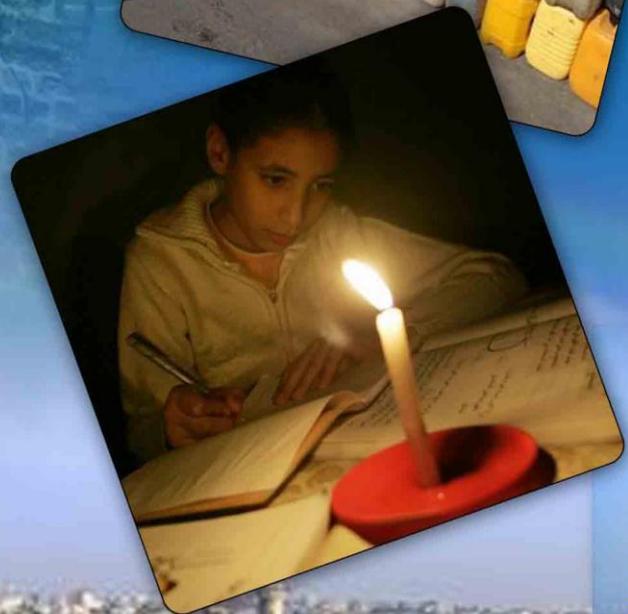


HELP GAZA

No Water
No Electricity
No Medication
No Fuel
Unemployment
Poverty

*and life
Continues*



NECCCRW

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Abbreviations

ANC	Antenatal Care
CBC	Complete Blood Count
CBI	Community Based Intervention
CBO	Community Based-Organization
DSPR	Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees
ESR	Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rate
EU	European Union
FBS	Fasting Blood Sugar
GCMHP	Gaza Community Mental Health Psychosocial Support
HB	Hemoglobin
IUD	Intra Uterine Device
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NECC	Near East Council of Churches
NECCCRW	Near East Council of Churches for Refugees Work
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PHC	Primary Health Care
PPBS	Post Prandial Blood Sugar
PSS	Psychosocial Support
TOT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
VTC	Vocational Training Centers
VTP	Vocational Training Program
WHO	World Health Organization

Middle East Council of Churches
Committee for Refugee Work
Gaza Area

مجلس كنائس الشرق الأوسط
دائرة خدمة اللاجئين الفلسطينيين
منطقة غزة

Department of Service to Palestine Refugees

Gaza Area Committee

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Miss Araxi Muneer Waheed	-	Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Maher Issa Ayyad	-	Treasurer
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Foreword:

The ongoing blockade on Gaza Strip has been widely described as “collective punishment” resulting in a humanitarian crisis. Gaza situation is still grim and deteriorating at all levels : The movement of Palestinians out of Gaza and access to basic utilities, housing, education, work, health and adequate standard of living continued to be severely restricted due to Israel’s blockade.



Over a third (34.5%) of those able and willing to work are unemployed (PCBS) - one of the highest unemployment rates in the world. Also 57% of Gaza households are food insecure and about 80% are aid recipients. Over 12,000 people are currently displaced due to their inability to reconstruct their homes, destroyed during hostilities. A longstanding electricity deficit, compounded by shortages in fuel needed to run Gaza’s power plant, results in power outages of up to 12 hours a day. Only a quarter of households receive running water every day, during several hours only. Over 90% of the water extracted from the Gaza aquifer is unsafe for human consumption (OCHA-July 2013).

The Euro-Mid Observer for Human Rights warned of deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza due to “worsening fuel shortages”. The Geneva-based human rights organization stated that they expect the ongoing political crisis in Egypt to exacerbate the humanitarian situation in the territory. It called on the international community “to act immediately to deal with the consequences of the current crisis, open all Gaza crossings and put more pressure on Israel to lift the ongoing blockade.” Tunnels connecting Gaza to Egypt have been shut down due to Egyptian security restrictions in the border areas.

The organization claimed that these tunnels are “the lifeline to provide Gaza with fuel supplies, commodities and goods that alleviate impacts of the Israeli siege which was imposed on the strip seven years ago.” Also gas shortages have already reached an “alarming level,” and warned of a “catastrophic situation” in hospitals and healthcare centres. In addition to cars that might run out of fuel, the crisis threatens to stop 4,000 fishing boats. Gaza’s sewage treatment plants need fuel to operate when there are power cuts. “If this fuel is not available, parts of Gaza city will sink in sewage water.” (Daily News, July-2013)

Shutting down Rafah Crossing Point-the possible passage that connects Palestinians with the rest of the world is also another disastrous situation. It is reopened only on

a limited basis. Palestinians continued to receive harsh treatment in transit and are forced to wait for hours. Of particular concern are those in need of medical care for whom delays can be life threatening.

Health care in the Gaza Strip remains dire, top UN humanitarian officials have warned. Essential drugs, medical supplies and parts, and fuel to power hospital generators are in acute shortage, and travel for patients who are seeking urgent treatment outside the area is restricted. The importing of medical supplies has also been greatly affected: the WHO reported that 'Since 2007, the percentage of drugs at zero level stocks in Gaza's CDS (Central Drug Store) has been growing.'

Almost half of Gaza's population is food insecure. Coping strategies include reducing the quality of food and number of meals which stunts the development of children. Long-term exposure to chronic malnutrition is found in 10 % of children under five. Anemia is found in at least every second child and one third of pregnant women. Fertility remains high, at 5.3 children per woman.

The Gaza Strip has witnessed the coldest winter in over fifty years adding to the suffering of the impoverished population living under a tight blockade for more than 7 years. The torrential rain that fell accompanied with the opening of the water dams from the Israel side, has drowned hundreds of houses in the Gaza Strip.

Many families in Gaza strip were forced to evacuate their homes and find shelters at schools and public institutions. The storm resulted in the displacement of approximately 6,000 people to temporary shelters and relatives' homes at the height of the storm. In total, 21,000 people's homes were damaged, but some 15,000 did not leave their homes. Children have to walk through raw sewage to go to school increasing not only their discomfort but also causing an alarming increase in diseases. Water, like air, is essential for survival but 95 percent of water in Gaza is not drinkable. This is adding to an increase in water borne diseases. (OCHA; Dec 15, 2013)

Under such conditions it is no surprise that all levels of life in Gaza remain extremely challenged.

Although the situation was politically unstable during this reporting period thanks to our partners' valuable support that enabled our organization to sustain the provision of health, educational and other services to the intended beneficiaries as planned. We succeeded to overcome or at least to cope with the conditions associated with the further imposed siege and the tight restrictions on the movement of goods and people such as, shortage of supply and medications, lack of medical equipment in the local market, decreased supply of electricity and fuel, transportation issues and so on.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to all at the various levels of the World and Middle East Council of Churches, the Chairman and members, and the Executive Director of MECC/DSPR for their stand and unlimited support provided to Gaza Area programme in solidarity with our people.

I seize this opportunity to extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Chairman and Members of Gaza Area Committee for their devotion, valuable support and cooperation which enabled in the development and sustainability of the programme reflected into the interest of the people especially during this critical era of our history.

Last but not least, I relay my profound appreciation and gratitude to my sisters and brothers, the staff of NECCCRW family at various positions for their commitment and hard work in rendering the services to the needy people under harsh conditions.

*“The effect of JUSTICE will be PEACE,
and the result of
RIGHTEOUSNESS, SECURITY AND TRUST For ever”*

“Isaiah 32:17”



Dr. Issa Tarazi
Executive Director

January 2014



VISION

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



WHAT WE DO AND WHY?



NECCCRW Gaza Committee was established in 1952 launching a humanitarian program to assist Palestinians who took refuge in the Gaza Strip following Israel's establishment in 1948.

NECCCRW has been focusing then on the provision of humanitarian aid and contributing to an overall improvement in living conditions and to poverty alleviation. Sectoral emphasis has been focused on various sectors particularly Health, Education, Vocational Training, Relief work where social casework support is offered to needy families in the form of cash or other assistance, Community Development and Advocacy. In addition, some more rehabilitative distributions are conducted, providing medical aids (prosthetic devices, wheel chairs, etc.).The needs and problems of Palestinians in the different geographical areas where DSPR operates vary considerably.

NECC is an independent non-governmental organization. It is governed by Gaza Area Committee, which is composed of 12 members of both gender and is appointed by head of churches from their respective families forming the four members of the Middle East Council of Churches on equal church family representation. It is the supreme organ of the NECC, which meets bimonthly to ensure effective operational performance, legal and regularly compliance, and implementation of long term strategic plan. Management is directly responsible to the Executive Director for all administrative matters, including finance, supervised by the governing board.

MISSION

NECCCRW is a Palestinian 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.

With gratitude to Mr. Hilmy Hammad for 20 years of loyal service to NECC organization as an ideal TVET consultant, NECC celebrated and honored him for his years of hard efforts, dedication and commitment to work wishing him an extended life full of health, wealth and prosperity... HAPPY RETIREMENT

**The main core values NECCCRW believes in:**

Serve people irrespective of their faith, color, gender, political affiliation or geographical locality.



Respect and love all people.



Transparency in dealing with all stakeholders.



Team work and partnership are the shortest way to achieve the organizational and community development



Commitment toward mission and vision.



Quality of services is the best way to realize the effectiveness and impact.

We are happy and proud to present the 2013 annual report and we hope that all readers, decision makers, researchers, donors and reviewers will find it useful.



We work in six key areas :

- **Primary Health Care Services**
- **Technical Vocational Education and Training**
- **Educational Loans**
- **Emergency Relief**
- **Psychosocial Support**
- **Advocacy**



NECC Programs Description

Provision of Quality Primary Health Care services

The main objective of NECCCRW Gaza's health program is to provide high quality primary health care services in poor, overpopulated, and remote areas that have little or no available 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 awareness (hygiene, vaccination, etc.). The package incorporates antenatal and postnatal care, and a Well-Baby clinic to follow up children's development until the age of six years. Dental services for mothers and children, nutrition education, home visits after delivery, a psychosocial support program, a malnutrition and anaemia 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 80,000 people, 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 12,000 people at its third center. The centers have medical stocks and a laboratory, thus operating independently. However, high-risk patients and patients with special needs are referred to specialized clinics.

Livelihood and Trade

NECC Vocational Training Centres are located in Gaza City and Qararah village in the Gaza Strip. Male VTC's of Carpentry and Furniture Making/Metal works and welding is located in Shijaia, Gaza City , and the other one of Electricity and Motor Rewinding is located in the town of El Qarara, 25 KM South of Gaza City. Women VTC's of Secretary Studies Center and Advanced Dressmaking Center are located in the main building in Rimal, Gaza City. The selection criteria for the VTCs differ according to the subject of the training course ,i.e. women applying for the Secretarial Course should have completed 12 years of school and have a high school certificate and women applying for Advanced Dress making course should know at least how to read and write , while men applying for carpentry, welding metal and aluminium should be between 14-16 years old, and can be school drop-outs , and men applying for Electricity Course should have completed 10 years of schooling and are between 16-23 years old. For target group selection, DSPR Gaza selects those who come from deprived families and have the highest needs. NECC TVET centers serve a total of approximately 205 trainees.

Educational Loans

Loans give opportunities addresses needy students to complete their university education by providing interest-free loans to students to pay university fees that can be renewed every academic year .



Emergency Relief

NECC launched its welfare and Relief program since 1952, to provide assistance to needy people. The program aims at providing emergency assistance to alleviate the impact of emergency situations when required. It helps targeted Palestinians to attain cash for work “ temporary jobs”, cash relief for one time to secure food, medicine, daily needs, health and PSS .



Advocacy Program

This program is concerned with promoting social justice, empowering communities and advocating the rights of civilians particularly refugees to live in dignity, respecting 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.

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 the support for providing facilities and supplies towards the implementation of minor infrastructural projects. It also promotes youth activities, schools and kindergartens through the provision of products manufactured by VTC trainees and graduates.



Self-Help Program

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

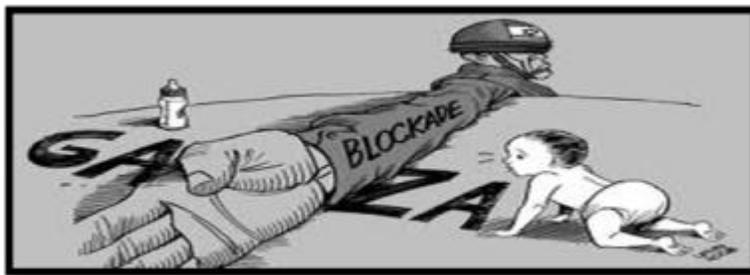
The Self-Help Sewing Center: Women, mostly widowed and often the sole income generators of their families, work for NECCRW sewing pieces for internal use (uniforms, curtains ...etc) and external distribution.

Psychosocial support:

NECC's psychosocial program started after 2008 Cast Lead Operation war on Gaza, it targets the whole family , epically women, mothers and their children. The program focused on the Palestinian families through the health centers, vocational centers, secretarial center, advance dress making center, NECC staff and cooperation and coordination with relevant organizations.



General Status of Gaza in Photos



Main achievements

During 2013, 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:

Table (1): Main Achievements during 2013:

Main activities	2013
Children registered at Primary Health Clinics	61,932
Patients who received medical check-up and/or treatment	20,155
Number of pregnant women	2,262
Number of antenatal care visits	14,550
Number of deliveries	1310
Children attending well baby program	10,121
Children treated for anemia and malnutrition	1287
Women who received family planning services	941
Patients who received dental treatment	6260
Education for Health and Environment Awareness (workshops, sessions and field campaigns)	2114
Participants Health and Environment Awareness	32,789
Women who attended vocational training courses	44
Men who attended vocational training courses	162
Beneficiaries of psychosocial support activities	11,067
Children ,mothers and students participating in recreational activities	1148
Families receiving emergency cash support	635
Families supported with renovation of minor damaged houses	44
Beneficiaries of the “job creation initiative”	92
Beneficiaries of the “job creation initiative” (Family members)	516
University Educational Loans provided	119
Community development for families supported with furniture and repairing	6
Community development for institutions supported with furniture by NECC	12

Human resources for NECC during 2013

It is worth starting by illustrating the human resources at NECC. The total NECC Staff is approximately **100** staff and **9** volunteers. 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 down below in the **table (2)**.

Title	No.	Title	No.
Full time			
Executive Director	1	Psycho social Counselor	5
Executive Director Assistant	1	Laboratory Technician	3
Accountant	2		
Health program Coordinator	1	Social Worker	2
Projects and Communication Coordinator	1	Secretary	3
Doctor	3	Assistant Pharmacist	3
Gynecologist	2	Assistant Electrician	1
Dentist	2	Data Entry	3
Pharmacist	1	Clerk	1
PHC supervisor	3	Maintenance worker	1
Staff Nurse	8	Driver	4
Registered Midwife	5	Watchman	8
Engineer	1	Cleaner	8
TVET supervisor	1	Total	86
Teacher	12		
Part time			
Technical Consultant	2	Laboratory Technician	2
Pharmacist	1	Doctor	3
IT Programmer	1	Registered midwife	1
Teacher	4	Total	14
Volunteers			
Secretary	2	IT assistant	2
Staff nurse	1	Community worker	2
Teacher	2	Total	9



Beneficiaries involvement

The programmes were designed and are being implemented by NECC in consultation with the community and its leaders, who have often provided buildings and other resources in determining the priority services required by the communities. The practice has been usually for the target groups to pay needed fees for educational, vocational and health services. However, due to the critical and complicated political, economical and social situation fees are now symbolic for some health and educational services and other health services are still free. For instance, children from birth to 6 years old receive dental, health and medical treatment and well baby services free of charge in the three family care centers. Children from 6 to 18 years old are requested to pay around 7 NIS (2 USD) for a doctor visit and 2 N.I.S (0.50 USD) for each medicine. ***This contribution is asked to enhance community participation and responsibility.***

Youth at NECC Vocational Centers are asked to pay nominal contribution for their educational services (\$50 annually are paid by each vocational training participant in Gaza VTC, \$100 are paid by Alqarrarah VTC students, \$300 are paid by Secretary studies VTC students, and \$100 by advanced dress making VTC students and those who cannot afford this minimal fee are supported by the administration of NECC Gaza. NECC regularly solicits feedback from graduates of its VTC program (through questionnaires) and introduces policy change based on the feedback provided.

The trainers, health workers and other staff of the project are all members of the beneficiary communities. Beneficiaries' participation in the implementation is insured through soliciting feedback, involving them in the management plan and considering their perspectives.

Also, beneficiaries are involved in monitoring and evaluation. Clients fill satisfaction questionnaires, we also have suggestion boxes and we include beneficiaries in evaluation studies. Health education sessions are evaluated through pretest posttest assessment. At the end of each training course, an evaluative questionnaire is completed by the trainees. NECC also relies on monthly reports from staff that are in direct contact with the beneficiaries and clinic staff also provides feedback from patients.

NECC/DSPR-Gaza strongly believes in the positive and sustainable effects of the participatory approach and how it helps to build the capacity for local communities to understand and find their own solutions to their problems. DSPR believes in child participation as an essential part of good development practice. The approaches used ensure the effective participation of children attending our clinics regularly with their mothers. Through empowering families, especially mothers, we also aim to empower children to develop their full potential in an atmosphere of respect, support and well-being.

Their participation is respected and reflected by the staff and mothers through listening to what children say, asking for opinions and giving all children equal treatment regardless of their ability, language and skills.

To ensure a positive relationship between DSPR and our targeted children, our staff work hard to create a safe environment for the children to share their ideas, opinions and feelings openly and honestly, by:

1- Developing positive and trusting relationship with the children and the adults. Our psychosocial staff are particularly skilled at this as they are aware of the child's psychology, and gradually build trust with them by playing games and opening participation opportunities.

2- Promoting understanding. Without understanding their situation children will not be able to respond to their problems. They are given the opportunity to learn about their current condition and understand it with the support of the clinic staff and mothers. Then they will be able to reflect and respond on their understanding.

Concisely, we involve our beneficiaries through:

- Community meetings are held regularly in the family care centers to involve the beneficiaries in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes for all our programmes, 12 meetings were conducted during 2013 in the NECC centers discussing satisfaction of the beneficiaries about the provided services, family planning, breast examination and child protection policy.
- Programmes implemented usually are based on requests from the local community and after their endorsement and full acceptance we implement programs
- Regularly, feedback is solicited from beneficiaries
- Suggestions boxes are available and clients are encouraged to use them
- Involving participants in evaluating services. An evaluation was conducted in 2013 for the health program with the full cooperation and participation of the beneficiary communities.
- Monthly reports from staff that are in direct contact with the beneficiaries
- Observation and informal feedback from patients and clinic staff
- Weekly staff meetings are held at clinics
- Monthly meetings are held at all Vocational Training Centres, to share information, discuss progress and issues arising.
- In addition, our staff are Palestinians living in the same country and having almost same needs as the beneficiaries. Through their good understanding of the context; they help in identifying the needs and priorities of the target group; they live the reality.



Health Program

Overall goal 1: Provide and maintain primary healthcare services to enhance the wellbeing of Palestinian mothers and children



No. of new high risk pregnancy during 2013 in NECC clinics was **183** cases (11.6% of all new pregnant women)

The number of newly registered families has reached **1509** families, while the number of the total registered families benefitted from NECC PHC clinics during 2013 were **9074** families in the three served areas. The families in the three localities received a package of primary health care services to all family members including the antenatal/postnatal care for pregnant women, family planning, pediatric and general clinics, dental clinics, well baby program, ante malnutrition and anemia program, laboratory tests, pharmacies, psychosocial support program, afternoon activities for women empowerment, home visits, health education, referral system, etc..... 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 **1580** distributed as following: **799** in Shijaia, **529** in Darraj and **252** in Rafah with total of **2262** pregnant women who were already registered and followed up during the reporting period. Of those 1580 new pregnant women **381** were primigravida. The total antenatal care visits have been reached **14550** visits as the pregnant woman should follow up monthly during her pregnancy. Accordingly **99-100%** of pregnant women followed up in ante natal care clinics at least 4 times during their pregnancy. All women who follow antenatal care in family health care centers during pregnancy will be seen/visited twice at home after delivery by NECC staff, the first visit within six days of delivery and the second visit during the 40 days after delivery and a third one from the mother to the Family center to register her children in the well-baby clinic. During the postnatal visits, NECC staff checks the mother's blood pressure, temperature, vaginal discharge and perform uterine massage. Additionally they check the baby's weight and perform umbilical dressing. They educate mothers about breastfeeding, family planning, nutrition, baby care, and the importance of follow up in well baby clinic.

Table (3) Total number of health beneficiaries during 2013

By age	18 More years		18 Less years		Total
By gender	M	F	M	F	
No of beneficiariefs	811	5276	7098	6970	20155
Total	6087		14068		

NECC is uniquely providing post natal care through post natal home visits (one of the first providers in Gaza that systematically provides post natal care visits). Regarding the post natal visits, the number of women who received first visit within 6 days during this reporting period is **1150** and another second visit within 40 days was **759**, also **145** postnatal visit conducted as first visit but after 6 days as the mother called the centers lately ,the number of postnatal visit at the center within 40 days was**757**, so the total number of the postnatal visits during this reporting period was**2054** and the total visits including those of the mother with her baby to the center was **2811**. The number of deliveries reported in our catchments areas during this reporting period is **1310** deliveries. Still, NECC is unique in providing postnatal care services according to the international standards and may be the only provider who regularly conducts post natal home visits in Gaza to all deliveries as the MOH started the postnatal program in 2011 just for the primi-gravida and high risk pregnancy.

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

- 1st from 8-10 weeks to confirm pregnancy.
- 2nd from 18-22 weeks to exclude any congenital anomalies.
- 3rd from 32-36 weeks to determine the position of the fetus.

During 2013, the women received US service 3 times or more during their pregnancy reached 1092 (83.4%) while the total number of US scan were 4315.

Accordingly, this affected directly the infants' health status before and after birth and help in decreasing the maternal mortality rate, neonatal mortality and morbidity rates. Family related services were essential to cover the needs of the concerned population. No reported cases of maternal mortality were reported.

Key achievements:

- % of anemic pregnant women during their pregnancy attending antenatal care in NECC during 2013 : **82.8%**. NECC provide to all those cases iron supplement during their pregnancy.
- **92.4%** of pregnant women received **folic acid** during the first trimester .
- **58** pregnant women were referred to MOH for more investigation.
- **4.2%** of pregnant women had abortion
- **91.7%** of the pregnant women who attended NECC clinics for follow up were above 18 years old while **8.3%** were less than 18 years old.
- **45,210** tablets of folic acid ,**94,360** ferrous sulfate with folic acid tablets were provided to the pregnant women during 2013.



FAMILY PLANNING

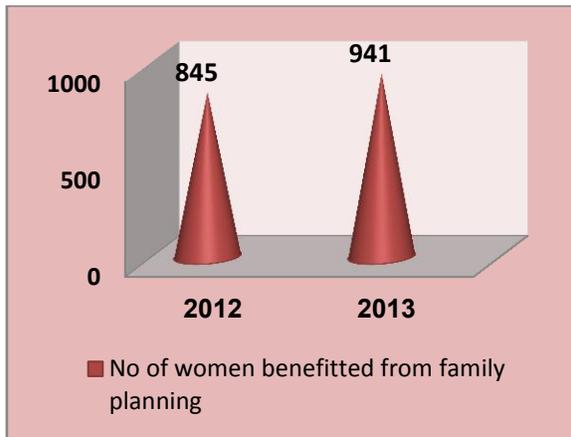


Figure (1) No. of women benefitted from Family Planning



Family planning services were launched at family health care centre in Darraj in 1995 upon the request of the local community. In 2002, family planning services were extended to Family Health Care Centre in Shijaia. A female gynecologist and staff nurse run the two family health care centres. Most of the family planning methods are available such as intrauterine device(IUDs), pills, injections and condoms. We are now working to start this program in Rafah center, we started training of two of Rafah staff nurses on Family planning and we met with the community leaders there during April to discuss with them many issues related to all the health services provided, satisfactions of the community, any suggestions and the new family planning program. Two trainings were implemented for the health staff about family planning counseling and tools, the trainer was a professional from MOH. Also now the physician working in Rafah attended the MOH and UNRWA clinics for family planning practice since November till now specially about insertion and removal of IUD.

The number of women who received family planning services during this reporting period was **941** women: **481** at Shijaia and **460** at Darraj (target 800 women per year). This indicates an increase in family awareness and convince in the importance of family planning in addition to our harsh economic status. While number of the visits had reached **3097** distributed as; Shijaia **1520**; Darraj,**1577**. **The most used tool were the male condoms in Shijaia and Pills in Darraj.**

Table (4) Distribution of Acceptors by Type of Contraceptive in MOH Family Planning Centers by District

	Pills	IUD	Injection	Male condom
Shijaia	617	40	5	675
Darraj	709	24	3	688

The increase in number of women attending family planning clinic reflects the improvement of women awareness about the importance of such service.

Children Received Adequate Primary Health Services



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 number of newly registered children 0-6 years during 2013 period has reached **3156** at the three different localities (Shija'ia **1426**; Darraj, **1025**; Rafah **705**) with a total number of registered children 61,932. Specifically, the total number of children attended the well-baby services reached **10,121** cases distributed among the three clinics as follows; Shija'ia **4326**; Darraj **3791** and Rafah **2004**. Interestingly, total well-baby visits reached **26078** (each child attends more than one visit). This could reflect an increased demand for services. In conclusion, the target to reach 15000 has been achieved by **67.5%**.

It is worth mentioning that **Well-Baby program** includes the identification and treatment of anemic and malnourished cases by providing them with the necessary supplementation of iron/folic acid, milk and suitable treatment according to the underlying causes. In addition, all lactating mothers who have anemic children must be checked for anemia, and iron supplementation is provided accordingly.

I am **Retaj** mother, my daughter is suffering from delay of teething and loss of appetite, she is 2 years old living with 7 members family under hard economic situation in Kherbet Aladas beside NECC clinic. I brought my daughter to the well baby program and the staff took the measurements: length, weight and Hb, they told me later that Retaj is suffering from Anemia and they explained to me her status in details and gave me advices and counseling about that and two brochures about malnutrition and anemia, also they asked me to bring a urine and stool samples for her in the next visit. I received iron supplement for my daughter and they described to me the use and dose of it then they gave me the appointment dates card for the next visits. My daughter followed up in the nutrition program but with no improvement then the doctor decided to take a sample of blood to be sent to Thalassemia center but the result was negative and she had no Thalassemia. Then we continued the treatment and the follow up regularly until she was improved and recovered and her Hb became 11.5, then the nurse told me to attend regularly for another three months to receive three prophylactic doses of iron then they enrolled my daughter again in the well baby program and I noticed how my daughter health status was improved, this made me more aware about the importance of the well baby program and the regular visits to the clinic and my knowledge about many issues related to child health was improved, thus I could just say thank you for NECC for their role in improving and empowering the awareness and knowledge of the community.



Table (5): % of anemia and malnutrition among children under 5 years old attending our clinics:

Year	Anemia		Malnutrition	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Shijaia	22.54	20.57	20.09	16.83
Darraj	37.88	35.42	14.02	11.95
Rafah	19.63	19.93	26.46	14.37

The rate of recovery is high in anemia particularly in Rafah (**61.0%**) followed by Shijaia and Darraj (**57.6%, 54%** respectively); limited number of cases had deteriorated and those now are receiving further attention (not more than **5.4%** at the worst scenarios). The least reported deterioration level was recorded in Shijaia (less than **5%**). Similar results were noticed regarding underweight with a recovery rate between **28--48%**; being the highest in Shijaia. Regarding wasting, the speed of recovery was higher and ranged from **40-68%**. Also, the rate of recovery in Shijaia was highest among wasted cases. Just **1** case was deteriorated after enrollment.

Because stunting takes more time to recover than (chronic malnutrition), the speed of recovery was little bit slower; it ranged from **7-42%**. The highest reported deteriorated cases was reported in Shijaia are reached **6** cases. Taking any percentage illustrates that the recovery rate is much higher than the anticipated.

Families' compliance with the treatment (iron) and the response of severe cases to the treatment also constituted a real concern. Also, referral services and counseling among the areas that require more attention in future projects.

Table (6) No. of Iron bottles and milk distribution

Grand Total	
Iron	12415
Milk	419

- ❖ At the well baby clinics; health education sessions are provided to the mothers about breastfeeding, nutrition and hygiene with food demonstrations to all children in the clinics.
- ❖ **1222** sessions were provided to **17,001** attendants.
- ❖ **149** food demonstrations distributed to **4449** attendants at well baby days.

Table (7): Summary of Well Baby Program

NO	Variable	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
1	Total number of children attending the treatment program at the NECC three centres (including those admitted previously from the previous projects)	485	539	263	1287
2	Total number of children attending well baby services	4326	3791	2004	10121
3	Number of new children visited well baby clinic	1426	1021	705	3152
4	Number of well-baby visits	10962	10664	4452	26078
5	Percentage of malnourished children among those visited the clinic	16.83	11.95	14.37	
6	Percentage of anaemic children among those examined for hg	20.57	35.42	19.93	
7	Total Number of those examined and found abnormal and enrolled in treatment program	485	539	263	1287
8	Number of those examined and found abnormal and enrolled in treatment program from well-baby visits	484	530	255	1269
9	Number of those examined and found abnormal and enrolled in treatment program from previous project	1	9	8	18
10	Number of telephone calls made	89	941	0	1030
11	Number of home visits done	0	111	28	139
12	Number of calls to bring defaulters	89	941	0	1030
13	Number of Home Visits to bring defaulters	0	111	21	132
14	Number of SMS	3965	5275	4835	14075
15	Number Of SMS Defaulters	1311	1657	1719	4687

Table (8): Distribution of MCH Activities in PHC Centers by activity & District

District	Prenatal				Postnatal			New babies & children		Well baby	
	No of new pregnant	No of visits / pregnant woman	No of examined Pregnant women	Total no. of pregnant women	No of 1 st visits	No of 2 nd visits	No of 3 rd visits	No of new registered	No of examined	No of children	No of visits
Shijaia	799	6.7	3429	1147	584	372	370	1426	11292	4326	10962
Darraj	529	6.3	2480	764	396	283	306	1025	11312	3791	10664
Rafah	252	5.8	1287	351	170	104	81	705	5064	2004	4452



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. During 2013, **6260** patients were examined by a dentist at the clinics distributed as following: **2098** in Shijaia, **2133** in Darraj and **2029** in Rafah, also **1243** child were screened during well baby program(target 700 child per year), **1477** pregnant women were screened during antenatal care for their dental care(target 1200 pregnant women per year).

During April 2013, a screening was conducted for **120** female and male school students living in Shijaia area and were targeted by Mercy Corps in a project for the students with low performance at their schools, the screening was done using the mobile dental clinic of NECC and the two dentists of NECC, of those **120** students, **69** students needed and received treatment from our clinic located in Shijaia. This screening and treatment provided by NECC for free for those students. This cooperation was highly appreciated by the Mercy Corps organization. Another screening implemented with the mobile dental clinic for the secretarial and dress making students of NECC educational centers.

Table (9): Yearly distribution of the dental activities:

	2010	2011	2012	2013
No. of patients examined by dentist	3814	5135	6168	6260
No. of children screened on well baby days	1417	874	1497	1243
No .of pregnant women screened	1248	1047	1401	1477

Table (10) Distribution of MOH PHC Dental Clinic by Type of Activity & District

District	No. of Visits	Treatment	Composite Fillings	Amalgam Fillings	Teeth extractions	Teeth scaling
Shijaia	2098	1119	22	541	166	116
Darraj	2133	1381	11	531	277	124
Rafah	2029	1489	2	317	216	135

No. of patients examined by dentist

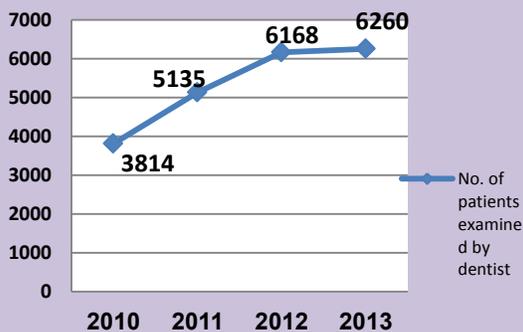


Figure (2) No. of patients examined by dentist

No of referred cases from dental clinics during 2013 were **565**cases.

Patients and sick people received suitable treatment

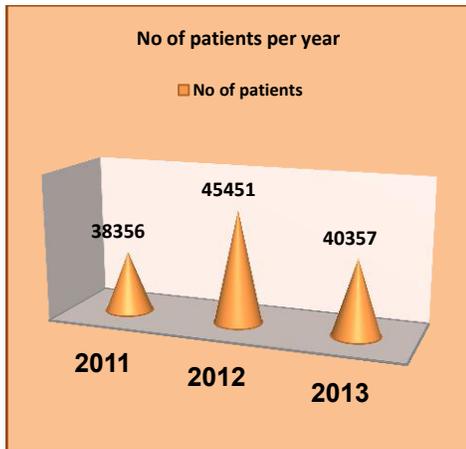


Figure (3) No. of patients per year

*I bring my daughter today to NECC clinic as she has dental pain. I used to come here because of the good quality of health services , they deal with us respectfully and give the medications for free to the children.”
A mother in one of the clinics”.*



Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment annually.

Achieved in the reporting period:

The number of patients above 6 years old as cases examined by doctors has been reached **4733 cases** (target in one year is 4000) as detailed in table below with total number of **5493** visits.

Below the table show the Distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors and received treatment by category and centre during 2013 (the table mention number of visits not cases , it means that the patient may receive the service more than once during the year)

Table (11): Distribution of all clients who were examined by doctors by category and center

Target group	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Less than 6 years old	11,292	11,312	5064	27,668
Pregnant women	3429	2480	1287	7196
Above 6 years old	1598	1365	2530	5493
Total	16,319	15,157	8881	40,357

Etaf is 60 years elder female living in Darraj area-Gaza city. She is a widowed lived in a small house, under very bad ,non healthy conditions where ventilation inside. She suffered from a very hard economic situation as she is a chronic patient with hypertension and diabetes mellitus. She used to attend Darraj clinic to receive the health services either measuring blood pressure, FBS, medication . she received home visits when she couldn't come to the clinic, our staff visited her in her house to measure the blood pressure and gave her counseling and advices for her nutrition and personal hygiene to prevent any ulcers on her body and to support her. Etaf thanked a lot NECC and the staff for all the services provided through the Family care center.



Beneficiaries and defaulters follow up

Follow up of defaulters and bringing them back to the clinics constituted a real challenge. However, efforts to bring defaulters including contacting them via phone twice and then carrying out an additional home visit was somewhat successful in bringing defaulters back to the program with high success rate. Recently NECC started using sms to mobile phones to increase the number of attendance according to the appointment dates. This was highly accepted by the beneficiaries.

No of calls during 2013 were **1030** while **27,704** messages were sent as sms as following: **8514** from Shijaia center, **10,405** from Darraj center and **8785** from Rafah. In addition **,4042** home visits were conducted in the three served localities.

Table (12): Distribution of home visits during 2013

Type of home visit	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
New born who delayed the registration at well baby	373	283	104	760
Deliveries home visits	679	443	195	1317
Expected deliveries	217	186	93	496
Defaulters	325	342	547	1214
Abortion cases	27	18	23	68
High risk pregnancies	2	-	2	4
Chronic diseases	-	-	4	4
Anemic or malnourished children	1	17	23	41
Psychosocial home visits	48	44	46	138
Total Number of visits	1672	1333	1037	4042

Table (13) :Referral sites during 2013

Referral system	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
Thalassemia center	29	27	12	68
MOH or other hospitals	72	76	24	172
MOH clinics	1	5	2	8
Ard ElEnsan	1	-	-	1
Total	103	108	38	249

Referral system

One of the success factors for project was the coordination and the integration with the relevant health providers such as the MOH hospitals, Thalassemia association and Ard ElEnsan which provided back up referral sites .



Health Education

Main topics of health education: children health care specially breast feeding, pregnant women care such as importance of attending ANC and the contents of ANC visits, nutrition, dental care, family planning, psychosocial issues, public health, child protection, protection of environment, First Aid, Women empowerment, Self breast examination, etc..

Table (14): Effect of health education on mothers' knowledge

	Pre-test results (%)	Post-test results (%)
Knowing the concept of anaemia	78.6	92.9
Knowing causes of anaemia	81	95.2
Knowing the importance of breast feeding	88.1	92.2
Knowing the timing of complementary feeding	81	95.2
Knowing the concept of malnutrition prevention	83.3	95.2



During 2013, two community workers training courses were organized with 19, 23 participants respectively.

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 will conduct health education sessions for women attending family health care centres. To promote healthy practices, health education was provided to families particularly to caregivers. Health education is provided based on the needs of families.

Achieved in this reporting period: Our staff continued to intensify their efforts in health education and 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 **2114** sessions for **32,789** participants, through those participants around **4449** received **149** demonstrations. Sessions were provided at the health centres and occasionally in local community based organizations e.g. kindergartens. Participants included pregnant women, women, new pregnant mothers, grandmothers and influential family members.

Also health education materials distributed either inside the centers or at home visits

To further enhance the effectiveness of health education, the project team prepared a set of pre-test post-test questions to be implemented for a sample of attendants in health education sessions. Questionnaires were analyzed and measures will be taken accordingly.

Community workers training course:

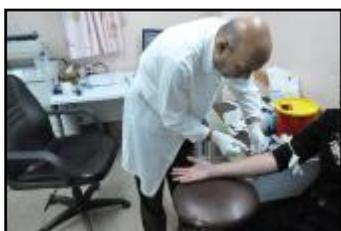
Community training target group are the female students who have at least high secondary certificate. This program aims to improve the awareness, knowledge and practice of those female either in health, social, psychological, environmental issues, etc..., so they can in the future do the same for their families, friends and community as a whole. The training prepares them to be health community workers.

Community training will be provided at both served communities; Darraj and Shijaia to up to 40 female trainees per year divided into two groups. Each group will receive training for 4 months, 3 days per week, 4 hours per training day. The lectures are about health, social and psychosocial issues. Also they are trained about how to give a session for a group of women even about health, social or psychosocial issues. A first aid course also provided to the students with cooperation of MOH trainers. Most trainers are from NECC staff and other related NGO's as Alwedad, PCHR, etc...

Achieved in this reporting period:

The number of laboratory tests performed. Laboratory tests conducted in the year 2013 have reached **21755** distributed as Shijaia **9553**; Darraj **8081** and Rafah **4121** , we add to them **6178** HB tests for the children screened and followed up for malnutrition or anemia with hemocus portable machine.

Unlike other health organizations in Gaza, the available strategic storage of laboratory kits needed for the lab services helped the NECC to continue the provision of the needed lab services despite the closure.

**Laboratory services**

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

- (i) Hematological tests:
- (ii) Urine and stool analysis tests
- (iii) Biochemistry tests:
- (iv) Pregnancy test

Other unavailable tests are usually referred to be performed at Al Ahli Arab Hospital and Thalassemia association.

Table (15):Distribution of lab tests

Type Of Lab Tests	Shijaia	Darraj	Rafah	Total
CBC	3398	2805	1142	7345
Urine	4197	3530	1743	9470
Stool	769	935	594	2298
Pregnancy Test (Urine Sample)	63	31	78	172
Blood Group & Rh Factor	370	217	175	762
Cholesterol	3	2	-	5
E.S.R	28	20	5	53
F.B.S	722	538	383	1643
Urea	1	-	-	1
Uric Acid	2	1	-	3
P.P.B.S	-	2	1	2
TOTAL	9553	8081	4121	21755

Accuracy of tests:

Quality control is extremely important in ensuring the large number and range of testing carried out lead to appropriate follow up. The most important aspects done in NECC in internal quality control monitoring are:

- Control the instruments
- Maintenance
- Calibrations
- Capacity building of the staff



Few items related to pregnant women and children were thankfully donated in kind by other International NGO's during 2013 specially ANERA.

Pharmacy services

NECC offers preventive and curative services free of charge, with a focus on mother and child health care and education towards health and environmental awareness (hygiene, vaccination, etc.).

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, anthelmintic, etc....

Only prescriptions of the clinic medical doctors are dispensed to the patients of the particular centre. 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.

Several steps implemented for the two tenders per year starting from advertisements in the local journals till the awarding of the tenders, sending orders of the items with needed quantities and quality to the medical companies and finally receiving the medications and storing in the main stores.

NECC has computerized information system for the medications that facilitate and organize the work inside the main store and the pharmacies, a network connect the three pharmacies with the main office and the main store for more monitoring and supervision, regular meetings also conducted by the health programmes coordinator with the pharmacist assistants, the pharmacist responsible of the medical store and the doctors.

Achieved in this reporting period: As usual, despite the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the NECC succeeded in securing the availability of the required medicines throughout 2013 by having in stocks of all medicines being used in each centre which was reflected positively on the health of the clients. NECC never faced any drug shortage; all the commodity management practices stages are going extremely well.

As revealed by the satisfaction assessments conducted routinely, the patients were very satisfied with the services and the availability of medicines at the dispensary especially that other health facilities encountered shortages in great number of medicines most of the time of the year due to the siege and embargo imposed by Israel .

Figure (4): % Of essential drugs and consumables at zero stock level from MOH

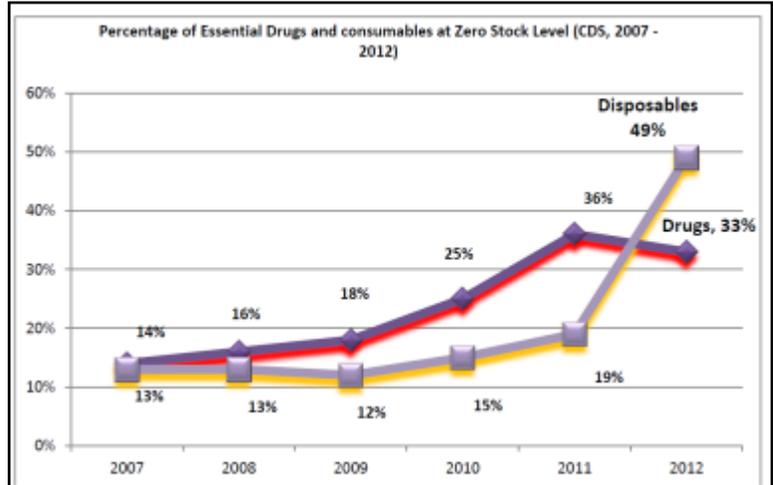


Table (16) Satisfaction of beneficiaries at Health Clinic

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage (%)</i>
Antenatal care		
Very satisfied	1088	99.5
Satisfied	5	0.5
Postpartum care		
Very satisfied	1091	99.8
Satisfied	2	0.2
Nutrition services		
Very satisfied	1093	100
Dental care		
Very satisfied	1092	99.9
Satisfied	1	0.1
Child health		
Very satisfied	1091	99.8
Satisfied	2	0.2
Health education		
Very satisfied	1093	100
Home visits		
Very satisfied	1090	99.7
Not applicable	3	0.3
Laboratory		
Very satisfied	1085	99.3
Satisfied	4	0.4
Not applicable	4	0.4
Family planning		
Very satisfied	324	29.6
Not applicable	769	70.4

Satisfaction of beneficiaries at PHC centers

In order to achieve high standard of quality in the services provided by NECCCRW's health centers, NECC monitors clients' perspectives/satisfaction and results demonstrate a very high degree of satisfaction among clients. Satisfaction assessment and community feedback enable the NECC staff to constantly monitor weaknesses and strengths in order to maintain good quality of services both in terms of quality of facts and quality of perceptions. Interestingly, the clients' satisfaction which revealed to be very high is as validated by our internal assessment as

well as by the assessments carried out by others. The satisfaction was very high regarding services provided, cleanliness, privacy and time allocated to the clients. Less satisfaction reported about waiting time mainly due early arrival of clients to our clinics. However, NECC tries to shorten the waiting time and to conduct patient flow analysis which could help in decreasing the waiting time and makes the patient flow smoother.

Anticipated: Percentage of clients satisfied with the services received (measured by postnatal home visits, and other follow up assessment).

Achieved: Above 90 % of clients are satisfied as measured by post natal questioner and through conducting clients exit interviews and by our own assessments at home visits.



Technical Vocational Education and Training

Empowering Youth Economic Conditions

Overall goal 2:

Provide professional skills training and access to education to empower marginalized Palestinian youth to improve their own economic conditions

**NECC Male and
Female vocational
training skills**



NECC continues to operate four vocational training centres for both gender to empower our Palestinian youth economic conditions through adopting the following vocational training centres:

1. **The Gaza City Vocational Training Center (Gaza City VTC)** offers three-year course that target disadvantaged boys aged 14-16 who have dropped out of school. They can choose to train in carpentry and furniture making or metal/aluminum works and welding. They are provided with theoretical skills topics including Math, Arabic, industrial studies, Engineering Drawing, in addition to sport and library classes . Practical skills in Carpentry and Furniture Making, Metal/ Aluminum Works and Welding were also offered to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year students. Furthermore, in coordination with Red Crescent Society, **Illiteracy classes** are provided for all trainees Gaza Center “drop-out schools”. Through these classes, the students learn how to read and write in Arabic and Math. Teachers continued to work with the trainees in eliminating their illiteracy at the Gaza Boy’s Center. Each course conducted twice weekly to enhance their education.
2. **The Vocational Training Center at El Qarah** conducts two-year courses in general electrician skills and motor and transformer rewinding that is offered to young men aged 16-23 who finished grade ten. The trainees are provided with high quality skills and professions in the areas of theoretical topics including Electrical Science, Math, English Language, sport, drawing electrical Circuits, Trade calculations, and practical skills including Generators and Engines, Air Networks.



I have finished my university study 3 years ago, I looked for work but I failed as the number of graduates in Gaza is very high . I decided to join NECC secretary center in order to find a job opportunity as I heard a lot that the graduates of NECC could find jobs in the labor market. During this course My English language , computer skills, Microsoft office program, printing skills were highly improved.

TVET in Numbers:

In 2013, 312 students received training through NECC VTC's as follows:-

- 106 students graduated (63 Males, 43 Females) from the program in 2013

- 97 second-year and third-year trainees continued and upgraded at Gaza and El Qarara VTC's for males.

- 109 new students (65 males, 44 females) enrolled out of 424 applicants for the 2013-2014 school year.

Table(18): Distribution of TVET students by age and gender

By age	More than 18 years		Less than 18		Total
By Gender	M	F	M	F	206
N. of students	62	44	100	0	
total	106		100		

3. **The Secretarial studies and English Language Center** offers a one year intensive course to young women who have finished their secondary studies (Tawjihi) to prepare them for secretarial positions. The course starts with an intensive English Language course runs for 3 months, then the ones who pass the final English exams join the secretary course. They are provided with high quality secretarial skills that covers theoretical and practical lessons in the areas of English language, Simple Bookkeeping, Management Principles, Arabi Correspondence, Office Practice, Arabic and English languages, Typing (letters, fax, invitations, advertisements, tables, brochures, cover letters, curriculum vitae, typing the title on the stamps, merging the mail on the papers and typing both languages Arabic and English with a speed not less than 35 words per min). Computer lessons, included but not limited to (word 2007 and 2003, DOS, Excel 2007, PowerPoint 2007, outlook 2007, the telephone use , the printers, fax and scanners use, internet use) .
4. **The Advanced Dress Making Center** offers a one year course to young women, promoting their participation in the Palestinian community, helping them to support their families and to become financially independent. The students are provided with comprehensive Course covers theoretical and practical subjects including Measurement, preparing patrons and sewing of all kinds of dresses for children and adults mainly for women and produce well-prepared pieces.

Table(17):Summary of TVET Courses Participants :

#	Program	Duration Year	Graduates 2013	Dropout	Current Enrolment			Total
					1 st Y	2 nd Y	3 rd Y	
1	Carpentry and Furniture Making	3	23	3	24	23	22	69
2	Metal and Aluminum Works	3	14	0	15	14	14	43
3	General Electricity and Motor Rewinding	2	26	0	26	24	-	50
4	Secretarial Studies and English Language	1	24	0	25	-	-	25
5	Advanced Dress Making	1	19	1	19	-	-	19
Total			106	4				206

*Under Enrolment at the Carpentry and Furniture Making Department, 3 were dropped out to work with their fathers due to their bad economic situation.

*Under enrolment at the advanced dressmaking, one female student left in June due to getting job opportunity.

Graduation and final exams

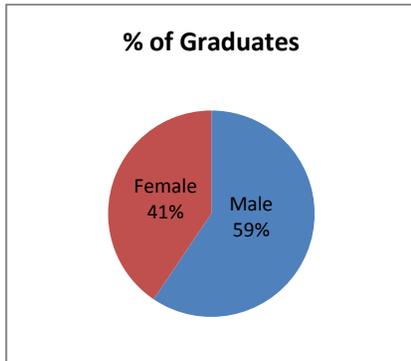


Figure (5) % of TVET graduates by gender

Table (20) Female graduates' satisfaction level

Some variables	Agree %	
	SC.	D.M.
Enrolment willingness	82	95
Qualified for the labor market	96	79
Desired to work in the same field	100	90
Training Course period is enough	71	89
Facing difficulties during the training	67	68

Based on the Graduates Post-Annual Questionnaires

*Transportation fees was the major difficulty

Note:

SC: Secretary

D.M. :Dress making

Table (21) Male Graduates Satisfaction Level

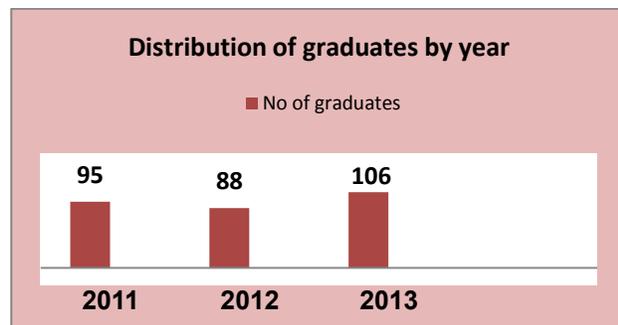
Some variables	Agree %	
	Gaza	El Qarara
Course Enrolment willingness	100	100
Qualified for the labor market	100	96.5
Difficulty in understanding the curriculum	10.5	27
Course Training period is enough	78	100
External Training period is enough	65	77
Safety and Protection lectures importance	97.5	100

The NECC Vocational Training Program (VTP) celebrated the graduation of its trainees with music, awards, and well-earned diplomas by the Ministry of Labor. **97.2%(106 students out of 109 students)** who followed the test have graduated. Each of male and female vocational graduates receiving diplomas had successfully completed one to two to three years of theoretical and practical external training in the field of their choice. These students are ones who passed the final exam and had excellent attendance and good behavior. The percentage is actually less than the total number of participants as 2 male trainees left to work with their fathers due to their bad economic situation and one female left due to being married.

Table (19) The final examination results of graduates in NECC VTC's departments:

#	Department	No. of graduates	90-99%	80-89%	70-79%	60-69%	50-59%
1	Carpentry and Furniture Making	23	1	7	14	1	0
2	Welding and Aluminum Work	14	0	10	4	0	0
3	Secretarial Studies and English Language	24	10	13	1	0	0
4	Advanced Dress Making	19	10	9	0	0	0
5	Electricity and motor rewinding	26	0	2	8	11	5

Figure (6) Distribution of graduates by year.



NECC congratulated its graduates in their graduation ceremony, wishing them all success in employment



Success Stories of Graduates 2013

I'm **Mohammed**, 2013 graduate student from the vocational training course of Welding and Metal Works at Gaza Center. I'm 19 years old and I'm living with my family that consists of 6 members in Gaza City / El Sheikh Radwan area. My father has been working on a horse cart to transport materials supply. Unfortunately he is now patient on a wheel chair and is not able to work as he has clot on his shoulders. I left school 5 years ago due to my family difficult financial situation. I studied welding craft for a year at El Imam El Shafii, governmental VTC, but I found myself not enough skilled and not competent to work at the craft. Then my father encouraged me to join NECC VTC to increase my experience at the profession. So I joined NECC welding VTC for two years. It enhances my experience and ability in practicing the craft. During my study at the VTC, NECC offered me on-the job training opportunity and I chose to train on a welding workshop near to my house. This workshop place is for my dad and he hired it with small fees to someone who brought some materials on it. Once I came back to home, I worked temporarily at this workshop gaining nominal paid fare. I established good relation with the workshop owner named Ala' Radwan and now I am a partner with him as he owns the welding equipment's and I manage the workshop. The work is not stable as our general situation is difficult. Generally I feel relaxed to some extent as I start working in a workshop that is near to my home and I secure at least my expenses. I hope in the future to own this workshop and widen my work and to get a high secondary school certificate to secure myself.



My name is **Sahar**, 2013 graduate from the vocational training course of Secretary Studies and English Language. I'm 28 year old, lives in Tal al-Hawa area. I'm married with one baby. Before getting married I studied at university "medical science" and I've finished 3 years but I didn't continue my academic education because of getting married and being pregnant with a baby. So I stayed at home. But unfortunately, my husband also stayed at home with me with no job. Hard situation, a new baby is in the way. No source of income to cover our basic needs. After having the baby I decided to continue my education in Near East Council of Churches –NECC – secretarial center, to raise myself, and my son up. I enrolled NECC Secretary Studies VTC and it was a year full of challenges, ups and downs trying to Balance all the needs of being a good student and a mother at the same time. Now, after I've finished my studies from NECC secretarial center with high grades, I was looking forward to inlight my future with a respected job. After graduation from the secretarial center, I volunteered in a civil institution approving myself as a creative secretary. Then I was promoted from an executive secretary to a volunteer executive manager. From these positions, I'm learning so much about institutions work applying what I've studied into reality work. Then I worked with unemployment contract with the ministry of national economy for two months. After the year of studying at NECC secretarial center I advice all women to study in it, I got much benefit whether socially and mentally. I gain new friends, and have a broad knowledge in different subjects.





Out of 424 applicants, 109 new enrolled trainees including (44 females and 65 males) in the 5 fields were accepted to receive vocational skills.

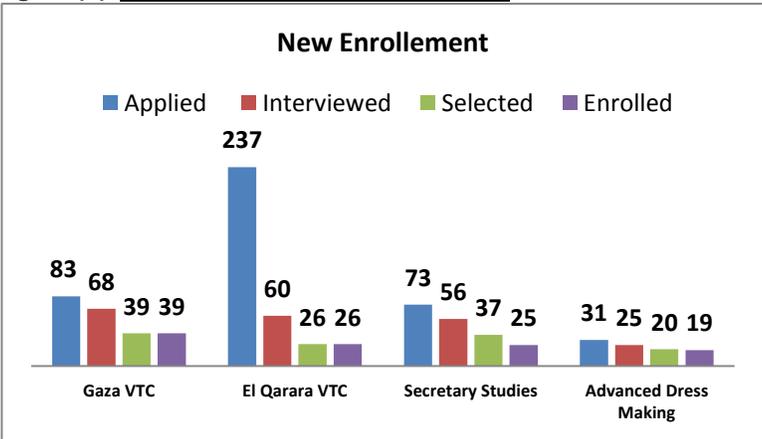
For the new term year 2013-2014, NECC advertised about its TVET training courses in the local Newspapers and distributed them to 182 related organizations, clubs, universities, women and youth centers, and municipalities to be informed. The registration door was opened for these courses. The condition to join is that the male/female students apply enrolment applications not later than the deadline and should meet the criteria of the course clarified in the announcement. NECC opens new chance for students of both genders to apply and get benefit from NECC TVET courses. All courses which are open to the public for application is available also on the website.

According to the NECC enrolment procedures, trainee-places are offered to applicants who meet the selection criteria. Taking effective measures to ensure that only applicants who meet the entry requirement are placed, entrance exams and personal interviews were conducted with applicants by an interview committee. The appropriate applicants were selected adopting our selection criteria that differ according to the subject of the training course as follows: -

- Female youth applying for the Secretarial Course should have completed 12 years of school and have a high school certificate (Tawjihi).
- Female youth applying for the advanced dress-making course should know at least how to read and write.
- Boys applying for carpentry, welding metal and aluminum should be between 14-16 years old, and can be school drop-outs.
- Male youth applying for the electricity course should have completed 10 years of schooling and should pass the entrance exam and are between 16-23 years old.

For beneficiary selection, DSPR Gaza takes into consideration giving priority for those who come from deprived families and those who are the neediest.

Figure (7) New enrollment of TVET students



*Under the enrollment of secretary studies, 37 female trainees received an intensive English course for 3 months, then the ones passed the final English exam, joined the secretary course N. 25.

*Under the enrollment of advanced dress making, one female left due to her family specific reason.

NECC TVET Helps Graduates to Find Careers

My name is Neda'a . I was born in Gaza, and I am 22 years old. I live with my family that consists of 8 members. My father was a merchant but he lost his business due to the imposed siege and so lost our house and now we live in a rent home. I finished my school study and then I joined the university and studied only a semester. Unfortunately, I stopped and couldn't continue my university study as my family financial status got difficult. I heard about NECC VTP and its courses from my friends, so I decided to join NECC VTC course to practice the craft and earn work to help my father in covering at least my expenses. I chose the advanced dress making course; I got good experience in generating cloth pieces for small and large especially in gowns design that is wanted in Gaza labour market. I have graduated from NECC VTC with a very good degree and got Diploma certificate. After two years of my graduation, NECC called me and informed me that they nominated my name for small grants project implemented by the Islamic Relief. I was so excited and motivated as NECC offered me good opportunity. I joined the Islamic Relief project; I got good administrative, social and economic training there. Then I applied an exam and succeeded, so they decided to give me a micro-generating small grant to establish my own business. You can't imagine how happy I was as this project will help me to alleviate my family suffering. I opened my own tailoring project at El Shefa Street. So, I practice my experience in gowns design and earned good income; meanwhile our general situation is difficult and the frequent cuts of electricity affect my work. I really appreciate NECC role for their good reputation, high quality VTC education, and their assistance as well in helping me to open my own business.



A trainee's journey with the NECC Vocational Training Program does not end when they graduate from the program. The VTP continues to cultivate relationships with its graduates to link with the labor market. The VTP provides support to graduates through market connections, upgrade courses, and occasionally job creation initiatives and small grants by other organizations to start or improve their own businesses.

During 2013, NECC VTP provides on-the job training opportunity to the graduates. To facilitate joining labor force after graduation, the trainees were attended internship in various offices, companies, workshops for period of six-eight weeks to practice their skills and build social and professional relations with the labor market with follow-up made by social workers and their instructors. All of 2013 graduates have been placed at various workshops which have comparatively some work to do in order to expose them to the market conditions and provide them on the job training.

Furthermore, in 2013, NECC nominated 29 of former unemployed VTP graduates to benefit from the Islamic Relief project "Economic Empowerment and small micro-generating projects". Out of 25 applicants, 21 graduates benefitted from financial and administrative training implemented by the Islamic Relief, this helped them to finish their own micro-projects feasibility studies. Then 17 graduates were selected by the Islamic Relief according to their criteria and assisted with micro-generating grants "\$7000/per project" to establish their own employment (3 open in welding , 3 in carpentry, 2 in Aluminum, 4 in electricity , 5 in dress making).

Additionally, NECC nominated 23 of its advanced dress making graduates to be supported by Ma'an Development Center project "livelihood support" funded by DCA. This project aims to reinforce the dress-making graduate's technical capabilities for enhancing their employment in the labor market. Also, 4 of NECC secretary graduates were nominated for potential posts requested by Save the Children.

Whenever the fund and support is available, NECC creates temporary job opportunities for our graduates to help them even for short time with respect to their humanity and dignity. In 2013 temporary job created for our former unemployed VTC's Diploma graduates funded by the Pontifical Mission and Embrace the Middle East within our emergency program ." shown clearly in the emergency relief program below ".

NECC also focuses on integrating our former graduates in upgrade courses enhanced their capacity at employment. During 2013, 8 former graduates from Electricity were included in TOT capacity building training in Ares and ISIS program implemented by external trainer. Moreover, secretarial trainees were engaged in "Success Skills" course conducted by Injaz Association.

Various lectures during the training were also given by specialized persons on the topics including health, gender, tolerance, labor law, safety and protection, personal appearance.

NECC VTP 2012 Graduate Employment Statistics

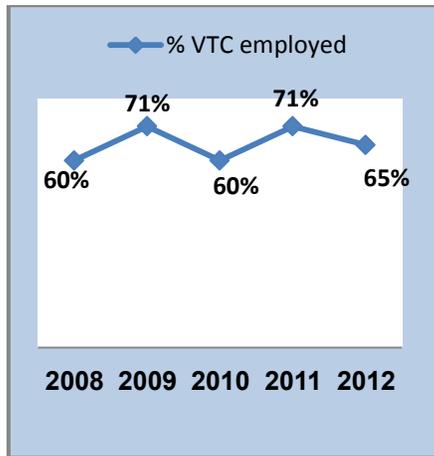


Figure (8) VTC employment rates by year

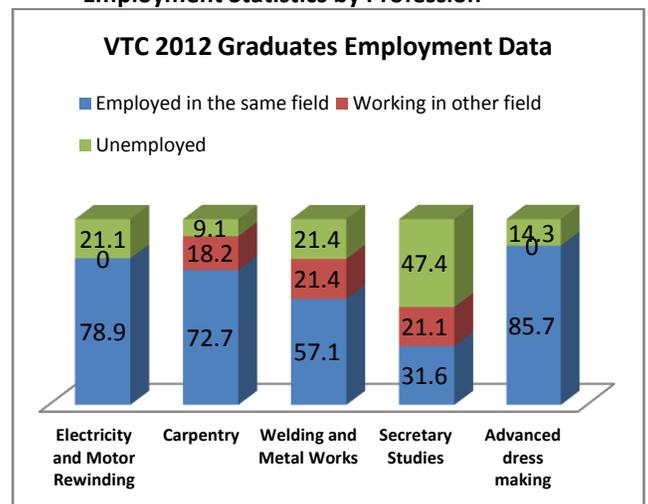
As the graph above indicates, the VTC employment rates remained over 50% for the fifth years in a row. These are good rates compared to our general difficult situation and the high level of unemployment in Gaza Strip. 33.3% of the 2012 VTC graduates who are now employed within their professions are working in the same place in which they trained. The VTC employment rates have fallen this year to 65% from 70% in 2011, due to more deterioration of economic status in the Gaza Strip.

I am a graduate from NECC VTC in 2008 , I got the first degree among my colleges, I am working now in a workshop for welding and metal work.



The NECC VTP 2012 employment rate of our graduates is good. Overall, 64.7% of all VTP graduates are employed or self-employed within one-year of graduation (a total of 57 out of 88 got employed), while the national numbers of Palestinians labor force survey in the third Q /2013 showed that 43.6% of youth aged 15 and more are economically active (employed and unemployed); 44.9% in the West Bank and 41.4% in the Gaza Strip.

Figure (9) VTC 2012 graduates employment data by profession
Employment Statistics by Profession



Based on Annual Tracer Study

As the graph above indicates, Electricity, Metalwork and carpentry continued to be the highest employment fields for male graduates in the VTC. These fields are required in the labor market and NECC VTC graduates are known of being active. Employment of advanced dress making is also continued to be high as most of them own sewing machines at home and working for relatives and neighbors; while the secretary employment is not high as most of the graduates continued their university study , being married, and others desired to have more valuable positions with high salary.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

In 17th, September 2013, MOU was signed between NECC and Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for the implementation of TVET development project entitled “Upgrading Capacities of NECC TVET Centers” in the fields of Carpentry, Welding and aluminum work, electricity and motor rewinding, advanced dress making and secretary. The agreement is part of EU Program “EU Support to the TVET Sector in Gaza Strip” which aims to improve the quality of TVET in line with demands identified by the private sector and so empowering TVET youth employability in the labor market.

Funded by EU and implemented with GIZ, the project has duration of two years encompassing curricula development, training of trainers and teachers, equipment upgrading, infrastructure renovation and synergizing the linkages with the private sector. Consequently, TVET institutions will turn to more effective and attractive learning places and relevant to the labor market demand.

This project supports establishing new partnership with the private sector as written TOR agreements were signed between NECC and Palestinian Federation of Industries “PFI” and another one with the Palestine Federation of Trade Union “PFTU”. Together as partners we will work on developing the newly training package under GIZ guiding.

The first phase of the project implementation marked an implementation arrangements constitutes in finalizing the project needed documents as developing an action plan and PMF. TOT capacity building was conducted for TVET Provider administration staff including the project coordinators in “Monitoring & Evaluation & Reporting” by an external professional expert that helped to finalize the needed documents.

Implemented by GIZ, “EWV” Experts workers workshop” was conducted in the Carpentry craft targeting members of the specialized local technical experts from the private sector. This workshop enabled to obtain some complex tasks needed for highly qualified trainee to enter the labor market. This will support the development of the learning situations in updating the Carpentry Curriculum. Moreover, it reinforces the integration of the private sector in the project implementation.

Furthermore, Consultancy and training services was advertised by GIZ and the recruited experts start to assess the required procurement of equipments and consultancy firms as well made a visit to NECC TVET centers to assess the infrastructure renovation.



Educational Loans

Educational loans to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities were provided(60-70 students)



It is worth mentioning that 40 students have settled their loans despite the harsh economic situation. Regularly 123 students are still paying their loans.



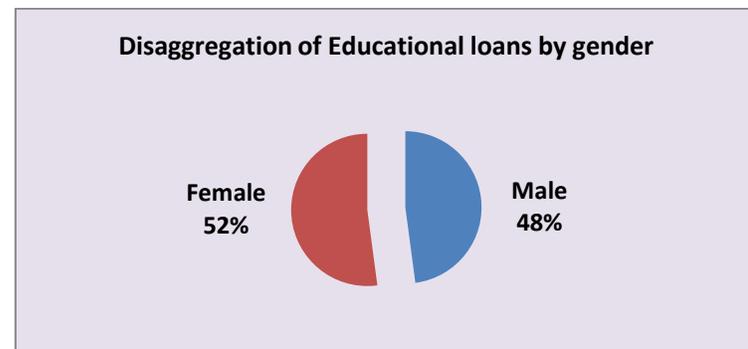
Table (22)

No. of loans in 2013	
Bachelor	95
Master	24
Total	119

The educational loans project launched in 1975. The project proved its effectiveness and success through its solid continuous cycle; as the students are fulfill to their loans payments which supported the project to become a self funding. Loans give opportunities addresses needy students to complete their university education.

During 2013; 119 students were provided with educational loans with no interest rate in an average ranges between \$750 for Bachelor students and \$1000 for master. The repayment started after 3 months of graduation, and continued for 1-5 years.

Figure (10) Disaggregation of educational loans by gender



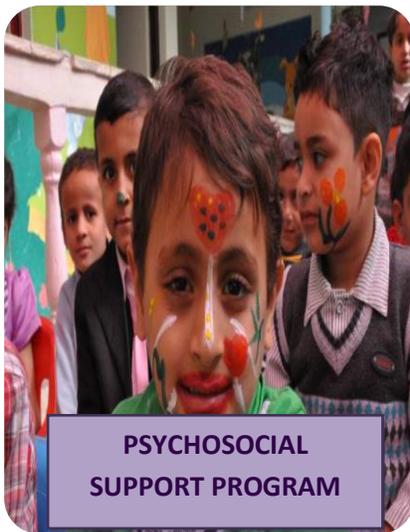
Ashraf Abo Maraf, a student at Al Azhar university, faculty of education. I heard that NECC provide educational loans to the



universities students as the situation in Gaza is so difficult so I applied for an educational loan that helped me to complete my university study.

Psychosocial Support Program

The psychosocial status of the served community particularly women and children is promoted



Main Target groups:

- ✚ Children
- ✚ Mothers/women
- ✚ Students
- ✚ NECC staff

After OCL (Operation Cast Lead) in 2008 NECC targets PSS program to alleviate the suffering of our population including children , women , VTC's students and NECC staff. Appropriate PS services are provided to the mothers/women or children attending the Family care centers or the kindergartens located in the three served areas, the main interventions are:

- Community Based Intervention (CBI) interventions for children of age(6-12 years):drawing, puppets, psychodrama, de-briefing, recreational activities as playing, dancing, singing...
- Mind and body medicine (10 sessions) for children of age 10-14 years old
- CBI for kindergartens children but that suit the age of those children : expression through drawing ,story telling, coloring ,playing
- Individual counselling and/or consultations provided to the affected women/mothers
- Group counselling provided to the women
- Recreational trips and summer camps.
- CBI and psychosocial sessions for VTC's students for both gender.
- Home visits for specific cases
- Referral system for more complicated and severe cases to the specialized institutions as Gaza Community Mental Health Program (GCMHP).

Main psychological problems:

The PS services are provided to the mothers, women according to the type of the problem if it is not complicated the counselor just gives consultation but if the problem is more complicated or the mother/woman cannot solve it by herself so the case need counseling several times (the mother with her child) that called "Individual counseling".

Also if the child case need home visits, the counselor goes to the home for data collection, to set with the persons who are responsible for the child problem; for example a child suffer from aggressive behavior towards his colleges in school and his brothers , he enrolled in PSS program , the counselor visits the family and sit with the mother, brothers, sisters, grandmother..and conducted some activities



inside the house , or if the mother cannot come with her child to the clinic for example the child or his mother feels shy about the problem and feel more comfort inside the home so the counselor visits the case at home.

Also the mothers/women receive the consultation for the psychosocial problems related to the mothers/women themselves. such as maltreatment of husband or the mother in law - severe neurological and behavior towards their children due to the hard life , or if they have low experience on dealing with Psychological problems of their children such as :Bedwetting-aggressive behavior, sucking fingers, fear feelings, low school performance, jealousy, stubborn, nervousness, convergence...

Note : many of those problems increased after the last war and there are cases who suffered from such problems after the 2008-2009 war and then were improved after PSS interventions but they returned back with the same problem after the 8 days war November 2012.

Open Fun Days funded by Pontifical Mission

After the 14th of November war, NECC had implemented an emergency psychosocial support response. Psychosocial activities for children aged 6 to 14 who attend NECC clinics or nearby kindergartens (age 3-6 years old) and home visits for children with special psychosocial needs. These programs benefitted a total of **1241** child (Note that those who benefitted from PMP) including **326** child of age (6-14 Y) and **915** child of age (3-6 Y) during Jan to May 2013.

Furthermore, five recreational trips implemented during May for **254** child, **205** mothers, **167** TVET students and **49** of NECC staff. The children of age 3- 6 years benefitted from open recreational days in **9** kindergartens in the three localities, the open days included many activities with cooperation with Avenir Foundation For Children team. This emergency response project has a positive impact on the children, mothers and staff. When we work with children and mothers we ask ourselves "Are we making a difference" , this is an appropriate tool for measuring psychosocial impact at child level, we noticed that the psychosocial status of most of the served community particularly women and children who benefitted from the project was promoted, NECC has several success stories about cases got improved or their psychological problems solved. Also the children well being is promoted in the three vulnerable areas specially through the open days and the recreational trips after the 8 days war as they are related to poor families who couldn't provide for their children such support.



Supported by **Church of Sweden** and in cooperation with El Wedad Organization, 6 sessions of "A child to child Learning" was implemented for 14 girls (12-13 years) in order to involve our child participation and sharing their opinions and decisions in topics such as Roads Accidents, Electricity cuts etc...

I am participating in a summer camp with Miss Soha in NECC PSS program and we are today in a recreational trip where we are playing and enjoying.



Capacity Building Of The PSS Staff:

- ❖ The team attended 5 days training for child protection that prepared NECC to develop its child protection policy , psychosocial support can be considered as an essential tool for child rights protection and to those children who can be victims of any type of abuse. This training supported by **ACT for Peace** and provided by **Islamic relief**. NECC invited 2 of Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and 4 of Ahil Arab Hospital team to attend the "Child Protection" training mentioned above. The child protection policy of NECC was approved by the central committee in Jordan in May 2013.
- ❖ PSS team also attended a training for child participation and child rights implemented by Save the children.
- ❖ Two of PSS team attended training for 8 days on the four standardized manuals within the project of "Manuals for Standard Interventions in the Psychosocial Field in the Gaza Strip" implemented by Gaza Community Mental Health Program(GCMHP).
- ❖ Another training day implemented by one of our Psychosocial counselor for the YMCA team about the main interventions used for psychosocial support.
- ❖ 3 days training workshop for the staff of the PSS program to improve the skills and practices of them, , the trainers are two of NECC staff who attended the training in Sweden last October2012, new information, training tools and methodologies used that focused on the practice more than theoretical lectures. The main topics: well being concept, stress management, psychological first aid, safe environment of learning, community mobilization, etc...several methodologies used as post it note, play role, power point presentation, group discussion, psychodrama, etc....

Summer Fun Camps: Bringing fun to children in Gaza, funded by Act Alliance

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 the densely-populated Gaza Strip, there is little time or space for children to have fun or escape their harsh living conditions through sports, drama or creative arts.

In 2013, NECC aims to change that with the **Summer Fun Week**, a set of activities for vulnerable children that provide a safe place for children to play and entertain. The Summer Fun Week countered the negative impact of pervasive violence, isolation, and loss of hope; all of which are the result of the ongoing occupation and closure of Gaza.

Wala' a 10 years old girl, she is suffering of cancer that lead to amputation of her foot, she used to participate in the PSS program with other children but after amputation of her leg she stopped for treatment and staying at home. NECC counselor started visiting this girl at home several times in order to support her either by playing, drawing, telling stories and also to provide consultation to her family about how to deal with **Wala'** during her treatment. By this support **Wala'** now is returning to school to continue her studies and returning also to NECC center to participate in PSS activities with her friends. She also participated in the recreational trip and the summer camp implemented this year.



Letting kids be kids

With the generous support of Act Alliance, NECC enabled to conduct three summer camps aiming to:-

- Teach children concrete skills and provide an opportunity to retreat them.
- Develop children's potential across a broad range of activities that stimulate mental, physical and emotional well-being; and,
- Inspire children, their parents, and the wider community by providing hope in an environment of uncertainty and fear.

During August and September 2013, NECC targeted a total of **535** child aged from 7-12 years.

NECC hired three safe and healthy places for summer camps implementation and signed an agreement contract. It was well-prepared by NECC Psychosocial team including T-shirts, caps, gifts, and stationary.

It involved a wide array of fun activities offering sports, art, drawings, theater, music and dabkah dance(Palestinian Folklore). Children spent fun time from 9:00a.m to 12:00p.m during this summer camp in their summer vacation before the start of schools. Biscuits and Juice were distributed daily for children. It created a mixture of hope, happiness, and entertainment for children. It was followed by three recreational trips targeting the same children of the summer camp in each locality benefitted **535** child.

PSS Summer Camps Response Impact

NECC fun summer camp week held at its three served localities (Shijaia, Daraj, and Rafah) from 15th of August to 22nd of August 2013 was a huge and unique success.

The activities encourage important social values such as leadership, respect and cooperation, friendship, and creativity.

Crucially, the Summer Fun Week provides children with a safe place to play, psychological relief from the circumstances in which they live, and most importantly a chance just to be children; free of the adult-sized worries and pressures so prevalent in Gaza. The Summer Fun Week ensures psychosocial support for children at a time when it is most needed, after the recent conflict, providing an opportunity for the children of Gaza to enjoy themselves and learn new skills.

During 2013 , number of female and male students benefitted from PSS was **428** students, they also received **160** sessions.

205 mothers and fathers also were benefitted from PSS program.

Lectures, trainings, and information events on various topics implemented by professionals from women’s organizations. These were held during **afternoon activities**, **205** women benefited from embroidery , wool making courses, hair dress making and others during the 2013. Also awareness sessions were implemented about “child labor” for those women.



What’s more, the Summer Fun Week promotes gender equality in Gaza, offering girls an opportunity to participate in sports and recreational activities, with a unique and safe space within which to engage in physical activity.

Summer camp week and recreational trips were unique opportunities for the children to visit entertaining places and have fun and entertainment as the target groups are related to poor families and vulnerable ones. Wearing new T. shirts and caps made children very happy as they are equal and entertain the same.

The recreational trips were along Gaza strip to amusement Park, zoo, Gaza beach, etc... the majority didn’t and couldn’t visit such places stating that this was the first time for them to play in such places.

Incorporating child protection policy within our programs enabled NECC to take in consideration the preventative measures in selecting the appropriate place for the summer camps’ implementation being safe and healthy, signing a mutual agreement with the children parents to take their children within summer camps and take photos for them, and selecting 10 volunteers based on interviews made considering the criteria of being experienced in working and protecting children. They were assigned to manage and follow-up the summer camps implementation, paying an incentive of \$100/per facilitator.

Indirectly this initiative is good opportunity for NECC to mitigate and alleviate children suffering within our prolonged conflict and enhance NECC capacity in PSS intervention and being visible in the areas we served, supported by ACT.

Also awareness sessions on child protection, mental health and life skills, individual counseling and group counseling for mothers who attend the family centers were provided.

Table(23): Summary of PSS activities:

Activities and target groups	Achieved
Children 6-15 years	749
Kindergartens children	1420
Mothers attending psychosocial sessions	6664
Group counseling women	72
Individual counseling women or mother/child	178
Individual counseling sessions	373
Consultations	518
Psychosocial Sessions provided	300
Home visits	138

Emergency Relief

Provide emergency assistance to alleviate the impact of emergency humanitarian situations when required

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, and the poorest of the poor.

Following to the ongoing suffering associated lastly with the Israeli incursions and air strikes on the Gaza Strip, NECC targets the following pioneering emergency projects aiming at relief to meet part of the insufficiency of basic humanitarian assistant/need (food and medical) Support.

Table(24): NECC Humanitarian Response interventions during 2013:

Funding Agency	Project	N. of beneficiaries	Implementation Period	Location
Embrace the Middle East (EME)	Emergency Financial Aid	635 poor families with cash relief	18 th Feb - 18 th June	Gaza Strip
	Job creation	60 unemployed graduates with job creation (30 male, and 30female)		
	Medicines for treatment	8676 patients examined and received treatment		
Pontifical Mission (PMP)	Extended job creation opportunities Initiative /cash for work	32 (18 males and 14 females)	1 st of June -31 st August	Gaza Strip
	Renovation of damaged houses initiative	44 families renovated their houses	19 th Feb -26 th April	
	Provision of Medicine	7088 patients examined and received treatment	1 st April to 31 st May	
	Emergency PSS Support	1662 child, mothers, students and staff	1 st Jan-31 st May	
ACT Alliance	Summer Camps(PSS)	535 child benefitted from summer camps and recreational trips in the three served areas	15 th -22 nd August	Gaza Strip



One said "I will go immediately to the market to buy meat and chicken for my children who didn't eat them for long time".

Mahmoud , 35 years

My name is Mahmoud. I live in Jabalia area with 7 members in one hired room. My wife and son are patients like me and I'm unemployed. I get only food supplies coupons from UNRWA and tries to fulfill our very basic needs of food.

I'm patient facing difficulty in movement. My disability happened after an injury in my back and abdomen during the cast Lead Operation on Gaza Strip 2008/ 2009 which complicated my situation and made walking even more difficult. Most depressing is the status of my son " Ismael" who is cancer patient aged 7 years. He had recently a referral for treatment to Israel, but I couldn't afford the transportation cost.



Thanks god for blessing me your cash relief assistance. It came at its time for saving my son's life. NECC assistance enabled me to afford the travel transportation cost and helped my son for treatment. I appreciate NECC assistance and hope healing for my son and to be in a better health.

One-time Cash Relief Initiative

The cash relief assistance offers one-time payments of \$70 to desperate families. During the 2013, 635 families targeted and benefitted 4155 individuals from this assistance funded by Embrace the Middle East. NECC targets the most vulnerable and needy people. Thus our social workers coordinated with 27 Community Based Organizations located and served in different parts of Gaza Strip that provided NECC with lists of needy and poor families in the community. Then our social workers conducted social study for each beneficiary targeting the neediest people including widows, patients, old non supported people, and handicapped with special needs, irrespective of gender-headed. Social workers ensure that all targeted cases came in accordance with an arranged schedule appointments. NECC cashier verifies approval status for each beneficiary with the NECC Executive Director. Once approved, the beneficiary signed a receipt and so received the amount of money.

Unconditional cash transfers empower beneficiaries to identify, prioritize, and meet their own needs making it a more dignified response than in-kind assistance. It enables beneficiaries to address a wide variety of needs whereas in-kind distributions restrain the beneficiaries to meeting one specific need.

The project coordinator monitors the beneficiaries' satisfaction during their delivery as interviewed some of them; all expressed their gratitude to NECC that helped them to buy their basic food for their children.

Geographic Distribution of Beneficiaries

As an effective intervention is that the project covered all of the Gaza Strip Governorates. Beneficiaries of cash relief support were targeted covered all of Gaza Strip governorates. It is shown clearly in the table below:

Table(25):Geographic Distribution of one time cash relief Beneficiaries

Governorate	N. of households	N. of individuals benefited
North	129	915
Gaza	333	1982
Middle area	51	412
KhanYunis	73	505
Rafah	49	341
Total	635	4155

Aya , 18 years old

My name is Aya. I live in Jabalia area in one home with 10 members. My father is unemployed and patient. There is no breadwinner for my family. I tried my best to find a way for helping my family. I joined NECC Advanced Dressmaking VTC's course. I was encouraged by my parents to accomplish this course. I have graduated in 2011 and got Advanced Dressmaking diploma from NECC but I have been jobless as the opportunity to get a job is very limited in our community because there is high unemployment. It was so frustrating.

I got a call from NECC telling me that I had been nominated in job creation initiative, funded by Pontifical Mission. You can't imagine how excited I was to get this opportunity, meet others, communicate and learn.

This initiative enabled me to work in the "Cooperative Society for dressmaking" as a tailor for 3 months. I was so active and enthusiastic in work and I did my job to the fullest so this opportunity gave me rich experience in the field of tailoring. This experience enabled me to link with the labor market; it opens new horizon for my future life.

I'm the sole provider for my family and was lucky to work in this society through the job creation project of the Pontifical Mission for 3 months as I was able to improve the economic status of my family by saving the essential and basic needs of living. This opportunity enabled me to join the labor market and to acquire the good experience that qualified me to find a work till now in the "White- Dream Center" for wedding dresses. So this means that my family is able to have a monthly and can provide their needs to live with dignity.



I really appreciate the efforts of NECC and thankful for helping me to find my way to success and change my life and my family life too.

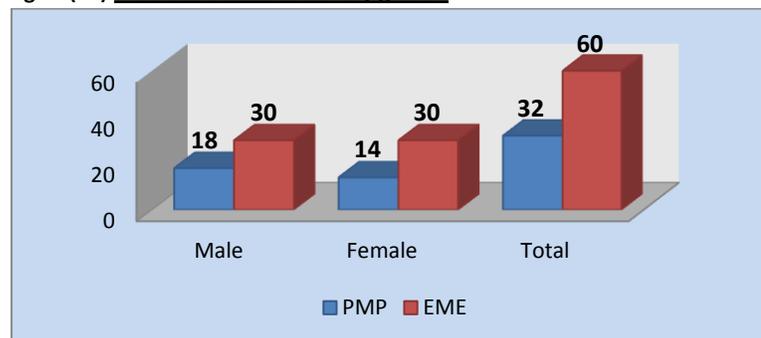
Job creation Initiative

The initiative for creating temporary jobs addresses unemployed graduates of NECCCRW vocational trainings, universities, and external institutes. NECCCRW Gaza cooperates with other NGOs and private companies in order to open temporary posts for participants with NECCCRW Gaza providing the salary for duration of 3 months. The beneficiaries were selected from NECC waiting list records of unemployed graduates and our updated data base of VTC's graduates and it was announced in the local church for this opportunity to be benefit as well. Then social workers received applications and selected graduates adopting criteria of being unemployed, no source of income having the willing to work and taking in consideration gender equality as NECC believes in gender equality component among beneficiaries according to NECC documented gender policy.

This enables participants to gain work experience while showcasing their qualifications to employers, leading to potential employment. A routine periodic monitoring was carried out to track project progress against planned tasks. Social workers conducted periodic field visits to the labor market. Daily phone calls to the stakeholders by social workers. The attendance of workers was tracked on daily basis documented to form base for Monthly templates.

During 2013, donations by **Embrace the Middle East and the Pontifical Mission** of Palestine enabled NECCCRW Gaza to create **92** breadwinners through this program, alleviating the hardship of their family members. Follow-up EME targeted cases by our social workers immediately after the end of the project showed that 7% were promised to be taken by their companies and sustained work. Regarding PMP project that started in 2012 and extended in 2013, follow-up the cases after six months of the project implementation showed that 40% of ex-VTC targeted graduates (57 out of 142) sustained and taken by their companies and/or others, and 29% of ex-university graduates (14 out of 48) sustained in employment . It is not a high number of youth got employed as expected to be due to the difficult economic situation in Gaza. Meanwhile, this opportunities supported by the PMP and EME contributes greatly in opening new doors and vision for our graduates and giving them the opportunity to sustain in employment. Generally our beneficiaries were satisfied for getting more experience and enhancing their capacities and orientation about market needs.

Figure(11): Job creation initiatives by gender





Noura, another project beneficiary, aged 54 years old. She is living in Gaza /Tal El Hawa area. She suffered from back pain in her back. She is divorced since 15 years ago; living with her married son and his family; he is a lawyer but works intermittently. This house is for her ex-husband and gets no expense from him.

During the last war on Gaza Strip, her house windows and doors were completely damaged due to a bombardment by F16 jets targeted a nearby house for Rasheed Abu Shubak , security official in the previous government, they had to flee and displaced in to her daughter -in- law family house.

After NECC assistance to sustain their house damage and repair works of the broken windows and doors, she stated that they were enabled to return back to their home. It empowered them to reconstruct their minor damage and protect them to be in safe and adequate house living. She thanked NECC for this assistance as she was not able to afford the financial cost and reconstruct her home as they don't have an income.



Renovation of damaged houses initiative

This initiative for damaged houses renovation addresses affected houses of NECC employees who had their houses and furniture sustained damages and glass shattering as well as some of other neighboring affected houses as a result of the last war on Gaza Strip. Following the 14th, November of Pillar of Defense war on Gaza Strip, NECC Gaza progressed and launched initial rapid assessment of damages and portrayed the scale/size of damages. A scale assessment of damages including Value/Cost estimation carried out by a technical evaluator in the Gaza Strip. Social study questionnaire developed for each affected targeted family and included in the case file that established for each recipient.

The contribution from the Pontifical Mission as an emergency relief project had been distributed to **44** affected families (living in 44 houses) benefitted **176** individuals.. Our beneficiaries managed to secure their minor damages including installing aluminum frames and glass panels and replacing broken doors and cracks. Although the assistance was restricted to minor damage, the beneficiaries stated that this support helped them to sustain their damages and make their homes livable. Without this support, those beneficiaries stated that they were not able to sustain their damages and afford more financial suffering due to the war. It provides them safe and healthy living environment; protecting them to cope during the cold winter and to heal their children from diseases complications due to the weather fluctuations. Mainly it enabled them to return back to their homes instead of being a burden on their relatives and from rent costs. Undertaken the repairs works by the beneficiaries themselves empowered them to rehabilitate or reconstruct their houses according to their own ideas, needs, and possibilities. This approach contributes to social and economical recovery. Most of the targeted families are Christians who stated that their chances of repairing their houses could be limited within our bad current situation.

As indirect benefit, this project helped staff of local contractors, suppliers, and laborers. This project also enhances NECC Gaza ability to respond during emergency relief and to alleviate the suffering of those beneficiaries within our prolonged conflict.

Table(26): Beneficiaries of renovation of damaged houses:

Area	No.of families	Family size
North	3	19
Gaza	40	150
South	1	7
Total	44	176

NECC Gaza appreciates Embrace the Middle East and PMP support for assisting our vulnerable people to secure at least their basic needs during emergency situation.



Provision of Medicines

NECC procures medicines through preparing and advertising the tender documents, quotations and purchase orders according to the medical regulations and specifications to medical companies and stores and award tendering on the appropriate by the medical committee.

Medical team monitors the field work and the follow up of cases at the three clinics and carries out the reporting requirements. The Medical Coordinator supervises the overall progress of the three clinics medication and revises the strategic health approach.

As usual, despite the closure imposed on the Gaza Strip, the NECC succeeded in securing the availability of the required medicines throughout 2013 by having in stocks of all medicines being used in each centre which was reflected positively on the health of the clients. NECC never faced any drug shortage; all the commodity management practices stages are going extremely well. As revealed by the satisfaction assessments conducted routinely, the patients were very satisfied with the services and the availability of medicines at the dispensary especially that other health facilities encountered shortages in great number of medicines most of the time of the year due to the siege and embargo imposed by Israel .

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, anthelmintic, etc....

Donations by **Embrace the Middle East** and **Pontifical Mission** has contributed to improve health status within the broader vulnerable population of Gaza served in NECC three localities “ Daraj, Shijaia, and Rafah” through the provision of medicines and enabled sick cases including children, pregnant women and adults to be examined by doctors and received the appropriate treatment . Improved access to Primary Health Care services to underserved families. Poor and vulnerable patients who cannot pay for medical fees were assisted with medication and they received free of charge medical assistance and treatments.

Emergency PSS Support Intervention

1. This project funded by **Pontifical Mission** has focused on covering "Rafah, Darraj and Shijaia " areas, which are served by the NECC health and educational vocational programs. It was a practical and effective response to both existing and the newly emerged psychosocial problems in Gaza due to the last 8 days war.
2. Summer camps funded by **ACT Alliance**, NECC aims to change that with the Summer Fun Week, a set of activities for vulnerable children that provide a safe place for children to play and entertain. The Summer Fun Week countered the negative impact of pervasive of the ongoing occupation and closure of Gaza.

NECC response during the last storm:

- The three family care centers in the three localities in Gaza city and south of the strip were operating as an emergency to provide health care services for the cases attending the three centers focusing on children and pregnant women.
- NECC facilitate the access of the health staff to the clinics by using their vans and drivers as the movement were too difficult.
- Distribution of 500 children winter plovers from NECC stock for the affected families through Bader CBO.
- Our PSS team are working with the more affected women and children in the three localities.



Noor, a child girl aged 13 years in the first year of preparatory school from the Shijaia Gaza city, she is smart , intelligent student and get first place on the school each year ,she has a strong character but her problem is suffering from being alone as she has no sisters or brothers, Nour said : I complained of introversion and isolation at home, this causes me pain inside me and it is so painful for me to watch brothers and sisters attend school together and go out together and play together, but I'm alone!!! Yes I have many friends, many games but this is not enough , I need brothers to play with them ...I love my parents so much , I know that they also feel pain inside that they do not have more children, they tried but they failed , unfortunately treatment did not succeed .

Noor thanks the psychosocial counselor at Shijaia family care center for her efforts and support as she enrolled her in the PSS program with other children of same age, she met a nice girl called Nadeen and through the PSS activities and sessions they became friends, Noor said that Nadeen is as a sister for her , they have similar thoughts, feelings and behavior.



Nadeen and I'm thanking the counselor as she brought us together in the mind and body medicine sessions until we became friends and our family got to know each other and had home visits. At the end the two girls sent their warm greetings and thanks to NECC for the PSS program as it made their life happy and draw smiles on their faces.



Advocacy Program

Overall goal: Mobilize and empower Palestinian and other relevant communities to seek just and equalsocial and economic rights for Palestinians.



NECC Child Protection policy

In Gaza around 800,000 children (51% of population) living here under one of the most complex political and economic situation in the world. The many risks facing these girls and boys have a devastating impact on their well-being, physical security, and future. Many of children were killed or injured or lost their family members by Israeli attacks through the previous years.

Others face separation from their families and caregivers; and far too many suffer sexual violence or other forms of exploitation and abuse. The protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect is an urgent priority for all those working in humanitarian situations, including NECC. This made NECC to have a priority to develop a child protection policy during 2013 that is appropriate to the local culture and legal system. The child protection program is obliged to the commitment of this policy and the acceptance of its **Code Of Conduct** for working with children.

NECC believe that a child should have the rights , confidence and environment in which they are safe guarded and can make their own choices.

Child Protection Program preparation phases were as follows:

Training of Trainers:

With the support of **Act for Peace** for developing child protection policy , 11 of NECC key and PSS staff involved in the “ Keep Child Safe guarding “ training implemented by **Islamic Relief** and shared with different other NGO’s.

Developing the child protection policy

By the staff who got earlier the training, NECC Gaza developed comprehensive child protection policy guide to be applied in conjunction with the Recruitment Procedures, Code of Conduct, Reporting Procedure, Reporting Form and definitions in Arabic and English. The child protection component of our policy composed of clear conceptualization of child protection from all different kinds of abuse with clear operational definitions, clear written strategies for awareness, prevention, reporting, and responding supported with



clear guidelines to ensure that all staff and others (including consultants, board members, volunteers, partners, trustees, and visitors) are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children. Clear reporting procedures to ensure that staff and others are clear on what steps to take where concerns arise regarding the safety of children supported with clear format. Child Protection focal points are appointed and it is their responsibility to respond to any complaints and ensure that action is taken to support and protect children where concerns arise regarding possible abuse.



Designing Child Protection Brochure

It was prepared and designed by NECC projects Coordinators, IT team and Supervisors. Later on, the distribution of the brochures started in all NECC centers.



Mainstreaming Child protection policy on NECC staff

NECC child protection policy was mainstreamed for 94 staff members through 4 training sessions. Those Child protection training sessions help NECC employees to fully understand their roles and responsibilities to abide by and implement NECC child protection policy; in conjunction with reporting procedures and understanding standards of practice and appropriate behavior towards child safe guarding.



At the end of the workshop sessions, all participants were given NECC child protection policy guide, and they have signed on child protection policy and its code of conduct to commit with them and were attached in their employment files.



Mainstreaming Child Protection Policy for The Community

Implemented by NECC, child protection posters were hanged at NECC centers, vests for the awareness team were prepared, bill boards including child abuse reporting procedure were also hanged.

During November and December , PSS team implemented 19 sessions in order to mainstream the policy among the community in the three localities of the clinics and the TVET centers either to the parents, community leaders and kindergarten teachers.



Table(27): Mainstreaming of child protection policy among the community

	Beneficiaries	Target	Sessions	Location
1	Community leaders	90	3	3 PHC centers
2	TVET students parents	174	7	TVET centers
3	Mothers & kindergartens teachers	287	9	Kindergartens in the three localities of the PHC centers

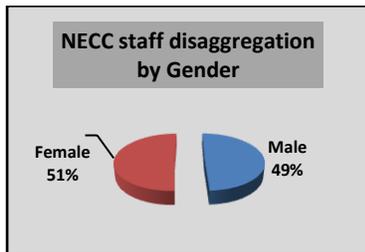


Figure 12

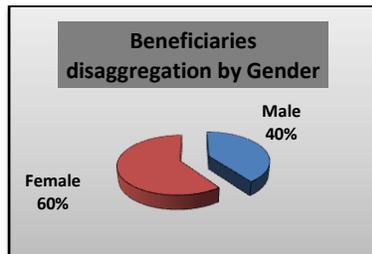


Figure 13

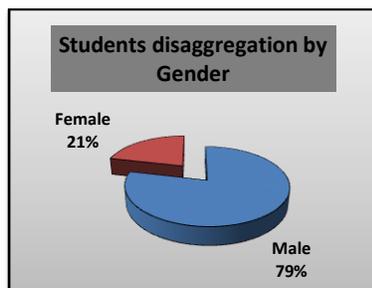


Figure 14

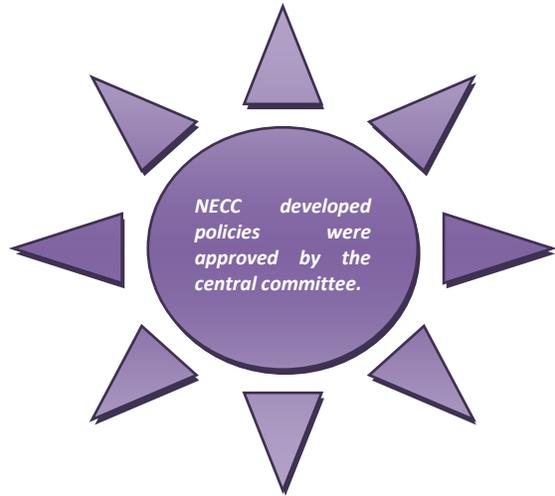
NECC Gender policy:

One of NECC main core values is to serve people irrespective of their faith, color, gender, political affiliation or geographical locality. NECC believes deeply in gender equality, it provides equal opportunities for male and female students to develop their career to be able to hire decent job employment opportunity. It is worth mentioning here that NECC runs two VTC's for females which are: Secretarial studies and English Language Course, and Advanced dress making course which operate very .Thus NECC encourages participation of women in vocational education to have their role in the society. They are also provided with health and cultural awareness to widen their realization about important issues such as gender, labor law, Palestinian issue, accepting others... on how to deal in their life. NECC investigates the feedback of vocational education on the status of women; they stated that vocational education opens new horizon in front of students to be independent, self-confident, and producer through their participation in the community. They have the enough effectiveness to work in the craft. They are qualified to practice the career in the society. They clarified that this course opened new sight for them in future to have their own projects such as opening tailoring shop. NECC by that way tries to eliminate the inequality and promote their roles. NECC policies and procedures don't differentiate among students based on their political affiliation, religion or geographical location; all the students are treated equally which promotes the concepts of equality and peace for male and female.

Approximately 60% of clinic beneficiaries are female, recognizing the important role women play as caregivers within the household. In reflection of this constituency, NECC has strived to create gender parity in the hiring of men and women to the health clinics.

During the year 2013, a total of **42** male employees and **43** female employees were working at the health clinics. PSS program targets equally children from both genders without any kind of discrimination. The humanitarian cash injections' beneficiaries including males and females were targeted without any kind of discrimination in relation to religion, gender, political affiliation, and citizenship status including widows, divorced and vulnerable groups.

All of that is adopted in a gender policy document approved by the Central DSPR committee. it focuses on the principles of Promoting gender balance in staffing and representation, promoting gender equality through gender mainstreaming and rights based tools at the program level, for contextual analysis, needs assessments, planning,



implementation and evaluation as we include males and females during conducting need assessments, implementation, and also in evaluation, and promoting gender equality in socio-economic empowerment. We are specifically committed to the ACT Alliance Gender Dimension in Disaster Relief as it applies in emergency situations and throughout our work activities. Like ACT we seek to promote gender equality as a common value, including gender mainstreaming.

Further Community Advocacy Activities Implemented

- ❖ NECC VTC’s youth participated in “El Nakba” coalition conducted in 15th May 2013 where they launched from NECC premises to United Nations Headquarter in Gaza City holding a banner to advocate and defend Palestinians right of return and destiny and adherence to national principles.
- ❖ Moreover, NECC TVET trainees participated in the national day for disabled in 4th Dec 2013, advocating disabled rights in the society.
- ❖ Regularly, NECC released progress reports, Success Stories and policies development uploaded on NECC Website, and Health Education and Awareness publications.
- ❖ Furthermore, **137** visitors received officially in NECC by relevant internationals.
- ❖ **10** Coordination meetings with relevant organizations for advocating human rights.



Employment and Income Generating Co-operative "Self-Help"

10 women at the self support sewing are continuing their performance in producing garments of all kinds and earned monthly income of \$ 150.



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 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.

NECCRW Gaza VTC's students supported and implemented community development activities for other NGO's during 2013 including not limited to the follows:-

- ❖ Providing Thalassemia Center with 2 file Cupboards.
- ❖ Supporting Baptist church with furniture
- ❖ Repairing for three social cases, affected by the last war on Gaza Strip.
- ❖ Making metal ceiling for Cultural Orthodox Center
- ❖ Supporting Diabetes Association with furniture.
- ❖ Supporting Health Council with Furniture.
- ❖ Providing Palestine Avenir Foundation for Children with four wood cupboards
- ❖ Supporting the needs of the NECC family health centers such as (rehabilitation of El Daraj Clinic PSS new room, some rehabilitation for the summer camps hired places implemented in our three served areas, preparing two boards for EL Daraj Clinic, and providing billboards for Rafah Clinic.
- ❖ Supporting NECC Central office with repairing fire station roof and chairs and installing Aluminum door.
- ❖ Supporting NECC VTC's with repairing.

Table(28):Community development by NECC during 2013

Community Development by NECC	
Institutions supported with furniture by NECC	12 institutions
Families supported with furniture and repairing by NECC	6 families

Cross cutting issues

Sustainability:

The aid-dependency in Palestine is in general high, however NECC has decades of experience in adapting to circumstances whether internal or external that influence ability to provide assistance and work for positive development in their area. Despite the progress towards the sustainability of NECC's operations in Gaza, it must be recognized that there are limitations to sustain a service provision program.

It could be claimed that improvement in social, education and health is closely linked to economic growth and security that mainly linked to political situation. Any kind of economic recovery in Gaza is impossible while the blockade of Gaza remains in place. Even if it is lifted, it will take years to repair the damage and to recover the economy.

Despite the aid that is going to the Palestinians, yet the humanitarian situation continues to decline especially with the prevailing trend of shifting aid to other places. Gaza's health sector is still suffering from shortages of equipment and medical supplies. Poor housing conditions, overcrowded schools and a heavily polluted environment are also exacting a high price on children's mental and physical health. Families continue to suffer from food insecurity and remain critically dependent on food assistance. This has meant that families are unable to buy nutritious food and are less able to produce nutritious food themselves. Stunting, or long-term exposure to chronic malnutrition, remains high, found among 10% of children under five. Anemia, usually caused by dietary iron deficiency, affects most children in Gaza (58.6% of schoolchildren, 68.1% of children 9-12 months) and one-third (36.8%) of pregnant women. (Source: Palestinian Authority Ministry of Health, National Nutrition Surveillance System, 2011). If untreated, iron-deficiency anemia adversely affects child development and pregnancy outcome. Sanitation-related diseases with serious implications for child mortality, such as typhoid fever and watery diarrhea in children under three years of age, have increased at clinics serving refugees in the Gaza Strip.

Today's high youth unemployment rate is adversely affecting future life and work opportunities for young women and men in the Gaza Strip.

NECC health program aims to provide and maintain primary healthcare services to enhance the wellbeing of Palestinian mothers and children and to build the capacity of the health care providers. The program leaves skills, strategies and effective tools which will continue to operate despite the discontinuity of the fund. The health program serves very important segments of a needy population through an integrated approach of services provision and strengthening communities' abilities to meet their needs. Benefited communities are sustainable.

The TVET program serves school-drop out needy students to be able to fit in the society and maintain social dignity; otherwise they will stay at streets with no opportunities that may lead them to crime and hatred. TVET skills strength their abilities to meet their needs and not to be burden on the society. Continued aid is vital to respond to the growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza but it cannot provide a solution in itself.

Health education help families to develop healthy practices in dealing with their families. However, it is expected that some cases will require continuous therapeutic regime and follow up and supplements. Therefore, further support for the activities initiated by this program are needed such as provision of drugs, supplements, supporting appropriate management practices and follow up.

Improved access by young people to high quality and relevant technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses greatly enhance their chances and opportunities to succeed in the difficult economic conditions that they are currently facing. The VTP contributes to developing sustainable skills remain with the trainees and these promote autonomy and self reliance of the trainees enabling them to start their career and lead a reproductive life. The annual tracer study conducted by NECC TVET Staff at the end of 2013 to study the employment status of NECC/TVET 2012 graduates after one year of their graduation showed that the average rate is 64.7%. This was great success with respect to the high unemployment rate among youth in Gaza.

Moreover, one important success and benefit is on-the job training opportunities offered to our trainees for a period of six to eight weeks enabling them to establish good relations and linkage with the labor market. This will sustain them to build good social and economic relations with the community. Most of our enrolled trainees are university graduates who join our TVET to seek job opportunities. The private sector and other NGO's call NECC regularly to nominate and recommend from our graduates for potential posts. Gaza Electricity Company used to get NECC electrical graduates to work there as they are known of their high qualifications.

Different aspects of how to live and act as responsible citizens are integrated in TVET program; the students learn how to accept and relate to the others, gender awareness and non-violence that remain with them.

Moreover, students have the chance to attend PSS sessions as a way to cope with the situation facing students in Gaza.

The programmes have a number of local contacts on each placement and the programmes regularly meet with local governors and community leaders. Staff and supervisors are local Palestinians of both genders. The NECC will build on the success of capacity building and will develop sustainable appropriate practices.

NECC have a policy for clients contribution and cost recovery. In total, copayment constitute around 3% of the overall expenditure of the health program, and 3% of the overall expenditure for Gaza VTC, 7% for Qarah VTC, 9% for secretary and 7% for dress making.

Environment:

- All of our activities are environmentally safe. DSPR never undertakes projects or activities that can do harm to the environment or damage the ecological balance in any way. NECC facilities are regarded as environmentally safe and don't produce hazardous wastes
- We have a specific and safe protocol for disposal of the hazardous waste without affecting the environment in cooperation with the MOH. NECC agreed with MOH on the process of handling NECC disposables in coordination with the Gaza Municipality regularly to collect and treat NECC wastes including hazardous medical wastes.
- The three clinics use disposable containers for sharp disposals, family planning disposals such as used IUD, swap, gloves, laboratory tubes the disposable containers weekly sent to incinerator of MOH
- Building resilience through helping people to adapt to changes in their environment through the psychosocial interventions, enhance positive coping strategies
- Influencing policy processes and improving the performance of our own development assistance in achieving environmentally sustainable outcome through participating in MOH and health cluster meetings and influencing the development and implementation of effective policies in this regard.
- Also NECC conduct 2 community enlightenment and advanced courses for 30-40 women yearly, the training include sessions related to environmental considerations
- A part of the health education program inside the clinics include the environmental awareness lectures and sessions to the women attending the PHC clinics, these sessions conducted in cooperation with relevant organizations that mainly focus on environmental considerations such as hygiene, sewage disposal, maintaining rationale use of water, waste disposable.
- NECC utilizes effective management of medical wastes and regard its waste as hazardous wastes. NECC coordinates with the Gaza municipality to effectively manage solid waste.
- NECC implements the national infection prevention and control protocol which includes a component about effective waste management.

- Also we have checklist to ensure the proper use of the infection prevention and control protocol by the staff, recently in May 2013 NECC in coordination with specialist from MOH conducted a training day for the staff about this protocol.
- NECC's TVET centers adopt the costly effective 3R approach where the minimal amounts of the raw materials in the centers are consumed due to the reuse of the old projects conducted by the student in the formation of new exercises modules. Small pieces of wood are used to produce architecture handcrafts. Sawdust also is mixed with paints to be used in other projects.
- Wastes especially from metal, aluminum and motor rewinding workshops are collected and sell to be recycled by other recyclers. NECC is committed on the process of handling its disposables in coordination with the Gaza Municipality regularly to collect and treat NECC TVET solid wastes including hazardous wastes.
- Safety and protection awareness sessions is regularly conducted to our trainees by external specialized from safety and protection Society and our partner " Palestinian Federation of Trade Unions" considering the importance of wearing glasses ...
- Obeying written rules by our trainees on keeping the protection and cleanliness of the environment.
- Training Course on "Environmental Occupational Health "was conducted during December 2013 for 10 hrs, benefitted 20 of NECC TVET trainers by an external trainer at NECC Premises.
- NECC will focus during the coming two years on upgrading the curricula, workshop infrastructure and new technological equipments' procurement by our new partner GIZ, taking in consideration to maintain workshop safety.
- Best Practice Manual will be developed by GIZ to ensure the good use and safe performance of machines and equipments.

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 indicators and objectives.

Achieved in this reporting period:

Generally, NECC enjoys effective and rigors monitoring system that has many facets including;

- Monitoring outcomes of the services provided by the organization
- Monitoring inputs and processes and linking that to the outcomes
- Monitoring management and administrative related processes
- Monitoring clients perspectives and the degree of clients centeredness of services

To perform the monitoring function effectively, NECC uses many monitoring tools including;

- Designing Performance Management Plan (PMP) focusing on outcomes
- Regular supervisory visits
- Effective reporting system
- Computerized database
- Regular meetings with staff and community
- Monitoring clients perspectives through questionnaires

- Monitoring staff performance through administering supervisory checklists
- Conducting pre-test post-test measurements
- Reviewing records and conducting audit
- Clear action plan (Gantt chart)

NECC monitors clients' perspectives/satisfaction specially mothers and pregnant women and results demonstrate a very high degree of satisfaction among clients. Satisfaction assessment and community feedback enable the NECC staff to constantly monitor weaknesses and strengths in order to maintain good quality of services both in terms of quality of facts and quality of perceptions. Above 90 % of clients are satisfied as measured by post natal questionnaire and through conducting clients exit interviews and by our own assessments at home visits.

This affect the satisfaction of the beneficiaries positively as it helped them to get the needed primary health care services from the same place and it is as a circle as the pregnant woman when started follow up during pregnancy for antenatal care then she received postnatal care for herself and baby care, then she registered the baby to follow up in the well-baby program and she can attend the family planning clinic at the same time.

Community meetings are held regularly in the family care centers to involve the beneficiaries in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes for all our programmes. During 2013, 11 community meetings were held in the three clinics and TVET centers in presence of the coordinators of NECC with group of beneficiaries from the targeted areas, the meetings involved discussions about the quality of services of the NECC, their satisfactions, their demands and needs in the future, child protection mainstreaming. (for more details see Beneficiaries involvement)

VTC training course success and impact on trainees is also measured through questionnaires on annual basis. All graduates stated that they joined the center based on their desire, the period of training is enough, the experience they got in safety and protection is crucial, the trainers are qualified and the training course is on a high level. They recommended increasing the external practical training period as it helps them to link with the labor market.

NECC focuses also on enhancing linkages with graduates and Market integrating their feedback about their employment status and labor market in the training program. Thus meetings with the former graduates are continually conducted.

Student's performance in the training course is monitored also by conducting final examination and certificates awarded for the ones who finished successfully. The results were positive and all students passed with good average. Follow-up conducted by the ministry of Labor.

The workshops owners' feedback of our students' performance during their external training is also taken where NECC trainers followed up. They stated that students were committed to the working Hours attendance, supervisor directions, and rules of public safety, punctuality, and good interactions. Students have the willing to work and learn, however some of them need more practical training.

The TVET Supervisor supervises the overall progress of the project and revises the strategic approach in cooperation with the TVET consultant and the Ministry of labor , based on information provided by the community workshops and the instructors who collect data in the field and submit to the supervisor.

NECC project coordinator focuses on reporting. Regularly NECC Gaza focuses on maintaining the VTC's machines and equipments to sustain its quality for student's performance.



Evaluation

During August 2013, an external evaluation was conducted by Dr. Khitam Abu Hamad and funded by Act for Peace and NCA for the community health program of NECC for the last 3 years.

Recommendations are listed below as follows:

1. More efforts are needed to share knowledge and lessons learned with other national and international organizations, particularly the success of the NECC in reducing the prevalence rate of anaemia among children less than 6 years of age and the postnatal care.
2. With regard to Rafah centre, family planning services are not provided. There is a need to speed the process of introducing this service in the centre.
3. The prevalence rate of IDA(Iron Deficiency Anaemia) among lactating women is very high. It is recommended that the NECC scan for anaemia among lactating women and provide anaemic women with the needed medical treatment. Given the fact that the interval between pregnancies is short, tackling the issue of anaemia during lactation might reduce the burden of anaemia during pregnancy and shortly after delivery.
4. The decision of offering free of charge services in Rafah centre needs to be reassessed; imposing user fees or drug co-payment helps people utilize services wisely, cutting down on medical expenses and reducing waste from medical expenses. This issue needs further research.
5. Although the current level of monitoring is good, there is a need to strengthen it. More supervision should be provided to the implementation teams of the three centres.

6. NECC needs to conduct a national awareness campaign to educate people about healthy behaviours, particularly on nutritional behaviour.
7. Currently, the NECC prescribes iron supplementation only to anaemic pregnant women. Given the high prevalence rate of anaemia among pregnant women, it might be appropriate to prescribe iron to also non-anaemic pregnant women as prophylactic after 13 weeks of gestation.
8. Giving the importance and relevance of the psychosocial component of the NECC health program, there is a need to implement more proactive approaches to increase the number of beneficiaries.
9. The coordination with the MoH, UNRWA and local community organizations needs to be strengthened. In particular, the NECC needs to coordinate with more providers from Rafah area.
10. Although the psychosocial component of the NECC health program is achieving its outcomes, counselors are in need for professional supervision and training. Training could include the following topics: psychological counseling, case management, dealing with behavioral problems among children, and dealing with trauma.
11. The NECC decision to include breast examination to its bundle of services is a very necessary and appropriate decision. The NECC needs to start implementing this service as soon as possible.
12. A comprehensive need assessment need to be done to assess the need for increasing the number of NECC family health care centres and the operational capacity of NECC to do so.



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 2013, different trainings were attended by NECC staff for capacity building. The trainings were conducted by different organizations national and international.

The main topics of trainings:

- Humanitarian Accountability Partnership(HAP) by (Norwegian Church Aid) NCA
- Child rights and participation by COS & NCA and implemented by Save the children
- Child protection by Act for Peace implemented by Islamic Relief
- Infection prevention and control protocol by NECC and implemented by MOH
- Outcome mapping by GCMHP

- English public relations diploma by NECC and implemented by UNRWA
- How to write proposals by GIZ
- Family Planning by NECC and implemented by MOH
- Environmental Occupational Health by Mennonite.
- First aid for occupational accidents by Mennonite.
- Mind & Body skills by UNICEF
- Breast examination and early diagnosis of breast cancer by Free Culture and Thought
- Postnatal care by MOH
- School mediation by WHO
- Trainig of trainers for PSS team by NECC & COS.
- Child protection by NECC to all the staff

Table(29):Main trainings and workshops attended by NECC for capacity building during 2013:

	Training subject	No of staff participated	Trainer center/person
1	Health Care Waste Management	2	WHO
2	TB world day	1	MOH
3	Child rights	10	COS and NCA /implemented by Save the children
4	Postnatal training	2	MOH
5	Mother and child health	2	PRC
6	Infection prevention and control protocol	32	MOH/NECC
7	Family planning counseling	20	MOH/NECC
8	Family planning tools	18	MOH/NECC
9	Child protection	17	Act for Peace/Islamic relief
10	HAP training	10	NCA
11	Outcome Mapping	1	CGMHP
12	How to write proposal	2	GIZ
13	Environmental Occupational Health	20 TVET trainers	Mennonite MCC
14	First aid for occupational accidents	20 TVET trainers	Mennonite
15	School mediation	2	WHO
16	Mainstreaming of child protection policy(4 trainings)	All NECC staff	NECC trainers
17	Mainstreaming of child protection policy (7sessions)	174 TVET students parents	
18	Mainstreaming of child protection policy (9 sessions)	287 Mothers & kindergartens Teachers	
19	Mainstreaming of child protection policy (3 sessions)	90 community leaders	
20	Brotis ISIS program in electricity profession	2 trainers and 8 former graduates	Mennonite
21	ARES program in electricity profession	2 trainers and 8 former graduates	Mennonite
22	Occupational training on new methods of painting	1 trainers	Local workshop



Coordination with stakeholders

NECCCRW is known as an effective player in coordination in order to maximize coordination and share developing services. The NECC coordinated with the relevant parties and stakeholders at different levels including:

- Coordinating with the Ministry of Labor and Ministry of health
- Coordination with Thalassemia organization to conduct electrophoresis for special cases of anemia non responding to Iron supplementation.
- Partnership with Al Emirati Delivery hospital in Rafah area in order of referring high risk pregnancy women or others for more investigations.
- Partnership with Al Dorrah children hospital in Gaza city and European Hospital in South of Gaza Strip for referral of children from NECC clinics who may need more investigation.
- Contacting UNICEF in terms of signing an partnership in the soon future.
- Contacting ANERA for donating some items of medications.
- Coordination with WHO – Health nutrition cluster regular meetings
- Child protection regular meetings with UNICEF
- GCMHP (Gaza Community Mental Health Program) cooperation in order of training and supervision.
- Cooperation with a number of NGO's local or international in terms of cooperation and avoid duplication of work.
- Coordinating with GIZ to develop the VTC's Courses to fit more the labor market needs.
- Cooperating with the Red Cross Society to conduct illiteracy lectures for students in Gaza Vocational Center.

- Coordination with the Islamic Relief organization where we nominate and recommend some of our graduates to join the Islamic Relief Project “Economic Empowerment for youth”.
- Coordination with the Ministry of Labor to follow-up final exams and accredit the TVET Diploma certificates.
- Partnership Agreement with the Palestinian Federation of Industries” PFI” to assess our TVET facilities relevance with the labor market.
- Partnership Agreement with the Palestine General Federation of Trade Union to conduct awareness sessions for trainees on labor rights.
- Partnership Agreement with GIZ in order to upgrade NECC capacities of TVET centers.
- Coordination with the Red Cross Society to conduct illiteracy lectures for Gaza VTC trainees.
- Coordinating with the Commerce of Chamber to follow-up the labor market updates.
- Wide coordination with different NGO’s, CBO’s, local workshops and private sector where we distribute and nominate our trainees for external practical training as well as assist them in finding job opportunities.
- Coordinating with the Islamic Relief International organization where we nominate and recommend some of our graduates to join the Islamic Relief Project “Economic Empowerment for youth”. Moreover, NECC participated in “stakeholders’ workshop” conducted during 2013 by the Islamic Relief on Labor Market priority sectors in the Gaza Strip within the project of “Enhancing Youth Employability in the Gaza Strip.

Challenges

- ❖ Political situation remains a real challenge affecting all life aspects in Gaza
- ❖ Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria borders attract the donors funding and take the top priorities. This may affect negatively the sustainability of our projects as it could decrease the fund.
- ❖ Delay of funds transfer
- ❖ Siege and closure
- ❖ No improvement in economic status of people
- ❖ Increase in Poverty related diseases
- ❖ Increase in stress related diseases
- ❖ Increase in electricity cuts off
- ❖ Severe shortage of fuel with double price of the Israeli fuel.
- ❖ Difficulty in transportation affecting access to our premises
- ❖ Shortage of drugs at MOH premises
- ❖ Diminished ability of MOH to meet PHC needs; shift of client to NECC clinics making an increase in number of patients attending our clinics.
- ❖ Shutting down the capacity of tunnels in importing the basic needs for Palestinians.
- ❖ Child protection policy development was a big challenge for NECC as it is a new program to be integrated inside the health and TVET centers and more challenges will be during the implementation of the policy.
- ❖ No measurement tools for the results and impact of the PSS intervention, this need specific training for our staff and a consultant for follow up.
- ❖ The implementation of the new TVET project funded by EU will be big challenge as it will be a new unique jump in TVET sector development for our trainees.

Lessons learned

- ❖ As recommended in the evaluation of the health program funded by NCA and Act for Peace, the main lessons learned are positive. The NECC health program emphasis on nutrition is very relevant and appropriate, thus, it is very important to continue implementing such program in the future as nutritional problems remain prevalent in the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ Health education has long-term positive impacts. Additionally, awareness is an important component of health promotions and contributes to strengthening communities' abilities to demand and support appropriate practices. Thus, it is recommended that the NECC conduct a national awareness campaign to educate people about healthy behaviours, particularly on nutritional behaviour.
- ❖ Although the psychosocial component of the NECC health program is achieving its outcomes, counselors are in need for professional supervision and training. Training could include the following topics: case management, dealing with behavioral problems among children, dealing with trauma and measurement of cases improvement. Also NECC key staff need to be trained more on supervision and monitoring as the current level of monitoring is good but there is a need to strengthen it.
- ❖ The prevalence rate of Iron Deficiency Anemia among lactating women is very high. It is recommended that the NECC scan for anemia among lactating women and provide anemic women with the needed medical treatment. 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.
- ❖ The decision of offering free of charge services in PHC clinics needs to be reassessed; imposing user fees or drug copayment helps people utilize services wisely, cutting down on medical expenses and reducing waste from medical expenses
- ❖ With regards to the Vocational Training Centres (VTC) programme the lessons learned are positive compared to our general grim political situation. A tracer study was conducted by NECC TVET Staff at the end of 2013 to study the employment status of NECC/TVET 2012 graduates after one year of their graduation, and the average rate is 64.7%. This was great success with respect to the high unemployment rate among youth in Gaza.
- ❖ During the year 2013, 106 graduates including "43 females and 63 males" accomplished successfully their vocational training and graduated in the 5 concerned fields (Baseline is: 95) , and 40.5% which are females. 97.2% of students enrolled in the training have graduated. Those skills gained by our graduates remain with them and they can at any time put them to good use . Accordingly, out of 424 applicants, 109 new enrolled trainees were accepted to receive vocational training skills. this indicates the high demand and desire of Palestinian youth to learn in the vocational training either for those who dropped out of their schools or university graduates who struggle to find a way out of unemployment and marginalisation.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Psychosocial support services are crucial for our male and female students to alleviate their suffering under the continuous stress and pressure they are living in due to the on-going conflicts and attacks.

Perspectives and future plans 2014

- Launching family planning services in Rafah family care center upon the request of the local community as now the team including the doctor and the nurse who are ready to implement the service after finalizing their practical and theoretical trainings during 2013.
- As NECC decided to start “Early diagnosis of breast cancer program” through breast examination among women in the three localities, a meeting conducted between NECC Executive Director and Clinics Supervisors to start working by applying the physical examination on women over 40 years old. The physician attended a 6 days professional training by an external trainer on Early Diagnosis of breast cancer. NECC coordinated with the MOH in this regard for the referral of suspected cases to make mammography and further investigations, needed cases will be referred by MOH to specialized centers.
- Implementing the new initiative project “Upgrading capacities of NECC -TVET centers” in the coming 2 years focusing on : renovation of TVET centers, improving infrastructure including provision of equipments, TOT and capacity building, curricula content upgrading , establishing learning resource centers and building up the relation between TVET centers and private business sector.
- NECC will continue working on Child participation based on Child Rights principles and recommended by **Church of Sweden**.
- Conducting a PSS capacity building training for NECC counselors on developing a PSS monitoring tools to assess the improvement of cases.
- Continuing the implementation of “Child Protection” policy among the local community.
- Capacity building for the key staff about monitoring and evaluation of NECC programs.
- NECC is at the final stage of submitting a proposal in a partnership with Save the Children Organization focused on screening of malnourished and anemic children up to 5 years in Shijaia area. Hopefully to get it.

NECC Logframe Results

Health Program

Gaza	Overall Goal/Impact	Indicators	Achieved	Notes
	Provide and maintain primary healthcare services to enhance the wellbeing of Palestinian mothers and children./Health status of Palestinian mothers and children improved through the provision of quality primary health care services.	5% reduction in neonatal mortality rates in targeted areas	Infant Mortality Rate (per1,000) 18.8 (MOH/Palestine annual report 2011).	
		5% reduction in maternal mortality rate in targeted areas	The maternal mortality among Palestine refugees served byUNRWA is similar to the rate in upper middle income countries and far low from the estimate for the Arab states at 140 and west Asia region at 71 per 100,000 live birth., TOTAL reported maternal deaths in Gaza during 2012 were 8 of 39957 deliveries attended UNRWA clinics (UNRWA annual report 2012)	
		50% of served population received appropriate care and their health status improved	<p>-Regarding malnourished and/or anemic children up to 5 years diagnosed :more than 90% were recovered, improved or stayed the same</p> <p>- 83.4 % of pregnant women got ultrasound services 3 or more times</p> <p>- No maternal mortality among all pregnant women who follow up during their pregnancy in our clinics and gave birth during this year</p> <p>-92.4% of pregnant women received folic acid in the three trimester</p> <p>-99.5% of deliveries were very satisfied about antenatal care services they received from NECC</p>	

		30% reduction in the prevalence of anaemia and malnutrition among the served population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Prevalence of anaemia among children Rafah 23.6% Darraj 35.42% Shijaia 20.57% - Prevalence of malnutrition among children Rafah 14.37% Darraj 11.95% Shijaia 16.83% Target achieved for malnutrition except Rafah and for Anemia except Darraj and Rafah 	Baseline: %Anemia R:23.6 D: 36 S: 30.3 %Malnutrition R: 16.3 D: 20.9 S: 27.57
		90% of pregnant women received quality antenatal care services	99-100% of pregnant women followed up in ante natal care clinics at least 4 times during their pregnancy	
		60% of women received standardized postnatal care	78.3% of women received 2 postnatal visits after delivery	
		90% of children received appropriate growth monitoring services	74% new registered children attending well baby regularly according to appointment date given by NECC while 47.8% of total children attending well baby regularly according to appointment date given by NECC	

		50% of anaemic children timely recovered	% of anaemic children recovered Darraj 54.1 % Shijaia 57.6% Rafah 61%	
		50% of malnourished children timely recovered	% of malnourished children recovered during 60-120 days of treatment according to the protocol Darraj : UW 75%, S 68%, W 76.9% Shijaia : UW 62.5%, S 25%, W 78.1% Rafah : UW 47.4%, S 16.7 %, W 66.7%	Because stunting takes more time to recover than (chronic malnutrition), the speed of recovery was little bit slower.
	Specific Objectives/Outcome	Indicators	Achieved	Notes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Provide adequate primary health care services in the poor and overcrowded localities according to priorities/ Women, Children and Youth in the poor and overcrowded localities enjoy improved health conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 90% of pregnant women in targeted locality received timely ANC at least 4 visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 99-100% of pregnant women followed up in ante natal care clinics at least 4 times during their pregnancy 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 70% of women in targeted locality received timely quality post natal care at least twice. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78.3% of women in targeted locality received timely quality post natal care at least twice. 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 80% improvement in the knowledge level based on pre test post test (nutrition, danger sign for mother and baby during ANC, NC, PNC. 		See P/19		

<p>1.2 The public and environmental health in the targeted areas is promoted and enhanced/</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 30% reduction of clients presented with diseases resulted from bad sanitation, and in appropriate practice (diarrhea, parasites, skin diseases). 	<p>24.5% decrease in parasitic infections</p> <p>13.3 to 14.6 decrease in skin diseases except Rafah(it could be due to very poor conditions of the families living there and less awareness and education of mothers)</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3 The level of malnutrition including anaemia in the target areas is reduced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce prevalence of anaemia amongst expected mothers and children by 30%. 	<p>(see above) for children</p> <p>For the expected mothers we will add the data to the program as we give to all the anemic pregnant women iron supplement until recovery.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4 Achieve high standard of quality in the services provided by NECCRW's health centers./Unified and Effective M&E system applied in all Health Centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70% of beneficiaries practice appropriate practices 	<p>the mother and child health related checklists are fully in use by the NECC health providers. Staff received training on monitoring the compliance with these checklists. Data entry models for these checklists were developed and the staff regularly enter and analyze the findings of these checklists onto the developed databases (the available checklists currently in use include Antenatal care, Post natal care, Growth monitoring, Control of diarrhea diseases, Acute respiratory infections and Infection prevention and control.</p> <p>NECC used to measure the satisfaction of the health services provided</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All clients received standardized services according to protocols by 2015. 	<p>Achieved</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of satisfactions amongst beneficiaries reaches over 85% for the protocols and systems followed 	<p>Level of satisfaction reached over than 90%</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 The psychosocial status of the served community particularly women and children is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 50% of clients with psychosocial problems improved after receiving support from NECC staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NECC after discussion about this issue with specialist and through the MHPSS cluster , we agreed about waiting the unified tools 	

	promoted		<p>that will be used by all those working on PSS and it will be expected on Feb 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now NECC used mainly the observation for measuring the improvement of the cases 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.6 Cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations to avoid duplication is enhanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports produced, disseminated, and discussed among stakeholders at least 5 coordinating meetings or workshops conducted with relevant organizations which resulted in agreement annually 	<p>All are Achieved</p> <p>Meetings with Ministry of Health lead to agreement about referring cases to the MOH hospitals for more investigation.</p> <p>Also agreements with 3 kindergartens for implementing the summer camps were done.</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.7 The needs of handicapped from medical apparatus and devices is fulfilled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 90% of served handicapped are better able to communicate with their surroundings 30 handicapped people received medical apparatus and devices 	<p>24 wheel chair and crutches were provided to needy people.</p>	
	<p>Expected Results/Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.1 Pregnant women received adequate primary and procreation health care services 	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 new pregnant women registered for ANC annually 	<p>Achieved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1580new pregnant women 	<p>Notes</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,000 lab. Tests made for pregnant women 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14,253 lab tests were made 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,600 antenatal care visits made annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14,550 antenatal care visits 	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 pregnant women received follow up visits, newly registered and on-going 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2262 pregnant women newly registered and on going received follow up visits 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 health education activities delivered to 4500 mothers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 622 sessions conducted to 11,144 mothers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.2 Children received adequate primary health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15,000 children registered at the well baby clinic and received appropriate well baby services 7,000 children up to 6 years old treated annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,121 children registered at the well baby clinic and received appropriate well baby services and 7,107 children up to 6 years old treated annually 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150 demonstrations presented for mothers to feed their children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 149 demonstrations presented for 4449 mothers 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 Awareness lectures for 3,000 mothers conducted annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 953 awareness sessions for 17,009 mothers 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.13 Couples received family planning services and awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 800 partners received family planning services and awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 941 women received family planning services and awareness 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 500 breast exams carried for women annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> starting developing a manual, the doctor has attended a professional training for this program during 2013 conducted by an external trainer, a new screen on the computer for this program was developed 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.4 People who have dental problems got adequate services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 4,000 women, children and adults in targeted areas receive dental care annually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5637patients receive dental care annually 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,200 pregnant women receive routine dental check up for the first time pregnancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1477pregnant women receive routine dental check up for the first time pregnancy. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 700 children receive tooth check-up during well baby clinic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1243children receive tooth check-up during well baby clinic. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1.5 Patients and sick people received suitable treatment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 4,000 patients examined, tested and received treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4733patients examined, tested and received treatment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2.1 Inhabitants received consultative, awareness and creational health services. 1.2.2 Local communities received minor assistance to support their environmental health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,500 annual home visits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4042 home visits including home visits for child health , deliveries, pregnant women care, adults care, psychosocial cases or defaulters
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 women participates in 2 trainings per year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42women participates in 2 trainings per year
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at least 100 families of beneficiaries who received social assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not implemented as no fund received for it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3.1 Awareness in matters related to nutrition best practices has been extended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,000 caretakers received awareness in nutrition annually. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2114 sessions conducted to 32,789 mothers about nutrition and health issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3.2 Adequate treatment in matters related to nutrition best practices has been extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least (2,000) anaemic children and\or (500) malnourished treated recovered or improved or prevented from being deteriorated annually, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1698 anaemic cases and/or 1469 malnourished cases discovered and treated annually
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 severe cases referred to specialized institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 204 severe cases or special cases needed more investigation referred to specialized institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4.1 System and routines enhanced 1.4.2 regular reporting and communication enhanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All clinics and health centers are using unified protocols by 2014 Regular quality reporting is received from all clinics and health centers on time by 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NECC clinics used unified protocols of MOH and our own protocol for nutrition program Daily , monthly , quarterly and annually reports received from all clinics as all the programmes are computerized which make it easier to do.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,4,3 Central Computerized data-base in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> qualitative and quantitative data about services are available as computerised central data by end of 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All are achieved 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5.1 Appropriate psychosocial services are provided to women and children attending the PHC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,500 children received psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2169 child received PSS 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10,000 women participated in psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7432 women participated in PSS including individual counselling, group counselling or sessions 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5.2 Appropriate psychosocial services are provided to women participating in activities and training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 women attending afternoon activities received psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 205 women attending afternoon activities received psychosocial support 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 women attending community workers training course received psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 women attending community workers training course received psychosocial support 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5.3 Appropriate psychosocial services are provided to male and female students and parents of VTC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 220 male student and 40 parents received psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 225 male students and 190 parents received PSS 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 female students, and 45 parents received psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87 female students and 62 parents received PSS 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5.9 Raise and improve the capacity of professionals working in programs of psychosocial support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 team members, those 8 participate in capacity building programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8NECC staff received capacity building on professionals working in programs of psychosocial support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieved 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.6 Cooperation mechanism adopted and followed with relevant parties. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 participants from NECC staff participates in relevant workshops and trainings • At least 2 visits and meetings with health partners are conducted monthly • 20 NECC staff participate in external activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 of NECC health and PSS staff participated in relevant workshops , training and meetings • Achieved 	
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TEVET Program

Overall Goal / Impact	Indicators	Achieved 'actual'
<p>Provide professional skills training and access to education to empower marginalized Palestinian youth to improve their own economic conditions / marginalized Palestinian youth are empowered to improve their own economic conditions</p>	<p>At least 50% of graduates and supported youth are employed or self-employed within one year of graduation and service (achieving better than national numbers of same age group)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64.7% of 2012 VTP graduates are employed or self-employed within one-year of graduation (a total of 57 out of 88 got employed), while the national numbers of Palestinians labor force survey in the third Q /2013 showed that 43.6% of youth aged 15 and more are economically active (employed and unemployed); 44.9% in the West Bank and 41.4% in the Gaza Strip.
Specific Objectives/Outcome		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.1 Provide high quality vocational training in a variety of designed skills and professions to target groups in accordance with the requirements of the society and market. / female and male youth have gained skills and professions that are relevant to the market and society •2.2 Trainees/students received quality vocational training that considers the state of the art techniques in the concerned fields. •quality of vocational training and associated professional skills development provided to youth and women entering the job market is enhanced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At least 95 graduates accomplished their vocational training and graduated annually in 5 fields, 38% of which are females. •At least 90% of students enrolled in training have graduated •At least 60% of NECC trainers received TOT and implement the gained skills during the Training sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -106 graduates accomplished their vocational training and graduated in 2013 in the 5 fields, 41% of which are females • -97.2% of students enrolled in training have graduated • 100% of NECC VTC's trainers received TOT in 2013 and implement the gained skills during the Training sessions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •2.3 Needy students are assisted to complete their education in fields that respond to the community and market needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At least 95 needy students completed their training without having financial constraints (subsidizing training fees for needy trainees) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 106 students completed their training without having financial constraints through installment of training contribution for all students and one needy student from the secretarial studies was exempted from the half of her training fees.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.4 NECCRW's graduates are assisted in finding employment and self-employment opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Over 50% of graduates were assisted to find jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64.7% of 2012 VTP graduates are employed or self-employed within one-year of graduation. • 33.3% of them who are now employed within their professions are working in the same place in which they trained through the on-the job training opportunity offered to

		graduates
Expected Results/ Outputs		
2.1.1 Male youth received vocational training in carpentry/furniture making, welding and Aluminum work	•39 out of 80 male youth applicants joined the vocational training courses in carpentry/furniture making, welding and Aluminum work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 Male Students succeeded, have been graduated in July 2013 from NECC Gaza VTC's (23 graduates of Carpentry and Furniture and 14 graduates of Metal / Aluminum Works) • According anew group of 39 male students out of 83 applicants joined the training course of 2013/2014 in 1-9-2013
•2.1.2 Male youth received Vocational training in general electrical skills and motor and transformer rewinding	•24 male youth out of 240 applicants received vocational training in general electrical skills and motor and transformer rewinding annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -26 Male Students succeeded, have been graduated in October 2013 from NECC AL Qarara VTC's of general electrical skills and motor and transformer rewinding • -According anew group of 24 male students was selected out of 237 applicants joined the 2013/2014 Electricity Course in 1-11-2013
2.1.3 Female youth received Vocational training in secretarial and office work	•20 female youth out of 60 applicants received vocational training in secretarial and office work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -24 female students succeeded, have been graduated in July 2013 from Secretarial Studies and English Language center. • -According anew group of 25 female students out of 73 applicants, joined the 2013/2014 vocational training course of Secretarial Studies and English Language
•2.1.4 Female youth received Vocational training in advanced sewing	•15 female youth out of 30 applicants received vocational training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 students succeeded , have been graduated from advanced dressmaking center in July 2013 • According anew group of 19 female out of 31 applicants joined the 2013/2014 advanced dress making course
2.2.1 Advanced vocational training for NECC staff is provided (15 staff)	number of NECC staff who received capacity building on vocational training disaggregated by type, location of training and duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 of NECC Staff received capacity building including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Child Protection training funded by Act for Peace at NECC Premises for 5 days, implemented by Islamic Relief.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ HAP training funded by NCA at Roots Restaurant for two full days. ➤ Child Rights funded by COS and NCA at El Ahli Arab Hospital Premises for a day implemented by Save the Children. ➤ “Environmental Occupational Health” funded by MCC was conducted for 10hrs, benefitted 20 of NECC TVET trainers in 9,10th December, 2013 by an external trainer at NECC Premises. ➤ First Aids for Occupational Accidents” was conducted for 10 hrs, benefitted 20 of NECC TVET trainers during December, 2013 by an external trainer at NECC Premises. ➤ Brotes ISIS program “was conducted at El Qarara Center by an external trainer, benefitted 2 trainers and 8 former graduates for 15 hrs aims at developing the capacity of our trainers and graduates in the field of general electricity and drawing electrical circuits using the computer. ➤ “Ares Program “ was conducted at El Qarara Center by an external trainer , benefitted 2 trainers and 8 former graduates for 30hrs ➤ A male VTC instructor in Gaza participated in occupational training on new methods in painting for a week during June 2013
2.2.2 Linkages with Alumni and market enhanced and feedback integrated into training programs	•At least 2 upgrades from the graduates and the market are included in the training program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 upgrades from our graduates and market are included in Brotes and Ares training “in the field of electricity as a result of their feedback about the needs of the market.
2.3.1 Educational loans to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities were provided (60-70 students)	•At least 60 educational loans provided to students to complete their study at Palestinian universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 119 educational loans provided to students to complete their study at university for the year 2013
2.4.1 Follow-up graduates, one year of graduation is conducted.	-Annual Follow-Up is conducted -at least 70% of graduates were followed after graduation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual follow-up was conducted • 100% of graduates were followed after one year of their graduation
2.4.2 A mechanism to connect students with labour market is established	-at least 50% of those connected =through NECC joined the labour market through the link after graduation from vocational training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64.7% of all VTP graduates are employed or self-employed within one-year of graduation. 33.3% of the 2012 VTC graduates who are now employed within

		<p>their professions are working in the same place in which they trained through the on-the job training</p>
<p>2.4.3 Assistance is extended to NECCCRW graduates to start their own businesses.</p>	<p>At least 2 graduates established their own business annually with the assistance of NECC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 of 2012 graduates established and opened their own business (1 in Carpentry, 1 in Welding, and 1 in electricity).

Emergency Relief Program

<p>Overall Goal/Impact</p> <p>5. Provide emergency assistance to alleviate the impact of emergency humanitarian situations when required./ Impact of emergency situation has been alleviated through the provision of humanitarian assistance</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <p>Targeted Palestinians and communities are able to attain cash for work “ temporary jobs”, cash relief for one time to secure food , medicine, and daily needs, and health and education services comparable to pre-emergency status¹(when funds are available).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2013, supported by Embrace the middle East, emergency Relief project targeted 635 poor families with one-time cash relief to secure their daily basics, 60 unemployed graduates with job creation (30 male, and 30female), and 8676 patients examined and received treatment and medication. • Supported by PMP, extended job creation opportunities Initiative was provided to 32 unemployed youth (18 males and 14 females), 7088 patients examined and received treatment , and 1662 benefitted from Emergency PSS support. • Supported by Act Alliance, 535 children benefitted from summer camps and recreational trips in the three served areas.
<p>Specific Objectives/Outcome</p> <p>5.1 Enhance NECC's ability to mitigate the effects of, and respond to emergencies</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NECC have scenario analysis, plans and possible resources, updated quarterly/ • 70% of applied appeals are granted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • -NECC is well-prepared humanitarian ground tomitigate the negative effects of the violent environment, giving special attention to those most affected and vulnerable, and the poorest of the poor through its emergency relief program including needs and context

assessment , strategic and contingency plans , capable staffing, and relevant publications including quarterly and annual narrative and financial updated reports.

- -We applied Emergency appeals to Act Alliance, PMP and Embrace the Middle East at the end of 2012. EME and PMP emergency appeals were totally granted and implemented in 2013; Part of Act Alliance emergency appeal was granted and implemented in PSS.
- Moreover, during December 2013, NECC applied an emergency appeal including Cash Relief and Medicines to Act Alliance to respond to the heavy storm that hit the Palestinian territory; we haven't received yet any grant.

5.2 Families affected by the on-going emergency situation have enhanced their humanitarian status

- The assisted families humanitarian status is enhanced

- All of the assisted families with one-time cash relief humanitarian status were enhanced as they expressed their satisfaction of being able at least to secure their basic needs including food.
- Follow-up the benefitted youth from job creation initiative supported by

		<p>EME by our social workers immediately after the end of the project showed that 7% were promised to be taken by their companies and sustained work.</p> <p>Regarding PMP project that started in 2012 and extended in 2013, follow-up the cases after six months of the project implementation showed that 40% of ex-VTC targeted graduates(57 out of 142) sustained and taken by their companies and/or others, and 29% of ex-university graduates (14 out of 48) sustained in employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 44 families beneficiaries targeted in PMP project of “renovation of damaged houses due to war managed to secure their minor damages including installing aluminum frames and glass panels and replacing broken doors and cracks.
<p>5.1.1 Capacity issues Identified from the assessment are developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All issues identified are bridged by 2015. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NECC has its strategic plan for 2012-2015 identified all of its programs and services
<p>5.1.2 NECC active in ACT Forum meetings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ACT form meetings attended. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of the monthly ACT forum meetings were attended
<p>5.2.1 Needy households were assisted through cash assistance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4,000 households assisted through cash support in 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 635 poor and needy families living in Gaza Strip were assisted with one-time cash assistance with an amount of \$70, funded by EME. • 44 affected families were assisted with cash relief for

		<p>the renovation of their minor damages due to war, funded by PMP.</p>
<p>5.2.2 Job opportunities for individuals were created.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 jobs created for unemployed in 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 92 jobs creation opportunities were created for unemployed VTC's and University graduates during 2013 funded by EME and PMP.

Advocacy and Polices Program

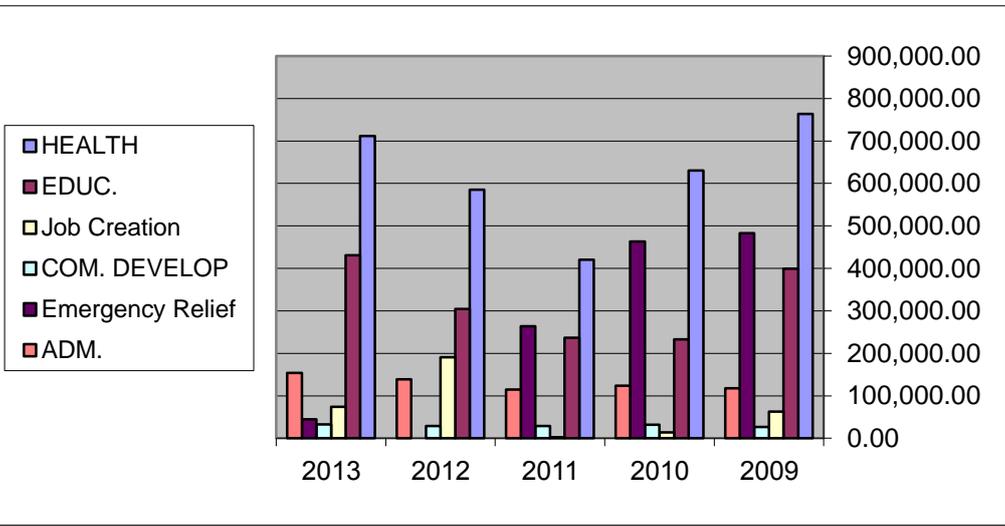
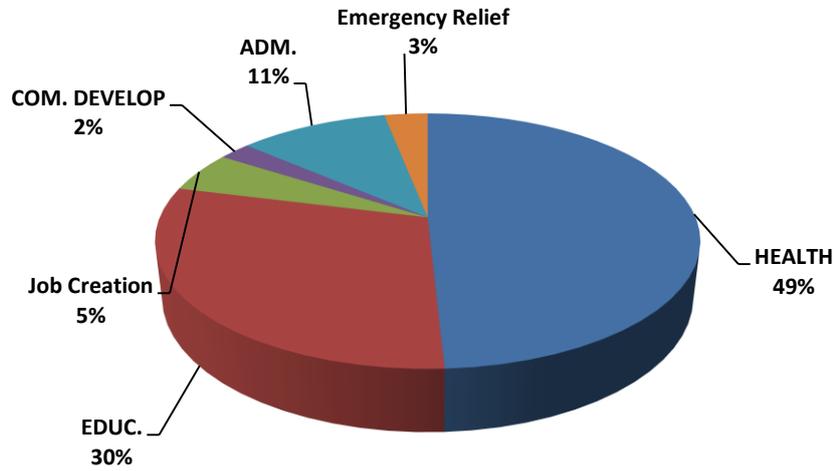
<p>Overall Goal/Impact</p> <p>Mobilize and empower Palestinian and other relevant communities to seek just and equal social and economic rights for Palestinians.</p>	<p>Indicators</p> <p>1 to 2 policy/advocacy issues resulted in improving justices and economic status</p> <p>Palestinian refugees and communities' social and economic internationally guaranteed rights are high on the local, regional and international agenda (right to work, health, water, gender equality)</p>	<p>2 policies have been developed by NECC during 2013 which are : Child Protection , and Gender policy</p>
<p>Specific Objectives/Outcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enable and empower the local community to advocate its issues to achieve social equality./ Palestinian refugees and marginalized communities in Gaza are advocating their issues to achieve social equality 	<p>Indicators</p> <p>3 social , health and economic issues raised by local communities</p>	<p>2 Health programs were raised by local community including family planning and Breast Examination</p> <p>child protection and gender equality issues raised by local community</p> <p>3 economic initiatives raised “cash assistance, job creation, and renovation of minor damaged houses and implemented during 2013</p>

<p>Expected Results/Outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network and coordinate with local, regional, and international organizations to defend the rights of NECCCRW's beneficiaries. To defend the rights of Palestinian refugees and marginalized communities in Gaza 	<p>Indicators</p> <p>5 functional networks established.</p>	<p>NECC participated effectively on monthly basis with UNICEF Child Protection cluster, WHO Primary Health Care Cluster, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs, WHO Health Nutrition Cluster, Mental Health PSS Cluster and Palestinian non-governmental Organizations (PNGO)</p>
<p>•Participate in joint ventures. Involve communities in planning , implementation and evaluation of health initiatives</p>	<p>4 initiatives implemented with local communities</p>	<p>3 initiatives were planned and will be implemented with the local community including 2 health initiatives as family planning and Breast Examination, and child protection initiative.</p> <p>Moreover, NECC VTC's youth participated in "El Nakba" coalition conducted in 15th May 2013 where they launched from NECC premises to United Nations Headquarter in Gaza City holding a banner to advocate and defend Palestinians right of return and destiny and adherence to national principles. and they also participated in the national day for disabled in 4th Dec 2013, advocating disabled rights in the</p>

	<p>2 programs/activities at which beneficiaries had participated in planning, implementation and evaluation</p>	<p>society.</p> <p>2 new programs have been developed at 2013 with the participation of the beneficiaries including child protection and Breast Examination</p> <p>Moreover, NECC is grass root organizations familiar with community need-field oriented</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Community meeting every six months•Suggestion box•Continuous monitoring satisfaction•Typically, before each program community meeting took place with community leaders to assess needs and relevance, and ensuring that their voice is well-presented at the design stage•Involvement in the implementation continuously happens•Involvement in the evaluation including presenting results of the work to beneficiaries
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the awareness of international communities towards the Palestinian issue and rights and consequences of occupation. • Coordination with human rights organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 coordination meetings attended with the relevant organizations • 10 visits paid by relevant internationals • 4 relevant publications released 	<p>10 coordination meetings were attended with the relevant organizations by NECC Staff during 2013 in human rights</p> <p>137 international visitors</p> <p>NECC released progress reports, annual reports, Success Stories uploaded on NECC Website, and Health Education and Awareness publications and child protection brochures.</p>
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How the money was spent in the year 2013



***“I Always Pray with Joy because of your partnerships ...,
being confident of this that those who began a good work
will carry it on to completion”***

(Philippians 1:4-6)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO OUR SUPPORTERS:

NECCCRW's programmes have been sustained over the last six decades with the generous assistance received not only from its major partners, but also from EU and many other individuals and organizations.

Many thanks to all of them and to any supporter whom we might have missed to declare for their solidarity and support to our people which was made through MECC/DSPR in general and Gaza Area Programme in particular, who helped us in Gaza Strip to find our own limited solutions and to keep the important witness which continues to generate hope among the needy in this part of the world. We shall continue to appreciate the support of our partners who are requested to keep the active witness through their solidarity with our ecumenical programme for the service of all His people.

1. ACT for Peace
2. ACT International (Action by Churches Together)
3. Amos Trust
4. Bread for the World
5. CARITAS in France, Switzerland, Luxemburg & Jerusalem
6. CCFD
7. CFOS (Canada)
8. Christian Aid, UK
9. Church in Wales, UK
10. Church of Sweden
11. Danchurchaid, Denmark
12. Danida, Denmark
13. Diakonisches Werk, Germany
14. Diocese of Aalborg, Denmark
15. Embrace the Middle East (UK)
16. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
17. Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst e.V (EED), Germany
18. FinChurchAid
19. Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), Holland
20. KAIROS, Canada
21. Lutheran World Relief, USA
22. Mennonite Central Committee
23. Middle East Council of Churches
24. National Council of Churches, Australia & AusAid
25. NECEF, Canada
26. Norwegian Church Aid
27. Pontifical Mission for Palestine
28. St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
29. The Bromages, UK
30. The Church of Scotland
31. The Mission Covenant Church of Sweden
32. The Reids, Australia
33. World Council of Churches

Public Informaiton Office
Gaza Field Office

*Total Registered Populaiton 1,307,014 as of 31 December 2013**

Registered Refugees: 1,240,082					Other Registered Populaiton		
Area	Camps	Registered camp Populaiton	Not in camps	Total Reg. Refugees	Other Registered Persons**	MNR family Members***	Total Popuation
Jabalia	Jabalia	114,106	111,409	225,515	2,808	2,707	231,030
Rimal	Beach	89,592	122,004	211,596	4,404	4,642	220,642
Zeitun	----	-	140,226	140,226	13,224	10,978	164,428
Nuseirat	Nuseirat	71,506	36,728	145,534	1,723	1,720	148,977
	Bureij	37,300					-
Deir El-Balah	D/Balah	22,645	52,970	103,268	1,824	2,519	107,611
	Maghazi	27,653					-
Khan Yunis	Kh/Yunis	77,577	134,534	212,111	5,953	8,418	226,482
Rafah	Rafah	111,658	90,174	201,832	3,618	2,394	207,844
Total	8 Camps	552,037	688,045	1,240,082	33,554	33,378	1,307,014

** Other registered Persons:- are those who do not fully meet UNRWA's Palestine Refugee criteria . While registered for the purposes of receiving UNRWA services , Other Registered Persons include : Jerusalem poor ,Gaza poor, Frontier villagers , compromise cases , kafaleh (adopted)

*** MNR family members are also part of the Other Registered Persons category , but their numbers are seperated for tracking and monitoring purposes

**Informaiton is based on UNRWA Registration Statistical Bulletin No. (04/2013) by Department of Relief & Social Services - UNRWA - HQ (Amman)*



OCHA

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

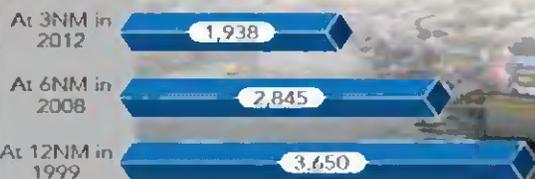
FIVE YEARS OF BLOCKADE THE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE GAZA STRIP

July 2013

Access to fishing areas

The ability of people to gain a living from fishing activities has been severely undermined as a result of the gradual restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on the access of fishermen to sea areas along Gaza's coast.

Annual fish yield at various access limitations



Movement of people: Erez crossing



Daily average of travelers out of Gaza



Sewage

The import restrictions have impeded the expansion and upgrading of Gaza's sewage infrastructure. Nearly 90 million litres of untreated or partially treated sewage are discharged into the sea every day. The contamination of seawater poses a serious health hazard.



Access to farming land

Despite the recent improvement in access to areas as close as 300 meters from the fence, due to the lack of clarity on the scope of current restrictions and the ongoing risks, farmers are reluctant to invest.



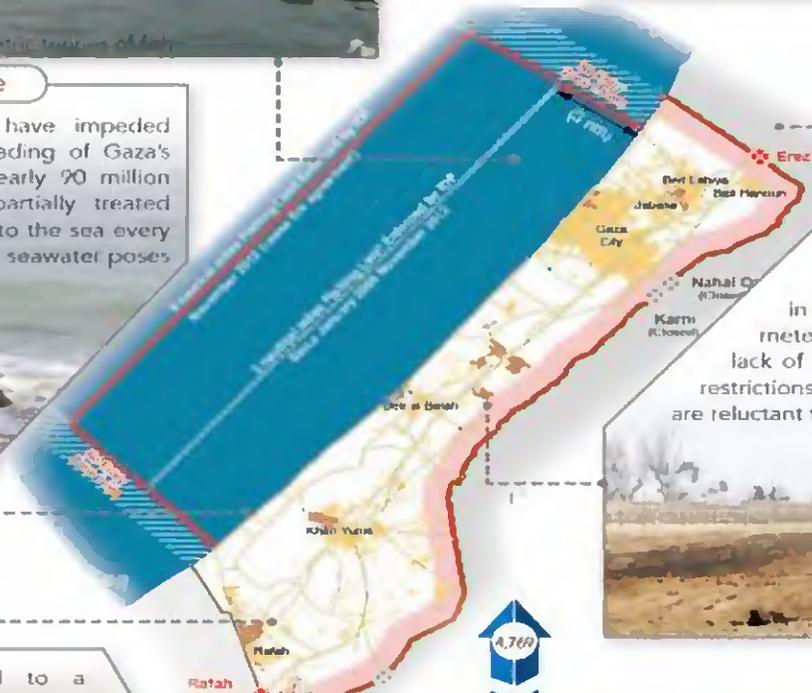
Tunnels

The blockade has led to a proliferation of tunnels, where thousands of workers risk their lives every day smuggling restricted goods. The volume of construction materials entering through tunnels is over three times larger than through the official crossing.



Exit of goods from the Gaza Strip

Number of truckloads (January - May)



Middle East Council Of Churches Committee For Refugee Work

DSPR/NECC

Mediterranean
Sea

GAZA STRIP

