot meals, household items, medical aids, coupons, stationary supplies, CBI kits, other).	353,736
		Number of households benefiting from humanitarian assistance	50,418
		Metric tons of food commodities distributed	1,820

TABLE – CEP INDICATORS			
(Actual results achieved per Indicator during the period 1 November 2008 - 31 March 2010)			
Sector	Sub-sector	Indicators	Total Outputs to Date
6. Democracy & Governance / Civil Society	Support needy institutions to deliver better services (NGO, GO, private, etc...)	Number of CSOs/NGOs, GOs, and LGUs benefiting from TA/CB/infrastructure activities	26
		Number of workshops/events/media campaign/TV messages and informal education conducted	23
7. Health/ Psychological	Provision of CBI training and Basic psychosocial support	Number of participants in psychosocial activities	0
8. Economic Growth / Agriculture	Assistance to small farmers and households (Ag. Olive, dairy, cisterns, fish)	Number of farmers and fisher folk benefiting	0
Cross-Cutting		Number of people employed in short-term jobs as a result of USG-supported social assistance programming	1,056
		Number of grants provided	109
		Person Days of employment generated	28,933
		Number of people benefiting through CSO/NGO/LGU/HA activities	459,465

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION

During the reporting quarter, 30 activities were cleared valued at \$21,962,184. 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: 23 grants valued at \$22,672,417
 - West Bank: 28 grants valued at \$3,893,454
 - **Total: 51 grants valued at \$26,565,871**
- **Completed** (grant activities completed but pending administrative actions such as final payments and title transfers before closing out):
 - Gaza Strip: 5 grants valued at \$3,220,341
 - West Bank: 6 grants valued at \$501,242
 - **Total: 11 grants valued at \$3,721,583**
- **Closed** (grant activities completed, reports, and payments accounted for, and final compliance check completed):
 - Gaza Strip: 0 grants valued at \$0
 - West Bank: 0 grant valued at \$0
 - **Total: 0 grant valued at \$0**
- **Cancelled** (previously “on hold” grants cleared by USAID to cancel, and met reporting and compliance requirements—the dollar figures below are only those expended to date and not the original obligated amount):
 - Gaza Strip: 1 grant valued at \$250,000
 - West Bank: 1 grants valued at \$190,610
 - **Total: 2 grants valued at \$440,610**
- **Rejected** (“yellow-lighted” grants which were cancelled before the team had the chance to fully develop to be submitted for “green-light”):
 - Gaza: 6 grants valued at \$716,641
 - West Bank: 5 grants valued at \$506,750
 - **Total: 11 grants valued at \$1,223,391**

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