



TWENTY YEARS OF SUSTAINABLE
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR THE
PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY

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General Assembly and Board of Directors meeting on

MA'AN'S Future Plans and Past Achievements



MA'AN's accomplishments and projects implemented during the year 2008 were presented at a general meeting for the General Assembly. Members from both the West Bank and Gaza Strip participated through a videoconference meeting and discussed achievements and future plans and activities for 2009-2010.

Odeh Shehada, chairman of the Board of Directors, presented the Board report for the year 2008 which highlighted the main achievements and implemented projects. MA'AN has successfully completed 37 development and relief projects; created 25,187 working days, conducted 10,304 training hours, implemented 15,744 hours of non-formal education for school students and 24,000 hours of sports, drama and life skills. Further, MA'AN distrib-

uted NIS27,4000 in the form of grants for organizations and farmers affected by the construction of settlements and the Apartheid Wall.

The report shed light on the reclamation and rehabilitation of 1,560 dunums, the establishment of 265 green houses, the construction of 37,216 meters of retaining walls, the rehabilitation of 44 kilometers of agricultural roads, the construction of 343 home gardens and 148 wells and cisterns providing 10,500 meter cube of water. In addition to the distribution of 26,155 plants, 230 poultry and 255 rabbit units, as well as distributing 13,000 pieces of children clothes produced by Palestinian women within MA'AN job creation programs.

MA'AN further developed 10

women centers, 135 youth clubs and built the capacities of CBOs through equipping 7 computer labs and 17 small libraries, renovating 4 training halls in 4 clubs, furnishing 7 training halls with equipment and finally the publication of 10 advocacy reports on the impact of settlements and the Apartheid Wall and settlements on Palestinians in the West Bank.

Sami Khader, MA'AN Director, presented to the board the future strategy and plan for the year 2009-2010 where he highlighted that the Centre's focus will be institutional development, expansion of agriculture and food security program and invigorating the advocacy program on both the domestic and international levels.

MA'AN during 2008

Successfully completed 37 development and relief projects; created 25,187 working days, conducted 10,304 training hours, 15744 hours of non-formal education reclamation and rehabilitation of 1,560 dunums, the establishment of 265 green houses, the construction of 37,216 meters of retaining walls, the rehabilitation of 44 kilometers of agricultural roads, the construction of 343 home gardens and 148 wells and cisterns providing 10,500 meter cube of water.

Supported by the Austrian Government through UNIFEM

MA'AN Concludes Food Security Project for Poor Women



Women-made products at the “Delicious.... Naturally ” exhibition



MA'AN concluded the “*Food Security Initiative for Poor Women Using Local Produce*” project which targeted 10 women centers in Hebron and Qalqilia. The main objective of the project was building the capacities of the administrative committees of women centers to be able to run the centers as well as enhance women food production skills to be able to produce the proper quality and quantity of food products suitable for marketing.

The main achievements of the project included 360 hours of intensive food processing, management and financial training to enhance the skills and knowledge of 200 women in the targeted centers to start the production process. The women utilized these skills in producing a set of products such as thyme, pickles, jams, olives, pastries, fruit and vegetable juices, and dried fruits and vegetable. These products were presented to the market in a grand exhibition that hosted the 10 women center; more than 80% of the products were sold during the exhibition.

In order to guarantee the right environment for quality production, the existing buildings of the targeted centers went through rehabilitation and infrastructural development work, and the centers were provided with tools and equipment required to enhance their specialization and production quality and quantity.

In an advanced stage of the project, it was essential to connect the targeted women centers with the market and expose them to successful production and marketing experiences; networking tours to local retail and whole sale merchants were conducted. Networking tours to local farmers were also conducted to put women centers in contact with direct suppliers. Finally, MA'AN took women in a networking and educational visit to the successful YMCA food processing section in Jericho where they learned more about food processing, collaborative efforts and production and marketing procedures.

Furthermore, a comprehensive marketing plan was formulated to provide targeted centers with insight on the presence of their products in the market and methods of competition based on quality, price and promotion.

In coordination with the Ministry of Education & Higher Education (MoEHE,) the project was finally crowned with eight awareness raising shows on nutrition and healthy diet in local schools. This was a preparatory step to enhance students' understanding and acceptance of “healthy schools canteens” during the next academic year. MA'AN will financially support seven women centers to start the school canteens, and the MoEHE will facilitate the process of granting school canteen to these women centers.



Pickle production



Renovated kitchen in a women center

In support of Agriculture and Job Creation

More than \$3,065,500 new Food Security projects in Gaza

Urgent Support to the Agricultural Sector

Funded by the Islamic Development Bank and in partnership with UNDP, this \$1,200,000 project aims to develop the infrastructure for the agriculture sector in the Gaza Strip, targeting those affected by the recent war in the northern and central regions and Gaza region. Over a period of 10 months, MA'AN will dedicate its efforts to maintaining and rehabilitating 60 greenhouses, planting 400 dunums of vegetables, maintenance and rehabilitation of 15 poultry farms, as well as rehabilitation of 16 agricultural water wells.

Urban Vouchers Program

Funded by the World Food program and in partnership with Oxfam, this project aims at reviving the economy through enabling poor consumers of buying their basic needs. Over 9 months, a total number of 84,060 purchase coupons will be distributed. The value of each coupon is NIS 64, and 2,335 coupons will be distributed every week in Gaza, the northern governorates, as well as Khan Younis governorate.

Two Cash for Work Projects

Funded by ECHO and in partnership with Oxfam, this €625,000 is designed to rehabilitate 200,000 square meters of agricultural roads, provide 80 units of home fish farming units, dissemination of the concept of urban agriculture through providing 150 roof gardens, and providing employment opportunities for 1,000 unemployed workers.

Funded by DFID and in partnership with Oxfam, this £516,000 project is designed to rehabilitate 120,000 square meters of agricultural roads in the Mawasi area in Khan Yunis. Provide job opportunities for 40 women through the establishment of two tailor shops, dissemination of the concept of urban agriculture through providing 200 garden roofs and providing employment opportunities for 600 unemployed workers.

BABY GREEN HOUSES PROJECT

Suppoted by Kadoori Hong Kong



Targeting poor women in the Tulkarm villages of Kufr Zibad and Kufr Ab-boush, this prject aims to provide support and food security for women families via providing agricultural income sources.

The main activities include establishing 24 greenhouses, of a total area of 2,160 square meters and 60 hours of organic farming and permaculture. The project will also provide job opportunities in the fields of land preparation and farming.

18,800 food parcels for the poor in Gaza

A total of 18,800 food parcels was delivered to 108,860 poor and vulnerable people through support by Oxfam GB, World Food Program and FCD- Belgium.



Alleviating Poverty in Gaza through Strengthening Self-Sufficiency

supported by CORDAID

MA'AN is targeting about 600 vulnerable households to achieve measurable and sustainable improvements in their food security situation. MA'AN has been conducting training courses and distributing awareness material on farmers and the poorest households to guide them to the best agricultural practices along with sustainable income generating activities.

Awareness Campaign for Tulkarem Farmers on

Best Practices of Olive Harvest and Best Quality of Olive Oil



MA'AN launched a campaign in Tulkarem to raise farmers' awareness on the best practices in olive harvesting and enhancing the quality of olive oil.

This campaign is part of "Promotion of Small Farmer's Olive Oil" Project funded by Smiling Children and implemented in partnership with Welfare Association. The project targets 12 CBOs, including charitable organizations, sports clubs and cooperatives, in seven villages in Kafriyat cluster in Tulkarm governorate.

This campaign consists of a capacity building component for the local committees representing the targeted villages as well as grants and loans component. On one hand, the capacity building part will target the twelve CBOs and seven project committees representing farmers and CBO members and village councils in the seven villages.

The skills of administrative boards of the CBOs are also targeted under this component, based on a comprehensive needs analysis, training course in strategic planning, communication, fundraising and financial management will be conducted.

On the other hand, through the grants and loans part, MA'AN will provide logistical assistance to CBOs to better serve their communities. The loans will be provided as revolving fund to support income generation project to enhance the livelihoods of the farmers and CBO members.

TOWARDS FOOD SUSTAINABILITY

40,000 Seedlings for the Vulnerable



MA'AN Planted 40,000 seedlings in a nursery in order to distribute them on vulnerable farmers. Earlier, 47 farmers were provided with organic fertilizers, irrigation networks and greenhouse-maintenance materials through support by CORDAID under "Towards Food Sustainability in Gaza" project.

3,343 Work Days for the Unemployed in Gaza



There were 848 work days within four days within "Prevention and Protection" project implemented in partnership with SCUK by support through ECHO. And 2,495 More Work Days within "Rapid Support to Livelihoods and Social Services in Gaza and Advanced Planning for Early Recovery" Project funded by UNDP/PAPP.



Irrigating 220,000 Square Meters of Cultivated Land in Gaza



Through support by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation "SDC" and in partnership with the NGO Development Center "NDC" MA'AN established three water wells in Gaza and other Gaza governorates. The pumping capacity of each well ranges between 50-60 cubic meters per hour, irrigating a total of 220,000 square meters of cultivated land. Twelve wells are to be established under this project, three are under construction and six will be established in the next stage.

Through SCUK and NRO support

SUPPORTING JORDAN VALLEY BEDOUIN RIGHT TO EXIST WITH DIGNITY

Renovation of 40 Bedouin

MA'AN completed renovating 40 Bedouin houses in the Jordan Valley, the renovation work of 30 houses is supported by Save the Children UK and the work of the other 10 is supported by the Norwegian Representative Office.

240 individuals benefited from the renovation work in Jordan Valley Bedouin villages of Jiftlik, Ein el Beida, Bardala, and Al Awja where the Israeli



occupation prevents people from building or renovating homes resulting in them living in harsh living condi-

tions facing displacement threats. Fifteen more houses are expected to be renovated in the coming few weeks.

Renovation of four kindergartens

MA'AN completed rehabilitation work for four kindergartens in the Jordan Valley villages of Ein el Beida, Jiftlik, and Al Awja where Palestinians are unable to build due to Israeli policies and therefore the health services are sparse and inadequate to meet the needs of the community.

Renovation work included enhancing the existing structures, painting doors and walls and attractive artistic drawings for children. In the next stage, furniture and playground games and equipment will be installed to provide a comfortable joyful environment for children. This achievement is supported by Save the Children UK through "Prevention and Protection" project.



Renovation and Medical Equipment for Bardala Health Clinic

MA'AN substantially renovated the existing health clinic in Bardala in the northern Jordan Valley. Renovation included reinforcing the building concrete, installation of new doors and windows, as well as a kitchen and sanitation unit, and building a surrounding wall. This work is supported by Save the Children UK through Prevention and Protection project. In cooperation with the Palestinian Ministry of Health and Tubas Health Department, MA'AN also supplied 12 necessary medical equipment to facilitate health care in the area.



MA'AN calls for the Boycott and Divestment of Israel

For MA'AN Development Center, boycott is a form of popular resistance against the ongoing Israeli occupation. As part of its boycott and divestment campaign, MA'AN organizes various popular activities to encourage youth engagement in the boycott and divestment movement. A supermarket sweeping campaign was organized in Ramallah and Al Bireh aimed at raising awareness on the importance of boycotting Israeli goods amongst the Palestinian public and merchants. Flyers and brochures were distributed to the public and at supermarkets highlighting benefits of a boycott, Israeli goods to be boycotted, and encouraging the consumption of local products. This activity was organized under "Network, Advocate and Resist" project funded by CORDAID.

Boycotting Israeli products is a message of rejection to occupation and discrimination. Palestinians have a responsibility to boycott Israeli products. Palestinians should not reward the Israeli occupation by buying and consuming Israeli products. According to a study published by the Palestinian Centre, 85% of products available in the Palestinian market are products imported from Israel and abroad, 75% of which are Israeli products; while a Palestinian producer's share in Palestinian markets does not exceed 15%. If the Palestinian share in the market increases to 25%, then 100,000 job opportunities will be created, leading to an increase in income by 12%. What distinguishes economic boycott from other forms of boycott (academic, cultural and sports) is that it can be implemented by all segments and age groups of the society.

Thus MA'AN Development Center calls the international community and global Palestine solidarity movements to boycott Israeli goods produced both within settlements and Israel and to divest from companies investing in Israel. The Center further calls for imposing economic sanctions on the state of Israel until it complies with international law, ends its settlement activity, lifts the siege on Gaza Strip and ends its military occupation of the West Bank. MA'AN similarly calls on Arab states and people to boycott Israel as part of a permanent strategy aimed at pressuring the state of Israel to stop its occupation and illegal practices in the occupied territories.

MA'AN Development Center together with other civil society organizations and the popular committees are calling for the

- Boycott of Israeli products
- Academic, Cultural and Sports boycott
- Boycott of normalization efforts with Israel and its state institutions
- Boycott of work at Israeli settlements built on confiscated Palestinian land
- International divestment from Israel

MA'AN welcomes and encourages the global boycott campaigns that are taking place worldwide and applauds the recent developments in the Boycott and divestment movement:

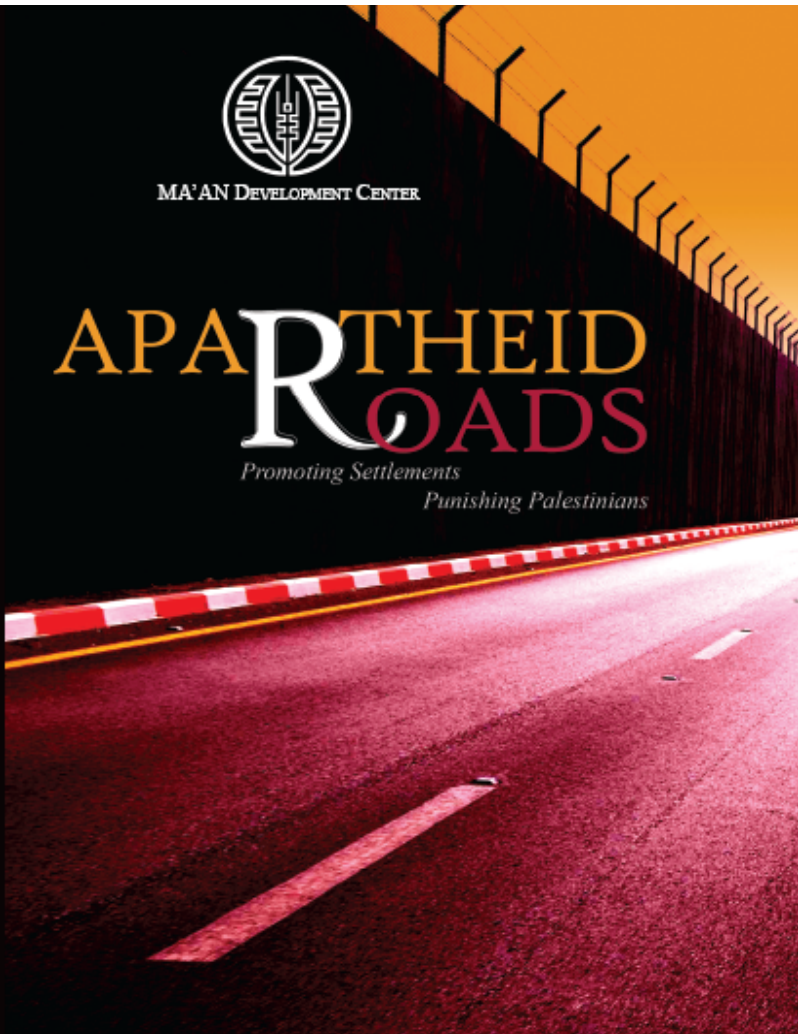
- Britain's Trade Unions Committee (TUC) commitment to a mass boycott movement of Israeli goods at their 2009 annual congress in Liverpool. The union represented 6.5 million workers across the UK. The union agreed to boycott Israeli goods produced at Israeli settlements in the West Bank and to pressure the British government to end its arms trade with Israel.
- Solidaires Industrie, a large French industrial trade union has joined the BDS campaign following the steps of the British trade union confederation.
- Spanish Housing Ministry disqualification of Israeli scientists representing Ariel University's centre of Samaria from the International competition Solar DECATHLON. This is an international competition between University Architecture departments. The committee disqualified the university after they found out that it is located in the occupied territories of the West Bank.
- The Norwegian government promise to divest its pension fund of holdings in Elbit Systems which manufactures the monitoring system installed on several parts of the West Bank apartheid wall.

The Center believes that boycott and divestment complement other forms of resistance especially since these efforts constitute a real pressure to the Israeli economy. MA'AN calls for a more active role of Palestinian unions. If Palestinian efforts are planned and organized in tandem with the International Boycott and Divestment movement of Israel, sanctions can be imposed on the state of Israel. Israel should be penalized for its occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people and its continuous violations of international law and human rights.

New advocacy publication

APARTHEID ROADS: Promoting Settlements, Punishing Palestinians

See abstract below



Abstract

Two publications, one in Arabic, the other in English describe how Israeli-only roads across the West Bank have become a defining feature of the apartheid policies implemented by Israel in the Palestinian territories.

In addition to violating Palestinians' freedom of movement and access, with serious repercussions

for health, education and livelihoods, the apartheid roads have consolidated and strengthened the presence of Israeli colonies across the West Bank, ensuring superior access for settlers at the expense of the indigenous Palestinians. The consequences include an inability to access core services and increased forced displacement pres-

The Norwegian Representative Office Visits the Jordan Valley



Elementary school in Fassayel Al Fouqa



External games for the school

Since 2006, MA'AN has been implementing several projects funded by the Norwegian Representative Office "NRO" in support of the Bedouin families. The current "Supporting Bedouin Rights to Exist with Dignity" project aims at providing Bedouins with the necessary resources and tools to secure their existence in the face of the Israeli expulsion policies. The main activities of the project include renovation of houses

and sanitation units, establishing a play area in Al Jiftlik and a sport court in Al Zbeidat, as well as providing sports uniforms, tools, and equipment to 5 local soccer teams.

The NRO delegation was very sympathetic and showed their support to Bedouins in the Jordan Valley. They ended their visit by attending a final football tournament between the Jordan Valley finalists, Fasayel and Zbeidat teams. The

match was also attended by other teams and local who showed their appreciation to NRO for their support of the sports teams in the Jordan Valley.

Last year, "NRO" supported MA'AN in another project in the Jordan Valley including constructing a school in Fasayel Al-Fawqa village, and providing some Bedouin families through in-kind assistance.



In-kind assistance for Bedouins

Advocacy Workshop on Settlements and the Apartheid Wall

As part of MA'AN's project Apartheid Wall and settlements. "Network, Advocate, Resist - Nasser El Rayes, an expert in NAR", a special workshop on international law, on the other settlements and the Apartheid wall was held. Attendees included representatives from all Palestinian political factions, civil society organizations and members of the popular committees against the Apartheid Wall. During the seminar, Khalil Tufakji, an expert on the wall and settlements, gave a presentation on the impact of the

International Court of Justice's (ICJ) advisory decision on the Apartheid Wall from an international law perspective. NAR is funded by COR-DAID and it aims at consolidating and assisting the popular committees against the Apartheid Wall efforts in resisting the Wall.



Family living between the Wall and the Green Line in Haris village in Salfit district

Abu Saqr Family A Continuous Story of Dispossession and Displacement

Abu Saqr, the head of ten Palestinian Bedouin families inhabiting what remains of today's Hadidya has been displaced four times since 1990. His saga embodies the plight of dispossession taking place in the Jordan Valley. Despite continuous threats of eviction and harsh measures imposed on the Bedouin community by the Israeli occupation families have been resisting their forced displacement by remaining in their lands. Aiming at confiscating and annexing what is left from Hadidya, the Israeli Occupation has been subjecting Abu Saqr's family and other families in the area to dire living conditions in order to force them to evict the land that they have been settling on for generations.

The Israeli Civil Administration adopted a movement restriction policy for the Bedouins movement in the early 1990s – after the division of Palestinian areas under the Oslo Accords into areas A, B and C – and in 1997 the Bedouins movement and means of living were tightened even more. Bedouin families in Hadidya seasonally migrate to other rural areas in order to cultivate other lands while leaving behind their tents where they relocate as the season ends. This living habitat has been under threat since the Oslo Accords as the Israeli occupation bulldozes uninhabited tents and houses in the area.

Abu Saqr's tent was demolished four times at the hands of the Israeli Occupation for he lives on a piece of land that is caught up close to the Ro'i settlement which is located east of the Apartheid Wall. His close location to the settlement has cost him many losses but the most tragic loss was his dear son. Im Mo'aad, Abu Saqr's wife, tells the story of her son Kashef. In 2002, during the second Intifada, families living in Hadidya were living under severe measures where the Israeli Occupation used live fire against them and restricted their movement by imposing curfews preventing them from accessing food and water. Kashef was studying at the nearest school in Al Jiftlik village –2 kilometers away- due to the absence of schools within the area. Im Mo'aad had not seen her son for a week as he stayed at their relatives' in Jiftlik during school days and returned to his family over the weekend in order to avoid the daily harassment that school students are subjected to at the Hamra checkpoint, Known for being one of the most severe checkpoints in the Jordan Valley. brute violence against the indigenous inhabitants of the Jordan Valley.

Im Mo'aad was looking forward to see her son for she had not seen him for a week. She tells of where we were sitting, a few meters away, "there, where our house used to be, he fell there from the tractor". Her tears begin to drop as she remembers the incident vividly.

Kashef was sitting in the tractor that his father was driving when he fell down and was injured badly. He bled heavily. There were no hospitals located within the area or in a nearby area from Hadidya. Abu Saqr called an ambulance, however by the time the ambulance had arrived, six hours later, Kashef had passed away due to continuous bleeding. The ambulance was unable to reach the area quickly due to the severe movement and access restrictions. Meanwhile, the Israeli Civil administration had offered Abu Saqr an atrocious deal. They offered to take his son, Kashef, to a nearby Israeli hospital in exchange for his signature on his consent to an eviction order. However, Abu Saqr's perseverance cost him the life of his dear son.

Kashef's death was not the end to Abu Saqr's losses. His house that was built from tin and metal in order to shelter his family from the winter's cold weather was demolished after his son died. Im Mo'aad was giving birth on the same day their house was being demolished. That day, Im Mo'aad and Abu Saqr named their newborn daughter *Sumood* -which translates into steadfastness-. Since then Abu Saqr reconstructed his tent twice which remains under a demolition threat. As winter is approaching, Im Mo'aad expects her tent to be demolished once again. She explains, "They always demolish our house during winter when it is raining heavily". When asked why she and her family insist on staying in Hadidya under such threats and dire living conditions, her children answer unanimously, "we have relatives in Tamun, but we want to stay here. This is our land, we graze here, we herd here, we live here...We belong here".

The Israeli Civil Administration has been unsuccessful in breaking Abu Saqr family's will. However, Abu Saqr and other families cannot stand firm on their own. More support and advocacy are needed to help the Bedouin of the Jordan Valley resist displacement and dispossession.



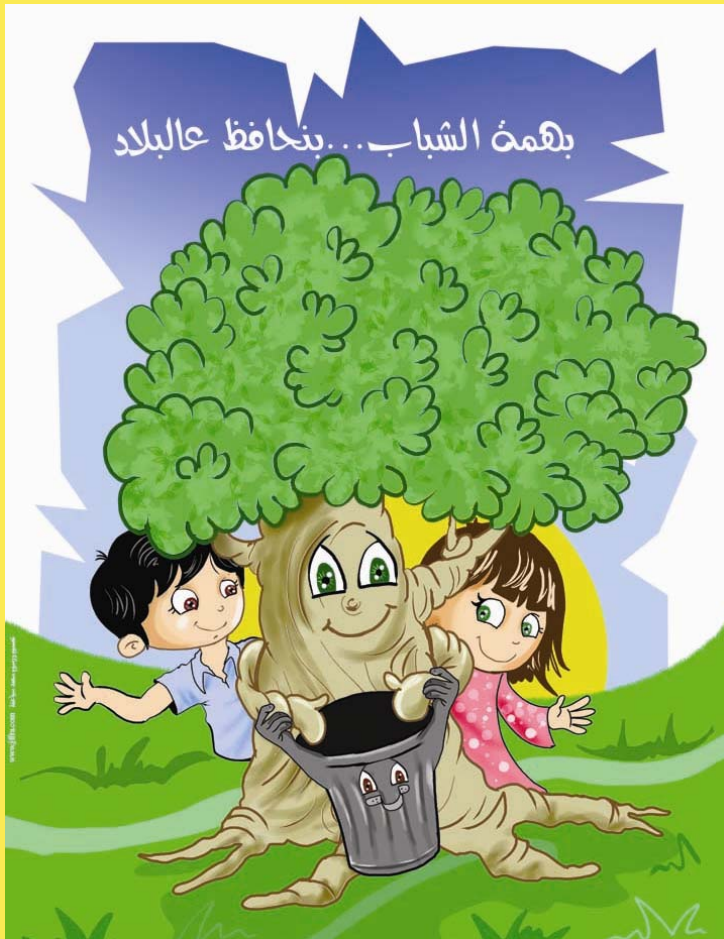
Im Mo'aad remembers her late son with sorrow



Abu Saqr family's tent

Any response to displacement will need to adopt a comprehensive approach that should include, but not be limited to legal support, international advocacy, securing of donor funding to support services provision and solidarity visits.

Rewarding 35 Adolescent Centers and Partners Concluding “Towards a Cleaner Palestine” Campaign



Thirty five adolescent and youth centers and partners in the campaign were awarded in a ceremony organized by MA'AN to celebrate their participation in the “Towards a Cleaner Palestine” campaign. The campaign was a youth-led advocacy campaign focusing on environmental protection. The event is supported by UNICEF, through “Creating Friendly Spaces for Adolescents” program, -supported joint initiative with other youth centers, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the National



Committees for Summer Camps, PYALARA, Al-Nayzak and Tamer Institute. The project targets youth centers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Activities of the campaign included cleaning activities, planting trees, providing streets with trash bins, and examining the quality of drinking water in wells and springs in the respective towns and villages of the youth centers.

53 CBOs across the West Bank Complete a 3-Year Capacity Building Project

MA'AN, in partnership with the Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy, completed a three year capacity building project targeting 53 CBOs in the West Bank. CORDAID funded the project with 407,000 Euros. The project aimed at developing and empowering local Palestinian CBOs' capacities and sought to strengthen the CBO network and consolidate partnership amongst them.

Achievements included various capacity building activities and projects ranging from small grants to 24 CBOs to develop their infrastructure, such as establishing sports courts and play areas for

children, to funding training activities for 44 CBOs that covered financial, administrative and accounting issues.

Other activities included organizing national public library campaigns; CBOs launched a campaign to encourage children and youth to read. As part of the campaign, 1,000 books were distributed to libraries at both Nablus's and Jenin's municipalities. A training hall for children and school students was built in Al Bireh municipality and finally new furniture was provided for Ramallah Municipal Library.



Highlights from MA'AN's Environment and Development Prospects Magazine

The September issue of MA'AN's monthly "Environment and Development Prospects" magazine reported on severe environmental violations committed by the Israeli occupation in the occupied territories. The following are some of the highlights:

Studying in a Sheep-Barn in an Industrial Zone in East Jerusalem

800 Palestinian Students are Exposed to Grave Health and Environmental Risks



The building of Ras-Khamis School in Shu'fat which used to be a sheep-barn

Palestinian students from Shu'fat in East Jerusalem, studying at Ras Khamis School, are exposed to grave health and environmental risks on a daily basis. Eight hundred Palestinian students, age 5-12 years, study at the school, and the school's environment is not conducive nor does it meet universal education standards. The school is located in an industrial zone in a building that is next to a mining factory. The school's building used to be a sheep barn and was turned into a school by Jerusalem Municipality. Students and teachers suffer

from headaches, nausea and dizziness from the toxic gases and pungent odors emitted from the close by factory.

The municipality has continuously refused to change the school's location claiming that it is not illegal to place a school in an industrial area. In an act of defiance, parents organized a strike at the beginning of the school year 2008/2009 but was disregarded by the municipality. Supported by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, parents have recently filed a case against Jerusalem municipality

at the Supreme Court of Israel requesting a change in the school location after the Israeli Civil Court ruled in favor of the municipality.

Children have a right to study in a healthy environment. They have a right to life, right to health, right to a clean environment and a right to education. As residents of Jerusalem, Israel is compelled to secure for Palestinian students an environment that is conducive to universal education standards.



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