

# NEAR EAST COUNCIL OF CHURCHES COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEE WORK

## DSPR / GAZA



## PROGRESS REPORT

01/01 – 30/09/2014



*Rubbles of a totally destroyed building near to NECC PHC center in Shijaia area August 2014 in which a children beloved toy was lost.*

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**Abbreviations**

<b>ANC</b>	Antenatal Care
<b>CA</b>	Christian Aid
<b>CBI</b>	Community Based Intervention
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based-Organization
<b>COS</b>	Church Of Sweden
<b>DSPR</b>	Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GCMHP</b>	Gaza Community Mental Health Psychosocial Support
<b>HB</b>	Hemoglobin
<b>IUD</b>	Intra Uterine Device
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>NECC</b>	Near East Council of Churches
<b>NECCCRW</b>	Near East Council of Churches for Refugees Work
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PHC</b>	Primary Health Care
<b>PSS</b>	Psychosocial Support
<b>TOT</b>	Training of Trainers
<b>TVET</b>	Technical Vocational Education and Training
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNRWA</b>	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
<b>VTC</b>	Vocational Training Centers
<b>VTP</b>	Vocational Training Program
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization
<b>CABAC</b>	Children Affected By Armed Conflict

**Executive summary:**

During this reporting period, NECC faced many challenges due to the most recent aggression/war in 2014 on the Gaza Strip, however, NECC duplicated its efforts and resources to sustain the provision of the project services and compensate any delays immediately after the war ended. NECC tried to achieve its goals as much as possible with no delay and with insist on the quality of the services provided.

Regarding **access to primary health care and medication**, the number of the newly registered families since Jan till end of September 2014 has reached **1048** families, while the numbers of the total families that currently benefitting from NECC PHC clinics during this reporting period were **7956** families. The number of the total registered families till the end of September 2014 was **30,319** families in the three served areas (since 2009 with the starting the use of electronic medical records).

The number of new pregnant women was **1001** with total of **1664** 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 quarter was **272** to have a total by end of September **858** deliveries. At least **57.6 %** of the delivered women received quality postnatal care three times after delivery. The decrease in the percentage could be related to the 51 days of war and the situation resulted after it as many families lived in the served localities are displaced outside those areas due to the damage of their houses specially in Shijaia area. This affected the access and follow up of the cases including postnatal care. In terms of family planning, the number of women who received family planning services during this reporting period was **784** women (target 800 women per year) , the program started in Rafah recently late of March 2014.

Additionally, the number of newly registered children in this reporting period has reached **2447** in the three areas. The total number of children attending the well-baby clinic has reached **8680** cases with total Well baby visits reached **17,695**. While the number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has been **4922** while **6047** child under 6 years were examined by doctors and received treatment. The number of cases examined by dentists and received dental care services had reached **3836**.

Moreover, the total number of laboratory tests that were performed inside the three family care centers during this reporting period has reached **14,126** while The total number of women attended health education sessions was **15,203** participants.

Regarding **the Technical vocational Education and training centers**, during the reporting period a total of **206** enrolled trainees including male and female continued to receive high quality vocational skills in the concerned fields of carpentry/furniture making, welding and aluminum work, general electricity and motor rewinding, secretarial studies and advanced dress making. Among those trainees **42%** are females and **58%** are males. Moreover, **75** male and female

youth have been graduated during this reporting period except the electricity trainees who will sit for the final exams in the next October as planned.

Regarding **psychosocial support program**; NECC is now involved in implementing three emergency PSS projects funded by **ACT Alliance, Pontifical Mission and CRS**. The first emergency PSS project, funded by ACT Alliance focuses on children and mothers in the three served localities through conducting 9 open fun days targeting **1260** children and their mothers by the end of November 2014. Additionally, NECC is involving in conducting two training for PSS staff and health staff respectively through a consultancy service. The second emergency PSS project funded by Pontifical Mission is implemented in the three served localities to children, mothers/women, NECC staff and TVET students. It includes CABAC sessions, 16 recreational trips and 6 open days for the kindergarten children targeting **1470** children, **1000** mothers, **209** TVET students and approximately **80** staff members by mid of July 2015. The third emergency PSS project funded by CRS/USAID is implemented in Shijaia and Rafah area/Kherbet Al Adas to children, mothers, Kindergarten teachers and to mixed caregivers groups targeting **1360** children, **180** mothers, **102** teachers and **544** caregivers by end of December 2014.

Regarding **advocacy program**, NECC worked on advocating regularly from the first day of the war 2014 for the deterioration of all life aspects, killing of civilians, destroying the houses and everything, attacking the innocent people, displacement of families and the urgent needs for response and support. Moreover, NECC continued to mainstream the child protection policy that aims to protect our children from any kind of abuses. Also, NECC continued to collaborate and coordinate for the visits of international partners to Gaza Strip including visitation to NECC various programmes.

Regarding **Emergency Relief Program**, NECC responded to the crisis by distributing food and non food kits to **789** affected families whose homes were destroyed and sheltered in the Orthodox Church, nearby Katib Welaya mosque, Orthodox Cultural Church and the surrounding war houses at Zaitun area: **409** families supported by DKH and **380** ones supported with in-kind donation from Anera . Additionally, those families were also assisted with distributing **11070 mineral water bottles** of 1 Litre from UNRWA. With the generous support of DKH, NECC is also distributing unconditional vouchers that meet food items or school stationary to **839** affected families from Shijaia area. Foods kits are also distributed to **301** affected families include NECC TVET families and the needy ones who used to come to NECC relief aids department to receive assistance, supported by the Islamic Welfare Institute. NECC also delivered **100** new born kits from Save the Children, **350** hygiene kits and were distributed to NECC Primary Health care patients in addition to the delivery of **27** medical kits from CRSs to be distributed at NECC PHC's. Additionally, NECC is now implementing a psychosocial support projects funded by CRSs, PMP and Act Alliance to alleviate the suffering of our targeted children, women, staff and TVET students at NECC Programs. Furthermore, NECC is in the process of planning for the renovation of its Health Program Clinics with the support of the Pontifical Mission.

## Background

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.

### **NECCCRW Vision**

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

### **NECCCRW Mission**

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

## Context

The open-ended ceasefire which entered into force on 26 August continues to hold. The scale of damage resulting from the 51-days escalation in hostilities is unprecedented since the beginning of the Israeli occupation in 1967. All governorates in Gaza witnessed extensive aerial bombardment, naval shelling and artillery fire, resulting in the widespread loss of life and livelihoods. Damage to public infrastructure was also unprecedented, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without adequate services, including electricity, clean water and quality healthcare. The Gaza Power Plant (GPP) remains inoperable following an Israeli airstrike on 29 July and despite extensive repairs, electricity outages of 18 hours a day continue in most areas across Gaza. Extensive damage to the water and wastewater system means that 20 to 30 per cent of households, or 450,000 people, remain unable to access municipal water due to damage and/or low pressure. Following the ceasefire there was a steep decline in the number of internally displaced persons, but figures have gradually risen again in UNRWA shelters, and an estimated 110,000 are still displaced, including with host families (based on OCHA report Sep. 2014). Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) are a major protection concern and pose a risk to those returning to their homes and involved in repair and reconstruction activities.

The majority of the Gaza population has lost their productive assets. According to the Palestinian Federation of Industries, 419 businesses and workshops were damaged, with 128 completely destroyed. With limited activity at the commercial crossings and extensive damage to private infrastructure and other productive assets, business activities were largely paralyzed during the operation. Israel still bans construction materials from entering the Gaza Strip stalling major efforts to reconstruct local businesses, factories, public institutions, schools and homes. Access to the sea was also prohibited for most of the 50 days of hostilities; restrictions have been restored to the six nautical mile limit, but there have been reports of shooting at, and detaining, fishermen in recent days, reportedly for exceeding this limit.

*Based on OCHA and MOH sitrep report Aug and Sep 2014, the most pressing needs are as follows:*

**Regarding health sector:**

- Supporting the provision of PHC and Public Health service, to ensure access to all including internally displaced people; providing adequate supply of drugs required for prevention and treatment of infectious and communicable disease, and serving chronic patients;
- Restoring the electricity supply, water wells and sewage pumping capacity as a matter of urgency;
- Providing access to clean and safe water to all residents of Gaza;
- Providing longer-term shelters for the tens of thousands of displaced persons whose homes have been completely destroyed, until rebuilding is possible;
- Restoring Gaza's four evacuated hospitals, especially the Wafa rehabilitation hospital and Al Durrah pediatric hospital, to operational capacity as soon as possible;
- Providing adequate water & sanitation facilities in shelters for displaced persons;
- Providing hygiene kits to displaced persons.

**Psychosocial sector:**

- At least 373,000 children require direct and specialized psychosocial support (PSS). Children are showing symptoms of increasing distress, including bed wetting, clinging to parents and nightmares.
- Specifically, there is a need to increase the number of structured activities and specialized PSS support, as opposed to PSS first aid, for children and families identified as requiring a referral to such services.

**Non food items (NFI):**

- It is estimated that about 18,000 families (consisting of approximately 108,000 individuals) whose homes were totally destroyed or heavily damaged are in need of transitional shelter support, as well as emergency NFI kits. In the medium term, they will require cash assistance to cover rental fees and basic household items.
- Household and hygiene NFIs are required for individuals in collective centres, host family situations and other locations of displacement.
- Internally displaced persons are in need of food and other immediate assistance.

**Food items:**

- Over 100,000 people whose homes were destroyed or damaged beyond repair will need food and other assistance for a longer term.
- The lack of electricity limits the storage capacity for fresh food for both shops and households. Bakeries face challenges with their generators and fuel stock.

**Cash relief:**

- The most recent aggression/war in 2014 came on top of an already fragile economy and livelihoods.
- Around 66 per cent of the population of Gaza was receiving food assistance prior to the crisis and the household food insecurity level or vulnerable to food insecure stood at 72 per cent of households.
- Unemployment has increased dramatically since mid-2013, following a halt of the illegal tunnel trade with Egypt, soaring from 28 per cent in the third quarter (Q3) of 2013 to 45 per cent in Q2 2014; almost 70 per cent of the youth aged 20-24 were unemployed in Gaza in Q2 2014.
- It is expected that labour market conditions in Gaza had further deteriorated following the conflict, exacerbating the impact of the blockade and the longstanding access restrictions imposed by Israel which have been preventing any meaningful economic activity and the entry of raw materials and equipment.
- People are in need for cash relief and cash for work to mitigate their economic suffering.

In this situation, NECC programs contribute largely to address the most pressing needs of population include health care services, TVET services and PSS activities to alleviate the suffering of people and ensure to meet their needs. To ensure access to health-care services in the Gaza Strip, NECC provides sufficient levels of primary health care services (including quality antenatal, postnatal care, family planning, well-baby services, nutrition services, dental care, lab testing, medical diagnosis), essential medical equipment and supplies at NECC health care centres in order to respond to the increase demand caused by the shortage of similar medicines and supplies in Ministry of Health (MoH) and private clinics.





More than half of the population of Gaza is under the age of 18. For these 800,000 boys and girls, daily life is characterized by conflict, poverty, loss of hope, and little freedom of choice or movement in addition to the impact of the most recent aggression/war in 2014 on Gaza Strip. In the densely populated Gaza Strip, there is little time or space for children for entertainment or escape from their harsh living conditions through sports, drama or creative arts. It is worth mentioning that according to mental health workers, recovering from the nightmare of war doesn't always happen, and when it does, it may take years, depending on the age of impact. Doctors in Gaza say, while Palestinian childhood for generations has been marred by war and trauma, Gaza's children are also under siege. They are now recovering from their third war in five years. Thus NECC is aiming to provide psychosocial support to children, mothers/women, students and staff through individual counseling, group counseling, group sessions, open days and recreational trips.

As young people mature, the decisions they make have an enormous impact on their families and their communities, but growing up surrounded by poverty, war and unemployment increases their risks, frustration and limits their choices. For those young people faced with violence, loss of their breadwinners, loss of income and interruptions to schooling, NECC provides vocational training skills for young people in order to work and invest their energy in developing themselves, their families and rebuild their community. Gaza labour market is in need for those competent youth with marketable skills in order to reactivate it as well as Young Palestinians need the knowledge and the skills NECC course can give them to prepare for the future, to get ready and face difficulties in living and improve their social and economic status.

To assist poor and most affected families irrespective of gender-headed whose houses and furniture were damaged by the last war 2014, NECC responded to the crisis through the provision of food and non food kits and vouchers distribution to meet their essential needs.



Programmes progress (Based Log Frame)

During the reporting period, NECC succeeded to sustain the provision of its programmes and services to the intended beneficiaries as planned. The table below summarizes the main achievements in numbers:

Indicator	Q1	Q2	Q3	Total	% of achievement
At least 95% of pregnant women in targeted locality received timely ANC at least 4 visits	98.9-100%	100%	87.8-100%	96.5-99.7%	Achieved
At least 70% of women in targeted locality received timely quality post natal care at least twice.	75%	67.3%	30%	56.5	80.7
1,200 new pregnant women registered for ANC annually	361	357	283	1001	83.4
7000 antenatal care visits made annually	3166	3115	2000	8281	Achieved
1,800 pregnant women received follow up visits, newly registered and on-going	1042	1016	915	1664	92.4
1600 postnatal care visits conducted annually	745	478	261	1484	92.7
12,000 children registered at the well baby clinic and screened for anemia and anthropometric measurements	4476	5095	3913	8680	72.3
25,000 well baby visits were conducted annually	6639	6633	4429	17701	70.8
7,000 sick children up to 6 years old received medical examination and treatment	3251	3433	2782	6047	86.4
800 partners received reproductive health services and awareness	516	552	380	784	98.0
Over 4,000 women, children and adults in targeted areas receive dental care annually	1351	1539	1324	3836	95.9
Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment	1180	1444	3027	4922	Achieved
1,500 children received psychosocial support	882	550	271	1703	Achieved
10,000 women participated in psychosocial support	1769	2000	1412	5181	51.8
200 women attending afternoon activities received psychosocial support	52	81	-	133	
A total of 110 students receive training in carpentry/furniture making, welding and Aluminum work annually	111	111	36 graduated and 39 new enrolled	113	Achieved
A total of 48 students new and old receive training in electricity skills	50	50	50	50	Achieved
A total of 20 students receive training in secretary study	25	25	24 graduated and 23 new enrolled	23	Achieved
A total of 15 students receive training in Advanced sewing	15	15	15 graduated and 20 new enrolled	20	Achieved
At least 60 educational loans provided to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities	119	7	6	132	Achieved
1 to 2 policy/advocacy issues resulted in improving justices and economic status	1	1	1	1	Achieved
5 functional networks established.	2	2	-	2	40
4 initiatives implemented with local communities	-	1	2	3	75
10 visits paid by relevant internationals	45	14	17	76	Achieved

## Progress Updates of NECC programmes

Due to the last war 2014 on the Gaza Strip, all of NECC programs activities were actually interrupted as it was impossible for NECC to open its PHC clinics (only operated through the humanitarian truce) and TVET centers as well. During the war, NECC responded to the crisis by the provision of relief assistance and regular advocacy messages for support. After the war ended, NECC immediately worked hard to re-operate its programs and continued in the provision of its programs' services

### Health Program Updates

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August, NECC re-opened the three clinics and achieved the follows:-

- Continuing the provision of primary health care services at the three localities including antenatal, postnatal, family planning, well baby services for children under 6 years, nutrition program for anemic and malnourished children, dental care, medical examination, lab testing, health education, breast examination and home visits.
- NECC board of trustees approved in August 2014 to provide all the health services for free to all beneficiaries due to the deterioration of Gaza situation.
- Implementing two new projects: NECC started the first phase implementation of a new project "Emergency Humanitarian Nutrition and Health Response for Vulnerable Children in Shijaia and East Zitun Areas-Gaza Strip" with "Save the Children" for 12 months. The project is aiming to screen 10,000 children less than 5 years through house to house visits in order to discover anemic and/or malnourished children and refer them to NECC clinic for follow up and treatment.
- Another project was started implementing first phase in both Darraj and Rafah areas with UNICEF for 12 months. It is aiming to promote the postnatal care services in those two areas for all deliveries attending NECC clinics during their pregnancies.



- \* Community workers training: 18 female students graduated
- Afternoon activities: Lectures, trainings, and information events on various topics implemented inside NECC clinics afternoon twice per week named **afternoon activities** where **133** women benefited from embroidery, wool making courses, hair dress making and others during the reporting period.





**Psychosocial support program:**

It is worth noting that NECC started providing intensive emergency psychosocial support through three projects funded by ACT Alliance, Pontifical Mission and CRS respectively:

- Implementing an emergency PSS project funded by **ACT Alliance** for children and mothers in the three served localities through 9 open fun days. The project is aiming to target 1260 children and their mothers by the end of November 2014. Additionally, NECC is involving in conducting two training for PSS staff and health staff respectively through a consultancy service. The training of health staff includes 6 days of training event, 24 days on job training and 6 days case conference.
- A second emergency PSS project funded by **Pontifical Mission** is implemented in the three served localities to children, mothers/women, NECC staff and TVET students. It includes CABAC sessions to the different categories, 16 recreational trips and 6 open days for the kindergarten children. The project targets 1470 children, 1000 mothers, 209 TVET students and approximately 80 staff members by mid of July 2015. NECC started implementing PSS sessions to the 24 of NECC staff. They received 7 sessions including feelings, dealing with fear, dreams, safe environment and dealing with sadness.
- A third emergency PSS project funded by **CRS/USAID** is implemented in Shijaia and Rafah area/Kherbet Al Adas to children, mothers, kindergarten teachers and to mixed caregivers groups. The intervention includes CBI sessions and open fun days for kindergarten children. The project expect to target 1360 children, 180 mothers, 102 teachers and 544 caregivers by end of December 2014.

**Table shows achievements for the period from 1/1 – 30/09/2014**

	Shijaia	Darraaj	Rafah	Total
<b>Children receiving PSS sessions (CBI or CABAC)</b>	375	460	448	1283
<b>Mothers receiving debriefing sessions</b>	31	12	45	88
<b>Mothers receiving awareness sessions</b>	1810	1725	923	4458
<b>Awareness sessions Consultation</b>	62	70	51	183
<b>Individual counseling</b>	240	103	102	445
<b>Group counseling</b>	332 session to 91 mothers and 65 child	107 sessions to 10 mothers and 13 child	69 sessions to 18 mothers and 57 child	508 sessions to 119 mothers and 135 child
<b>Home visits</b>	3 groups: 12 sessions to 20 women divided into 3 groups	3 groups : 12 sessions to 23 women divided into 3 groups	1 group: 3 sessions to 12 women	4 groups
<b>Open fun days</b>	51	60	25	35
	4 open days To be implemented during October	2 open days to be implemented during October	140 child (110 F,30M) +90 mothers and will implement another 2 days during October	140 child and 90 mothers



**TVET program:**

- Conducting the final exams for the trainees in the 4 fields of Carpentry and Furniture making/Metal works and Aluminum, Secretary Studies and dressmaking during August and September, 2014. As a result, 75 male and female graduates out of 84 have completed their training in the 4 mentioned fields. These students are the ones who passed the final exam and had excellent attendance and good behavior (36 male youth in the trade of Carpentry and Metal works, and 39 females from the fields of secretary and dressmaking). This number is actually less than the total participants, who passed the exam because the trainees of electricity VTC Center will set for final exams and graduation in the next October and November as planned..

- Continuing the implementation of on-the job training / external practical training for male and female youth in coordination with the Palestinian Federation of Industries - Private sector in order to distribute them in to different workshops, NGO's and CBO's to establish good connections with the labor market. (15 dressmaking females have been attached to the Dress Making Cooperative which operates on self support basis under our umbrella and to Al-Bait Sammed Association, 25 secretary trainees were distributed in to different NGO's, CBO's, ministries and companies, and 26 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> year male trainees of electricity trade started their external training as well for a period of six to eight weeks.
- Conducting entrance exams and interviews by NECC interview committee with the new enrolled male and female trainees according to NECC enrolment procedures during September 2014 for the new-year courses to select the appropriate according to the criteria of each course. Accordingly, a new group of **82** male and female students ( 43 females and 39 new males) out of **154** applicants have been enrolled our TVET centers , except the general electricity center that will start its new term course in the next November, 2014 as planned . Those new enrolled trainees started in the 15th of September 2014 with an intensive schedule of teaching in order to compensate any delays and continuing the provision of theoretical and practical instructions and the awareness topics.



- Continuing the implementation of the GIZ / EU project for upgrading the capacities of NECC TVET Centers that aims to improve the quality of TVET to be in line with the demands and requirements identified by the private sector and so empowering youth employability. During this reporting period, NECC continued the process of updating NECC TVET curricula for the five concerned professions as GIZ recruited local and international experts to work on curricula update based on complex tasks approach and learning situations along with NECC trainers. Additionally, procured by GIZ, NECC received the IT equipments for the secretary center in accordance with what was proposed. However, the component of the NECC TVET centers renovation has been interrupted due to the unavailability of the construction materials.



Summary of courses participants

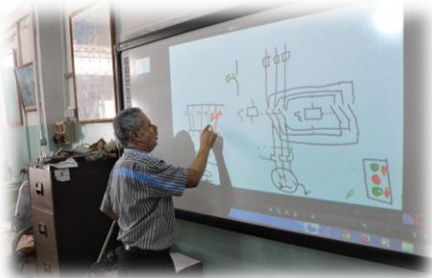
The end of September 2013

#	Program	Duration/Y	Graduates	Failed	Dropout		current Enrolment			Total
					Previous Years	2014 y	1 <sup>st</sup> New Enrolment	2 <sup>nd</sup> upgraded	3 <sup>rd</sup> Upgraded	
1	Carpentry and Furniture Making	3	22	0	3	1	24	23	23	70
2	Metal and Aluminum Works	3	14	0	2	1	15	14	14	43
3	General Electricity and Motor Rewinding	2	0	0	0	0	26	24	0	50
4	Secretarial Studies and English Language	1	24	1	0	0	23	0	0	23
5	Advanced Dress Making	1	15	0	1	4	20	0	0	20
<b>Total</b>			<b>75</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>206</b>

Notes:

- All trainees except the ones enrolled at the General Electricity were set for their end of year examination in August and September 2014; **75** trainees have been graduated out of **84** enrolled trainees. Actually, it is appeared that 9 students haven't been graduated due to the drop-out of 8 persons in both female (5) and male (3) and a failure of a female. The main causes of dropout continued to be financial pressure for male whose families badly needed immediate employment to generate income, and for females of dressmaking (one was dropped in February due to her mothers' illness and she wanted to stay with her; 4 were dropped out during March due to their specific family conditions and one got job opportunity), and one from the secretary was failed. General electricity course final examination and graduation will set in October 2013 as planned.
- Accordingly, new groups of students were joined NECC ongoing VTC's courses (43 females and 39 males, started in September, 2014, except the general electricity course that will start in November as planned.
- The total No. of women who are attending now the VTC is 43.
- The total No. of men who are attending the VTC is 163.
- Under Enrolment at the Carpentry and Furniture Making Department/ Metal works and Aluminum , 2 were dropped out during 2014 year to work with their father due to their bad economic situation.





### Educational loans program

- Regarding the educational academic year 2013-2014, for the first semester during the year 2013; the total number of the provided loans was 119 (95 bachelor and 24 master), for the second semester during 2014, the total number of the provided loans was 7 (2 bachelor and 5 master) to have a total of 126 loans (97 bachelor and 29 master) irrespective to gender equality (53% female and 47% male).
- Due to the recent aggression/war 2014 on Gaza Strip, the start of the university new academic year 2014-2015 was postponed for one month. This affects on the provision of new or renewed educational loans. Thus during September 2014, only 6 students renewed their loans for the new academic year 2014-2015, who could bring the needed approved papers. (5 for bachelor: 2 females and 3 males and 1 male for master).
- During September 2014, 135 applications were received for new educational loans, and 56 out of them delivered their applications with the needed papers. The delivery of new educational loans will be during October, November and December for the educational academic year 2014-2015.
- The rate of repayment of loans which have been issued during the last years continued at the level of 100% despite the harsh economic situation. During the reporting period, 5 students have settled their loans despite the harsh economic situation. Regularly 119 students are still paying their loans.

### Emergency relief:

NECC Gaza operates an emergency program, serving vulnerable population from both genders. It addresses the immediate and longer-term consequences of protracted conflict in support of individual and community coping strategies. Our humanitarian assistance focuses on mitigating the negative effects of the violent environment, giving special attention to those most affected and vulnerable ones.

Following to the most recent aggression/war 2014 on the Gaza Strip, NECC responded to the crisis aiming at relief to meet part of the insufficiency of basic humanitarian assistant/need (food and NFI) Support as follows:

- Distributing **food and non food kits** during the war to **409** affected families, benefitted **2732** HH's members whose homes were destroyed and sheltered in the Orthodox Church, nearby Katib Welaya mosque, Orthodox Cultural Church and the surrounding area houses at Zaitun area, supported by **DKH**. The distributed package included food items and hygiene ones that helped the displaced families to secure their lives and protect their children as well.
- Distributing in-kind donation from **ANERA** include **food and non-food package** during the war to **380** affected families , benefitted **2530** family members of those sheltered also in the Orthodox Church, nearby Katib Welaya mosque , Orthodox Cultural Church

- and the surrounding war houses at Zaitun area. Additionally those families were also assisted with distributing **11070 mineral water bottles** of 1 Litre from **UNRWA** and to the patients attending our served three PHC clinics
- Supporting also by **DKH** , NECC distributed **unconditional vouchers** with a value of approximately \$60 that meet food items or school stationary to **839** most affected families, benefitted **6243** family members from the most affected damaged areas (Shijaia, Darraj and Tufah areas) where houses were completely damaged. Those beneficiaries were selected through house to house screening paid by NECC social workers to the most affected targeted damaged areas. Then along with the community leaders, NECC collected data and personal information and identified as well the list of the most affected beneficiaries in the targeted damaged areas. To avoid any duplication of service, NECC coordinated with CHF and Ma'an Center for Development to filter the target beneficiaries. Vouchers' distribution empowered the targeted beneficiaries to identify, prioritize, and meet their own needs making it a more dignified response. It also enabled beneficiaries to address and choose the modality of support based on their needs.
  - Distributing **foods kits** to **301** affected families, benefitted **2098** family members include NECC TVET families and the needy ones who used to come to NECC relief aids department to receive assistance, supported by **the Organization of Islamic Cooperation**.
  - Distributing **100 new born kits** to NECC Primary Health care patients with the support of **Save the Children**. Additionally, NECC distributed **350 hygiene kits** from **CRS** and distributed to the patients attended NECC health centers. Moreover, **CRS** provided to NECC main store **27 medical kits** to be distributed at NECC PHC's.
  - Implementing **three emergency psychosocial support** projects funded by **CRSs, PMP and Act Alliance** to alleviate the suffering of our targeted children, women, staff and TVET students at NECC Programs include the main interventions of CBI, CABAC, open fun days, recreational trips, individual counseling and group counseling ( detailed more under the PSS Program updates).
  - Planning for the **renovation of NECC Health Program Clinics** with the support of the **Pontifical Mission**





**Advocacy program:**

- Working on regular advocacy messages, stories and situational reports from the first day of the war 2014 for the deterioration of all life aspects, killing of civilians, destroying the houses and everything, attacking the innocent people, displacement of families and the urgent needs for response and support.
- Starting Health initiatives of nutrition and postnatal care including breast feeding through two new projects implemented in the three targeted areas. The initiatives aims to increase the awareness among the community and promote the quality of the nutrition and postnatal care services provided.
- Continuing to collaborate and coordinate for the visits of international partners to Gaza Strip including visitation to NECC various programmes. It was interrupted during July and August due to the most recent aggression/ war 2014 on Gaza Strip. Thus the number of visitors hosted during this reporting period was 17 ; it is less than usual. It is worth noting also that there was more challenge for visitors' permits to Gaza through Erez crossing.



**Community development**

**Self -Help**

10 women at the self support sewing continued their performance in producing garments of all kinds including



TVET Youth uniform and doctors uniform and earned monthly income of \$150 by NECC. This program assists those women to secure their life.

## Capacity building

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, different trainings were attended by NECC staff for capacity building. The trainings were conducted by different national and international organizations.

**Table () Main trainings and workshops attended by NECC for capacity building from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014:**

	Training subject	No of staff participated	Trainer center/person
1	PMER 4 days training	2	MCC/Beit Jala
2	Postnatal care 2 days training	19	UNICEF/MOH
3	Maintenance of electronic control panel DC motor straining	10	MCC/Gaza
4	Psychological first aid	1	GCMHP
5	Assessment for PSS	5	ACT Alliance/Dr. Mustafa Almasri
6	Staff orientation sessions for new nutrition project	11	Save The Children/Dr. Bassam Abu Hamad
7	APF annual Meeting	4	ACT Alliance



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

## Coordination

Coordination with other organizations depends on the nature of the activity undertaken. In Gaza, ongoing coordination and cooperation with UNRWA, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor, UNICEF, Private sector, NGO's and CBO's is part of our work and its implementation. In the Primary Family Health Care Centers, NECC has good coordination with Ministry of health to get license of the family care centres and referring cases to MOH hospitals and clinics, with Thalassemia Centre to conduct electrophoresis for special cases of anemia non-responding to Iron supplementation, NECC used to contact ANERA for donating some items of medications or milk formula for malnourished cases, also we coordinate with WHO in terms of attending Health nutrition cluster regular meetings to share updates, experiences and knowledge.

In the Vocational Training Centers, NECC coordinated with the Ministry of Labor to follow-up final exams and accredit the TVET Diploma certificates. Also, coordination continued with our partner / GIZ to upgrade VTC's centers in order to fit more the labor market needs. Additionally, NECC cooperates with the Red Crescent Society to continue in conducting illiteracy lectures for students in Gaza Vocational Center. Furthermore, a partnership agreement was signed with the Palestinian Federation of Industries" PFI" to assess our TVET facilities relevance with the labor market and with the Palestine General Federation of Trade Union to conduct awareness sessions for trainees on labor rights. Various organizations of civil society and private sector are involved in enabling our students to gain first- hand knowledge and to practice in their respective fields.

Moreover, NECC attended all child protection working group (CPWG) and mental health psychosocial support (MHPSS) cluster meetings regularly in order to share skills, updates, information, knowledge, discussion and experiences.

Regarding the relief assistance response following the most recent aggression/ war 2014, NECC coordinated with the community leaders, international organizations include save the children , PMP, CRS, Act Alliance, Aneera and UNRWA and CHF , local CBO's as Ma'an Center for Development for supporting our Palestinians.

## Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring supports the NECC staff and management to comply with their scope of work and to timely meet their objectives. Monitoring helps NECC tracking the progress of activities and achievement made in reference to the concerned and relevant programmes indicators and objectives. NECCRW Gaza monitors the implementation of programmes interventions through performing a clear action plan, effective reporting system (monthly and periodic (interim and final narrative and financial reports), supervisory visits, staff meetings on a regular basis, beneficiaries and clients perspectives through questionnaires and checklists. The health program coordinator supervises the overall progress of the project and revises the strategic

approach in cooperation with the Technical Consultant based on information provided by the staff in the field and submits the information to the coordinator.

For the TVET program, the projects coordinator supervises the overall progress of the TVET centers and revises the strategic approach in cooperation with the TVET supervisors in each/center based on information provided by the trainers in the field and submits the information to the coordinator. Students' satisfaction from the courses was monitored through post questionnaires to take in consideration the strengths points as well as to avoid the weakness ones. Moreover, the students' performance in the external practical training was monitored through questionnaires filled by the employers with the follow-up of our trainers and the private sector unions and the degree was very good for their performance and commitment. The Executive Director of the NECC provided oversight supervision and strategic direction to the project operations.

For the emergency relief assistance, NECC executive director along with the social workers meet with the community leaders in the targeted damaged areas to collect and identify the needs as well as the target beneficiaries and the selection criteria. Finance department managed the process of the needed procurement and preparing the tendering of food and non-food items as well as the vouchers in contact with the supporter approval. NECC social workers team could manage the process of the food package distribution inside the shelters during the war. Additionally, NECC social workers team managed the process of vouchers distribution with the target beneficiaries in a timely manner. Social workers ensured that all targeted cases came in accordance with an arranged schedule appointments to receive the voucher and sign on it. They conducted social case study for each beneficiary to make sure that there is no duplication in service with CHF and Ma'an center for Development. Thus, Monitoring was rigors on the all phases of the intervention including selecting beneficiaries in coordination with the community leaders , CHF and Ma'an Center for Development, contracting stores to be accessible for the target beneficiaries, checking and verification of purchased items and documentation with the contracted stores.

## Lessons learned

- NECC health program emphasis on nutrition is very relevant and appropriate, thus, it is very important to continue implementing such program as nutritional problems remain prevalent in the Gaza Strip, for that NECC started the implementation of new screening for 10,000 children under 5 years old in order to discover anemic and malnourished unknown cases in Shijaia and East Zaytoon areas including those inside shelters.
- Although the psychosocial component of the NECC health program is achieving its outcomes, counselors are in need for professional supervision and training. Thus NECC is implementing a professional training for the counselors and health staff including training events, on job training and case conferences.
- The prevalence rate of Iron Deficiency Anemia among lactating women is very high. Given the fact that the interval between pregnancies is short, tackling the issue of

- anemia during lactation might reduce the burden of anemia during pregnancy and shortly after delivery. NECC started implementing a new project in order to promote the postnatal care services in both Darraj and Rafah areas including not limited to the provision of iron supplement to all deliveries.
- The labour market in the Gaza Strip is very narrow, dominated by 98% by micro enterprises, and not sufficiently regulated. The labour force participation rate is 39.5%. Employers are heavily constrained by the skills deficit in the labour market which is in turn affected by the volatile political situation. The lack of qualified human resources is one important challenging in business “labour market needs assessment/Mercy Corps study. Supporting the TVET sector in Gaza Strip is essential since thousands of formal graduates are unemployed. Thus NECC is now involved in implementing TVET project aims to improve the quality of TVET skills to be in line with the labour market demands and requirements. This project includes curricula development, upgrading equipments, renovation of workshops and synergizing the linkages with the private sector.
  - The Continuous capacity building of our TVET trainers and staff support the provision of high quality vocational skills to our trainees to meet the labor market needs and develop their gained skills using new methodologies and techniques.
  - Within our on-going critical grim emergency situation in the Gaza Strip, NECC emergency response have had contributed to mitigating the suffering of most affected population and enhancing NECC ability and capacity to respond flexibly to emerging needs in an extremely volatile conditions through the provision of humanitarian assistance to secure food, medicine, daily requirements, health and education services.
  - Using a systematic approach to identify what can happen; to prioritize efforts and to identify what can be done before the event occurs is crucial. Developing an emergency preparedness plan is important to respond appropriately. before Gaza last war crisis, NECC was involved in some meetings with Christian aid, AAH, DCA and Diakonie in order to develop APF emergency preparedness plan include the escalation scenarios , needed interventions , emergency team and their responsibilities and tasks to be documented , networking and advocacy and situational reports to be released regularly. Working on that during the last crisis was good for immediate response as possible as it can be including regular advocacy from the first day of the war 2014 for the deterioration of all life aspects, killing of civilians, destroying the houses and everything, attacking the innocent people, displacement of families and the urgent needs.



## Challenges

Due to the most recent aggression/war in 2014 on Gaza Strip that lasts for 51 days, the most severe escalation on Gaza Strip, all of NECC services were actually stopped during the war (only the health clinics operated during the humanitarian truce). After the war ended, NECC services were immediately re-operated working hard to compensate any delay with more efforts and more resources needed facing challenges as follows:

- Increased number of beneficiaries on NECC health Clinics services. This made more load on NECC administration and staff to cover all cases and to provide medications. NECC is working hard on covering all needs and to be supported with medications and medical supplies that is in severe shortage to meet all needs of patients. Moreover, NECC sustain the provision of PHC services for free for all ages to both gender to cover the increased needs for Health in the three targeted areas.
- Huge damage occurred in Shijaia area leads to the displacement of people who evacuated their homes and sheltered in other areas. This affected the access and follows up of cases in field.
- Electricity cuts affected NECC work; exhaustive use of generators associated with high fuel and maintenance costs. NECC saved quantities of fuel regularly to avoid shortages.
- Inability of the local authorities to meet population needs that is more exaggerated due to the most recent aggression/war 2014 on Gaza Strip ; even if the political situation improves resulting in increasing demand for NGO services, NECC tried to fill the gap by the provision of its services in the targeted areas.
- Shortage of essential medications at MOH facilities leading to clients shift to NGOs. In this issue, NECC had maintenance of reserve medical supplies and medication for emergencies and judicious use of available supplies based on needs.
- More support and focus is needed for improving the PSS of the population includes mainly women and children who witnessed the last severe escalation along with the impact of the previous wars on Gaza strip (witnessed three severe wars in only 5 years).NECC is working hard in this regard to alleviate the suffering of our Palestinian population in our targeted areas.
- Delay of TVET students' final exams and their graduation that was supposed to be in July 2014but delayed to be in September 2014 and succeeded to conduct them. Moreover, the new school year was scheduled to start on the 1<sup>st</sup> September but delayed and started on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September working hard to compensate and avoid any more the delay in the operation of TVET centers and its instructions.
- The unavailability of the raw materials in the labour market that was greatly affected by the most recent aggression/war in 2014 even the available is purchased with double prices. Thus NECC has good strategy in maintaining stock of materials to be used.

- Minor damages include broken windows and doors were happened in NECC health and TVET centers. However, NECC is the process of planning for the renovation of the minor damages.

### Future plan for next reporting period

- Continuing the implementation of the project “Emergency Humanitarian Nutrition and Health Response for Vulnerable Children in Shijaia and East Zitun Areas-Gaza Strip” with “Save the Children” for 12 months. The project is aiming to screen 10,000 children less than 5 years in order to discover anemic and/or malnourished children and refer them to NECC clinic for follow up and treatment through house to house visits.
- Continuing the implementation of the “postnatal care services “in both Darraj and Rafah areas with UNICEF. It is aiming to promote the postnatal care services in those two areas for all deliveries attending NECC clinics during their pregnancies.
- NECC team is planning to increase awareness about Breast examination program at NECC clinic through conducting more sessions, distributing brochures and sending SMS and more cooperation with MOH in terms of mammogram through coordinating meetings.
- Regarding family planning in Rafah, NECC is aiming to increase number of women attending the clinic for family planning through more counseling, health education sessions and SMS.
- Continuing the implementation of the emergency PSS projects to alleviate the suffering of our population.
- Conducting NECC Annual tracer study 2014 to study the employment status of our TVET graduates, after one year of their graduation in the 5 concerned fields.
- Conducting the final exams in the field of general electricity and motor rewinding during October 2014 and accepting the new enrolment and getting the certificates approval along with the Ministry of Labor.
- Continuing the implementation of the practical external training for our trainees to enhance their linkages with the labour market and promote their vocational skills as well and measuring the level of the employers’ satisfaction from our trainees’ performance in the external training with the follow-up of our trainers in coordination with the private sector.
- Continuing the implementation of GIZ/EU TVET project that aims to upgrade the capacities of NECC TVET include continuing the process of curricula updating, upgrading

the equipments and renovating the workshops, in coordination with our partner in the private sector.

### Success stories

**Hana** 17 years old girl who is living in Shijaia area with 6 family members; mother, father and 4 brothers , they witnessed the massacre happened in 20<sup>th</sup> of July in Shijaia, they were not able to leave their house until the morning, during their flee away they watched dead bodies and injuries bleeding with no help, ambulances attacked and burned , rabbles and huge damage, under all these conditions, Hanaa lost her consciousness , her father took her to the hospital she got a tranquilizer , her family were hosted during the war at their relatives house , during the first ceasefire they went to look at their house to find that it was partially damaged, Hanaa remembered everything during the massacre and lost her consciousness again, Hanaa was suffering from many post traumatic psychological problems including nightmares, loss of appetite, insomnia, inability to sleep, tremors, terror, loneliness, bouts of crying....she refused to talk to anybody and refused to return back to the house again, her mother came to Bodour(counselor) after the long ceasefire announcement, she talked about her daughter Hanaa, Bodour visited Hanaa twice at home, then Hanaa received 4 individual counseling, she became better gradually and with support of her family she returned back to normaland to her school. Her family returned to their partially damaged house as they don't have another choice. Bodour is still visiting Hanaa and talk to her mother to ask about her wellbeing and psychological status. Recently Hanaa and her family participated in an open fun day with NECC , they spent with others nice time full of recreation, joy, playing and dance.



I am **Nader**, 18 years old. Graduate from NECC TVET /Metal work and aluminum department in 2014. I joined the vocational training center to learn metal work and welding at the age of 15, after dropping school as I was weak at studying and I knew that I won't be able to catch up with others at school. For that, I settled my mind on learning a handicraft that will benefit me later in my life. My father encouraged me to join NECC TVET center to learn a craft that will help me to secure my expenses and wished me to have a job.

Now, that I have finished my study at the vocational training center, Metal work and Aluminum department. I am proud of myself and my parents are proud of me as well. For me finishing my diploma is a great success. Moreover, joining the center has helped very much to make a positive shift in my life. My teachers and people in the center guided me and helped me to form good social relations with my colleagues .Beside that, not only that I become more social and built many connections but also I gained a lot of vocational experience that will help me find a decent job. I also took classes in Arabic and Math that improve my reading, writing and calculating which is needed later in my work. Furthermore, I gained a lot of practical experience from the external practical training offered by NECC, as I got to know the machines and the modern tools used in the local work-market more closely, and how it works and functions as well as the metal work and aluminum business marketing. Add on how to make windows, doors, etc...also it helped me to establish good connection with the workshop owner. I feel self-confident and satisfied for the huge achievement of getting a certified diploma.

I'm now working in a metal and welding local workshop, located in Shijaia area and it is closed to my house. I earn NIS40 daily which is good for me at this time to support myself and my family especially after the most recent aggression/war in 2014 on Gaza Strip. My family consists of 16 members and we all live in a house consists of two floors. Unfortunately, our house, located in Shijaia, was affected with damages due to the heavy falling of missiles on it by the Israeli's tanks during the 2014 war on Gaza Strip and leads us to evacuate our house and stayed in our relatives home. my father is a governmental teacher , I'm trying with my siblings to help my dad in securing our expenses and needs . I hope in the future to open my own welding workshop to support my family and to be independent. I truly thank NECC and all my teachers for all their efforts and good education



I'm **El Batoul**, 23 years old. I have graduated from Gaza Community College, getting a diploma certificate in office management. I felt despair and frustration for not finding a job to help my husband and my children. My husband is working on a temporary unemployment contract with the Ministry of Detainees Affairs. We all live in my husband family house which is not enough for them.

While searching on the internet to apply for any decent job, I read about NECC TVET advertisement. Then I settled my mind to learn the dress making craft as I like it and I wish to open my own project in purchasing a sewing machine and producing all garments. Also it will help me to produce my children and husband clothes and to save more expenses. My husband encouraged me to join NECC center in terms of its high quality education and reputation. In addition, I'm interested in the talent of tailoring. I joined the department of sewing to develop my talent and qualify myself for a job helping me in securing better living conditions for my family and fulfil my dream of becoming a famous fashion designer.

I'm newly enrolled at NECC dressmaking center, started in September 2014. I'm really interested on what we are learning theoretically and practically. The environment of learning is comfortable and all of my colleagues are so nice. I appreciate the teacher efforts in teaching us. I'm really convinced now that the TVET learning is not with less value than the academic one (thousands of academic graduates are jobless). I feel proud while I'm sitting in front of the sewing machine and produce.



**Nahedah** Ibrahim, married with 3 daughters and one son, lives at Al Nazzaz Street in Shijaia area, they were inside their house during the massacre from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of July, they were on the ground floor with another 5 families of her husband relatives, the warplanes attacked the mosque in front of her house, the two houses of her neighbors were totally destroyed and sadly those two families were killed under the rabbles of their houses.

Nahedah said that she didn't hear anything just sounds of shells and missiles and sounds of ambulances. At 6 am, Nahedah left the place with all her relatives, her children and husband, she added that during their flee they watched dead bodies on the streets, injured who asked for help but nobody could help as everyone was running to save himself from the indiscriminate bombing. Nahedah said that her 3 daughters; 9, 8 and 6 years old respectively and her son 13 years old; were running too for a long distance with no stop watching all the mentioned images of dead bodies and injured, Rafif her 6 years old; when I talked to her she told me that she saw many people who were running and holding their babies and children and screaming due the shells and missiles everywhere and she saw many houses totally destroyed. Rafif was playing with her toy during our talk, I asked her about it , her mother answered me that during the announced ceasefire on 1<sup>st</sup> of August, she went to look for her house but the ceasefire was breached, she could find Rafif's preferred toy and brought it back to Rafif.

Now Nahedah and her small family are staying with her father family in a small house with around 30 other relatives where no access to drinkable or tape water, no electricity and no enough food but she thanked a lot NECC who did support her family and provide them with food, hygiene and mineral water kit.

At the end, Nahedah said that she hopes this war comes to end soon.



**Somaya**, 30 years old woman, has a midwifery diploma; she also was one of community workers trainees graduated from NECC,

Somaya lives in Shijaia, Hassaneen Street with her family; father, mother, 3 sisters and 2 brothers. She also has worked for NECC for a 3 months project during the previous year, Soumaya and her family were separated as they forced to leave their house after the horrible night and day of Shijaia massacre on 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 , Soumaya said how her brother was so closed to death when a missile attack the door when he was going to flee, she added that during their running on the streets and watching dead bodies and injuries with no help or rescue, she stopped suddenly asking about her little nephew 4 years old who was not with them, Soumaya as crazy returned back under all shells and missiles running and looking for her little nephew, she found him crying and shaking from terror alone didn't know where to go, she hold him and go back to run away of the hell inside Shijaia, she reached a more safe place with her family and stayed first at an office for a man who allowed them to stay until they could find another place, but being more than 10 members , Soumaya's father decided to be dispersed into 3 groups and to go to their relatives houses, Soumaya now is staying at her uncle house with her sister while her father and mother stayed with another relatives and her brothers with a third one relative family.

Soumaya who I met inside NECC clinic in Shijaia area during the last ceasefire was shocked and crying as she went with her father to look for their house but they didn't find it, it was totally damaged by F16 attacks, her mother couldn't stand this fact and passing out for a while, Soumaya now didn't know what to do and where to go, Soumaya as many Palestinians lost her house and lost her memories there with her family. She used to help others being a midwife but now she is in need of help.



*Somaya during her work with NECC*



*Soumaya during her flee with her family from Shijaia area.*