

Dear friends,

Caritas Jerusalem has just concluded its post war project in Gaza which aimed to improve the nutritional and psychosocial situation of children between 5-12 years; Conduct a need assessment about the nutritional and the psychosocial status of the children and strengthen the infrastructure of local associations and CBOs for future intervention and continuity. We were truly surprised of some of our findings, especially the high anemia that prevailed in children. The findings will be concluded by our doctor and published in the very near future.

We were also able to empower individual families, support communities and strengthen the capacity of our employees through various projects and programs that we operate on the ground.

We thank you all for reading our newsletter, for your solidarity, support and friendship with Caritas Jerusalem and the people we serve in The Holy Land.

*Fr. Raed Abusahlia*  
*General Director*  
*Caritas Jerusalem*

**The Conclusion of the Post War Project**  
**Funded by our friends worldwide**



In response to the urgent needs and the escalation of violence, Caritas Jerusalem launched an After War Appeal in Gaza through Caritas Internationalis.

The implementation of the project started in March 2015 and came to its conclusion on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2016. We are truly happy that we could reach our goal in contributing to the improvement of psychosocial and nutritional status of 5-12 year old children in Gaza.



The culmination of the year's intensive work with these traumatised and vulnerable children was a performance organised by our psychologists and helped by other Caritas staff, local facilitators, and a host of volunteers including artists, actors, choreographers and photographers who appreciated the work done with the children. The Abbasan municipality in Khan Younis gave the use of their centre free of charge, and on the day the Head of the municipality with the Director of the centre were present in the hall that was filled to capacity with more than 300 people.

Representative groups of children from each location where the project operated were present as well as parents, friends and local people. The children spoke with confidence, they sang, danced, acted and mimed. It was a powerful and moving performance. The audience was then invited upstairs to an exhibition of the children's art work: drawings, painting and crafts, from the simple but beautiful to the high standard of a 12 year-old girl artist. The people were amazed and overcome with joy and emotion.



The final activity was a magic show and school of magic session for every child on the CABAC programme. Marco Bagory, an Italian friend of Caritas who practices therapeutic clowning with traumatised children, gave a morning's performance in each location where the post-war project operated. The children were fascinated by the show and were then taught simple clowning tricks so they themselves became clowns. Each child was given a drink of fruit juice at the end of what was for them an exciting and enjoyable morning.

Now, at the end of August the four elements of the post-war recovery project are completed except for the small group of non-responders on the anaemia programme. These children for whom there is no obvious reason why they did not respond to treatment

will be seen by a specialist doctor during the first or second week of September.



Work on analysing the data in preparation for the final report is in progress, a film crew is working on a short documentary and arrangements are being finalised with local radio for visibility slots for Caritas work in Gaza. Our medical consultant and researcher, Dr Jehad Elhissi, will present the findings of the research into the prevalence of anaemia in 5 to 12 year olds that emerged from this project to invited representatives of the MOH, UNRWA, IMC and NGOs and in due time publish an academic article on the result of this research.



Finally, a word from parents: According to them, this was the best project they've ever had. It identified and treated anaemic and weak children and gave them fortified milk and biscuits.

Some parents articulated the effect of this on their child. A mother told how her little girl had no energy and her hair was dull and “had no life” and she said “look at her now, a lively, energetic child with shiny jet black hair.” Then the project identified the most vulnerable and traumatised children and over ten months helped them to cope with their trauma and be children again, and to the CBOs whose wonderful directors gave their space and support, the project left a well-furnished room according to the needs of each: a child-friendly space, a well-equipped computer room or a playground. In every location the community leaders asked for the project to continue for another year with a different group of children. As one man said “all our children are traumatised. What about the others?” This was a wonderful project and we thank the donors.

*Sister Bridget Tighe  
Executive Director in Gaza  
31<sup>st</sup> August 2016.*

**Microfinance in Action**  
***Borrow money. Live better***



Maha is a 31 year old married woman from Jerusalem. She has two children who attend school and the only breadwinner of the family is her husband who works as a bus driver for a tourist company in Bethlehem.

Maha wanted to share the financial burden with her husband and together they decided to rent a place in Bethlehem and start a laundry business. They designed their action plan for months and finally found the perfect location and started renovating and decorating the place. They used whatever savings they had but due to unforeseen expenses they ran out of money and couldn't purchase the essential machinery to start the laundry business.



She desperately needed a business loan to purchase washing machines, dryers and other appliances. She received the loan from Caritas Jerusalem and currently is doing very well. Thanks to this loan, she could start her own business and now she is on the road to financial security and success.



Caritas Jerusalem microcredit department started in the 1970s. The department assists people with small loans for construction, renovation, university fees and small business development projects.



## 7 days training on social campaign in Poland

*No one will live your life instead of you*



Caritas Jerusalem in partnership with Caritas Poland has started implementing a project that answers the basic needs of the disabled in Bethlehem Governorate.

The project contains three main components: upgrading the medical and educational equipments of ten centers in Bethlehem, capacity building of the centers' staff and media campaigns.



In August Caritas Poland held seven days of training workshop in Poland. Three participants from Caritas Jerusalem travelled to Warsaw for the training in order to exchange experiences, learn from one another and discuss best practices in organizing social campaigns for the Prevention of isolation and social exclusion of people with disabilities in Palestine.

The participants covered topics related to the treatment of the disabled in Palestine comparing treatments in Poland, shared information and professional experiences regarding the mentality of the families, the society, the community at large and the disabled themselves.



They also held many discussions on further collaborations between the two sister Caritas organizations in the field of strengthening the rights of the disabled in Palestine.

We would like to thank Caritas Poland and the Development Cooperation Department (DCD) of the Polish Government for funding this essential workshop which enabled us to enhance our skills and allowed us to have a first-hand experience in dealing holistically with the disabled.

A very special gratitude to the team of Caritas Poland who hosted us wholeheartedly and saved no efforts in making us feel at home.



## Horse Racing in Marj Ibn Amer



As part of the Synergy project funded by the Belgian Development Cooperation and Caritas International Belgium, Caritas Jerusalem held a sportive event in Deir Ghazaleh in Marj Ibin Amer East of Jenin in the northern West Bank.



The event attracted a big crowd from all over the area and 30 equestrians participated in racing events. It also helped in strengthening the local identity and developed the socio economic status of the area by attracting local tourists and directors of institutions.



The competition was financially supported by Bank of Palestine, Caritas Jerusalem through the synergy project, Deir Ghazaleh village council and other local sponsors.



The synergy project aims to strengthen the socio economic situation and multi partner dialogue in Marj Ibin Amer and Zababdeh in the Jenin Governorate.



### How can you help?

Your support is essential to provide long-term assistance to our beneficiaries.

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