



Near East Council of Churches (NECC)
Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees DSPR/Gaza
Area

Progress Report

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Preface:

This document is the NECC progress report for past 9 months of year 2016, a joint coordinated and elaborated work organized by NECC-Gaza staff in full cooperation between all centers and departments.

The purpose of this report is to give comprehensive information on NECC programs implementation during second quarter of year 2016 (for period covering 1st January till 30th September), highlighting and summarizing the achievements that have been realized with regards to the stipulated and intended goals considering the different aspects of context in the Palestinian territories mainly in the Gaza Strip.

Without doubt, the NECC health and educational programs were designed to support the most vulnerable among this at-risk population affected by the difficult contextual factors prevailing in Gaza. During a time when the official authorities struggled to meet the needs of its population, particularly those related to health, social, and economical issues, the NECC contributed to addressing service gaps. The provided assistance is in line with the international standards and filled an important gap in this regard.

Given the long experience in Gaza context, NECC became a leading organization operating in the fields of health, economic empowerment, psychosocial support, advocacy and community development in Gaza. Since its establishment in 1952, NECC has been implementing different programs to cohesively respond to the needs of its community.

During its dedicatedly continuous work, NECC is accumulating much more experience and gaining more success in the delivery of its program for the favor of its identified beneficiaries without any regard to gender, age, religion, political and/or racial issues.

Acknowledgement

This work has not come into reality without the full commitment, dedication and cooperation of those wonderful people who have exerted continuous and valuable efforts to bring the success to NECC different implemented programs.

The NECC staff, beneficiaries themselves, partners, donors and all parts of the local community have participated each in its important role into the successful delivery of our work; providing efforts, time and resources deemed essential.

It's our pride and pleasure to express our gratitude to all experts who are timely guidance, and constant support to accomplish the brilliant work.

Thus, our deep thanks and gratitude goes to those beloved ones accompanied with our warm regards of happiness and prosperity of life to each person of them.

With respect

NECC/DSPR-Gaza

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List of Abbreviations:

AEI	<i>Ard El Insan Organization</i>
ACT	<i>Action of Churches Together</i>
ANC	<i>Antenatal Care</i>
CBO	<i>Community Based Organization</i>
CPWG	<i>Child Protection Working Group</i>
DSPR	<i>Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees</i>
EU	<i>European Union</i>
EME	<i>Embrace the Middle East</i>
GAD-7	<i>Generalized Anxiety Disorder</i>
GCMHP	<i>Gaza Community Mental Health Psychosocial Support</i>
GS	<i>Gaza Strip</i>
HB	<i>Hemoglobin</i>
HAP	<i>Humanitarian Accountability Partnership</i>
HHs	<i>Households</i>
IUD	<i>Intra Uterine Device</i>
MAM	<i>Moderate Acute Malnutrition</i>
MOH	<i>Ministry of Health</i>
MOL	<i>Ministry of Labor</i>
NCA	<i>Norwegian Church Aid</i>
NECC	<i>Near East Council of Churches</i>
NECCRW	<i>Near East Council of Churches for Refugees Work</i>
NGOs	<i>Non-Governmental Organizations</i>
OCHA	<i>The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</i>
PCBS	<i>Palestine Central Bureau of Statistics</i>
PHC	<i>Primary Health Care</i>
PHQ	<i>Patent Health Questionnaire</i>
PMP	<i>Pontifical Mission for Palestine</i>
PSS	<i>Psychosocial Support</i>
SAM	<i>Severe Acute Malnutrition</i>
SDQ	<i>Strength and Difficulties Questionnaire</i>
TOT	<i>Training of Trainers</i>
TVET	<i>Technical Vocational Education and Training</i>
UNICEF	<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i>
UNRWA	<i>United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East</i>
VTC	<i>Vocational Training Centers</i>
VTP	<i>Vocational Training Program</i>
WHO	<i>World Health Organization</i>

Executive Summary

This Progress Report is covering 9 months of programs implementation during 2016, summarizing achievements in relation to the stipulated goals in the picture of the deteriorated political and socio-economic situations in the Gaza Strip.

The report consists of 4 main parts; the first is pertaining major highlights on the first quarter implementation pathway of the diversified programs the NECC is running, while the second part is introducing NECC organization and its vision, mission and scope of work in the time that the third part is including the different activities took place in the determined period in relevance with the NECC stated indicators.

And finally the fourth part is focusing on the cross-cutting issues induced by situational, environmental and organizational context for NECC delivery of services and programs.

In that pathway, the next part is summarizing the different indicators of NECC services delivery during the determined reporting period crossing all NECC programs and centers.

1. Highlights on second quarter achievements:

Regarding Access to Primary Health Care and Medication, the number of newly registered families has reached **1787** families, while the numbers of the total families benefitted from NECC PHC clinics during this reporting period were **10,481** families. The number of the total registered families from Jan to September 2016 was **35,485** families in the three served areas (since 2009 with the starting the use of electronic medical records).

The number of new pregnant women was **1658** distributed as following: 667 in Shijaia, 533 in Darraj and 458 in Rafah with total of **2457** pregnant women who were already registered and followed up during the reporting period. Furthermore, the number of deliveries reported in our catchments areas during this reporting period was **1249** deliveries. At least 70% of the delivered women received quality postnatal care three times after delivery. In terms of family planning, the number of women who received family planning services during this reporting period was **1152** women: 466 at Shijaia, 563 at Darraj and 123 cases in Rafah (target 1000 women per year). While number of the visits had reached **3686**. The most used to ^{ال}bl was the male condoms in Rafah and Shijaia and Pills in Darraj

Additionally, the number of newly registered children in this reporting period has reached **3285** in the different areas (Shijaia 1358; Darraj, 1021; Rafah 906), this is also could reflect an increased demand for the services. The total number of children attending the well-baby clinic has increased and reached **11,148** cases distributed among clinics as follows; Shijaia 5067; Darraj 3495 and Rafah 2586 with total Well-baby visits reached **24,918**.

The number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has been 9129 while 6933 children under 6 years were examined by doctors and received treatment. The number of cases examined by dentists and received dental care services reached **5736** distributed as; Shijaia 2195, Darraj 1900 and Rafah 1641.

The total laboratory tests that were performed inside the three family care centers during this reporting period have reached **22,316** distributed as; Shijaia 9240, Darraj 8669 and Rafah 4410. The total number of health education sessions provided to all categories was 332 sessions for 9677 participants.

Lectures, trainings, and information events on various topics implemented inside NECC clinics afternoon twice per week named "afternoon activities", while **166** women benefited from embroidery, wool making courses, hair dress making and others during the reporting period.

With regards to the **Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) program**, during the reporting period, a total of **210** originally enrolled trainees including male and female, continued to receive high quality vocational training skills in the designated fields of carpentry/furniture making, welding and metals works, aluminum works, general electricity and motor rewinding, secretarial studies and advanced dressmaking. Where about **22.3%** out of those trainees are females and the rest of **77.7%** are males.

Regarding **psychosocial support program**; **1468** children who attended the three family care centers or kindergartens located in the three served areas received PSS activities either group sessions or counseling or recreational activities while **3552** mothers and women received PSS either group sessions, individual counseling, group counseling or consultation. Additionally, **158** TVET students received PSS.

1.1. Summary of key findings in reference to log frame

During the reporting period, NECC succeeded to sustain the provision of its programs and services to the targeted beneficiaries as planned. **The table (1) below summarizes the main achievements in numbers.**

Indicator	Mid Year	% of achievement
At least 95% of pregnant women in targeted locality received timely ANC at least 4 visits	98.65%	Achieved
At least 70% of women in targeted locality received timely quality post natal care at least twice.	74%	Achieved
1,200 new pregnant women registered for ANC annually	1658	Achieved
7000 antenatal care visits made annually	13,881	Achieved
1,800 pregnant women received follow up visits, newly registered and on-going	2457	Achieved
1600 postnatal care visits conducted annually	3068	Achieved
12,000 children registered at the well-baby clinic and screened for anaemia and anthropometric measurements	11,148	92.9%
25,000 well baby visits were conducted annually	24,918	99.6%
7,000 sick children up to 6 years old received medical examination and treatment	6933	99%
1000 partners received reproductive health services and awareness	1152	Achieved
Over 4,000 women, children and adults in targeted areas receive dental care annually	5736	Achieved
Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment	6489	Achieved
1500 children received psychosocial support	1468	97.8%
3000 mothers/women participated in psychosocial support activities	3552	Achieved
200 women attending afternoon activities received psychosocial support	166	83%
A total of 110 students receive training in carpentry/furniture making, welding and	111	Achieved

Aluminum work annually		
A total of 48 students new and old receive training in electricity skills	48	Achieved
A total of 20 students receive training in secretary study	23	Achieved
A total of 15 students receive training in Advanced sewing	24	Achieved
At least 60 educational loans provided to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities	17	28.3%
1 to 2 policy/advocacy issues resulted in improving justices and economic status	2	Achieved
4 initiatives implemented with local communities	2	50%
10 visits paid by relevant internationals	26	Achieved

2. Introduction to NECC Organization:

2.1 Description of NECCRW and its programs

NECCRW Brief:

Near East Council of churches Committee for Refugees Work (NECCRW)-the Gaza Area Committee is part of the Department of Service to the Palestine Refugees (DSPR). The DSPR is a department of the Middle East Council of Churches. NECCRW Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian Society and its culture and operates with support from the churches, ecumenical and secular organizations. NECCRW Gaza Committee was founded in 1952 launching a humanitarian program to assist Palestinians who took refuge in the Gaza Strip following the establishment of Israel in 1948. NECCRW has focused then on the provision of humanitarian aid and contributing to an overall improvement in living conditions and to poverty alleviation. Its work has rested on respecting the humanity and dignity of those whom it helps and on adherence to clear transparency and accountability standards. NECC supports the Palestinian people through six key areas: Health (Maternal and Child Primary Health Care), Technical Vocational Education and training (Empowering Youth Economic Status), Educational Loans for university students, Psychosocial Support for children, mothers, and students to cope with the negative impact of Gaza Violence, Emergency Relief projects including cash Relief and Job Creation initiatives, Advocacy policies and activities shared with the community, and community Development program.

NECCRW Vision:

A Palestinian Society where people receive adequate health and educational services and enjoy better quality of life

NECCRW Mission:

NECCRW is a Palestinian ecumenical church-related organization aims at strengthening and empowerment of the Palestinian community in the Gaza Strip by providing educational and health services and contingency assistance regardless of faith, color, gender, political affiliation or geographical locality

2.2 Overview on NECC Programs Description

1. Provision of Quality Primary Health Care services:

The main objective of **NECC Gaza's health program is to provide high quality primary health care services** in poor, overpopulated, and remote areas that have inadequate or no health services.

NECCRW Gaza offers preventive and curative free of charge services, with a focus on mother and child health care and education towards health and environmental promotion.

The package incorporates antenatal and postnatal care for pregnant women, and a Well-Baby services to follow up children's development until the age of six years. Dental services for mothers and children, health education, home visits, dermatology clinic, physical examination, laboratory testing, medication, psychosocial support interventions, malnutrition and anaemia program, and family planning services are also included.

NECC operates three family health care centres in the Gaza Strip. These three centres are located in Darraj, Shijaia, and Rafah. The three centres serve a population of 80,000, 100,000, and 13,000 in Darraj, Shijaia, and Rafah, respectively. The NECC's health program offers a comprehensive package of health services, with a particular focus on primary health care services. The bundle of the provided services include essential maternal and child health (MCH) services such as antenatal care (ANC), postnatal care, health education, family planning, well-baby care, psychosocial services, home visits, treatment for malnourished children, and dental services. Additionally, the NECC health program offers laboratory testing and medication.

2. Psychosocial support:

NECC's psychosocial program started after 2008 war on Gaza called be Israel "Cast Lead Operation", and continues till now; it targets the whole family epically women, mothers and their children. The program focused on the Palestinian families through the health centers, vocational training centers, secretarial center, advanced dressmaking center and NECC staff in cooperation and coordination with relevant organizations.

3. Livelihood and Economic Development (TVET Program):

NECC is contributing to the economic development of Gaza through its Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) that are located in Gaza City and El-Qararah Village south the Gaza Strip. Male Vocational Training Centre of Carpentry and Furniture Making/Metal works and welding is located in Shijaia province in Gaza City, while the other centre of Electricity and Motor Rewinding is located in the village of El-Qararah, 25 KMs South of Gaza City.

Women VTC's of Secretary Studies and Advanced Dressmaking is located in the NECC main building in Rimal, Gaza City.

These vocational training centres are serving different target beneficiaries therefore, the selection criteria for the VTCs trainees differ according to the subject of the training course, i.e. women applying for the secretarial course should have completed 12 years of schooling and have a high school certificate while women applying for advanced dressmaking course should at least know how to read and write, while men applying for carpentry, metal welding and aluminium should be aged

between 14-16 years, and known as school drop-outs, and men applying for electricity course should have completed 10 years of schooling and are between 16-23 years old.

For selecting target groups, NECC-Gaza ensures to select those who come from deprived families and have the highest needs. NECC Technical Vocational Educational Training (TVET) centres provide its services to a total of approximately 205 trainees per annum.

4. **Educational Loans:**

Through this program, NECC is promoting university education by helping needy students to complete their education. By providing interest-free loans to those students, they can pay university fees that can be renewed every academic year.

5. **Emergency Relief:**

NECC launched its welfare and Relief program since 1952 and continued till now to provide assistance to needy people. The program aims at providing emergency assistance to alleviate the impact of emergency situations when deemed necessary. It also helps to target Palestinians to attain cash for work “temporary jobs” and/or cash relief for one time to secure food, medicine, daily needs, health and psychosocial support (PSS).

6. **Advocacy Program:**

This program is concerned with promoting social justice, empowering communities and advocating the rights of civilians particularly refugees to live in dignity, respected human rights, ensuring access to health and education services and so on. NECC works at two fronts; internally promoting an empowerment culture and externally advocating the rights of the Palestinians at the national forums.

7. **Others:**

❖ **Community Development Program**

NECC enables communities to implement projects aimed at improving the conditions of their environment. It assists other NGOs in implementing projects through giving the support for providing facilities and supplies towards the implementation of minor infrastructural projects. It also promotes youth activities, schools and kindergartens through the provision of products manufactured by VTC trainees and graduates.

❖ **Self-Help Program**

The Sewing Cooperative: Graduates of the Dressmaking Center jointly operate a self-supporting, income generating cooperative producing anything from children's clothes to wedding gowns.

The Self-Help Sewing Center: Women, mostly widowed and often the sole income generators of their families, work for NECCRW sewing pieces for internal use (uniforms, curtains ...etc) and external distribution.

2.3 Context (socio-political, health, economic, environmental...)

Two years after the 2014 escalation of hostilities, justice remains elusive. Serious concerns persist regarding the lack of investigations and accountability, the political, economic and social context didn't change that much during this reporting period. Poverty, hardship condition, psychosocial problems and food shortage are still dominating the overall picture of the situation in Gaza. Therefore, 2016 is more or less a continuation of previous years.

The blockade on Gaza, which entered its tenth year in 2016, in addition to recurrent armed violence and conflict, remains the principle cause of the socio-economic and psychosocial crisis in Gaza

Donor support has significantly declined in recent years and, naturally, aid cannot sustainably make up for inadequate private investment, constrained by weak investor confidence due to the ongoing restrictions and the lack of political progress. Recovering slowly from the recession of 2014, the growth rate is projected to hover around 3.5 % in the medium term. With the ongoing conflict everywhere in the Middle East, there is donor's shift to other areas like Syria, Libya and refugees in Lebanon and Jordan. This has tightened the ability of many NGOs to serve beneficiaries. Also, UNRWA faces shortage of resources which affects their programs targeting refugees. (OCHA, 2015)

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of 2 million Palestinians in that area; these restrictions continue to reduce access to livelihoods, essential services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people's hopes for a secure and prosperous future. The situation has been compounded by the restrictions imposed since June 2013 by the Egyptian authorities at Rafah Crossing, which had become the main crossing point used by Palestinian passengers in the Gaza Strip, given the above restrictions on the Israeli-controlled crossings. (OCHA, 2016)

Unemployment rates are higher in Gaza, at 42%, and youth unemployment is at 58%. Although nearly 80% of Gaza's residents receive some form of aid, poverty is very high. A report published by the World Bank indicates that Gaza's unemployment rate in 2014 (43.9%), was the highest in the world. The report estimates that Gaza's GDP could have been four times what it has been today if not had been hostilities in the region and access restrictions imposed on the Strip. The report indicates that the closure of the Gaza Strip has led to an estimated 50% drop in its GDP.

According to figures published by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS), **Gaza's unemployment rate stood at 41.7% in the second quarter of 2016**, and the number of unemployed dropped by just half a percentage point compared to the previous quarter.

The collapse of Gaza economy led to the fact that around 80% of families in Gaza currently depend on humanitarian aid, a total of 50% of the labor force in the GS are out of work during the year 2014 which is constantly increasing. With an increasing rate, deep poverty fluctuates and ranging from 20-32%

while the poverty rate is being zoomed up to around 80% as reported in some studies. Food insecurity status varies from time to time with more than 65% of families that reported lack of essential food items. The Palestinian children are victims of social and health inequalities. (World Bank, 2015)

Electricity shortages continue impeding the delivery of basic services and the provision of basic services across the Gaza Strip remains severely hampered by the longstanding electricity deficit. The chronic electricity deficit affecting Gaza over the past nine years¹ since an Israeli airstrike in June 2006 targeting the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) marked the start of an electricity crisis in the Gaza Strip, which has disrupted the delivery of basic services and undermined already vulnerable livelihoods and living conditions. The situation has further deteriorated since June 2013, following the halt in the smuggling of Egyptian-subsidized fuel used to operate the GPP, via the illegal tunnels

Only an estimated 3 percent of Gaza's water is suitable for drinking. The Palestinian Water Authority and the United Nations have warned that its underground water aquifer - upon which the territory is almost entirely reliant, apart from a small amount of water imported from Israel - may be completely contaminated by the end of the year. Gaza's water contains a large concentration of chloride, while infiltration of untreated sewage has raised the levels of nitrates to two to eight times higher than the World Health Organization recommends. Electricity and fuel shortages, food insecurity, extreme water pollution, repeated armed violence and an ongoing political paralysis are the daily reality. (Gaza situation report, 2016)

Still many people are displaced and living with relatives and friends, in tents or caravans. No major displacement occurred in Gaza in 2015, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Gaza Strip continue to suffer from the devastating consequences of the 2014 hostilities. The reconstruction effort progresses, nearly 3,000 destroyed or severely damaged homes have been rebuilt or otherwise rendered habitable; however, approximately 75,000 people are estimated to remain displaced till December 2015. (Source: IDP'S OCHA report April 2016)

Findings indicate that siege impinges on effective healthcare provision through two central, intertwined processes: withholding materials and resources and undermining healthcare at a systems level. These strains pose considerable threats to healthcare, particularly within the Ministry of Health but also within and among other entities in Gaza that deliver care. Gazan society is continually divested of any of the underpinnings necessary for a well-functioning sovereign health care infrastructure. This study points to the importance of foregrounding the geopolitical context for analysis of medical service delivery within conflict settings. Findings also highlight the importance of advocating for sovereignty and self-determination as related to health systems. (Social science & medicine volume 146, Dec 2015)

Around 225,000 children in Gaza require psychosocial support and child protection services, and over 33,000 of the most vulnerable children are in need for individual child protection case management.

¹ The Gaza Cheat Sheet: Real Data on the Gaza Closure, February 28, 2016

The most frequently reported estimation of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has been around 20-22/1,000 live births in the GS; around 74% of them die in the first 28 days after delivery; mostly within the first 6 days of life.

The under 5 years old mortality rate is around 28 per 1000 live births, the main causes of death of children were injuries, congenital anomalies and infectious diseases. Children's mortality particularly IMR is regarded as an index which reflects the overall performance of the health system, and the deteriorated socioeconomic situation.

Congenital anomalies have increased from 4 per 1000 births in 2006 to 7 per 1000 births in 2009 to more than 14 in 2012. This increase may be attributed to the environmental pollution with toxic and carcinogenic metals from the ammunition used in the bombing of Gaza by the Israeli army during invasions and military operations. Many of these congenital anomalies are discovered late due to lack of effective well baby services.

Around 70% of children 6-12 months aged suffer from anemia. Also, around 75% of Gaza children were either suffering from Vitamin A deficiencies or at the border line representing a serious public health problem.

In Gaza, the MoH reported zero stock at 31% of essential medicines (cancer therapies: 48%, immune suppressants: 46%, cardiac medications: 38%) and 40% of medical disposables. About \$5 million is required to fund one month of critical medical supplies for the Ministry of Health in the West Bank and Gaza.

Regarding disability, the total number of disabled in the GS was found to be 40379 (2.85%) of the population-excluding mental related disability. Of them, 36% are children less than 18 years. The most common disabilities among children are motor, visual, auditory and multiple disabilities. In 2010 around 1.7% of children less than 5 years old were suffering from hearing impairment which is almost 17 times higher than the estimated incidence in the United States of America; it was 1.3% in 2010. Contextual factors such as poverty, environmental pollution and bombardments are among the frequently reported reasons for disability.

3. Major activities and achievements of NECC programs:

3.1 Health program

NECC provide a package of primary health care services, reproductive health (antenatal, postnatal, family planning), child health services (well-baby services, nutrition, pediatric clinic, etc.) and other services to all age groups (medical examination, dermatology, dental, laboratory testing, medication, consultation, health education, home visits, etc.).

Table (2): Distribution of total number of beneficiaries at NECC PHC centers disaggregated by gender and age:

By age	Above 18 years		Less 18 years		Total
	M	F	M	F	
By gender					
No of beneficiaries	917	6127	7992	8046	23,082
Total	7044		16038		

3.1.1 Ante Natal Care (ANC)

During this reporting period, the number of newly registered families at NECC centers has reached **1787** while the number of the total registered families benefitted from NECC PHC clinics during this quarter was 10,481 families in the three served areas. The families in the three localities received the package of PHC services.

According to the standard of antenatal care from WHO followed by NECCCRW, pregnant women are expected to visit every 4 weeks until 28 weeks of gestation, and then every 2 weeks until 36 weeks, after which weekly visits are recommended until delivery.

During this reporting period, number of new pregnant women was 1658 distributed as following: 667 in Shijaia , 533 in Darraj and 458 in Rafah with total of 2457 pregnant women who were already registered and followed up during the reporting period (Target 1800 pregnant women per year). Among the new pregnant women, 528 were primigravida (31.8%). The total antenatal care visits have been reached 13,881 visits (Target: 7000 ANC visits per year) as the pregnant woman should be follow up monthly during her pregnancy. Accordingly 98.65% of pregnant women followed up in ante natal care clinics at least 4 times during their pregnancy. We noticed an increase regarding ANC number of beneficiaries compared and this could be correlated to the high needs to reproductive health in Gaza as mentioned before by Health Nutrition Cluster especially antenatal care, the increase was noticed in the three localities.

Also Gynecologists referred 16 complicated pregnant women to hospitals.

Ultrasound (U/S) is performed according to the MOH and NECCCRW schedule 3 times during pregnancy:

- 1st from 8-10 weeks to confirm pregnancy

- 2nd from 18-22 weeks to exclude any congenital anomalies.
- 3rd from 32-36 weeks to determine the position of the fetus.

During this quarter, the percentage of women received US service 3 times or more during their pregnancy period reached 83.54% while the total numbers of US scans were 4,347

3.1.2 Post Natal Care (PNC)

All women who follow up for antenatal care at NECC family health care centers during pregnancy used to receive PNC three times, after delivery by NECC staff; the first visit within 72 hours, second visit within 6 days and third one within 6 weeks after delivery, the two visits should be at home while the third one could be at the center or at home. During the postnatal visits, the midwife/nurse examine women and their babies to make sure that their health conditions are normal, assess the psychological status of the mother and provide psychosocial support services to mothers, provide health awareness sessions pertaining to postnatal period such as breastfeeding, family planning, nutrition, baby care, danger signs, provide appropriate supplementation to women as needed such as Iron/Folic acid to anemic and even normal deliveries according to national protocol for 3 months, refer the severe or cases with complications and provide psychosocial support.

Additionally, they check the baby's weight and perform umbilical dressing. Also they filled a questionnaire about both mother and baby.

NECC during this quarter endure promoting of PNC with UNICEF in Darraj , Rafah and Shijaia areas

NECC signed new agreement with UNICEF starting in 10th April 2016 and ending in 9th April 2017. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reduce the morbidity of the targeted pregnant women and mothers and neonates/children at the postnatal period in addition to screen and manage children under 5 for MAM² and SAM³ . The project aimed to increase coverage of PNC services for registered women at the postnatal period. The project started in April with higher coverage including Shijaia area in addition to Darraj and Rafah.

Regarding the postnatal visits, the total number of deliveries during this quarter in the three localities who were registered in ANC was **1249**. NECC succeeded to provide **3068** PNC sessions/visits in three served localities as following: In Shijaia 1119, Darraj 1141 and Rafah 308, the sessions were provided to 1249 mothers, **2120** were at home and **948** at the health center. Also, **74%** of mothers who passed 6 weeks after delivery received 3 PNC sessions and 82% passed the 6 weeks after delivery without complication, while 11% of children (133 children out of 1208) during 6 weeks of their born had specific medical conditions and received appropriate treatment or referred. Also, one of the main objectives is to enhance the exclusive breastfeeding, the percentage of children who are exclusively breastfed during the 6 weeks after delivery was 75.62%.

2 MAM: Moderate Acute Malnutrition.

3 SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition.

It is worth adding that an external evaluation was conducted during March 2016 for the project with UNICEF that ended by 17 Feb 2016.

Moreover, NECC developed an android program for home visits/outreach activities especially for postnatal care. This application was used through tablets devices which helped the staff to save time and efforts and to be more accurate instead of filling the questionnaires at each home visits and then enter the data into MIS at the health center. Actually, each home visits needs at least 45-60 minutes, so by using this technology NECC team became able to conduct more visits with lesser time.

3.1.3 Family Planning Services (FP)

Family planning services are provided at the three localities. A female gynecologist and staff nurse run the family planning clinics inside each one of the three health care centers. The family planning methods which are commonly used are: intrauterine devices (IUDs), pills, injections and male condoms.

The women have a good counseling session with the gynecologist in order to select the best and safe method of contraception after the medical examination and sometimes they need to discuss with their husbands and come back with the decision.

During this reporting period, the number of new acceptors was 325 as following: 119 in Shijaia, 142 in Darraj and 64 in Rafah.

Table (3): The total number of beneficiaries of Family Planning and visits disaggregated per area :

Center area	No of beneficiaries	FP Visits
Shijaia	466	1293
Darraj	563	1830
Rafah	123	238
Total	1152	3361

The most used tool was the pills in Darraj while in Rafah and Shijaia was the male condom. However, NECC is still facing the same problem since 2015 till the moment of reporting due to not receiving all FP tools except condom and one kind of pills from UNFPA through MOH as usual. Accordingly, NECC was obliged to procure the available tools from the local market even this was not planned.

3.1.4 Well Baby Program (WB)

Well Baby program is operated in NECC twice a week in each clinic. Through this program the staff nurses provide services to children from birth to 6 years with consultation of a physician. NECC is unique in providing this service to children from 0 to 6 years.

Routinely, nurses weight and measure the weight, length, head circumference and hemoglobin. These measures are plotted in growth and development chart on the computer and kept in the child's health record, through which nurses can recognize malnourished or anemic children and deal with them through enrolment in the malnutrition and anemia treatment program by follow up, counseling their mothers and home visits.

This is aiming at decreasing the prevalence of malnutrition and anemia among children under 5 years old and to speed up the recovery process of malnourished and anemic children in a sustainable manner. NECC utilized a comprehensive approach that incorporates carrying out screening, identifying anemic and malnourished cases, managing the identified cases at the clinics, providing health education and counseling, provision of referral services when needed, provision of iron and enriched milk supplementation and possibly provision of social assistance through other agencies working in that field. The main activities during the reporting period were as following:

- Screening **11,148** children 0-6 years old attending the well-baby services as planned in accordance with the national protocols (Target 12,000 per year). Shijaia Clinic ranked first in term of the number of children seen at the well-baby services (5067) . In total, 24,918 well-baby follow up visits were performed (Annual target 25,000 well-baby sessions). 3285 new children were assessed at the well-baby service delivery points: 1358 in Shijaia, 1021 in Darraj and 906 in Rafah.
- Sick children under 6 years were 5633 who examined by doctors and received treatment.
- The total number of those examined children and found abnormal (malnourished and anemic) and enrolled in treatment programs is 1093 children. Al Darraj elicited the highest number of abnormal children (593). The percentage of malnutrition among the attendants of the well-baby visits was around 13.24% in Shijaia area while it was 9.04% in Darraj area; the prevalence in Rafah was 11.06%. The prevalence of anemia was higher as it ranged from 30.44% in Darraj to 16.69% in Rafah (in Shijaia it was 17.95%).
- During the reporting period, 14561 SMS were sent to clients that were effective and well-perceived by them in addition to 3716 SMS that were sent to bring back defaulters. The use of SMS has contributed to the reduction of the number of defaulters.
- In total, 8564 laboratory tests were conducted during the well-baby services visits. The most frequently conducted test is haemoglobin level (5622 tests) followed by complete blood count (1217) and stool analysis (1073) due to the widely spread anaemia.

Table (4): Total quantities of supplements provided to children:

Drug Item	Quantity
Iron	9840
Vitamin A&D	727
Plumpy nut / sup sachet	24749

3.1.5 Dental Clinic

All clinics of NECC Gaza are equipped with fixed dental units that provide routine dental services – such as check-up, filling, extraction and scaling 4 days a week. During this reporting period, 5736 patients (annual target 4000) were examined by a dentist at the clinics distributed as following: 2195 in Shijaia, 1900 in Darraj and 1641 in Rafah, also 1179 child were screened during well baby program (target 700 child per year), 1459 pregnant women were screened during antenatal care for their dental care (Target: 1200 pregnant women per year).

Table (5): Distribution of NECC Dental Clinic by Type of Activity & locality

District	No. of visits	Treatment	Composite fillings	Amalgam fillings	Teeth extractions	Teeth scaling	Follow up visit
Shijaia	2827	1287	46	573	223	127	772
Darraj	2121	1242	25	502	259	26	426
Rafah	1717	1009	22	301	242	81	294

3.1.6 General Clinic/Medical examination

The number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has been reached 9129 cases including those attended dermatology clinic. NECC launched the dermatology services at the three health centers since March 2015; a dermatologist is attending the centers one day per week except Shijaia so as two days per week. The service is highly appreciated by the community due to the high demand and prevalence of skin diseases. The dermatologist examines 50 patients per day. The total number of patients seen during this quarter at dermatology clinic was 6810 including adults, children and pregnant women.

Below table shows the distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors and received treatment by category and center during the reporting period (the table mention number of visits not cases, it means that the patient may receive the service more than once during the year).

Table (6): Distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors by category and center

Target group	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Less than 6years old	12219	11292	7475	30986
Pregnant women	3165	2104	1641	6910
Above 6 years old	2310	1881	1888	6079
Dermatology clinic	3296	1752	1762	6810
Total	20990	17029	12766	50785

3.1.7 Health Education

Health education is any combination of learning experiences designed to help individuals and communities improve their health, by increasing their knowledge or influencing their attitudes and behaviors. Health education is a tool of health promotion: the two should not be separate.

NECC staff conducts health education sessions for women attending family health care centers. To promote healthy practices, health education is provided to families particularly to caregivers based on the needs of families.

Achieved in this reporting period: NECC continued to intensify its efforts in health education and in increasing awareness of the concerned population in topics related to hygiene, breast feeding, environment, etc... The total number of health education sessions provided to all categories was 1102 health awareness sessions for 22604 participants. The main subjects of health education were nutrition, hygiene practices, child health care, pregnant women care, infectious diseases, newborn care, child protection, breast feeding, complementary feeding etc. Also, health education materials were distributed either inside the centers or at home visits.

To further enhance the effectiveness of health education, NECC used a set of pre-test and post-test questions for a sample of attendants in health education sessions. Questionnaires were analyzed and measures were taken accordingly, the various tools for conducting health education sessions as audiovisual tools were used for more focusing on health, environmental, and social issues.

3.1.8 Home Visits

Home visits are a part of health services provided by NECC to the community either for PNC, bringing defaulters and special cases. During this reporting period, approximately 2789 home visits (annual target is 1500) were conducted by NECC to beneficiaries inside their houses. The main cause of home visits is to check the health of mothers, newborns, patient/case inside the house, the purpose of not becoming a defaulter, to check the improvement of the case and collect feedback if referred cases.

3.1.9 Referral System

One of the success factors for NECC health program was the coordination and the integration with the relevant health providers such as the MOH hospitals, Thalassemia association and AEI which provided back up referral sites. NECC referred 179 cases to relevant sites as needed.

During the reporting period 105 children, 56 pregnant women and 18 adults were referred for more investigation or because they had complications. The following table shows the referral sites.

Table (7): Referral sites during the reporting period:

Referral system	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Thalassemia center	19	16	11	46
MOH or other hospitals	74	37	16	127

MOH clinics	3	3	-	6
Total	96	56	27	179

Actually, NECC received feedback from the referred cases to decide how to continue with them the treatment. For those referred to Thalassemia center, NECC received results of electrophoresis for all the cases and NECC give the results to the mother and explained the status of her child exactly.

3.1.10 Laboratory Services

A laboratory is based in each one of the clinics. The following tests are carried out:

1. Hematological tests:
2. Urine and stool analysis tests.
3. Biochemistry tests.
4. Pregnancy test.

Other unavailable tests are usually referred to be performed outside NECC to MOH, Thalassemia association and Ahli Arab Hospital. NECC has a coordination system with the mentioned places. The number of laboratory tests performed during this quarter have reached **22,319** distributed as Shijaia **9240**; Darraj **8669** and Rafah **4410**, we add to them **5622** HB tests for the children screened and followed up for malnutrition or anemia with hemocus portable machine to have a total of **27941** tests. Unlike other health organizations in Gaza, the available strategic storage of laboratory kits needed for the lab services helped NECC to continue the provision of the needed lab services despite the closure.

Table (8): Distribution of lab tests

Type Of Lab Tests	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Blood tests	4114	4256	1966	10336
Urine	4187	3376	1963	9526
Stool	794	1007	468	2269
Pregnancy Test (Urine Sample)	145	30	13	188
Total	9240	8669	4410	22319

3.1.11 Pharmacy Services

NECC offers preventive and curative services free of charge, with a focus on mother and child health care and education towards health and environmental awareness (hygiene, vaccination, etc.). Accordingly, there is a small pharmacy operated by an Assistant Pharmacist at each of three clinics with a number of medicines (approximately 120 items), complying with WHO standards and approved by the NECC medical sub-committee. The main lists of the medications include those needed for pregnant women and children as Iron supplements, multivitamins, antibiotics, anti-allergic, skin ointments and creams, antifungal oral gel, ovules and vaginal creams, antipyretic, anti-cough, analgesics, anti-helminthes, etc.

Only prescriptions of the clinic medical doctors are dispensed to the patients of the particular center. Medicines are mostly made and supplied directly by pharmaceutical companies in the West Bank and Gaza. Stocks are replenished from the main “warehouse” under the supervision of a pharmacist twice a month while the balance of medicines at each clinic covers a period of six weeks and the balance of medicines at the main store covers 12 months as the replenishment of dispensed medications replenished every 6 months through tenders. Additionally, NECC has computerized information system for the medications which facilitates and organizes the work inside the main store and the pharmacies, a network connects the three pharmacies with the main office and the main store for more monitoring and supervision,

NECC succeeded in securing the availability of the required medicines throughout this period by having stocks of medicines in each center and in the main store. However, some delay happened due to the tight closure.

UPA thankfully agreed to support NECC in terms of purchasing medication for the year 2016; also ANERA continues providing NECC medical store with in-kind donations (medicines and medical supplies) in addition to NECC regular partners who continue supporting the purchasing of medication to patients. During this reporting period, the number of prescriptions dispensed to patients reached 52821 in the three localities.

Table (9) No. of Prescriptions dispensed per area

Clinic	No. of prescriptions
Shijaia	19793
Darraj	20221
Rafah	12807
Total	52821

2.1.1. Community Workers Training Courses

Community workers training target group are female students who have at least high secondary certificate. This program aims to improve the awareness, knowledge and practice of those females either in health, social, psychological, environmental issues, etc..., so they can in the future do the same for their families, friends and community as a whole. The training prepares them to be health community workers. 40 female trainees per year divided into two groups. Each group receives training for 4 months, 3 days per week, 4 hours per training day. The lectures are about health, social and psychosocial issues. Also they are trained about how to give a session for a group of women even about health, social or psychosocial issues. A first aid course also provided to the students with cooperation of MOH trainers. Most trainers are from NECC staff and other relevant NGO's, at this reporting period, NECC finished the first course of community workers training for 21 female students

3.2 Psychosocial Support Program

The psychosocial component of NECC health program is consistent with the NECC mission, strategies, and objectives. The overall objective of the program is to promote the psychosocial status of the served community particularly women and children. The program focuses on the Palestinian families attending the health centers, vocational training centers, secretarial center, advanced dressmaking center and NECC staff in cooperation and coordination with relevant organizations.

Given the fact that increasing the number of children with psychosocial problems, lead to increase in demand for psychosocial services; NECC is responding by increasing supplies and the capacity in the provision of psychosocial services through strengthening the provision of psychosocial services to vulnerable localities. A recent study conducted on the psychosocial services in Shijaia area showed that the population of the area are in desperate need for these services especially after being exposed to severe psychological traumas. The study flags the importance of implementing high quality psychosocial services.

“Policy-makers should implement more programmes designed specifically to meet children’s needs, and direct greater effort to encouraging caregivers to increase uptake of services and programmes. Women and young children need greater access to mental health services. Efforts should focus on raising community awareness through media, education and community mobilisation, and improving health workers’ awareness of the challenges facing adolescents as they go through this very specific life-cycle stage”.⁴

One year after the ceasefire on August 26, 2014; the recovery in Gaza is slow and more than 300,000 children still need emotional and psychological support⁵, while over 33,000 of the most vulnerable children are in need for individual child protection case management.⁶

NECC teams have incorporated the psychosocial support services into the regular practice and routine services; however, some complicated cases require specialized psychosocial support sessions such as individual or group counseling sessions, stress management session, play therapy, and behavioral, cognitive therapy and so on, this needs to be provided by specialized counselors.

Cases with mild mental health problems were managed by the nurse or nurse-midwife, while those with moderate to severe problems were referred to the counselor for longer term management. Very severe and complex cases were referred to specialized psychiatric centres.

The integration of mental health within PHC added value to psychosocial support program through adopting standardized measures which include measures of psychosocial wellbeing, mental health and

⁴ Abu Hamad, 2015.

⁵ UNICEF, 2015.

⁶ Humanitarian Needs Overview 2016, Occupied Palestinian Territory.

beneficiary satisfaction with services and service providers such as pre and post (SDQ⁷) for children and parents, (PHQ⁸) and (GAD⁹) for PHC screened cases, (CRIES-8¹⁰) for PTSD children cases and (PCL) for PTSD¹¹ adults (Edinburgh scale) for post natal depression cases.

It's worth mentioning that NECC has developed a management information system for psychosocial support program to get more accurate data, analysis and statistics. This application was used by the health staff after training on it.

Table (10): Main psychosocial support program achievements during the reporting period:

Activities and target groups	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
School children (6-15) years targeted through problem solving approach	254 children	295 children	260 children	809 children
Kindergarten children serve through cognitive behavioral therapy	204 children	255 children	200 children	659 children
Individual counselling for school children	33 children	15 children	14 children	62 children
Individual counselling for women/mothers	80	43	21	144 women/mothers
Family counselling for mothers with children suffer from psychological disorders	62	39	15	116 mothers
Psycho education sessions for PHC beneficiaries	61 sessions for 1732 women	26 sessions for 403 women	35 sessions for 754 women	122 sessions for 2889 women
General psychosocial consultations	257	148	118	523
Group counselling for mothers and or/women with similar psychological problems	28 mothers/women	28 mothers/women	23 mothers/women	79 mothers/women
Screening and detection of mental health problem in PHC patients managed by health staff	106 mild cases from PHC were screened and detected, received guided self-help while 876 EPDS scale filled for postnatal cases to detect postnatal depression, 75 were discovered complained of depression that's mean 8.56% were suffered from depression during postpartum period.			

⁷ SDQ: Strength and Development Questionnaire.

⁸ PHQ: Patient Health Questionnaire.

⁹ GAD: Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

¹⁰ CRIES-8: Children Impact of EVENT Scale.

¹¹ PTSD: Post Traumatic Stress Disorders.

3.3 TVET Program

In response to the community needs and labor market demand and as part of its strategic plan, mission and objectives, NECC is consistently committed in approaching its vocational training program to the community through providing quality TVET service based on competency based approach which is relying on transforming skills into work.

In spot of this, NECC runs 4 vocational training centers: 2 for male and 2 for female including provision of 5 professions as follows:

1. **The Shijaia Vocational Training Center (Gaza City VTC¹²)** offers one and two-year vocational training courses that target disadvantaged boys aged 14-16 years who have dropped out of school. The professions provided are:
 - Carpentry and furniture making (2 years).
 - Metal works and welding (2 years).
 - Aluminum works (1 year).
2. **El-Qararah Vocational Training Center** (near Khanyounis, 35 km south of Gaza) provides two-year vocational training course in general electricity skills, motor and transformer rewinding to young men aged 16-23 who finished grade ten in the school.
3. **The Secretarial studies and English Language Center** offers a one year intensive course to young girls who have finished their secondary school (High School “Tawjihi”).
4. **The Advanced Dress Making Center** offers a one year vocational training course to females in dress making.

During the reporting period (January – September 2016): **198 students** (155 male and 43 female students) received training through NECC - VTC’s disaggregated as follows:

- 35 students were upgraded to the 3rd grade.
- 64 second-year male trainees continued training; 38 at Gaza and 26 at El-Qararah VTC’s respectively.
- 111 first-year students (64 males, 47 females) for the scholastic year 2016-2017 started their learning at the different VTCs.

The table (11) below shows the distribution of the students during the reporting period:

#	Profession	Year	Dropped-out during reporting period	Currently enrolled			Graduated till September 2016	Total existed on 30/09/2016
				1 st Y	2 nd Y	3 rd Y		
1	Carpentry and Furniture Making	3 *	1	28	22	20	22	70
2	Welding & Metal works	3 *	1	18	16	15	12	49
3	Aluminum works	1	-	18	-	-	-	18
4	General Electricity and Motor Rewinding	2 **	-	-	26	-	(22)	48

¹² VTC: Vocational Training Center.

5	Secretarial Studies and English Language	1	-	23	-	-	22	23
6	Advanced Dressmaking	1	1	24	-	-	21	24
	Total			111	64	35	77	232

Notes:

- * The current 3rd year students (20 from Carpentry and 15 from Welding) will be doing their final exams in next January and graduating in February (2017), then, all classes will be continuing for 2 years as planned.
- ** It is of importance mentioning that 22 students in General Electricity VTC in El-Qarara are expected to be graduating end of October 2015 so, raising the total number of 2015-2016 scholastic year graduates to **99 students**.
- 26 new students of General Electricity profession were examined in October and will be starting their training in next November, raising the total number of in-training students of new 2016-2017 scholastic year to **137**.
- For Aluminum works, this scholastic year 2016-2017 is the first year for providing this profession (separately) so, still no graduation from this profession.

Curricula Development:

- Recently, the NECC-TVET program has finished the curricula development process across the professions of carpentry, metals & welding, aluminum, general electricity, dressmaking and secretary; all curricula modules were developed based on the Complex task Approach (CTA)¹³.

Accordingly, this will be incurring some changes in TVET service delivery as follows:

- According to GIZ and Ministry of Labor conditions and determinants, the training period for carpentry and metals was reduced from 3 years to 2 years.
- As well, aluminum department was separated from welding and metals to be a separate training program for one year period.
- No changes in course periods for secretary and dressmaking.

So, the TVET offered professions at NECC would be duly 6 professions as follows:

- Carpentry and furniture making: 2 years.
- Welding & Metal works: 2 years.

¹³ **CTA** is standing for an approach utilizing social, personal, behavioral and technical skills and knowledge of a trainee in the process of training and response to clients and service demanders.

- Aluminium works: 1 year.
- General Electricity and motors and transformers rewinding: 2 years.
- Secretary and office works: 1 year.
- Advanced Dressmaking: 1 year.

Of worth mentioning that, the implementation of the new plan will be starting from the new scholastic year of 2015-16 on, all needed arrangements were considered to ensure the smooth transitional period in TVET delivery to the same target groups. Full application of the CTA will be taken over in the next 2016-2017 scholastic year that would be considered as a pilot year and thereby, will be followed by assessment and evaluation procedures for the whole process including inserting necessary improvements and enhancement.

- Additionally in this context, as a part of NECC partnered project with EU-GIZ, the supervisor of El-Qarara VTC attended a 2-week training course in Germany in April 2016; the training was entitled “Technology training for teachers of vocational schools in the educational and methodical implementation of curricular tasks”.

The training was located in a well-recognized German vocational institute named “Hessische Landesstelle für Technologie fortbildung”, where the El-Qarara VTC supervisor received a specialized training in the curricula development namely of Complex Task Approach (CTA).

The supervisor was accompanied by GIZ-TVET Program Technical Advisor as well as representatives from 4 TVET providing institutes in Gaza Strip.



El-Qarara Supervisor (back left)
Training in Germany



El-Qarara Supervisor (on the right)
Training in Germany

Applying for new EU-GIZ Project:

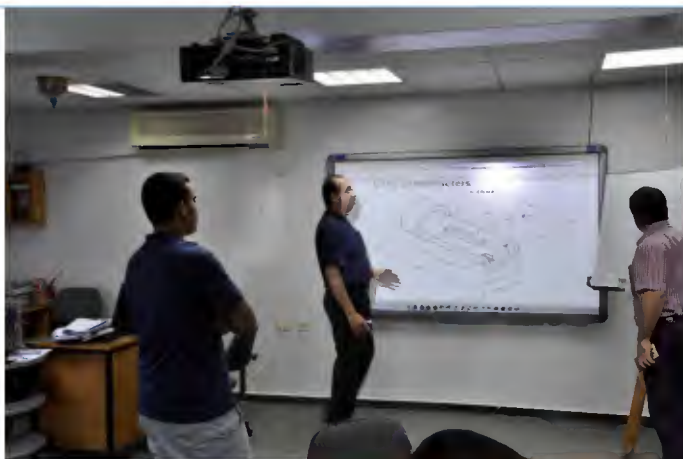
Most recently, NECC has applied for a new call for proposals which was advertised in late August. The process went in many stages starting with soliciting concept notes from the applicants then, the winner candidate organizations were called to send their full proposal.

NECC passed all stages of the project successfully and applied for the full proposal which is entitles with establishing a new vocation of Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) at our VTC in Shijaia. This vocation will be a vocational diploma for 2-year long and will be accredited by MoL as usual.

It is worth mentioning that NECC is in-process to obtain the due accreditation from the ministry and proceed in this vocation.

AutoCAD Training Course:

- Recently, NECC is approaching the utilizing engineering drawing computerized software in the training delivery to the male VTC students in order to give them the opportunity for more exposure and cohesion to what is being actually practiced in the workshops and labour market.
- In this regard, a training course was conducted in the summer of 2016 in AutoCAD aiming at building the capacity of our VTC staff in computer aided designing and in order to finally transmit this TOT program to our students.
- This will be followed in the next stage by establishing an advanced computer lab where the students could learn and be trained on this software and convert their free-hand sketches into computerized designs.



An expert providing training in AutoCAD software



TVET staff receiving the AutoCAD course



AutoCAD training course
certificates distribution ceremony



AutoCAD training course
certificates distribution ceremony

Session in Entrepreneurship Promotion:

- In coordination with University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS), an expert lecturer from UCAS specialized in entrepreneurship and business development provided sessions to our VTC trainees in applying for an online entrepreneurial initiative promoting youth VTC students to give ideas for new businesses and projects funded by DANIDA through Oxfam GB.
- The expert visited all our VTCs in Gaza and presented the lecture to both male and female students where questions were raised and answered appropriately.
- It is worth mentioning that a selection committee (from DANIDA and UCAS side) will be nominating 5 best ideas to be granted and implemented.

Safety Measures training course:

Supported by GIZ, a training course was conducted in favour of NECC-TVET staff entitled Safety Measures at the workshops and work stations. The course was conducted in April 2016 totalling 72 training hours for almost 12 full training days.

The course pertained topics of: concepts of safety, risks of electricity, general risks at work environment, best practice attitudes, personal safety equipment, labour law and relation to safety and other topics.



TVET staff attending Safety Measures training course



Safety Measures training course

The course included conducting field visits to our VTCs in addition to the Gaza electricity generation company to assess safety status at NECC-VTCs using designated checklists as well as visiting Gaza General Electricity Generation Station as a scientific study tour.

- Following the study tour which was conducted to NECC-VTCs as well as the general electricity generation station in Gaza in April as a part of the Safety Measures training course provided to NECC-TVET staff, the visit revealed that NECC is applying the safety measures at its VTCs with considering a need to make some updates to the system.



Study tour to Electricity Generation Company by NECC-TVET staff



Study tour to Electricity Generation Company by NECC-TVET staff

2nd TVET Week:

- Adhering to its slogan “TVET – Transforming skills into work”, TVET-Gaza led by project of “**EU Support to TVET Sector in the Gaza Strip**”, implemented by GIZ aims to raise awareness among partners, the public, and the media in Gaza about new TVET services and programmes. The TVET-Week event highlighted the coherent and valuable approach of TVET in the Gaza Strip introducing new TVET programmes that meet the need of the labour market including NECC programs.
- The TVET-Week ceremony that was held at the Shalihat Resorts on Gaza beach was devoted to shedding the lights on the TVET institutes partnered in the EU – TVET Empowerment Programme through the technical support of GIZ; institutes included NECC, University College of Applied Sciences, Palestine Technical College - Deir al Balah, Abdel-Mo'ty Rayyes Vocational Secondary Girls School and Deir al Balah Industrial Secondary School.
- Dr. Issa Tarazi, the NECC-Gaza Committee Executive Director was honoured in the event to represent the partner institutions by his welcoming speech; he started his speech welcoming the valued audience and gave a brief spot on NECC programs especially the so-called TVET programme and the cooperation with EU and GIZ in that field.
- Valued speeches from the honoured EU, GIZ and BTC guests mentioned the stages of their support to TVET institutions in Palestine in General and particularly Gaza Strip and asserted on their commitment in continuing their support to the Palestinians in all aspects and further support to TVET sector in the upcoming period.
- The speeches were followed by exciting shows included Dabka and Funny Sketch where the opening of the booths took place after the guests' speeches.
- Necc booth included works prepared by NECC-VTCs students from all professions where the students themselves were in the booth welcoming audience and representing their professions.
- As well, as a part of TVET Week activities, NECC participated in the career day by preparing and sharing a list of candidates for the Career Day took place on 17th February where the candidate graduates were interviewed for jobs and some of thereof got jobs actually.
- A promo film was conducted keeping pace on the different professions that TVET institutes are providing through the EU support, the promo film was broadcasted along the TVET Week.

Safety Book:

An external expert was approached by the TVET program to prepare a “Safety Book” designated to be an integral part in curricula provided to our students at the different VTCs.

The book is including guides and best practices to use personal safety tools in addition to the safe use of machines and the physical environment as a whole. The book was prepared, printed and distributed to VTC supervisors, trainers, students, staff and relevant persons from the TVET community.

French project (AFD):

In cooperation with NECC key project staff and a freelancer from Secure Catholique France (Caritas), a new project proposal was initiated and discussed to be applied for the French development agency AFD. The proposal was preceded by activities including meetings with a selected group of last job-creation project beneficiaries, meeting with many organizations interested in employment issues including Islamic relief, Jawwal company, Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection, CRS, IOCC, Ministry of Labor, Chambers of Commerce and others.

The proposal was sent to AFD, currently is being under discussion and not approved yet.

Training program with Injaz Palestine:

In cooperation with “Injaz Palestine”, the new training program of “Project of Life” designated for students of Shijaia VTC was held on January 28th targeting 35 of 3rd year male students (carpentry and metal professions).

The students experienced new approaches of their life, life skills and how to plan for future.

“First-aid” training:

In cooperation with the Ambulance and Emergency Unit of MoH, two “First Aid” training courses were conducted targeting VTC female students (two professions of dressmaking and secretary) in separate.



“First Aid” course certification ceremony



“First Aid” course certification ceremony

The courses took place in February 2016; 4 training days during 2 weeks for each profession, and it was followed by a completion ceremony where the course trainer and MoH representatives participated and honoured in the ceremony. The training was conducted in January and February 2016.

“Educational Concepts” training course, February 2016:

Conducted training course entitled “educational concepts and practices” tackling main topics of:

- Motivating the trainees.
- Problems encountered during the training and solutions.
- Criteria for preparing good examinations.



TVET staff attending “Educational Concepts” training



TVET staff attending “Educational Concepts” training

Workshops:

NECC-TVET program coordinated with GIZ and curricula development consultants on a capacity building program targeting vocational trainers from all GIZ-project partner institutes including NECC. The capacity building program took place at Al-Salam restaurant in Gaza tackling topics of carpentry, welding, multimedia, secretary, electricity, dressmaking where all concerned NECC trainers were nominated and participated. The workshops took place in January 2016.

As well, TVET Coordinator in addition to supervisors and trainers attended and participated actively in a various group of workshops internally and externally in cooperation with TVET supporters and providers such as GIZ, BTC, Islamic Relief and LET Council.

3.4 Educational Loans Program

Youth and family bread-winners lack proper and adequate job opportunities to support their families and afford education expenses due to the economic situation in Gaza. The students want to improve their

knowledge but they cannot afford for the educational expense, they need to find financial aid. Thus NECC continued the implementation of this program for the academic year 2015-2016 to provide educational loans to needy students with zero interest in order to help them complete their university study.

For this reporting period (Jan-June) in the academic year 2015-2016, 13 university students received applications thereof, 4 bachelor and 9 masters students while 7 students (3 bachelor and 4 masters students) returned back their full eligible applications for loans out of them, 7 have received loans within this given reporting period.

See **table (12) below which shows the numbers of loans dispensed in the period Jan to Sep 2016.**

Education loan	Bachelor			Master			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
New loan	2	-	2	2	1	3	4	1	5
Renew loan	4	6	10	2	-	2	6	6	12
Total	6	6	12	4	1	5	10	7	17

During the reporting period, **47** students have settled their loans despite the harsh economic situation while regularly **97** students are still paying their loans.

It is worth mentioning that the educational loans program is very distinguished and has a high impact on the lives of receivables as it is providing a source of funding for their university study they can hardly secure from other places.

The beneficiary students are coming from all local universities of Gaza Strip (Islamic University, Al-Azhar, Al Quds Open University, etc.) and their majors are distributed in all specialties (humanitarian studies, politics, arts, languages, and etc.). As well, it provides a hope for poor university students to get access to complete their university education locally and without paying any profits.

3.5 Job Creation

A completion report was issued on the in-tact implementation of the last job creation project which took place in the period August – December 2015.

The report including narrative and financial documents was duly submitted to the Pontifical Mission in Palestine (PMP).

No job creation initiatives were undertaken in this reporting period.

3.6 Maintenance of Brotherhood Park Project

By a generous donation from Dotty Family (existed in USA) and through valuable cooperation with Pontifical Mission and in full cooperation and partnered supervision with Municipality of Gaza, the NECC launched the implementation of project of Brotherhood Park maintenance in west Al-Nasser district west Gaza city.



Benches at Brotherhood Park
before maintenance



Central Fountain at Brotherhood Park
before maintenance



New concrete chairs were brought



Central water pool was maintained

The project implementation went through a process passing from signing a contract with the municipality, tender advertisement, visiting the park site and tender settlement and selection of an implementing contractor.

This project is for the maintenance of Brotherhood Park north Beach Refugee Camp west Gaza city, the maintenance including fixing water fountain, fences, bathrooms, pergolas, benches, children toys, grass and plantings etc. The project Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NECC and the Municipality of Gaza was signed on September 29th; the contract stipulated the shared responsibility of the two parties on the technical implementation of the project.

- A selection full process was done (call for tendering, tendered settlement, correspondences etc.), a contractor was selected for the implementation of the project for the period from 21st of November for 3 months after.

- Maintenance works were commenced shortly late November 2015 after launching implementation order to the contractor to start the works; a visit was conducted to the park site by the Pontifical Mission representatives on 8th December 2015.
- The implementation lasted till the end of March 2016 encountering some problems such as unavailability of 5cm-thickness wooden bars in addition to unavailability of certain kinds of plants in the local market and raising the prices of some materials due to its scarce in the local market thereby some mitigations and variation orders were made undergone.

3.7 Advocacy program

As was aforementioned in TVET program part, NECC participated in 2nd TVET Week event, in order to raise awareness on youth employability promotion and advocate their important and effective role in the community development through TVET approach; the event took place in the period 15-17th of March.

As well, NECC is intensively existed in the meetings held under the Local Employment and TVET (LET-Council) as it has membership in two sub-committees of TVET Capacity Building and Donor Funding.

Those important committees are administering policies and roadmaps for the planning, delivery and development of TVET programs in the Gaza Strip given the largely-diversified entities of TVET providers encompassed by the committees such as ministries (Labor, Education, etc.), TVET providing institutes, NGOs, and private sector representatives namely federation of industries, ICT, and chambers of commerce.

NECC continued to collaborate and coordinate for the visits of international partners to Gaza Strip including visits to NECC various programs. The number of delegations representing many different organizations hosted during this reporting period was 8. It is worth noting that there was difficulty for visitor to get permits to enter Gaza through Erez crossing.

4. Cross cutting issues:

4.1 Human resources

The total NECC Staff during the reporting period is approximately **110** staff members. These committed people work in fields such as administration, fundraising, communications, human resources, finance, information technology, health, and customer service

The breakdown of human resources by category is illustrated below in the table (13).

NECC Programs staff	Male	Female	Total
Number of full-time staff	44	42	86
Number of part-time staff	12	6	18
Number of other staff ¹⁴	2	4	6
Total number	58	52	110

4.2 Capacity building and trainings

Capacity building is an ongoing process through which individuals, groups, organizations and societies enhance their ability to identify and meet development challenges. NECC role is to facilitate learning. This is partially accomplished by providing resources and training, but is most effectively done with a partner.

During this reporting period, **108 days** of different trainings, workshops and meetings were attended by NECC staff for capacity building. The trainings were conducted by different national and international organizations at different locations within Gaza Strip.

Table (14): Main trainings and workshops attended by NECC for capacity building from 1st January-30th June 2016:

#	Training/workshop Subject	Participants	No. of days	Trainer / Organizer	Period	Place
1	Women Care during Postpartum Care and Complications	22 Health staff	1	NECC by UNICEF	January 2016	Al-Salam Restaurant
2	Curricula Development	1 TVET staff – dressmaking supervisor	1	GIZ		Ramallah
3	Curricula Development	1 TVET staff – electricity supervisor	1	GIZ		
4	Office Machine Maintenance	1 TVET staff – secretary supervisor	1	GIZ		Al-Salam Restaurant
5	Carpentry development	1 TVET staff – carpentry trainer	1	GIZ		Al-Salam Restaurant
6	Communications for Development and improving health and education skills	22 Health staff	1	NECC by UNICEF		Al-Salam Restaurant
7	Secretary	1 TVET staff –	1	GIZ		Al-Salam

¹⁴ Volunteers

	development	secretary supervisor				Restaurant
8	Metals & welding development	1 TVET staff – welding trainers	1	GIZ		Al-Salam Restaurant
9	Multimedia development	1 NECC staff – IT support	1	GIZ		Al-Salam Restaurant
10	Aluminum development	1 TVET staff – aluminum trainer	1	GIZ		Al-Salam Restaurant
11	Fashion design development	1 TVET staff – dressmaking supervisor	1	GIZ		Al-Salam Restaurant
12	LET Council meeting	1 TVET staff – program coordinator	1	LET Council		Al-Salam Restaurant
13	TVET Capacity Building Committee meeting	1 TVET staff – program coordinator	1	LET Council		Al-Salam Restaurant
14	TVET Capacity Building Committee meeting	1 TVET staff – program coordinator	1	LET Council		University College of Applied Sciences (UCAS)
15	Communications for Development and improving health and education skills	22 Health staff	1	NECC by UNICEF		Al-Salam Restaurant
16	HNC joint meeting	1 Health staff – health coordinator	1	WHO	February 2016	WHO
17	Fashion design	1 TVET staff – dressmaking supervisor	1	UCAS		UCAS
18	TVET WEEK	1 TVET staff – program coordinator	1	GIZ		Al-Shalihat resort
19	C4D training for Staff and Key partners	1 PSS staff – PSS coordinator	1	NECC/UNICEF Project		UNICEF
20	Donor Funding Committee meeting	1 TVET staff – program coordinator	1	GIZ		Islamic University of Gaza
21	Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) meeting	1 NECC staff – PSS coordinator	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
22	Graduation ceremony for TVET courses	1: NECC executive director	1	Atfalona for deaf people	March 2016	Atfalona for deaf people
23	First Orientation Meeting for Gaza 2020: Health Matters Project	3 NECC staff: NECC executive director, health coordinator, chief accountant	1	International Medical Corps		Al-Mashtal Hotel
24	Strategic Planning	2 TVET staff: coordinator, Qarara	7	Islamic Relief		Al-Salam Restaurant

		supervisor				
25	How to diagnose intestinal parasites in GAZA Strip	1 health staff	1	MoH	April 2016	MoH – Remal Clinic
26	Safety Measures	15 TVET staff	12	GIZ		NECC
27	Training of Trainers on the GBV and CP SOPs	2 NECC-HQ staff	2	NRC		NRC
28	(CPWG) meeting	1 NECC staff – PSS coordinator	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
29	World Health Day	1 NECC staff – PSS coordinator	1	UCAS		UCAS
30	Conference: Mental Health and Human Rights in Palestine	2 NECC staff: TVET coordinator, PSS coordinator	1	Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP)		Al-Mashtal Hotel
31	PSS/CBR Meeting workshop	1 PSS staff – PSS coordinator	1	Mercy Corps		Mercy Corps
32	LET Council meeting	1 NECC staff – TVET coordinator	1	GIZ		Chamber of Commerce
33	MHPSS Working Group	1 PSS staff – counselor	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
34	Training course: Networking and building relations with labor market and employers	2 TVET staff: coordinator, Qarara supervisor	2	Islamic Relief		Al-Salam Restaurant
35	CPWG meeting	1 PSS staff – counselor	1	UNICEF	May 2016	UNICEF
36	Partner Meeting	4 NECC staff: executive director, PSS coordinator, health coordinator and chief accountant	1	Save the Children		Save the Children
37	HR Management	2 TVET staff: TVET coordinator, Qarara supervisor	2	Islamic Relief		Islamic Relief
38	Emergency plan	2 NECC staff: PSS coordinator, TVET coordinator	1	Ma’an Development Center		Laterna Restaurant
39	Exhibition for fashion design	1 NECC staff: dressmaking supervisor	1	UCAS		UCAS
40	Program meeting	2 NECC staff: PSS coordinator and chief accountant	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
41	Safety delivery in emergency	2 health staff	2	MoH		MoH

42	Dr. Koenig Farewell	2 TVET staff: TVET coordinator, Shijaia supervisor	1	GIZ		Lighthouse restaurant
43	Balanced scorecard	9 NECC staff from all programs	3	NECC		NECC
44	Workshop for TVET development	Gaza Community College for Tourism Studies (GCCTS)	1	BTC		GCCTS
45	Career day	1 TVET staff: TVET coordinator	1	Islamic University of Gaza (IUG) - faculty of engineering	June 2016	IUG
46	CPWG meeting	1 PSS staff - PSS coordinator	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
47	Proposal writing for IMC	3 NECC staff: executive director, PSS coordinator and chief accountant	1	International Medical Corps (IMC)		Lighthouse restaurant
48	plan and schedule of upcoming activities	3 NECC staff: executive director, PSS coordinator and chief accountant	1	International Medical Corps (IMC)	July 2016	Lighthouse restaurant
49	Emergency Preparedness Plan	2 NECC staff: PSS coordinator, TVET coordinator	1	Ma'an Development Center		Laterna Restaurant
50	Writing concept note for EU	1 NECC staff - TVET coordinator	1	GIZ		Lighthouse restaurant
51	HCD	1 NECC staff - PSS coordinator	2	Mercy Corps		Roots Restaurant
52	AutoCAD training course	10 TVET staff	20	NECC	July - September 2016	NECC HQ
53	CPWG meeting	1 PSS staff - counselor	1	UNICEF	August 2016	UNICEF

54	Project of "Promoting nutritional status of vulnerable children under 5 years old in Rafah area"	2 NECC staff: PSS coordinator and chief accountant	1	International Medical Corps (IMC)	September 2016	IMC
55	Mid-year Review	1 NECC staff: Physician	1	UNICEF		Al-Mathaf Hotel
56	LET Council meeting	1 NECC staff - TVET coordinator	1	LET Council		PITA premises
57	Discussion on short courses	1 NECC staff - TVET coordinator	1	Belgium Technical Cooperation (BTC)		Lighthouse restaurant
58	Child Protection Services	1 PSS staff - counselor	1	UNICEF		Center of Democracy and Dispute Resolving
59	CPWG meeting	1 PSS staff - counselor	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
60	MHPSS	1 NECC staff - PSS coordinator	1	UNICEF		UNICEF
61	Evaluation of health project	1 NECC staff - Health Staff Nurse	1	EFFECTS Consultation		MoH
62	MHPSS working group meeting	1 PSS staff - counselor	1	UNICEF	UNICEF	

It is worth noting that NECC staff used to attend all monthly meetings of Health Nutrition sector, MHPSS, Child Protection Clusters, Family Planning Committee as well as TVET Partner Meetings.

4.3 Gender

Gender Mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality. Mainstreaming is not an end in itself but a strategy, an approach, a means to achieve the goal of gender equality. Mainstreaming involves ensuring that gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to all activities - policy development, research, advocacy/ dialogue, legislation, resource allocation, and planning, implementation and monitoring of programs and projects.

NECC is still committed deeply in gender equality policy. It focuses on the principles of promoting gender balance in staffing and representation, access to health quality system and socio-economic empowerment.

In reflection to this constituency, NECC has strived to create gender parity in the hiring of men and women to NECC. Currently, 51% of NECC staff are males and 49% are females.

One of NECC main core values is to serve people irrespective of their faith, color, gender, political affiliation or geographical locality. Approximately 60% of beneficiaries at health centers are females, recognizing the important role the women play as caregivers within the household. PSS program targets equally children from both genders without any kind of discrimination.

In TVET program, NECC is targeting males and females in special professions appropriate to their nature and qualifications in full consideration to the prevailing culture.

Additionally, NECC provides equal opportunities for male and female as students to develop their career to be able to hire decent job employment opportunity. The enrolled female students percentage is 40% and 60% are males.

4.4 Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation

In the absence of effective monitoring and evaluation, it would be difficult to know whether the intended results are being achieved as planned, what corrective actions may be needed to ensure delivery of the intended results, and whether initiatives are making positive contributions or not

Monitoring supports the NECC staff and management to comply with their scope of work and to timely meet their objectives. Monitoring helps NECC tracking the progress of activities and achievement made in reference to the concerned and relevant indicators of objectives.

In consistence with that, NECC constantly monitor the implementation of its interventions through performing a clear action plan, effective reporting system (monthly and periodic narrative and financial reports), supervisory visits, staff meetings on a regular basis, beneficiaries and clients perspectives through questionnaires and checklists.

NECC programs coordinators supervise the overall progress of the programs and revise the strategic approach in cooperation with the Technical Consultants, based on information provided by the staff in the field and submit the information to the coordinators. At the field level, a supervisor inside each clinic and TVET center overall manage the field work.

The technical consultant oversight the implementation and focus on covering the monitoring and expert role. The Executive Director of the NECC provides oversight supervision and strategic direction to the programs operations, while the senior accountants do the monitoring for the financial issues of the projects and follow up in coordination with the executive managers and the programs coordinators.

An external evaluation was conducted for NECC project with UNICEF of postnatal care promoting in Darraj and Rafah; the evaluation final report was submitted by end of March 2016. It revealed the priority of such program and the need to continue and expand the coverage area to include Shijaia too. The technical consultant trained the key staff about balanced score card , and how to develop indicators

4.5 Communication and Coordination

Coordination with other organizations depends on the nature of the activity undertaken. In Gaza, ongoing coordination and cooperation with UNRWA, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, UNICEF, Private sector, NGO's and CBO's is part of our work and its implementation.

- In the Primary Family Health Care Centers, NECC has good coordination with Ministry of health to get license of the family care centers and to provide the legal coverage of the programmes operations.
- NECC used to contact ANERA for donating some items of medications, supplements or milk formula for malnourished cases, supplies and devices. Recently ANERA thankfully donated an ultrasound device, HB portable devices, weight scales, length scales, PNC kits, sphygmomanometer and ventilators.
- Coordination with WHO in terms of attending Health nutrition cluster regular meetings to share updates experiences and knowledge.
- MOH provides advanced diagnostic and therapeutic interventions even hospitalization to complicated cases.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs to ensure the provision of assistance to families suffering from food insecurity discovered through house to house screening project.
- Coordination with the local and international organizations takes place as much as possible to obtain drugs, humanitarian assistance and other assistive modalities.
- Coordination with preschools and CBOs to provide outreach health education activities and PSS activities at these organizations.
- Coordination with the Thalassemia Society to do hemoglobin electrophoresis for cases that don't show improvement in hemoglobin level.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Labor to follow-up final exams and accredit the TVET Diploma certificates, to involve them in the establishment of the new profession of refrigeration and air conditioning and to coordinate for renewing the NECC-VTCs accreditation with full consideration to the new regulations and conditions of MoL.
- Coordination with GIZ representatives for arranging the travel of TVET program staff to the training that will be conducted in Germany in April 2016.
- Coordination with the Red Crescent Society to conduct illiteracy lectures for students in Gaza Vocational Center.
- Coordination with the Palestinian Federation of Industries (PFI) and with the Palestine General Federation of Trade Union for the distribution of trainees on the external training workshops.
- Coordination with various organizations of civil society and private sector that are involved in enabling our students to gain first- hand knowledge and to practice in their respective fields.

4.6 Challenges

- Political conflict and security concerns.
- NECC is facing financial deficit
- Deteriorated livelihood conditions of the population; emergence of health, psychosocial and poverty associated problems.
- Shortage of essential drugs list as a result of blockade and movement restriction

- Increased number of beneficiaries at the three NECC health Clinics especially in Shijaia area due to the destruction of the nearest governmental PHC clinic. This made more load on NECC administration and staff to cover all cases and to provide medications.
- Difficulties in securing the needed equipment and disposables, and raw materials due to the tight closure and closed borders
- The fluctuation of the electricity status and the frequent power cuts
- Due to frequent power cuts, NECC consumption of fuel needed for electricity generators was constantly increasing and still. The availability of fuel in the local market and its high prices remain a challenge. However, NECC maintained adequate strategic stock of fuel even this was not anticipated.

4.7 Future plan for next reporting period

- Continue the partnership with UNICEF in terms of a new project for PNC promotion in the three served areas with another component to identify SAM¹⁵ and MAM cases and provide appropriate treatment. The project is for 12 months starting from April 2016.
- New proposal was submitted to DCA-NCA for TVET program as a part of Joint Country Program funded by NORAD, the project was approved and duly started implementation.
- In the prospect of our partnership with PMP/EME, NECC will be able to expand the recent Job Creation project in mid- 2016 but no confirmation till now for the starting date.
- New partnership with IMC is expected to be in 2016 as a part of a 5 years project "Gaza 2020: Health Matters"/USAID fund. It aims to strengthen the primary health care services, nutrition services, secondary health care and emergency preparedness in Gaza.
- Concept paper was submitted to MRI (Medical relief international) in terms of promoting health and nutritional status for vulnerable children under 5
- Strengthening management system through developing the first draft of financial and personnel manuals through Act for Peace support;
- NECC in cooperation and partnership with Secure Catholique/Caritas France prepared a joint proposal in the topic of economic empowerment for NECC –TVET graduates planned to take place in 2016-2019.
- In cooperation with GIZ and partners from the private sector, NECC is intending and taking actions towards the establishment of new TVET profession of Air Conditioning, the project was approved by GIZ and the accreditation is in-process from the Ministry of Labor.

¹⁵ SAM: Severe Acute Malnutrition, MAM: Moderate Acute Malnutrition

4.8 Success Stories

4.8.1 Stories from Health and PSS Programs:

Story 1:

Najah Mahani 43 year old had finished her third prep school grade (ninth grade) Palestinian refugee. The husband Khaled Ibrahim Mahani was born in 1966 had finished his six grade if primary school, refugee, workless, patient suffers from atherosclerosis in the lower limbs of his body, was taken to hospital many times for marks of severe and ischemic pain in the lower limbs of his body, so he need a continues and urgent treatment.

So he suffers when he walks, or so any effort, all that costs the family around 100\$ to treatment and medicine monthly. For sorrow, no government clinics can afford the medicine for free or even normal fees.

The father's illness is a big burden on the family socially and financially, his wife takes his medicine from the pharmacy by debt, them she pay's back by the financial aid from the ministry of social affairs.

"Our financial situation is so bad; I can't provide our needs, I can't afford buying clothes for the kids for the feast, or even for back to school year", Said the mother.

My mother in law advised me to go to Shejaia health care center, she said the service and the treatment is very good, so, I continued a street. I started with my first child into Al Beltaji street, I was follow up into the well-baby clinic if course all my children under 5 years, I was following up in well baby clinic, the elder child was carrier a Thalassemia and I kept following up him into the NECC baby clinic, four years old, Mohammad also followed up in the clinic and Mahmoud the youngest, a one year August 2015, followed up into clinic also, from the minute I gave him birth they found that he's a little weight and abnormal, so he was enrolled into Anemia and Malnutrition program. Najah says that she got benefit from the program, that they were taking care of her child and a knowledge the suitable health, Information about the good nutrition and how to give the supplementary nutrition, doctor gave us the plumpy sup and insure milk, I was given leaflets about nutrition, hygiene and child growing up, and I filled questioner about Malnutrition and Anemia before and after to get my feedback about nutritional aspects, there is a clear difference in the child's case, that the baby was under weight and always sick, suffers from loss of appetite, now, the child is getting better according to weight and appetite.

The child Mahmoud Khaled Ibrahim Mahani was born in 17th Aug, 2015 in Shejaia area Baghdad Street He was follower of well-baby clinic of Near East Council of Churches (NECC), the mother came to follow up his measures, as he was under weigh the nurse referred him to Malnutrition and Anemia program at NECC health clinic where the child received the treatment and good management. The table below shoes the follow up visits for the child.

The child's dates in a clinic					
Date	Weight	Length	HB	Medication	Notes
17 th Feb,2016	6.1 kg	66 cm	11	30 pocket of plumpy supplement	Moderate underweight, moderate wasting
24 th Feb,2016					Brought stool, it was negative
21 st March, 2016	6.5 kg	67 cm		plumpy sup	He was always ill
25 th April, 2016	6.8 kg	68 cm		15 bottles daily of Ensure milk 237 ml	He got better simply

The mother was acknowledged on how the importance of giving this medicine and about the good health nutrition. Then she asked to do analysis for him.

On 24th Feb, 2016, she couldn't bring Urine sample, her child was ill.

On 21st March, 2016, his mother was advised how to prevent respiratory tract infections and to take care of her child more, as on 25th April, 2016 she was attended to follow his measures.

On 25th May, 2016, "The child liked to drink milk which he was took it, but his high wasn't normal, he is suffering from a simply Malnutrition then he has moderate standing" said the mother.

On 13th July, 2016, she attended lately for 2 weeks then she said: "I have a privet problem with my family", he came to the doctor and was given vitamins.

On 10th Aug, 2016 his weight and high was normal, it's improvement in his status.

The mother has taken a health education, filled questionnaire About Malnutrition and Anemia and she attended a lot of courses about it.

Najah Mahani is suffering from disappointing, because she has a hard pressures and circumstances, thus the staff nurse filled with her assessment questionnaire of depression and anxiety, she's suffering from mild depression, so she was referred to the psychosocial counselor at clinic for solving her problems and made her active to adapted in current situation She still followed her status in psychological support program, to try hard reducing her problem.

For her husband's treatment , she asked the Chemist Mahani about the husband's medicated and say that the medicate like Trental can't found in the pharmacy all of time just for sick or for ask then got from the doctor he given it in the important time.

The Mother said: "She sells her gold for his husband's medicate, then she want from all assemblies that just cost the husband medicate and then still the helps from ministry of social affairs (for the hours cost) stead from she goes to medicate, I hope to help me and thanks for all" .

"I want to say thanks a lot for NECC for their Services and Benefits and helps me from healthy side and gives the good medication , to my children and gives healthy educate and psychological support" said the mother.



Success story 2

Among alleys of Shabora Camp, there is the child's Watan Mohammed Ismael Shikh Al- Eid family that consists of 8 members, they don't live in a family felled with love and affection and indeed, it's a family who is suffering from extreme poverty and destitution it also felled with pessimistic and frustration of a near future.

According to what the mother said: "I felt happy to recognizing NECC, it helps the needed people, and I got a good service with mutual respect which shown by the staff".

In the context of her speech she told us: "I heard about the organization from some neighbors who were following it in 2009 and I opened a file there then I did following for my daughter Lana in that time".at well baby clinic

For the area, it's in the centre of the camp, it considers one of the largest refugee camps in Rafah, and it has a lot of disadvantages, such as lack water and electricity.

The Camp which they live in has some advantages as the people being one hand with each other and many household needs provided by their next-door relatives.

Watan's house is not suitable for living, it consists of three rooms, and one of these rooms has a toilet and a kitchen, so the level of cleanliness is very bad, untidy and no ventilation. For the electric devices (washer, fridge and a Television) are founded from their relatives' and neighbors' donations.

UNRWA and the other charity organizations help them by giving (aid and coupons) also they get granting's from the Ministry Of Social Affairs.

Watan's mother said about her husband: "He has two wives and his job is interrupted, he is very tough person because he deals with them hardly, moreover he doesn't provide the needs of his family.

The eldest son in the family is Shaker; he is the closest one for Watan , the second daughter is Sahar, she considers as the eldest sister so she always takes care of Watan instead her mother.so the family basically consists of eight members; the father, mother and six children.

For our youngest son of this family is Watan Mohammed Ismael Shikh Al Eid was born in 2014, her mother was telling us about the beginning of his birth, "The period which I was pregnant with Watan, pass without troubles and it was more easier".

Watan was born well with a normal Weight and Good Health, he didn't have any problems till the eighth month of his birth then I started to follow children's growth and development scales in NECC, from this point his story began.

In the fourteenth of January, 2015 his mother came to add him on the family's file to follow up him at well baby clinic , because of this NECC health provider checked his (Length, weight, Head circumference and the blood test) all of these measures were suitable with his growth, his mother was organized Watan's times for testing.

In the twenty fourth of February we received the mother and Watan, as usual we took the body measures and it were (Length 70cm, Weight 6.7kg and Head circumference 24cm) then we realized that Watan suffers from moderate Malnutrition, but his 'HGB 11.3' was normal, it was the second visiting to NECC then we enrolled him to Malnutrition and anemia program.

The Malnutrition and anemia program began and followed him according to the schedule and nutritional national protocol then it was required from her some Analyses according to the protocol which established in NECC and which was put in a new program.

In the first visit to the program: the measures were taken for Watan, he was presented to the doctor for physical examination and check up his case, milk was given to him. His mother has taken Health education and leaflets and she was given a new appointment date.

In the second visit the body measures were as similar as the first visit. So the staff nurse sat with the mother and gave her nutritional counseling about her child’s case.

Then Watan’s mother continued to follow up her son till her son’s health has improved and his weight has become normal after that he finished his management plan for treatment and returned to be enrolled at well-baby program clinic.

The schedule in malnutrition and anemia program

Dates' Schedule in Malnutrition and anemia program			
Date	Length	Weight	Noticed
24 Feb, 2016	69	6.7	Feeding 1
24 Mar, 2016	70	7.1	Feeding 2
28 Apr, 2016	71	7.4	Feeding 3
26 May, 2016	72	7.4	Feeding 4
27 June, 2016	74	7.5	Feeding 5
4 Aug, 2016	75	7.5	Feeding 6
24 Nov, 2016	78	8.5	Feeding 7
29 Dec, 2016	79	9	Recovering

The schedule in well –baby clinic

Dates' Schedule in well-baby clinic					
Date	Age in month	Head circumference	Length	weight	HB
14 Jan, 2016	7	38	67	6.7	-
24 Feb, 2016	8	42	69	6.7	11.3
29 Dec, 2016	18	46	79	9	11.6
29 March, 2016	21	47	82	9.7	-
28 May, 2016	23	48	83	10.2	-
26 July, 2016	25	49	85	10.2	-

Watan's Mother feels thankful NECC for services which provided to beneficiaries and the undecided to the center and she also thanks all staff for the good dealing and service, she hopes that the center keeps on its services.



Watan is living in bad environment



4.8.2 Stories from TVET Program:

Story 1:

Mohammed Al-Ju'aidi, 25 years describes the impact of his enrolment at the General Electricity and Motor Rewinding program at El-Qarara VTC.

I am a student in the 2nd year in El-Qarara VTC which is belonging to NECC in the southern area of the Gaza Strip.

I live with my family at El-Burajj Refugee Camp middle the Gaza Strip, the family is consisting of 11 members. My father is an electricity technician currently working on irregular basis in his profession while he is the responsible and the solely breadwinner for the family considering that I have a brother and a sister studying at the university now.

Actually, I have applied for this NECC Electricity Diploma for four times since 2011, the luck accompanied me just in the last time in October 2014 that's why I was so delightful with my enrolment in El-Qarara VTC and I feel that one day I will bring my dreams into the world of reality.



Mohammed (pointed by arrow) is receiving training on transformers

Within my studying at El-Qarara VTC, I have been learning new things every day and every minute, I knew new friendships and I am learning a lot from my instructors and colleagues.

Currently, I will be doing my external training for 6 weeks at a local workshop in my neighborhood, expiring new techniques and teachings, inspiring new world was behind my cognition.

I hope that I get the success in my studying, ending my external training and passing the upcoming final exams successfully (in next October).

This will be a prominent step in my life in general as well as easier inclusion in the labor market and getting a decent work afterwards allowing me to stand in support to my family.

Story 2:

I am Ahmed Jihad Al-Basooos, a graduate of the **Metals & Welding department** of the Gaza vocational training center belonging to the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), graduated last year in 2015.

I am 21 years old, live in Shijaia area east of Gaza city with a family consisting of 5 persons, my father is working as interlock street tiling contractor and he is the breadwinner of the family. As well, I have two school student brothers.

I joined the vocational training center 4 years ago with an aim of learning the profession of metals and welding because I like this profession as so, I felt that I will get more skills to mastering it so I could work in this desired profession in the future.

During my stay in the center (3 years), I learned a lot about the profession of metal & welding as well as, I learned a lot from my instructors about topics relating life skills, attitudes and interpersonal communication and practices.

All over the period of the training, I was keeping going to a work in the profession after finishing my training day so I could get new experience and get to know the local market in order to practice the profession.

Immediately after graduation last year, I was working at Gharabli contracting company with a full time job for 3 months, I was very pleasant with this job as my companions and colleagues dealing with me respectfully and I have good relations with all of them.

Currently, I was selected by Islamic Relief for a temporary job creation program for 4 months, and I was placed at the NECC premises doing welding and maintenance work for them starting from this October and will last till mid February 2017.

I believe that this training in metals and welding will be reaching me to the success in achieving my dreams in life and I hope from god to help me on that way.

For the future, I hope that I could open my own workshop so I could go dependent in my work and life and get contracts and works through which I could build my future, have a family and prosperity life.



Ahmed is doing welding for maintenance works at NECC premises



Ahmed is doing welding for maintenance works at NECC premises

Story 3:

I am Iyad Salah Al-Basoos, graduated in 2015 from the **Carpentry & Furniture Making department** of the Gaza vocational training center belonging to the Near East Council of Churches (NECC).

I am 20 years old, live in Shijaia area east of Gaza city with a family consisting of 6 persons, my father is working as accountant for a local company and he is the only breadwinner of the family. As well, I have a university student brother.

I left school before completing preparatory school certificate. Because of my weak achievement at schooling afterwards, I joined the center of Welding and Aluminum which is belonging to NECC at Shijaia vocational training center.

I graduated from the center at the end of 2015 and from my graduation; I worked for a local workshop at Shijaia area for little income.

During my work, I gained satisfaction of the workshop owner as I could prove my skills and cleverness in work and my ability to afford work pressure that's why the workshop owner.

Currently, I was selected by Islamic Relief for a temporary job creation program for 4 months, and I was placed at the NECC premises doing carpentry and wooden works for them starting from this October and will last till mid February 2017.

After finishing this employment course and benefiting from the experience I gained out of, I will be able to work with other employers.

For the future, I hope that I could open my own workshop so I could go dependent in my work and life and get contracts and works.



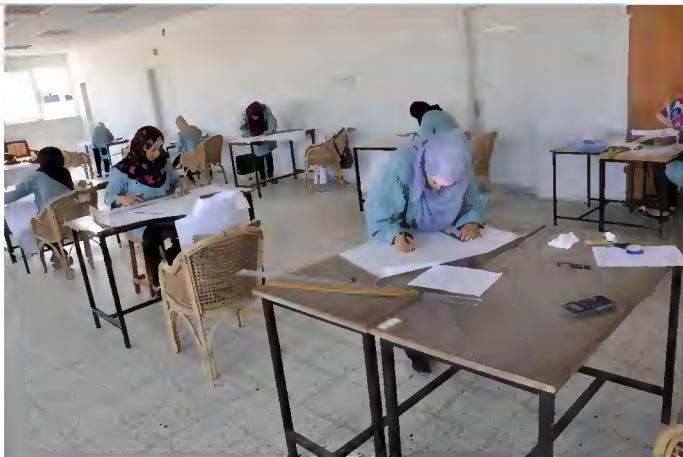
Iyad is doing furniture works at NECC Shijaia VTC



Iyad is doing furniture works at NECC Shijaia VTC

4.9 Photo Gallery









End of the report..