



**Near East Council of Churches Committee for Refugees Work
(NECCCRW)**

Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees

DSPR/Gaza Area

progress -Report

3rd Quarter

January 1st through September 30th 2018

Preface:

This document is the NECC progress report for the year 2018, a joint coordinated and elaborated work organized by NECC-Gaza staff in full cooperation between all centers and departments.

The purpose of this quarter report is to give comprehensive information on NECC programs implementation during third quarter of year 2018 (for period covering 1st January till 30th March), 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.

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.

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:

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

Executive Summary

This progress Report outlines of first 9 months of programs implementation during 2018, summarizing achievements in relation to the specified 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 progress achievements:

The report summarizes the activities of Near East Council of churches during the first nine months of year 2018 Regarding Access to Primary Health Care and Medication, the number of newly registered families during this reporting period has reached **1397** families, while the number of the total families benefitted from NECC PHC clinics during this period was **20,466** beneficiaries 60% of them are females.

649 new women were registered at preconception care and received appropriate preconception care while **1014** women attended preconception for follow up, and for pregnant women the number of new registered pregnant was **1255** distributed as following: 613 in Shijaia, 440 in Darraj and 202 in Rafah with total of **2170** 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 **1123** deliveries. 75.9% 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 **116** women: 444 at Shijaia, 569 at Darraj and 103cases in Rafah (target 1000 women per year).

Additionally, the number of newly registered children in this reporting period has reached **2933** in the different areas (Shijaia 1217; Darraj, 867; Rafah 849), 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 **11,247** children attended the well-baby services and have been screened in accordance with the national well baby protocols (Annual target 10,000). Similar to the past year, Shajaia Clinic ranked first in term of the number of children seen at the well-baby services (4873). This could be attribute to the large size of the population in that catchment area in comparison to others.

The number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has been **5007** while **7216** children under 6 years were examined by doctors and received treatment as well as 198 injured patients from Great March of return received treatment.

The number of cases examined by dentists and received dental care services had reached **5017** distributed as Shijaia 1969; Darraj 1605 and Rafah 1443. The total laboratory tests that were performed inside the three family care centers during this reporting period have reached **17,703** provided to all categories, the number of health education sessions at this reporting period was **1249** sessions for **36,716** participants.

With regards to the **Technical Vocational and Educational Training (TVET) program**, during the reporting period, a total of 232 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 work, aluminum work, refrigeration and air conditioning, general electricity and motor rewinding, secretarial studies and advanced dressmaking. Where about **21.3%** out of those trainees are females and the rest of **78.7%** are almost males.

Some major changes have been realized into the TVET provision at NECC schemed as reducing periods of study for some professions from three to two years in addition to the launching of the profession of refrigeration and air conditioning.

Regarding **psychosocial support program**; **1619 school** children attended the three family care centers and kindergartens children located in the three served areas received PSS activities either, group sessions or counseling or recreational activities while **3551** mothers and women received PSS either group sessions, individual counseling, group counseling or consultation. Additionally, **236** 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.**

Annual Indicator	Q3	% of achievement
At least 95% of pregnant women in targeted locality received timely ANC at least 4 visits	99.6%	Achieved
At least 70% of women in targeted locality received timely quality post-natal care at least twice.	75.9%	Achieved
1,200 new pregnant women registered for ANC annually	1255	Achieved
7000 antenatal care visits made annually	10985	Achieved
1,800 pregnant women received follow up visits, newly registered and on-going	2170	Achieved
1600 postnatal care visits conducted annually	3054	Achieved
12,000 children registered at the well-baby clinic and screened for anaemia and anthropometric measurements	11,247	93.7%
25,000 well baby visits were conducted annually	26,286	Achieved
7,000 sick children up to 6 years old received medical examination and treatment	7216	Achieved
1000 partners received reproductive health services and awareness	1116	Achieved

Over 4,000 women, children and adults in targeted areas receive dental care annually	5017	Achieved
Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment	5007	Achieved
2000 children received psychosocial support	1619	81%
3000 mothers/women participated in psychosocial support activities	3551	Achieved
A total of 117 students receive training in carpentry/furniture making, welding and metals, Aluminum work and refrigeration and air conditioning annually	135	Achieved
A total of 48 students new and old receive training in electricity skills	56	Achieved
A total of 20 students receive training in secretary study	21	Achieved
A total of 15 students receive training in Advanced dressmaking	24	Achieved
At least 60 educational loans provided to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities	10	16%
1 to 2 policy/advocacy issues resulted in improving justices and economic status	1	50%
4 initiatives implemented with local communities	1	25%
10 visits paid by relevant internationals	22	Achieved

2. Introduction to NECC Organization:

2.1 Description of NECCCRW and its programs

NECCCRW Brief:

Near East Council of churches Committee for Refugees Work (NECCCRW)-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. NECCCRW Gaza is an integral part of the Palestinian Society and culture and operates with support from the churches, ecumenical and secular organizations. NECCCRW 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. NECCCRW 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.

The infographic consists of a large light blue background with two white rounded rectangular boxes. The top box is light blue and contains the 'NECCCRW Vision' statement. The bottom box is light orange and contains the 'NECCCRW Mission' statement. Brackets on the left side of each box connect the labels to their respective content.

NECCCRW Vision:

- Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches vision is of an empowered pluralist Palestinian society which guarantees equal opportunities for all its members and vulnerable communities based on the ideals of justice, equality of rights, opportunities and freedom

NECCCRW Mission:

- DSPR is an Ecumenical Church Related Organization in the Middle East Region. It reflects the Christian core values in its Witness and Diakonia in partnership with local and global actors, to foster and advance socio-economic conditions of Palestinians and the marginalized through active contribution to improve living conditions, though providing health, education, environmental, economic, social and humanitarian programs with the realization of basic human right.

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.

NECCCRW 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 anemia program, and family planning services are also included.

Two family health care centers in the areas of Shijaia and Darraj serve each a poor community of approximately 120, 000, and 80,000 people respectively, where existing provision of medical services is inadequate. In the rural area of Rafah, in Kherbet El Adas, where provision of medical services is non-existent by other providers, NECCCRW Gaza serves a population of approximately 20,000 at its third center.

The centres have medical stocks and a laboratory, thus operating independently. However, high-risk patients and patients with special needs are referred to specialized clinics.

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-Qarara 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-Qarara, 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 centers 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 aluminum 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) centers 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 NECCCRW sewing pieces for internal use (uniforms, curtains ...etc.) and external distribution.

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

The humanitarian context of Gaza is inimitable amongst today's crises and remains directly tied to the impact of the occupation.

A protracted protection crisis continues. At least 2 million Palestinians experience, or are at risk of, conflict and violence, displacement and denial of access to livelihoods, among other threats. The most vulnerable Palestinians are currently denied or restricted in their access to essential services such as water and health care. A recurrent cycle of shocks, natural and manmade, has eroded the resilience of vulnerable households to cope with the prolonged nature of the humanitarian crisis. (**Humanitarian Needs Overview,2018**)

Gazan's population continued living in a very difficult conditions with restriction on travel, limited job opportunities, unemployment and siege. Despite the several cycles of negotiations, the unity government formed in April 2014, still didn't end the division and still People from Gaza experience more and more deprivation and harsh conditions.

the decision that has been taken by the PA to reduce the basic salaries of the PA employees paid by Ramallah by 30% and to suspending all allowances, in addition to further deduct the salaries of employees by 50% which continues till now. This negatively affects not only the provision of basic

services but also greatly damaged the local economy in Gaza as mostly those employees are hardly meeting their livelihood needs with full salaries. The effect of this measure on people life will be more visible at the long run, however, already signs of economic collapse is already apparent.

It is expected that the proportion of people suffering from malnutrition will increase due to economic collapse. Also, the PA took a decision to retire thousands of employees including those working on health sector. This will restrict the ability of formal authority to serve the population and possibly contribute to further deterioration of health status.

The provision of basic services in Gaza remains a key humanitarian concern, as families struggle to get by with one of the highest unemployment rates in the world at 48.2% (PCBS Census 2017), disproportionately affecting youth (60 per cent) and women (65.3 per cent).

This situation compounds the widespread prevalence of poverty, that increasing people's reliance on humanitarian aid with more than 80% of the population dependent on some form of assistance. (Humanitarian situation report, September 2018).

At the heart of this deterioration is a further exacerbation of Gaza's longstanding electricity crisis. Longer blackout periods have caused hospitals to postpone elective surgeries, discharging patients prematurely, and reducing cleaning and sterilizing of medical facilities.

Water supply through piped network reaches most homes for just a few hours every 3-5 days, and desalination plants are functioning at only 15 per cent of their full capacity. Around 110 million liters of untreated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean every day, while wastewater pumping stations are at constant risk of overflow, posing environmental health risks to all inhabitants in Gaza, but most particularly to children for whom the beach is their only playground.

Additionally, the risk of escalation in military confrontations with Israel remains high. Since 30 March 2018, the Gaza Strip has witnessed a significant increase in Palestinian casualties in the context of mass demonstrations around the "Great March of Return" taking place along Israel's fence with Gaza. On 28 September, 7 Palestinians, including 2 children, were killed, and hundreds of others injured during demonstrations in the Gaza Strip. This is the highest fatality toll in a single day since 14 May 2018, when 42 Palestinians were killed. From 30 March until 17 November, 246 people have been killed. Out of them, 212 people have been killed during the mass demonstrations and 34 during Israeli attacks. The total figure of people injured stands at 24,933. (WHO,2018)

According to the OCHA report 2018, 4,250 children were injured, constituting 20% of total injuries and 1,952 women.

Despite significant assistance provided, Gaza's health sector is struggling to cope with the very high number of casualties. Due to years of closure, the internal divide and a chronic energy crisis, leaving essential services in Gaza barely able to function. There is an urgent need to provide support to the population of Gaza to avoid a further degradation in essential life-saving and basic services.

The health system in Gaza is operating under severe pressure due to the effects of the occupation, blockade, rapid population growth, and lack of adequate financial resources and shortages in basic supplies. (OCHA,2018).

Health in Gaza compounded burden of poverty related diseases like malnutrition, infectious diseases, in addition to stress related diseases like chronic diseases and mental illnesses.

According to a new study by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, infant mortality, which in most parts of the world is in decreasing, has not declined for the last decade in Gaza. The study found that the infant mortality rate among Palestine refugees in Gaza was 22.7 per 1000 live births. This is within the same range of the previously reported rate of 22.4 per 1000 live births in 2015 and 20.2 per 1000 live births from the study conducted in 2006.

URLsource:<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/infant-mortality-gaza-no-longer-decline-%E2%80%99Calarming-trend%E2%80%9D-according-new>

Humanitarian Needs Overview 2018 reports that in Gaza strip there are 1.46 million people in need for Water and Sanitation for Health (WASH). In terms of Nutrition, it is reported that 40 000 children are suffering from micronutrient deficiencies in Gaza. In Gaza, the only natural source of water is the coastal aquifer, and the population currently extracts almost three times the aquifer's sustainable annual recharge, which has caused water levels to significantly drop and the intrusion of saline water. Furthermore, in the absence of adequate sewerage treatment facilities, the infiltration of raw sewage from sewage collection ponds on the surface is further adding to the rapid deterioration of the aquifer and posing a serious public health risk.

Because of the chronicity of the situation, people coping approaches have been exhausted 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 affected the ability of many NGOs to serve beneficiaries. Also, UNRWA faces shortage of resources which affects their programmes targeting refugees.

NECC is responding to the above-mentioned challenges through

- Being more prepared to cope with extra number of patients
- Intensify health education session to reduce infections resulted from poor sanitation such as diarrhoea

- Recruit more resources needed for the fuel of the electrical generators used by NECC clinics
- Recruit more resources to do screening and identify malnourished cases at the community level.
- Providing free of charge services (exempted from co-payment) for the injured people during the protests

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...) 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	More 18 years		Less 18 years		Total
By gender	M	F	M	F	20466
No of beneficiaries	732	5177	7370	7187	
Total	5909		14557		
%	28.9%		71.1%		

3.1.1 Preconception and Ante Natal Care

Preconception care

NECC in a partnership with Embrace the Middle East (EME) has introduced a Preconception Care (PCC) program in 2017 as an important component of the maternal health care and was fully integrated within the primary health care system and it continues to be as a part of NECC health program.

The main goal of the programme is to protect and promote the health of Palestinian women, children and families by providing preconception, pre-natal, post-natal and family planning services that complement each other and are fully integrated within the NECC strategy. The program is congruent with SDGs aiming to reduce maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate in primary health care activities, and to prevent and detect any deviation from the normal pattern of pregnancy by maintaining a regular system of health care monitoring and supervision.



This approach is designed to strengthen the provision of high-quality antenatal care services at the NECC primary health care premises. Already NECC provides ANC services but the challenge is to promote the provision of timely, high quality ANC care according to the approved national protocols including early booking and registration, introducing the preconception care (counselling and Folic Acid supplementation), and to promote appropriate nutritional status of pregnant women through appropriate counselling, supplementation and follow up. Mothers' knowledge about pregnancy its antecedents and consequences are limited and requires further reinforcement especially knowledge about danger signs of pregnancy, labor and post-partum affecting mothers and fetus /infant. This program aims at improving the health status, and reducing behaviors, individual and environmental factors that contribute to poor maternal and child health outcomes. Its ultimate aim is to improve maternal and child health, in both the short and long term. Preconception care is to prepare women of reproductive age to enter pregnancy in an optimal health status. Women are assessed for risk factors, screened for hypertension, diabetes mellitus, anemia, oral health diseases, given folic acid supplementation to prevent congenital malformation – in particular neural tube defects - and are provided with medical care where relevant.

- During this reporting period **649** new women were registered at preconception care and received appropriate preconception care while **1014** women attended preconception for follow up, (anticipated target is 1000), and **3210** preconceptions follow up visits were provided, of those who followed up at preconception care **216 women** were newly married, **416 women** have had children before, **202** had abortion, and **314** were followed previously at NECC family planning program.
- All women attended preconception care received folic acid supplementation.
- From those who screened **933** women found anemic and received appropriate treatment, and, with total of cases who have more than health problem were **473** women, and they received proper treatment.
- **132** women received health education and awareness sessions about nutrition, preconception care, and hygiene practices.

Antenatal Care.

According to the standard of antenatal care from WHO followed by NECCRW, 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 **1255** with total of **2170** pregnant women who were already registered and followed up during the reporting period (Target 1800 pregnant women per year).



Among the new pregnant women, 352 women were primigravida (28%). The total antenatal care visits have been reached 10985 visits (Target: 7000 ANC visits per year) as the pregnant woman should follow up monthly during her pregnancy. Accordingly, **99.6** % of pregnant women followed up in ante natal care clinics at least 4 times during their pregnancy. We noticed an increase regarding ANC beneficiaries and this could be correlated to the high needs to reproductive health in Gaza.

The percentage of pregnant women who registered at antenatal care through the first three month of pregnancy was **87.5%** which revealed high commitment

*During this reporting period, the percentage of women received US service 3 times or more during their pregnancy period reached **70%**, and **1963** pregnant have got ultrasound services three times during pregnancy.*

***1180** pregnant women received 5 laboratory tests during their pregnancy*

*The total number of those examined pregnant and found anaemic and enrolled in treatment programs was 1129, which means that 72.8% of pregnant women were having anaemia, **1937** sick pregnant examined by the doctor and received appropriate treatment, there were no maternal mortality cases registered during this quarter.*

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 home. During the postnatal visits, the midwife/nurse examine women and their babies to make sure that their 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 reporting period continue promoting of PNC with UNICEF in Shijaia, Darraj and Rafah areas. The overall objective of the project was to contribute to reduce the morbidity of the targeted pregnant women and mothers and neonates/children during postnatal period. The project aimed to increase coverage of PNC services for registered women at the postnatal period. A new project started in March 2018 and it will end in November 2018.



Regarding the post-natal visits, the total number of deliveries during this period in the three localities who were registered in ANC was **1123**. NECC conducted **3054** PNC sessions/visits in three served localities were provided to 1123 mothers, **2297** were at home and **757** at the health center.

Also **75.9%** of mothers who passed 6 weeks after delivery received 3 PNC sessions, and **83.6%** passed the 6 weeks after delivery without complication while 8% of children (99 children out of 1218) during 6 weeks of their born had specific medical conditions and received appropriate treatment or referred.

Also, one of the main objectives of the project is to enhance the exclusive breastfeeding, the percentage of children who are exclusively breastfed during the 6 weeks after delivery was **89.3%**.

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 discussion 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 of both of them.

During this reporting period, the number of new acceptors was 220 as following: 83 in Shijaia, 103 in Darraj and 34 in Rafah. The total number of beneficiaries of Family Planning and visits disaggregated per area are shown in **table (3) below**.

Center area	No of beneficiaries	FP Visits
Shijaia	444	1047
Darraj	569	1623
Rafah	103	2017
Total	1116	4687

The most used tool was the pills in Darraj and Rafah while in Shijaia was the male condom.

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 aimed 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 this quarter were as following:

- 11247 children attended the well-baby services and have been screened in accordance with the national well baby protocols (Annual target 12,000). This number is slightly higher than the number (10854) reached during the same reporting period in the past year (Jan through September 2017). Similar to the past year, Shajaia Clinic ranked first in term of the number of children seen at the well-baby services (4873). This could be attribute to the large size of the population in that catchment area in comparison to others.
- The number of the achieved well-baby follow up visits is 26,286 which is higher than the anticipated target of providing (annual target 25000). The achieved number of well-baby sessions this year is close to the number achieved in the past year for the same reporting period (25,245 visits).
- During this reporting period, 2933 new children were assessed at the well-baby service delivery points. This number is more than the achieved number in the past year (2776).
- The total number of those examined children and found abnormal (malnourished and anaemic) and enrolled in treatment programmes is 1957, much more than what was reported in 2017 (1558),

- The percentage of malnutrition among the attendants of the well-baby visits was around 11.8% in Shajaia area (11% in 2017) while it was 8.2% in Darraj area, the prevalence in Rafah was around 11.1% for this year. These figures are close to what was reported in the past year for the same reporting period. The reported variations could be attributed to economic status with poorer areas reporting higher prevalence of malnutrition. The prevalence of anaemia was much higher as it ranged from 24.4% in Shajaia to 24% in Darraj and 22% in Rafah, the past year figures for the same reporting period were less in general and ranged from 22 in Darraj and 17% in Rafah.
- In addition to those who were enrolled in the treatment programme inside NECC premises, 83 were referred to other facilities for more advanced management at hospitals or diagnostic centres, 56 were referred to Al-Dorra and AL Nasser Paediatric Hospital which belongs to MOH and 27 were referred to the Thalassemia centre to undergo electrophoresis.
- At least, 13035 caregivers received health education and awareness sessions about nutrition. This is almost double the number of people reached in the past year (6810). The mostly commonly delivered health education method was lecture.
- Moreover, individual counselling sessions were provided. NECC regularly assesses the impact of health education through studying the change in the epidemiology of diseases. The change in the epidemiology of hygiene related diseases indicated a reduction in infectious Diseases and parasites. Also, pre-test post-test questionnaires on nutritional practices and hygiene were administered during this reporting period. The analysis shows that the level of knowledge among ladies regarding the nutritional practices is high at the pre-test and even higher at the post-test assessment in most. However,
- 12 training days were organized in technical issues related to child health including baby care and early childhood development with the participation of 9 NECC staff.
- It's worth mentioning that **United Church of Canada** supported NECC in medications needed for the treatment of anemic, malnourished and sick children, this support used to complement an ongoing program supported by the **Embrace the Middle East**



- **Outreach screening activities**

It's worth mentioning that NECC recently starts implementing a project titled "WASH and Nutrition Humanitarian Response in Gaza Strip" the project includes outreach nutritional screening of children under 5 in new area in south Gaza, AlShokah area, this project supported by DCA-NCA, and it aims at preventing a further increase in the percentage of malnourished and anemic children below 5 years. Since the project



implementation depend on the community-based approach and invests in the human capital by capacity building and awareness raising, it contributes to improve community resilience , from the start of the project on 25th June 2018 till 25th September 2018 , the health community workers reached during the screening activities from house to house 788 families , they conducted screening to 991 children , 294 out of 887 identified as anemic and 137 were identified malnourished, the prevalence of anemia was 33%, while malnutrition of all types was 13.8%. all anemic and malnourished children received proper treatment in addition to health education, and health awareness to the caregivers and community.

Early childhood detection and intervention

EDUS with UNICEF BiH, supported by the **(Bosnia and Herzegovina)** BiH government has developed an innovative model of a system for early childhood detection (ECD) and intervention (ECI) in order to recognize children at risk and with developmental delays and disorders as early as possible and introduce services that will enable them to catch up with their typically developing peers and prevent in many cases life-long disability and exclusion.

The main objectives of this trans disciplinary training were to support government of SOP to create a system of early detection and intervention in their country and implement the priorities defined under the National ECD and ECI strategy 2017-2022, as well as to provide professionals with a diversified knowledge and competencies training in how to use standardized instruments for harmonized "whole child" assessments and interventions in ECD and ECI particularly focusing on most vulnerable families with young children with developmental delays and disabilities Near East Council of Churches Gaza (NECC) adopted this strategy with the support from UNICEF . as NECC developed ECD corner in the clinic, to detect children with developmental delays and disabilities. During this reporting period, **528** of children were screened according to standardized assessment tools, 485 of children screened were found normal and **39** children had developmental delays including cognitive, emotional, social, and communication delays, and 4 children with disabilities including physical disability, cerebral palsy, down syndrome, partial blindness.

Thus, this approach is very important because Palestine endorsed the National ECD and ECI Strategy 2017-2022 and one of the key priorities is introduction of the early detection of children with developmental delays and disability and intervention services.

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, scaling 4 days a week, as well as the mobile dental clinic which is also used to screen client’s teeth and to detect oral health problems. During this quarter, **5017** patients (annual target 4000) were examined by a dentist at the clinics, also **1300 children** were screened during well baby program (target 700 child per year), **1217** pregnant women were screened during antenatal care for their dental care (target 1200 pregnant women per year).



Table (4): 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	788	639	8	424	105	96	571
Darraaj	765	1091	15	433	232	93	418
Rafah	382	586	12	213	111	37	286

3.1.6 General Clinic/Medical examination

Through general clinic the physician treated children, adolescents, adults, and women about 60 patients per day were treated and received proper medicines, in each clinic there are four days for general clinic, during the reporting period the number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has been reached 5007 cases including those attended dermatology clinic.

Below the 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).

During this reporting period, **42,760** SMS were sent to clients which were effective and well-perceived by them and to bring back defaulters ,we sent 13331 SMS .The use of SMS has contributed to the reduction of the number of

Table (5): Distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors by category and center

Target group	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Less than 6years old	9079	9817	7105	26001
Pregnant women	2787	1700	813	5300
Above 6 years old	1487	1136	1067	3690
Dermatology clinic	870	324	527	1721
Total	14223	12,977	9512	36,712

Since 30 March 2018, the Gaza Strip has witnessed an enormous increase in Palestinian casualties in the context of peaceful demonstrations taking place along Israel’s perimeter fence with Gaza. The demonstrations have occurred as part of series of mass protests in the ‘Great March of Return’.

As of 26 June 2018, Israeli forces had killed 137 Palestinians, the vast majority during the demonstrations including 15 children, a woman, 2 journalists and a 6 paramedics / medical staff (PCHRⁱ); furthermore over 14,800, including more than 3,900 by live ammunition, raising serious concerns about excessive use of force. (UNOCHAⁱⁱ)



These developments have triggered further deterioration in the humanitarian situation, impacting the availability of essential services and eroding the livelihoods of Gaza’s two million residents during a time when poverty was reported to be on the rise (UNOCHAⁱⁱⁱ.)

The huge number of fatalities and injuries from Great March of Return puts further constraints on the health care system and on the community, which are already too much overwhelmed with problems such as shortage of drugs and supplies, inadequate staffing, lack of specialized personnel, lack of fuel needed for hospitals’ generators, and many others.

NECC planned interventions:

In June 2018, NECC has launched a humanitarian appeal to help the Gaza population especially those who were injured, children and families affected through

- Providing medical services and medications
- Provide Psychosocial Support to women and children
- Provide basic needs / cash for work opportunities

NECC to date work on the ground:

Since 23 May, the health staff

- Have conducted 174 home visits through its clinics in Shajaia, Al Daraj , Rafah,
- Delivered **198 medical** packages to those affected from the Great March

Provided medical services treatment through NECC health clinics to **198** injured persons.



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. Health education is provided 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 **837** for **36,716** 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, and complementary feeding. 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 post-test questions for a sample of attendants in health education sessions. Questionnaires were analyzed and measures were taken accordingly.

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 quarter approximately **3028** home visits (annual target 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 coming if defaulter, to check the improvement of the case and 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, Thalassaemia association and AEI which provided back up referral sites. NECC referred **190** cases to relevant sites as needed.

During the reporting period; the referral cases including 83 children, 104 pregnant women, 3 adults were referred for more investigation or because they had complications. The following table shows the referral sites;

Table (6): Referral sites during the reporting period:

Referral system	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Thalassemia center	16	6	5	27
MOH or other hospitals	102	50	7	159
MOH clinics	3	1	-	4
Total	121	57	12	190

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 and MOH. NECC has a coordination system with the mentioned places.

The number of laboratory tests performed during this quarter have reached **17,703** distributed as Shijaia **8765**; Darraj **6847** and Rafah **2091**. 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 (7): Distribution of lab tests**

Type Of Lab Tests	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Blood tests	4002	3148	744	7894
Urine	3791	2858	967	7616
Stool	754	722	345	1821
Pregnancy Test (Urine Sample)	218	119	35	372
Total	8765	6847	2091	17,703

3.1.11 Pharmacy Services

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-helminths, 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 that facilitate and organize 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, regular meetings also conducted by the health programs coordinator with the pharmacist assistants, the pharmacist responsible of the medical store and the doctors.



NECC succeeded in securing the availability of the required medicines throughout this quarter 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 2018; also, ANERA continues providing NECC medical store with in-kind donations (medicines and medical supplies), IMC also supported NECC in terms of offering drugs and medical supplies to be dispensed during emergency. 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 45,544 in the three localities.

Table (8) No. of Prescriptions dispensed per area

Clinic	No. of prescriptions
Shijaia	17,191
Darraaj	17,465
Rafah	10,888
Total	45,544

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. through psychosocial support program, NECC provides structured group sessions for school and kindergarten children, individual counselling, group counselling for women, family counselling, psychoeducation, stress management, detection of mental health problems in primary health care patients managed by health staff.



Given the fact that the increase in the number of children with psychosocial problems leads to an increase in demand for psychosocial services; the continued occupation and political instability constitute a major source of anxiety for young people.

Children in Gaza are growing up in a society permeated by restrictions and related violence which leave them with a deep sense of insecurity for their future. Palestinian children older than ten years old living in Gaza have now witnessed three conflicts in their short lives. and children aged 11 or less have only known life in Gaza under closure, resulting in an increase of the number of children displaying high level of stress related symptoms and, requiring additional family and community-based support. Child protection Rapid need assessment has been carried out by child protection working group in Gaza in 2018. the assessment aims to explore and understand the protection needs of children in light of evolving situation



in Gaza Strip. The study findings the physical violence is common in Gaza strip , the assessment (2018) found significant patterns including 96% of responders identifying psychosocial distress in children as one of the main child protection concerns in Gaza , the main distress manifestations include children being more aggressive, bed wetting , unusual crying and screaming , violence against younger children , unwilling to go to school , disrespectful behavior in the family , having night mares , and not being able to sleep , sadness and avoiding others.

With regards to NECC psychosocial support program , 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 beneficiary satisfaction with services and service providers

such as pre and post (SDQ¹) for children and parents, (PHQ²) and (GAD7³) for PHC screened cases, (CRIES-8⁴) for PTSD children cases and (PCL) for PTSD⁵ 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.

Its worth mentioning that NECC signed recently an agreement in partnership with Terre des homme (TDH) for the project titled "Meeting the protection needs of vulnerable children in the Gaza Strip through child protection case management system" "this project targeted children, and women who mainly affected by the recent situation including injured children through the protests of Great March of return, women who exposed to violence, children affect by arm conflict.



Recreational Activities

Also, through this reporting period, we conducted recreational activities to children and mothers as well as to TVET students and NECC staff, this was supported by Pontifical mission for the project titled "psychosocial support and protection for children and their mothers".

Through the support by pontifical mission, 8 open fun days were conducted for 1021 KG children from NECC catchment areas Shajaia, Daraj, and Rafah. Through the open fun days, there was Entertainment, puppet show, clowns, and some recreational and fun activities, at the end of every open day, toys and gifts were distributed to the children.

Moreover 12 recreational trips were conducted for 1046 school children and 513 of their mothers

Recreational trip was conducted for 50 females secretarial and dress making centers students and their instructors, and also for 213 males' students of carpentry, welding, metal, aluminum, and electricity departments and their instructors. Recreational trip also conducted for 100 clinics staff as well.

Incorporating child protection policy within our programs enabled NECC to take in consideration the preventative measures in selecting the appropriate place for the implementation of psychosocial activities being safe and healthy, signing a mutual agreement with the children parents to involve their children in open fun days and recreational trips.

¹ SDQ: strength and development questionnaire.

² PHQ: patient health questionnaire.

³ GAD: Generalized anxiety disorder.

⁴ CRIES-8: Children impact of Event scale.

⁵ PTSD: Post traumatic stress disorders.

Table (9): 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	325 children	343 children	252 children	920 children
Kindergarten children serve through cognitive behavioral therapy	240 children	182 children	227 children	649 children
Individual counselling for school children	23 children	19 children	16 children	58 children
Individual counselling for women /mothers	34 women/mother	97 women/mothers	17 women/mothers	148 women/mothers
Family counselling for teachers and mothers with children suffer from psychological disorders	67 Family counselling	43 Family counselling	38 Family counselling	148 Family counselling
Psycho education sessions for PHC beneficiaries	36 sessions for 381 women/mothers	51 sessions for 1373 women/mothers	40 sessions for 826 women /mothers	127 sessions for 2580 women/mothers
General psychosocial consultations	244 consultations	115 consultations	129 consultations	488 consultations
Group counselling for mothers and or/women with similar psychological problems	30 mothers/women	15 mothers/women	18 mothers/women	63 women/mothers
Screening and detection of mental health problem in PHC patients managed by health staff	77 mild cases from PHC who screened and detected, received guided self help 591 EPDS scale filled for postnatal cases to detect postnatal depression, 26 were discovered complained of depression that's mean 4.3% were suffered from depression during postpartum period			

3.3 TVET Program

The TVET program is overly aimed at enlarging the prospects for work and employment for the Palestinian youth in Gaza Strip in order to contribute to enhancing their economic and livelihoods conditions given the unprecedented unemployment rate among youth (triggering about 60%).

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

With regards to TVET Program, NECC runs four vocational training centres offering seven vocations/trades: two centres for male students (with four careers) and two for female students (with two careers), as follows:

1. **The Gaza City Vocational Training Centre (Gaza City VTC)** offers multiple-period vocational training diplomas that target disadvantaged boys aged 14-16 years old who have dropped out of school. They can choose to be trained either in (1) Carpentry and Furniture making (Diploma for two years), (2) Metal and Welding works (Diploma for two years) or (3) Aluminium works (Diploma for one year) or (4) Refrigeration and Air conditioning (Diploma for two years).
2. **The Vocational Training Centre at El-Qarara (south of the Gaza Strip)** provides a two-year Diploma in general electricity skills and motor and transformer rewinding that is offered to young men aged 16-23 who finished grade ten of school.
3. **The Secretarial studies and English Language Centre** offers a one-year intensive Diploma in secretarial studies to young women who have finished their secondary studies (High School grade or locally known: Tawjihi).
4. **The Advanced Dress Making Centre** offers a one-year Diploma course in tailoring provided to young women.



During the reporting period (January – September 2018), **304** students (**208 males** and **96 female** students) received training through NECC-VTC's. The total number of 347 youth includes the following:

- ▶ **62** male students were graduated (25 Carpentry, 18 Welding and Metals, 19 aluminum) from the Shija'ia VTC in August 2018.
- ▶ **45** female students were graduated from the Secretary and Dressmaking departments (24 secretary and 21 dressmaking).
- ▶ **86** of second-year trainees continued their training at Gaza Shijaia (55 students) and El-Qarara VTC's (31 students) for males respectively. The 31 students of 2nd year at El-Qarara will be graduated next November.
- ▶ **111** first-year students (60 males, 51 females) were enrolled for the 2018-2019 scholastic year (in September 2018). In careers of Carpentry, Welding, Aluminum, Secretary and Dressmaking. The HVAC and General Electricity new students will be enrolled late 2018.



The table (10) shows the distribution of the students of Gaza VTCs and VTC of El-Qarara during the reporting period:

#	Program	Duration (Year)	Graduates (2018)	Current Enrolment		Total number of existing students (September 2017)
				1 st Y	2 nd Y	
1	Carpentry and Furniture Making	2	25	25	20	45
2	Metal and Welding Works	2	18	17	15	32
3	Aluminum Works	1	19	18	-	18
4	HVAC	2	-	-	20	42
5	General Electricity and Motor Rewinding	2	-	-	31	66
-	Sub-total (males)		62	60	86	146
6	Secretary and English Language	1	24	27	-	27
7	Advanced Dressmaking	1	21	24	-	24
-	Sub-total (females)		45	51	-	51
-	Total		107	111	86	197

In cooperation with Palestinian Federation of Industries (PFI) and the private sector entities, the NECC trainees who graduated late 2018 had been placed in various offices, companies and workshops for a period of six-eight weeks to undertake external training. Closed follow-up was run by the social workers and NECC-TVET instructors and supervisors for those trainees. The trainees were distributed to those workshops and companies on the basis of the diplomas and trades they follow.

This external training is an integral part of students' curricula that they have to finish before they graduate and get their certifications from NECC vocational centres.

In terms of the new professions/trades offered by NECC-TVET program, the following paragraph gives background information about the new context and updates regarding the program:

- ▶ According to GIZ⁶ and Ministry of Labour conditions, the training period for a person to become officially qualified in carpentry or metals works is optimum to be two years so accordingly, the training period for this diploma at NECC-VTCs was reduced from three years to two years.
- ▶ Likewise, in terms of GIZ and MoL conditions, the Aluminium department was separated from welding and metals so, Aluminium works became a separate profession with a one-year training program.

NECC is striving to link graduates with the labour market. In that endeavour, NECC provides support to graduates through market connections, skills-upgrade courses, and occasionally job creation initiatives and small grants in cooperation and partnership with a various network of organizations.

NECC realized good records **with regards to livelihood improvement for the TVET graduates** through the different initiatives it has been engaged in for benefit of the graduates quietly on the short-term level. However, still there is a need for assessing and tracking the longer-term outcomes those initiatives have impacted on the different aspects of socioeconomic context of the graduates and their families' lives.

NECC was involved in an evaluation aiming at, as a part of its scope, to assess equity, effectiveness and impact of the TVET program on lives of youth graduates of NECC vocational training centers.

The evaluation was launched in February and finished in April 2018, the results were properly presented and analyzed.

Additionally, NECC was involved in a co-partnered on-the-job training project led by Islamic Relief lasting for four months starting from October 2017 and lasted until February 2018. A group of the NECC beneficiaries under this project have been placed at NECC different premises including clinics (for paramedical university graduates) and VTCs for TVET graduates of course.

Alongside the on-job-training course, in addition to the daily work experience the beneficiaries have been receiving a group of public lectures including important topics such as career counseling, work ethics, gender, entrepreneurship and others.

⁶ GIZ: German Technical Cooperation Agency.

3.3.1 AutoCAD approaching and setting-up computer lab:

In a related context on the outcome level, in terms of the curricula development, a new approach was commenced as of inserting the CAD software learning inside the TVET delivery for students in the "industrial" professions/trades of carpentry, metals and welding and electricity starting from the current scholastic year and on.

Giving the knowledge of CAD software to our students inside the designated VTCs will open wider horizons for them to better understand the architecture of the industrial products/exercises and afterwards, providing them with skills and practices to likely getting easier to enter the labor market and get jobs based on the industrial background they gain.



As well, NECC has already applied for a proposal to GIZ through their EU funded program in 2017 aiming at the provision of a full-equipped computer lab at Shijaia VTC; the proposal was approved by GIZ. NECC has finished all preparations and installments of setting-up the computer lab. Now, it is ready to be used for AutoCAD training and computer literacy in general.

The new computer lab will be put in-service starting for the next scholastic year (2018-2019) that will be starting in September 2018.

3.3.2 Curricula Development:

- During reporting period, NECC continued and finalized the process of updating NECC-TVET curricula for the five identified professions as GIZ recruited local and international experts to work on curricula development with NECC trainers based on the "complex tasks approach CTA". The expert and NECC trainers worked in full cooperation with the consultants to develop and update the curricula.
- It is worth mentioning that NECC is comprehensively developing and upgrading its TVET training techniques. In that context, 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.

Currently, the training curricula of refrigeration and air conditioning is being developed in cooperation between NECC trainers and GIZ experts and consultants on the basis of the CTA approach similarly as the other already developed professions/trades.

As well, NECC has been involved in updating the curricula of solar energy for its El-Qarara VTC in cooperation with similar institutions and TVET providers under the lead from GIZ and Islamic Relief.

3.3.3 Follow-up assessment (late 2017):

NECC is used to conduct a follow-up assessment regularly on annual basis for its graduates from all

vocational training centres after one year of their graduation from the VTCs.

This assessment is aimed to give an oversight on the employment status of the graduates as to show whether they are working in their profession or other professions or even not working at all with percentages of each proportion.

It is very significant to conform on that this assessment is very critical and sensitive for NECCTVET program management to run career services and opportunities to be provided in order to accelerate the graduates' involvement in the local labor market in spot of the funds available with NECC.

Although there is progressive work being done in this field, still there is a need for NECC to conduct a comprehensive evaluation for the TVET program including all its aspects such as selection, examination, curricula, capacities, long term impact on improving livelihoods, etc.

It is worth mentioning that this evaluation will be taking place starting from February 2018 in cooperation with Act for Peace.

- Subsequently, NECC has conducted the annual employment follow-up assessment (in October 2017) for graduates of year 2016. The assessment results revealed that overall 71.7% of all NECC-TVET graduates of the year 2016 are employed or self-employed either in their careers or other ones within one year of graduation (a total of 71 out of 99 graduates), which exceeds the target of 50% of graduates from the TVET program noting that 63.6% are working in their careers (63 out of 99). The figures below show the employment trends among the graduates. Table (11) below.

Profession	Number of students who graduated in 2016	Working in profession	% Working in their profession	Not working in profession	
				Working in other profession	Not working at all
Electricity (male)	22	17	77.27%	1	4
Carpentry (male)	22	14	63.64%	5	3
Welding, metals & Aluminum (male)	12	9	75%	2	1
Secretary (female)	22	5	22.73%	0	17
Advanced dressmaking (female)	21	18	85.71%	0	3
Total - Average	99	63	63.64%	8 (8.1%)	28 (28.3%)

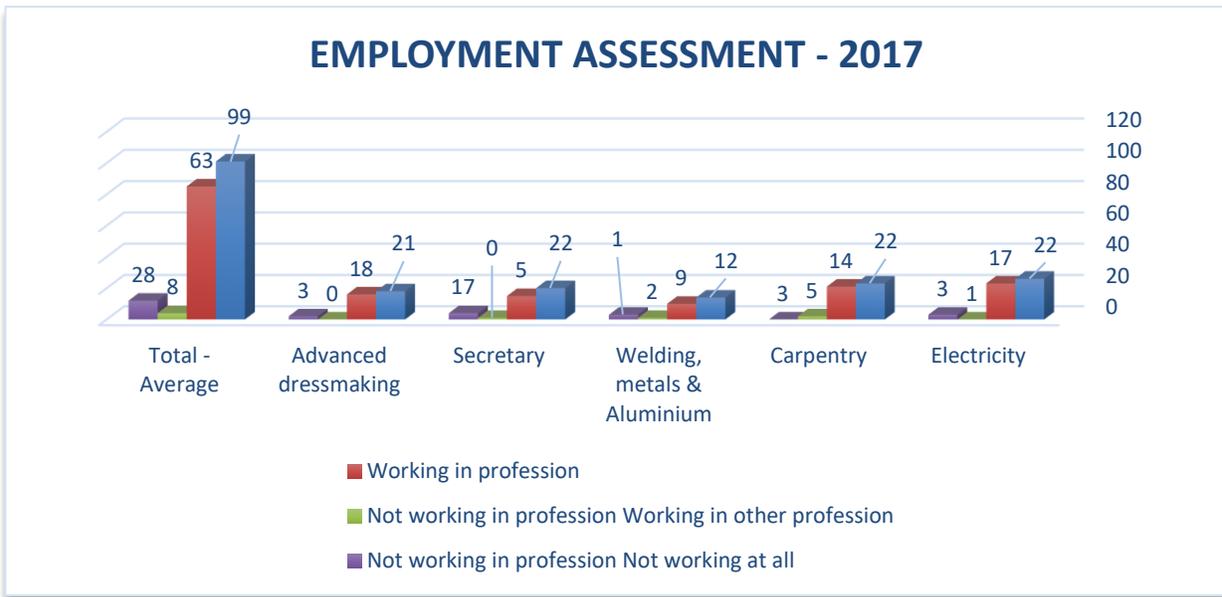


Figure (07): Employment assessment for NECC-TVET graduates of 2016 (Conducted in November 2017).

Analysis of the graph results: As the graph above indicates, the employment rates among NECC-TVET graduates is over 50% (target indicator) for the graduates one year after graduation. Furthermore, the 2017 employment assessment (most recently conducted) reveals a comparatively high employment rates (71.7%) considering the harsh economic conditions lived in Gaza.

The increase of the rate is attributed to the various job creation and on-the-job training initiatives that NECC have run recently in partnership with various donors.

NECC realized good records with regards to livelihood improvement for the TVET graduates through the different initiatives it has been engaged in for benefit of the graduates quietly on the short-term level.

The new employment assessment will be run next December 2018 and the results would be presented and analyzed duly.

3.3.4 Relations and Networking:

NECC has been involved in a comprehensive network joining all TVET providing institutions in the Gaza Strip. The network is including TVET organizers and accreditors such as Ministry of Labor considering that it is the governmental party that gives the due certifications for our vocational diplomas.

3.3.5 LET-Council:

NECC-TVET Program Participated in all the meetings that were held for purpose of the LET Council formation, establishment and enforcement late 2015.

- It is worth mentioning that NECC is a member in 2 subcommittees of the LET-Council which are TVET Capacity Building and Donor Funding.



LET Council is a body gathering all TVET stakeholders (governmental ministries, TVET provider institutes including universities and colleges, NGOs, industrial schools, donors and TVET supporters, etc.). It is aiming at the development of TVET environment and conditions in order to upgrade its abilities towards enhancing youth employability.

As well, the network is including donors of TVET sector in Gaza Strip such as GIZ, Islamic Relief and Belgian Cooperation (BTC) and so many others.

Form other related side, the NECC TVET program has been operating with the full cooperation and integration of the private sector in the whole process; NECC has signed cooperation agreements with Palestinian Federation of Industries “PFI”, and the Palestine Federation of Trade Union “PFTU” in order to support the trainees and approach the outdoor training for them within the workshops following the PFI and PFTU.

Practically, NECC runs continuous coordination work with those strategic partners in conducting shared capacity building programs, networking and share experience meetings in fields of job creation opportunities, employability interventions and TVET weeks and exhibitions.

- NECC is coordinating as well with training provider institutions from the private sector such as "INJAZ Palestine" in order to conduct training courses for benefit of our VTC trainees in several topics; many courses were conducted by their trainers regarding topics like “my path to professionalism” at our female VTCs and “Be an Entrepreneur” at the male VTCs.

3.3.6 Capacity building courses for TVET staff:

A TOT training course was conducted targeting 17 vocational trainers and TVET staff members from NECC centers. The topics included proposal writing and other topics.

It was held in February 2018 during 3 days (12 training hours in total).

Additionally, TOT training course was delivered to the vocational trainers and social workers in the topic of project management. The training targeted 17 staff members and took place in 18-19 August 2018.



⁷ LET-Council: Local Employment & TVET Council.

In addition, a training course in Change Oriented Approach (COA) was introduced to the aforementioned group of staff aimed to introduce the new approach (COA) adopted by NECC in the NECC-Caritas France-AFD partnered project “Supporting Access to Employment for TVET Graduates in Gaza Strip 2017-2020”.

3.3.7 Training program with INJAZ Palestine:

In cooperation with “INJAZ Palestine”, the training program of “my path to professionalism” was held starting from January and lasted for 7 lectures through January and February 2018 targeting the female students of secretary and dressmaking departments.

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



3.3.8 Solar Energy Lab:

A full-equipped and advanced solar lab was established at Qarara VTC devoted to expand the training in the solar energy systems for students of the VTC.

The systems included different components of batteries, photovoltaic panels, invertors, connections, supplements, screens and accessories.

The training on the new utilized system will be launching from the new upcoming scholastic year at Qarara VTC starting from next November.



3.3.9 “Industrial Automation” training course:

Two training courses in “Industrial Automation” totaling 30 hours were introduced to El-Qarara VTC supervisor, an electricity trainer and a group of the former VTC graduates (total number is 13 participants) in the period 10th February to 20th March 2018. The trainer was an academic doctor specialized in industrial engineering from a famous university in Gaza.

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

3.3.10 “First-aid” training:

The courses took place in January (for dressmaking) and February 2018 (for secretary) targeting 47 participants in total; 4 training days during 2 weeks for each group and was followed by a completion ceremony where the course trainer and MoH representatives participated and honoured in the ceremony.

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 2017-2018 to provide educational loans to needy students with zero interest in order to help them complete their university study.

For the reporting period (Jan-Sep.) in the academic year 2017-2018, 159 university students received application and returned back the full eligible application for loans including 81 students. **(table 12 below).**

Status	Bachelor			Masters			PHD			Total		
	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M	T	F	M	T
New loam	1	-	1	3	2	5	-	2	2	4	4	8
Renewal	6	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	8
total	7	2	9	3	2	5	-	2	2	10	6	16

It is noticed from the table that the number of new loan receivables was declined in the reporting period (1st and 2nd semesters of 2018); we think it is attributed to many reasons:

- Bad economic situations which makes the receivable unable to repay the loan.
- Cutting on PNA employees' salaries.
- The difficulty that faced by applicant for loan to bring three guarantors for the loan.

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 new project entitled “Supporting Access to Employment for TVET Graduates in Gaza Strip 2017-2020” has been running in partnership and co-fund from AFD and Secure Catholique - Caritas France (SCCF). The project took place starting from July 2017 and will be lasting till June 2020.

The project has actually started in early July 2017 including comprehensive different activities such as on-job training placements for 250 TVET graduates, introducing business management training afterwards for 150 trainees amongst, as well as starting up new projects for a selected group of 60 graduates along the three years from 2017 to 2020.

Additionally, the project is including activities such as meetings with pluri-actors which NECC has been running its TVET program in cooperation with, reflection workshops aiming to give reflection on the initiatives carried out by NECC and other actors in the TVET regard, meetings with graduates before and after and within and after the placement, business management training including the preparation of business ideas and the presentation in front of selection jury and many other activities.

The first cycle of on-job-training has started in July 2017 targeting 50 TVET graduates from professions of carpentry, metals and welding, aluminum, general electricity, dressmaking and secretary equally divided (10 graduates per each) where the latter selected graduates were placed in the local labor market organizations including NGOs, governmental entities, private workshops, companies, colleges and so forth.

The 2nd on-job training cycle started in early March and lasted till end of August 2018 benefitting additional 50 graduates from the five identified careers similarly.



3.6 Advocacy program

As was aforementioned in TVET program part, NECC participated in TVET Week events, in order to raise awareness on youth employability promotion and advocate their important and effective role in the community development through TVET approach.

Additionally, NECC participated in different activities and events linked to the development of TVET sector in the Palestinian territories as well as relevant campaigns on the national and domestic level.

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 22 delegations. 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

It is worth illustrating the human resources at NECC. The total NECC Staff is approximately 86 staff. These committed people work in fields such as administration, fundraising, communications, human resources, finance, information technology, health education, and customer service.

The breakdown of human resources by category is illustrated below in the table below. The total NECC Staff during the reporting period is approximately **119** staff members. These committed people work in fields such as administration, fundraising, communications, human resources, finance, information technology, health, and education service. **Table (13)** below declares the human resources of NECC.

NECC Programs staff	Male	Female	Total
Number of full-time staff	46	40	86
Number of part-time staff	6	15	21
Number of other staff ⁸	0	12	12
Total number	52	67	119

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, **77 days** of different trainings were attended by NECC staff for capacity building. The trainings were conducted by different national and international organizations at different locations within Gaza Strip.

⁸ Volunteers

#	Training/workshop Subject	Participants	No. of days	Trainer / Organizer	Period	Place
1	Postnatal home visits	3 NECC health staff	2	UNICEF/MOH	January	Laroza hotel
3	CPWG	1 NECC staff: health field coordinator	1	UNICEF	January	UNICEF
4	Discussion session with IMC	2 NECC staff from programs	1	IMC	February	IMC office
5	updating Solar Energy Curricula	1 NECC staff: TVET supervisor	1	GIZ	February	GIZ
7	Evaluation of postnatal care project	2 NECC staff: health program	1	UNICEF	March	MoH clinic in KhanYounis
8	ECD training	3NECC staff: Health program	3	UNICEF	March	AL Mashtal hotel
9	MOH meeting in terms of family planning services provided	2 NECC Health staff	1	MOH	March	Al Rimal clinic
10	Preparation for world health day	1 NECC Health staff	1	MOH	April	MOH clinic
11	Lobbying and advocacy	1 NECC TVET staff	2	Islamic Relief	April	Al-Salam restaurant
12	Meeting of CP/MHPSS WGs	1 NECC Health staff	1	UNICEF	April	UNICEF
13	WASH-Nutrition project _ Kick off meeting	3 NECC staff: health consultant, health coordinator and chief accountant	1	DCA	April	MAAN Development center
14	Record in the accounting system	3 NECC staff: health coordinator, pharmacist and chief accountant	1	IMC	April	IMC
15	Nutrition Working Group (NWG) meeting	1 NECC Health staff	1	UNICEF	April	UNICEF
16	Joint meeting of CP/MHPSS WG	1 NECC Health staff	1	UNICEF	May	UNICEF
17	Nutrition working group meeting	1 NECC Health staff	1	UNICEF	May	UNICEF
18	Steering committee meeting for the PNHV evaluation	1 NECC Health staff	1	UNICEF	May	School of Public Health- Al Quds University
19	Developing manual for women with disability	1 NECC Health staff	1	AYSHA	June	AYSHA

20	Finance and procurement kick off for Wash – Nutrition Project	3 NECC staff: health coordinator, chief accountant and director assistant	2	DCA	June	DCA
21	to HACT and M&E training section	2 NECC staff: health coordinator and chief accountant	2	UNICEF	June	UNICEF
22	Technical training in solar systems	1 NECC TVET staff	1	Islamic Relief	June	Deir el Balah training center, MOL
23	Training of GBV	50 NECC health and TVET staff	2	ACT for Peace	June	Computer Land company
24	Breast Examination	2 NECC health staff	1	Aid and hope program for cancer patient care	June	Ahli Arab Hospital
25	Graphic design training	1 NECC IT staff	70 hours (14 days)	Islamic Relief	June and July	Light house restaurant
26	Training in GBV	Health and TVET staff	2	ACT for Peace	June	Light house restaurant
27	Breast Examination	2 health staff	1	Aid and hope program for cancer patient care	July	Ahli Arab Hospital
28	Curriculum Development workshop	6 TVET staff	1	GIZ	July	Al-Salam restaurant
29	Communication for Development C4D	1 health staff	1	MOH	July	MOH clinic
30	Humanitarian standards of quality and accountability	1 health staff	1	PNGO	July	PNGO
31	Curriculum Development workshop	2 TVET staff (HVAC)	1	GIZ	July	Al-Salam restaurant
32	Curriculum Development workshop	2 TVET staff (Carpentry)	1	GIZ	July	Al-Salam restaurant
33	New PSS project	1 PSS staff	1	Terre Homme	July	Terre Homme
34	CP/MHPSS	Health coordinator	1	UNICEF	July	UNICEF
35	Solar Energy System	15 TVET staff and private sector	6	NECC	August	Islamic University
36	Project Management	17 TVET staff	4	NECC	August	NECC

37	the (Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response "SPHERE")	1 health staff	1	PNGO	August	Gloria restaurant
38	Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019 Workshop	1 health staff	1	WHO	August	Roots hotel
39	Meeting Main Finding about Wash Nutrition Project	Health coordinator	1	DCA	August	MA'AN center
40	Nutrition Assessment (initial findings)	Health coordinator	1	DCA	August	Ahli Arab Hospital
41	CP/MHPSS Working Group	Health coordinator	1	UNICEF	September	UNDP
42	C4D	2 health staff	1	MOH	September	Al-Salam restaurant
43	ECD Training of Gaza ECD working group	4 health staff	1	UNICEF	September	UNICEF
44	OPS Clinics	2 health staff	3	WHO	September	WHO
45	the nutrition work group meeting	Health coordinator	1	UNICEF	September	UNICEF
46	ECD training for Gaza ECD working group	4 health staff	2	UNICEF	September	Light house restaurant
47	Gender with Age Marker	1 health staff	1	UNICEF	September	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 equality and female empowerment are now universally recognized as core development objectives, fundamental for the realization of human rights, and key to effective and sustainable development outcomes. NECC-Gaza considers gender equality as a cross-cutting issue and over the years members have endeavored to promote gender sensitive approaches to development and humanitarian assistance.

NECC is committed deeply to gender equality through its Gender Equality Policy. The NECC Gender Policy focuses on the principles of promoting gender balance in staffing and representation, promoting gender equality in access to health quality system, PSS and promoting gender equality in socio-economic empowerment.

NECC is keen to provide services without any kind of discrimination including gender discrimination. NECC has developed gender policy and the NECC staff trained on the policy. Also, the staff signed the policy and its implementation is being monitored.

with regard to the well-baby visits, similar proportion of male versus females.

With regard to health education, 93% of the reached beneficiaries are females. Women are targeted more in health education as they carry the burden of taking care of their children. Women are more involved in the care of children including feeding and nutrition practices. Also, healthy behaviour in the community is largely determined by women therefore women awareness is very important

During the reporting period, NECC has strived to create gender parity in the hiring of men and women to NECC in terms of both quantity of both sexes and also the types of positions they fill - The executive director and his assistant are males, otherwise there is balance between male and female throughout the organizational hierarchy; e.g. the head of the Health department is female, whereas the head of the TVET department is male. Currently, 47% of NECC staff is females and 53% are males.

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 are females, recognizing the important role women play as caregivers within the household. PSS program targets equally children from both genders without any kind of discrimination. The NECC health program offers health services through general clinics equally to males and females; no intentional discrimination was practiced in relation to gender or any kind of discrimination.

Additionally, NECC provides equitable opportunities for male and female students in its TVET offered trades to develop their career in order to be able to more easily get decent job employment opportunities. The new enrolled female students' percentage is 21% and 79% for males, the increase of male percentage could be explained by the fact that NECC runs five TVET professions for males versus two professions for females.

4.4 Supervision, Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation are very important to follow implementation and outputs systematically, measure the effectiveness, and identify the most valuable and efficient use of resources. The NECC enjoys a very committed, dedicated and effective management; each center has a supervisor, and the three supervisors are well-trained have good managerial skills. At the main office level, the NECC Executive Director and the Health Program Coordinator monitor and supervise the implementation of the health program closely.



Monitoring supports NECC staff and management to comply with their scope of work and to timely meet 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, supervisory visits, staff meetings on a regular basis, beneficiaries and client's 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 health center overall manage the field work.

The technical consultant oversees 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 program's operations, while the senior accountant does the monitoring for the financial issues and follow up in coordination with the executive managers and the programs coordinators.



One of the key philosophies of primary health care is community involvement and involving the community in the planning, the implementation and the evaluation of services. This approach is also supportive to the concept of shared ownership of the health services and lies at the heart of quality (client is the king). NECC conducts regular community meetings and involve people from the served areas and usually include women and men from different backgrounds and different characteristics.

The Executive Director with health coordinator conducted three community meetings through this reporting period .

The technical developed balanced score card indicators.

Regarding TVET program; TVET program is utilizing a group of evaluation forms for the aim of assessing the performance and progress within the educational and training process/cycle tackling all inputs.

The whole educational process is being continuously assessed; evaluation forms are being used to evaluate trainers, curricula, tools and equipment, physical environment including safety measures and etc.

- NECC has child protection policy, code of conduct, gender policy, and anti-corruption policy and recently, NECC updated the child protection policy.
- Develop a draft of NECC balanced score card, a tool used for monitoring and evaluation, a group of measurements reflecting the technical as well as the managerial aspects of the organization/project business meanwhile considering the clients' perspectives and opinions (clients' satisfaction). NECC is currently developing the outcome indicators of the balance scorecard and will be endorsing them properly and updating.
- It's worth mentioning that NECC has developed new strategic plan for the years 2017-2021.

4.5 Communication and Coordination

Coordination with other organizations depends on the nature of the activity undertaken. In NECC, 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.

Within the context of the Palestinian healthcare system, as it has four main providers: the MoH, UNRWA, non-governmental organizations, and private for-profit providers. Coordination is extremely important as it improves the efficiency of operations by avoiding overlapping efforts and duplication of work. Also, coordination among health service providers increases the quality of services, patient satisfaction, and prevents wastage of resources. Thus, it is substantially important that NECC fully coordinate services with other providers, in particular the two main providers: MoH and UNRWA

- In the Primary Family Health Care Centers, NECC has good coordination with Ministry of health to get license of the family care centers for the New Year and to provide the legal coverage of the programs operations.
- Coordination with WHO in terms of attending Health nutrition cluster regular meetings held monthly to share updates, experiences and knowledge.
- MOH provides advanced diagnostic and therapeutic interventions even hospitalization to complicated cases referred from NECC health centers.
- Coordination with the local and international organizations takes place as much as possible to obtain drugs, humanitarian assistance and other assistive modalities. For example NECC contacted ANERA for in kind donation of medication.
- 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 didn't show improvement in hemoglobin level.
- Coordination with nutrition sectorial committee organized by UNICEF.
- Referring severe cases with mental disorders identified at NECC centers to MOH/Department of mental health.
- NECC TVET program is being running with the full cooperation and integration of the private sector in the whole process; NECC has signed cooperation agreements with Palestinian Federation of Industries "PFI" the Palestine Federation of Trade Union "PFTU" in order to support the trainees and approach the outdoor training for them within the workshops fulfilling the PFI and PFTU. During the reporting period: 80 external workshops and 5 local institutions in Gaza from private sectors received trainees from NECC as a part of the practical training of TVET program or benefitted from NECC VTC's.
- Practically, NECC runs continuous coordination work with those strategic partners in conducting shared capacity building programs, networking and share experience meetings in fields of job creation and employability interventions and TVET weeks and exhibitions.

- NECC is coordinating as well with training provider institutions such as Injaz Palestine in order to conduct training courses for our VTC trainees in several topic; many courses were conducted by their trainers in favorite of our trainees in titles like “my path to professionalism” at our Shijaia VTC and “Be Entrepreneur” at Qarara VTC.
- In a similar approach, NECC organized one specialized training courses targeting a group of our Qarara-VTC and Shijaia students in "Advanced Electronics" in cooperation with a specialized company in this field in Gaza.

External relations and communication:

- NECC implemented all its programs activities in accordance with the local protocols of MOH either for MCH care, nutrition, PSS.
- On the partnership level, NECC continues partnership with UNICEF to promote postnatal care to mothers and newborns by receiving at least three PNC sessions two at home and one at the health center, and management of moderate and severe acute malnourished cases.
- Additionally, NECC succeeded to get approval from EME to get a fund to promote the antenatal care program through focusing more on high risk pregnancies and starting provision of preconception care at NECC centers.
- A proposal was submitted by NECC and accepted by IMC for the 2017-2018 years ". This is may continue as a part of 5-years USAID-funded project: Envision Gaza 2020: Health Matters, starting from 2016 till 2020.
- Continue the project implemented with UNICEF for PNC provided to mothers and new-borns and early child hood development (ECD).
- New project in partnership with DAN Church AID and Norwegian Church Aid (DCA -NCA) and get approved for project titled “Wash and Nutrition Humanitarian response in Gaza strip “which have took place in Al Shoka area.
- NECC succeeded to get approval from Embrace the Middle East (EME) to get a fund to promote the antenatal care program through focusing more on high risk pregnancies and to start provision of preconception care at NECC centres.
- New project started in November 2017 and it finished in November 2018 supported by Pontifical Mission for provision of psychosocial and protection services to children and their caregivers.
- proposal was submitted to DCA-NCA for TVET program as a part of Joint Country Program funded by NORAD, the project was approved and actually started early 2018.
- Regarding TVET, NECC is running its TVET program in full engagement and partnership with all related stakeholders; on the governmental level, Ministry of Labor is accrediting our TVET trades annually and certifying our vocational training diploma provided to our TVET graduates once graduated.
- NECC in cooperation and partnership with “Secure Catholique France” prepared a joint proposal in the topic of economic empowerment for NECC –TVET graduates took place in period 2017-2020.

- In the prospect of our partnership with Islamic Relief, the NECC has recently ended a job creation project with Islamic Relief.
- On the civil society level, NECC is securing strategic and sustained relationships with TVET providing institutes, NGOs, colleges and universities etc.
- NECC has a membership in the in the LET-Council; a framework gathering all TVET providers and stakeholders in Gaza Strip (and one in the West Bank) currently led by GIZ with a general coordinator elected and introduced by the participant institutions and conjoining 4 sub-committees, NECC is a member in two of them (Sub committees of TVET capacity building and donor funding).
- On the other hand, NECC is running its TVET program with the full cooperation and integration of the private sector in the whole process so that NECC has signed cooperation agreements with Palestinian Federation of Industries “PFI” the Palestine Federation of Trade Union “PFTU”.
- The relationship is compassing issues of cooperation in encountering barriers that hampering the implementation of the program and accessing it into the labor market and approaching the outdoor training for NECC students within the workshops fulfilling the PFI and PFTU.
- As well, the NECC is initially considering the labor market needs when it intends to either open the new TVET professions or develop its current curricula and that’s why it convened with all stakeholders including labor market while currently developing the training curricula.
- Moreover, NECC has good coordination with private sector in terms of external practical training for TVET students and graduates, also in terms of job creation projects when implemented NECC contacts the private sector. It is worth adding that NECC is well trusted and asked regularly from the private sector to nominate graduates from its centers in order to work in private companies, workshops, etc.

4.6 Policies

NECC committed to its child protection policy, code of conduct, gender policy, and Anti-fraud policy. NECC staff continued the mainstreaming of child safeguarding, through providing sessions and distributing brochures and booklets to the beneficiaries at the health centers and TVET-VTCs as well. its worth mentioning that NECC updated its child protection policy.

Moreover, NECC counsellors keep an eye on child protection during conducting any of PSS activities/interventions to detect any child abuse case even no formal reporting about them. During contracting with service providers, NECC signed all contactors to NECC policies and keep on its commitment.

4.7 Current problems and constraints

Within the same context, the electricity supply to the Gaza Strip has been diminished by around 40% which resulted in having a power supply of 2-3 hours daily. The same applies to water supply which is supplied 12 hours per week. This has many consequences on people life as follow

- Electricity cuts resulted in a decrease in water supply at the household due to inability of HHs to pump water to roof tanks and subsequently this negatively affected the sanitary conditions at HHs. The risk of hygiene related diseases is now higher

- Due to lack of electricity, untreated waste water is pumped to the sea which further contaminate the environment and water resources.
- Lack of electricity affects means of production and results in further poverty
- Dark, cold weather, inability to socialize due to loss of internet are all among the issues which further deteriorate the psychosocial status of people.
- As a result, the exposure of those people to health risks has increased including the spread of communicable diseases, increased food insecurity, nutritional related disorders, wide spread of psychosocial issues and spread of sanitary related conditions which increased the burden on NECC clinics and increased demand at our facilities because other facilities (especially MOH) were affected by the siege or directly targeted during the war. Also, the economic pressure on families has decreased their ability to contribute to medical fees.
- Difficulties in securing and delivering the needed equipment and disposables due the tight restrictions on the entrance of goods, materials, supplies...to Gaza.
- The unavailability of the raw materials in the local market that was greatly affected by the tight closure, even the available commodities are purchased with double prices. NECC has good strategy in maintaining stock of materials to be used, however NECC faced a real challenge to get funds for that
- Limited financial resources, donor's inertia, political division, weak capacity of local communities to financially contribute to services they receive. This has affected the ability of many NGOs to serve beneficiaries. Also, UNRWA faces shortage of resources which affects their programmes targeting refugees.
- The huge number of fatalities and injuries from Great March of Return puts further constraints on the health care system and on the community, which are already too much overwhelmed with problems such as shortage of drugs and supplies, inadequate staffing, lack of specialized personnel, lack of fuel needed for hospitals' generators, and many others.
- Increase number of beneficiaries attended NECC clinics particularly since the great march of return has been started.
- NECC faced some problems in procurement of some materials such as wood of certain thickness as well as some equipment needed for electricity training.

5. *Future Plan*

- Continue the partnership with our great partners in addition to seeking new donors
- Mapping donors for fund raising
- Developing fund raising strategy for NECC.
- Strengthening communication and networking to secure fund

6. Success stories

- Stories from Health program

Success story 1

Child Hassan Ahmed Yousef Al Akhras 14 years old Born on 25/05/2005, a ninth-grade student. He lives in the city of Rafah, Al-Shoka. He was injured in the return marches (shrapnel and gas inhalation), lives in a family of 10 members.

The child Hassan lives life events bigger than of his age. Every Friday he goes to the return marches despite the prevention of his parents to worry and fear of the occurrence of something bad to him such as disability or loss of limbs. The child was visited at home, psychological counseling was provided to the family, and the parents agreed to integrate and participate in the services and activities. The child was referred to the clinic for health services.

When talking with the child, the reason for going alone for the return marches is not to meet his needs and neglect psychologically and neglected talents and abilities because of bad material situation experienced by the family. Hassan's father is an authority employee with loans, and earns 50% of basic salary and cannot meet the needs and interests of his children, which drives Hassan to go to return marches to spend his free time, especially on the official leave of school.



Hassan is committed to psychosocial structured activities sessions. He is a child who loves to play and participate. He has a strong personality and is loved by everyone who loves relationships and communication with others.

Hassan's child hobbies are group games, drawing, playing ball and practicing different activities like coloring. In this side, the child's talents and abilities are supported and developed, and how to spend the holiday time by providing colors and a ball for the child. And his participation and commitment to the structured activities sessions, the recovery activities in art and the provision of health and treatment services for the child.

The child was introduced to how to spend leisure time and the importance of studying and raising the level of achievement in school.

In addition, through follow-up with the child during the two months shows that the child does not go to the return marches and borders, because of leisure time study and entertaining activities and development of talent and talents.

The child's family thank NECC team and the psycho-social counsellor for their wonderful and dedicated work in helping people and mitigate their sufferings

Story 2

Mrs. Reem Rafiq Al-Ghoulah was born on 19/01/2001. She followed the Al-Shajaiya Clinic of Near East Council of Churches in the pre-conception care program.

Health education was provided in terms of useful nutrition and increased intake of vegetables and fruits and avoid of stimulants and soft drinks. And explained to Mrs. Reem about the best time for pregnancy and the possibility of pregnancy and she was given folic acid and the significant to adhere to it three months before pregnancy because it is important to reduce the risk of imbalance in the central congenital anomalies

After 3 months of follow-up in pre-conception care, the pregnancy took place and the woman went directly to NECC Antenatal care clinic for follow-up, especially she is a young woman and require attention and special care.

She followed up at antenatal care program, she enjoyed good health status. During follow-up, laboratory tests were performed (blood-urine, blood sugar test, blood type). Health education and guidance and appropriate services were provided, and educational brochures were given on how to take care of the pregnant woman. The mother was photographed with ultrasound to check on the health of the fetus. Everything was fine and the child was in good health.

On 27/07/2017 it was time to receive the baby, but she exposed to complicated delivery at hospital, the birth and the baby was exposed to lack of oxygen during birth and was admitted to the neonatal intensive care unit (nursery), The mother was discharged from the Hospital of the first day of her birth and was reported to NECC clinic of her birth by her parents to visit her by the NECC health providers.

Staff nurse went to visit the lady and check the level of hemoglobin and sugar and examined vital signs and breast and uterus and through the examination showed that the level of hemoglobin of the woman 6.5 mg and blood pressure 80/50 which means that the lady had severe anemia, and bleeding, the proportion of blood sugar was 199mg, And the lady was referred directly by NECC health staff to Shifa hospital and already went to the hospital was suffering from bleeding and was given 2 units of blood to stop the bleeding and prevent complications. After a few days, the

woman was discharged from the hospital. The NECC staff nurse visited her for the second time in the house. The blood level was 9 mg. She was given iron and vitamin treatment and advised to adhere to the treatment with the need to eat iron-rich foods and natural juices containing vitamin C to help absorb iron.

Now she is in good health. Mrs. Reem and her family thanked the NECC Shejaiya clinic health staff for their special services and their sympathy and kindness as they saved their lives from the danger she suffered. her family said that we did not know that she was suffering from bleeding, but thank God the visit came at the right time and it was referred to the hospital before it was too late.

Note that the mother refused to take her photos.

Success stories from TVET program

Story 1

Mohammed Nasser Al-Abadla, 23 years old graduate, describes the impact of his enrolment at the General Electricity and solar energy program at El-Qarara VTC.

I was graduated from El-Qarara VTC in October 2017, I am now 23 years aged and live with a family consisted of 7 persons in our owned house in village of El-Qarara in Khan Younis area to the south of Gaza Strip.

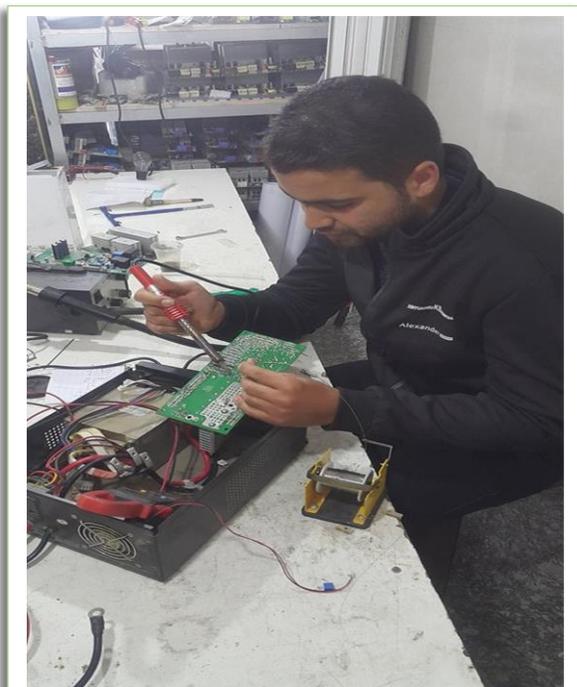
My father is a governmental servant, and I have two male brothers; I'm the older among them, and the other two younger brothers are at schools.

Actually, I enrolled El-Qarara VTC for a main strive of learning the career/profession of general electricity as I like this profession since I was young.

During the 2-year training period in El-Qarara center, I learned a lot about house networks and supplies, control systems as well as motors and transformers rewinding and solar applications.

My instructors and trainers were very helpful and supportive, they did not hesitate to answer all my questions and inquiries in the field of electricity work.

Really, this 2-year training program was very useful and full of technical and professional knowledge as well as in terms of the behavior and attitudes perceptions with which I learned a lot in dealing with peers, clients and relations in general.



Mohammed is currently working at Qarara

Recently, I was so lucky to gain a short-term job under a partnership project between NECC and the Caritas France; I have been selected and placed at Alshrooq company to do this on-job training in Khan Younis.

At my placement, I did a lot of things such as household networks, electric pillars and electric networks in general for many clients and I learned much every day and enjoy new experiences.

After that, I passed a competition on a new instructor job at Qarara VTC to deliver training in solar energy systems, I was hopefully selected and now I am providing the training to the students at the new solar lab which was set-up by a generous partnership with respected Porticus organization.

Really, I am very glad to work in such a career and I hope in the future to build my life through work and to assist my brothers and the family as a whole in securing its basic needs and live with my beloved persons in independence and dignity.

Photo gallery

Health Program







TVET Program





**End of Report
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