



POLISH DEVELOPMENT AID

IN PALESTINE

ISSUE I

OCTOBER 2010

IN 2010
POLISH AID
IN OPT
FOCUSES
ON:

- Human Capacity Development (esp. Youth Development, Use of Media)
- Local and Rural Community Development (promotion of sustainable livelihoods)
- Access to drinking water and sanitary facilities

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Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the first issue of the „*Polish Development Aid in Palestine*”.

Through this bi-monthly newsletter we intend to:

- share with you the activities and achievements of the Polish Aid in the oPt,
- bring you closer to the people that we aim to assist,
- inform you about our plans for the near future.

Each issue will highlight the most recent developments of the projects funded by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including „small grants” implemented by our Representative Office in Ramallah and other projects carried out by the Polish non-governmental organizations.

This issue will briefly introduce you to 7 projects initiated in the last few months in East Jerusalem, Hebron, Bethlehem, and Ramallah Districts, with the total budget of 350,000 EUR.

I hope you will find this newsletter interesting and useful.

Bogusław Ochodek
Representative of Poland to the PNA

Hebron youth in after-school activities

The project of social engagement of children and youth from the Hebron Directorate has been implemented by the Polish Humanitarian Organization and ACMD. The main objectives of the project are:

- increasing children’s social activity,
- improving access to extracurricular activities and
- raising awareness in Polish schools about the situation in Palestine.

80 children (40 from Hebron and 40 from Bedouin villages of Yatta) have been selected

to participate in the activities which include arts workshops (painting, mosaic, theater and sports), ecology and environmental protection awareness activities, creation of 2 gardens, and creating models of a friendly city from recyclable materials.

As part of the psycho-social support, trainers are available to youth before and after classes. This way, the child has a trusted adult within reach, with whom she or he can talk about their problems. During the activities, the children also receive a full

warm meal.

The summer art and mosaic classes ended in July. Currently, the children participate in sports and theater classes and in gardening activities.



Girls from Hebron participating in arts workshop over the summer

New play-room in Bethlehem



S. Rafaela receives new chairs for the play-room

The main goal of the project „Furnishing, equipping and staffing of the common play-room in an orphanage in Bethlehem” implemented by the Representative Office of Poland and the Congregation of Sisters of St. Elisabeth is to provide the needy and orphaned children from Bethlehem and the West Bank with a safe environment to learn, play and interact. By furnishing the play-room located on the premises of the orphanage with the basic furniture, equipping it with educational and instructional

aids (books, blackboards, DVD player), and providing tutors, the project enables the children to enhance their educational skills and improve their school work.

The project targets primarily those living in the orphanage as well as the children living around Bethlehem (25 boys and girls), all coming from economically deprived households. While most of the children have at least one parent, they lack the educational support, positive role-models and physical space facilitating positive

development.

The Sisters of St. Elisabeth are currently finalizing the furnishing and equipping stage. The tiles have been laid and shelves are being installed, while educational and recreational equipment is being delivered. The Sisters have hired a tutor and are preparing the working schedule. Currently, there are 7 girls between the ages of 3-16 living on the premises, while sisters step up the „recruitment” efforts. The big opening of the play-room is only weeks away!



Jay is only 3-years-old. She loves spending time with s. Rafaela, but her favorite past-time is watching Tom & Jerry

Jay is only 3-years-old. A few weeks ago, she and her older sister Judy (age 6) were brought to the orphanage by a distant family member. As a result of a hostile divorce between their parents, both girls were left without a family. Although she didn't eat much in the first few days, little Jay has acclimated quite fast. Currently, she loves spending time with s. Rafaela but she still waits impatiently for her sister Judy to come "home" after school. Her favorite past-time is watching Tom & Jerry – facilitated by equipment purchased by the project

Ramallah to have outdoor sports area

Preliminary design of the outdoor area of the Qaddura Park



Project *Equipping Qaddura Fitness Park* implemented by the Representative Office of Poland and the Ramallah Municipality aims to promote healthy lifestyle and usage of public space among the unprivileged by equipping a public park near Qadura Refugee Camp with outdoors sports equipment such as fitness machines, children climbing areas, jogging path,

jungle gyms, trampolines and a multipurpose play ground. The equipment will be available free of charge to anyone visiting the park. The non-tangible goal of the project is to encourage young mothers to use green spaces for the benefit of their families that will subsequently lead to reduced stress and depression levels among children, which have been systematically on the rise.

When finalized, the park will be the first large green place in Ramallah. Its central location is likely to attract a high number of visitors (we hope a minimum of 2,500 each month).

The partners have finalized the design plans of the park, selected the Contractor and initiated the procurement of the sports equipment. The ground-breaking ceremony is scheduled to take place immediately after Ramadan.

Youth Media in Jerusalem Old City

Youth Multimedia Centre is a 9-month project implemented by Together Polska Foundation in cooperation with Spafford Children's Centre in East Jerusalem.

The project resulted from the work of two Polish volunteers with Palestinian youth who expressed high interest in new media. With the financial support of Polish Aid the project purchased professional equipment for the computer lab, Apple computers and high resolution video and photo cameras that were already intensively used by students. In July and August, the youth attended the first media course at Spafford Center delivered by 5 Polish trainers on web design, sound editing, operating professional video camera and editing footage with Final Cut software.



Using video production for learning and fun, 20 young Palestinians had a chance to get to know modern technologies, to do something "cool" and develop new ways of self-expression but also to play creatively with reality and therefore release tension. Some of them have already discovered future employment possibilities with the media and are planning future studies in this direction. Proud of their new skills, the

participants of the courses are planning to send results of their work to various youth film festivals all over Europe and the Middle East. And they have things to show:

4 short documentary and fiction movies can be found on YouTube and www.togetherpolska.org and will be also presented widely at «ABC Palestyna» programs in Poland and abroad.

Between October and December 2010, three more media courses on different levels will be carried out in Spafford.

"I realized how message of the movie depends on what eye of cameraman wants to see...."

Ibrahim

Palestinian identity of East Jerusalem

The purpose of the project implemented by Jerusalem Youth Cultural Forum and the Representative Office of Poland is to foster the Palestinian identity of East Jerusalem through involving youth in the organization of cultural shows comprised of traditional dabkeh performances, clothes exhibition, tasting of the Palestinian cuisine and an audio-visual presentation of historic structures. The secondary aim is to revitalize tourism in E. Jerusalem by involving local restaurants, tour guides, travel agencies, and hotels in the cultural shows' program.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are youth from E. Jerusalem

(primarily Silwan) involved in the launch of the cultural shows and the tourists attending the shows. The indirect beneficiaries are the local businesses (travel agencies, hotels, restaurants) who will benefit from a larger number of tourists visiting E. Jerusalem,

The project aims to reach the following outcomes:

- 25 cultural shows that reach 1000 tourists
- Audio-visual materials about E. Jerusalem recorded in several languages
- Increased employability among Jerusalem youth
- Increased cooperation between tourist and cultural sectors
- Increased operations of 4-6 local businesses



Silwan youth after dabkeh dance performance which comprises the cultural show

Currently, the content of the shows is being finalized, contacts with the local businesses and travel guides are being established, and the venues for the concerts are being prepared.



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Polish Aid is provided by the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs from the budgetary reserve. It is disbursed to the Polish non-governmental organizations through a public call for proposals or to the Representative Office of Poland in Ramallah, which in turn cooperates with the qualified Palestinian civil society organizations.

Listed below is the contact information for the Polish NGOs operating currently in the oPt.

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On the Milky Way to South Hebron

In May the Polish Center of International Aid (PCPM) in cooperation with the Palestinian Livestock Cooperatives Union (PLCU) started a new project *“The Establishment of a Network between Ruminant Palestinian Farmers from Masafer Yatta and the Local Dairy Production Cooperative in Yatta”*. The main goal of the project is to increase the income of the shepherds in the Masafer Yatta region (Hebron District), characterized by tensions between the Israeli settlers and the Palestinian inhabitants. Dependent primarily on sales of meat and domestic dairy products, the shepherds face difficulties as their animal herds constantly decline due to the lack of basic resources such as water, fodder and electricity. The farmers' entry to the market is inhibited by the poor quality of milk and dairy products

caused by unsanitary practices of milking, milk collection and milk home processing. The idea of the project is to encourage the shepherds to deliver their milk to a milk collection center, from which it would be transported to Al-Mentar Cooperative in Yatta town,



Training on milk preservation in the village of Mufagara

where it would be processed and sent to the market. Up to date, the project has carried out training on farm management, animal health and milk quality for farmers from several villages. Those attending also received milk cans, feeders and milk powder. In the next steps, the project will establish the milk collection center in one of the villages and will modernize Al-Mentar Dairy Factory. Specific equipment (pasteurizing machines, cooling tank etc.) is being currently purchased as a result of an open tender. The final step will require a marketing strategy for the new products to reach the local – Palestinian - buyers.