“For I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me”

Matthew, 25:35-36

Cover: Children playing in haystack in Gaza (Katie Orlinsky/Caritas 2010)
Content

Caritas Jerusalem in 2010
Message from Msgr Fouad Twal, President of Caritas Jerusalem 2
Message from Claudette Habesch, General Secretary of Caritas Jerusalem 3
Our values and our vision 4
Who is Caritas Jerusalem? 5

Palestine in 2010 6
Political context 2010 6
Christians in Palestine 7

Our programmes
Youth Empowerment 8
Social Service programme 12
Family Support 12
Elderly Day Care Center 14
Old City Counselling Center 16
Health programme 18
Health Centers in the West Bank and Gaza 19
Health prevention 21
Economic empowerment 22
Microcredit 22
"Made in Palestine" 23
Water infrastructure projects 24
Job creation through house renovation 24

Financial report 2010 25
Thank you – to our partners 27

Where we work
“Caritas has been working in the Palestinian Territories since the Six Days War in 1967. Poverty continues today, but so does our charity work - through our health centers, our education assistance programmes and our social services for the young and elderly.

We are a Catholic organisation, deeply rooted in Palestinian society and open to everybody, regardless of beliefs or origin. The aid we receive around the world for our work of social services, health care and education is very important. A global solidarity truly exists towards Jerusalem and our Caritas beneficiaries can feel that.

We are very grateful for all the support we have from our partners and friends, but we have not received yet what we need the most. Our greatest need today is peace. The aid we receive is like an aspirin - it gives us relief but it is not a long-term solution.

The insecurity and fragile situation keep us from having a normal life. We cannot move freely to go to work, to the hospital or to church like everybody else.

In Gaza, the siege needs to be lifted. People should not have to undergo this suffering. We just want to be like any other people, we are not trying to get any privileges. The conflict has been going on for decades. People are tired.

We pray for successful peace negotiations so that this land of Calvary will finally become a land of peace. Despite all the setbacks of the past years, we continue hoping.

In order to achieve progress in those negotiations, a lot of common sense is needed. We need to have a great vision and a great heart. Violence is never a solution.

The new generation of young Palestinians and Israelis were born in a climate of insecurity. Violence is all they know and for them peace is only a dream. I believe that religious and political leaders have a great responsibility here. They all need to ask themselves what they can do so that this new generation will know peace.”
Dear friends and partners,

Caritas is a lifeline to many in Palestine

I am eager to share with you Caritas Jerusalem’s 2010 report.

When I reflect on the past year, it is like a rollercoaster: hope for a renewal of peace negotiations between Israel and Palestine, sadness at the tragic outcome of the Gaza flotilla, pride at the steadfastness of the Palestinian people—though mainly frustration at the continuing occupation of 43 years.

There are many moments of frustration in our work at Caritas as well. At times it seems our struggle against poverty, for justice, dignity and for the respect of human rights will never end. But when I look at little things, I see the abiding impact of our work.

It is in the precious diploma earned by the child we helped to enroll at school; in the smile of the elderly lady who found a warm circle of friends at our day care center in Ramallah; in the pride of the young graduate who found her first job thanks to our empowerment courses.

It also comes in realizing that Caritas has been a lifeline to many in Palestine for more than 40 years: our health centers care for thousands of people, our social services assist the poor, and our microfinance department supports local small businesses. Not such little things after all!

I wish to share these achievements with all those who have helped us—our longtime partners and friends from all over the world who believe in the dignity of mankind and in the power of solidarity. We thank all of you who hope with us for a peaceful and just future for all in the Holy Land.

Claudette Habesch
Secretary General
Caritas Jerusalem
Caritas is a global movement working in solidarity for a fairer world, inspired by the example of Christian faith and Catholic Social Teaching. Caritas challenges cultural, local, national and international governance structures that undermine the ability of communities to live sustainable and just lives. It is unacceptable that millions of people are suffering through dehumanizing poverty and social injustice – and we want change.

The 165 Caritas members worldwide believe they can do more to combat the causes of poverty and injustice by combining their resources. National members come under the umbrella of Caritas Internationalis, which has its headquarters in the Vatican City and representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

Our Vision:

A Civilization of Love

Caritas is a global movement working in solidarity for a fairer world, inspired by the example of Christian faith and Catholic Social Teaching. Caritas challenges cultural, local, national and international governance structures that undermine the ability of communities to live sustainable and just lives. It is unacceptable that millions of people are suffering through dehumanizing poverty and social injustice – and we want change.

The 165 Caritas members worldwide believe they can do more to combat the causes of poverty and injustice by combining their resources. National members come under the umbrella of Caritas Internationalis, which has its headquarters in the Vatican City and representatives at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

Our Guiding values

Dignity:
We seek to make the poor not objects of pity but subjects of their own development and agents of change, best placed to develop their own solutions in global partnership.

Equality:
Any economic, social, political and cultural structure which opposes or oppresses change toward justice is wrong and we challenge it. Caritas listens to the voice of the silent poor and enables them to speak for themselves.

Solidarity:
Caritas creates a genuine sense of solidarity, of putting oneself in the shoes of the poor and seeing the world from their perspective.

Stewardship:
Caritas commits itself to being in solidarity with the whole of creation and therefore seeks to act in an environmentally sustainable way at all times.

Church:
Caritas is a part of the Catholic Church and its work reflects the social mission of the Church.
Caritas Jerusalem was founded in 1967 in the aftermath of the Six Day War to respond to the emergency needs of the displaced Palestinian people. It represents the socio-pastoral services of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land and faithfully serves the social-familial, economic, health, and emergency needs of the people of the Holy Land.

The mission of Caritas Jerusalem is to empower the Palestinian people to realize their full potential and to act as a voice for the voiceless. This is accomplished through:

- Enhancing the quality and accessibility of social and medical services for the poor and marginalized
- Providing food aid
- Creating economic opportunities through soft loan schemes and job creation
- Providing emergency humanitarian aid in times of crisis
- Empowering youth as community leaders
- Advocating for peace in the Holy Land on the international stage

Our active presence throughout the Palestinian Territories has enabled us to respond to the needs of more than 35,000 families in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through multi-sectoral programs for the poor and marginalized.

Caritas Jerusalem currently has over 50 full time employees, as well as hundreds of volunteers in different parishes across the country with offices in East Jerusalem, North of the West Bank, and in Gaza City.
Peace negotiations stop

In 2010, Israeli and Palestinians finally sat at the same table to start direct peace negotiations. But after three weeks, the talks broke down in September over the Israeli government’s refusal to stop the building of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. There are currently about 500,000 settlers living in the West Bank. Their cities, villages, fields and roads occupy 40% of Palestinian land. They are a huge obstacle to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Fayyad’s plan keeps its promises in the West Bank

Despite the disappointing results of the negotiations, both the West Bank and Gaza continued to experience economic growth. The plan devised by Palestinian Prime Minister Salaam Fayyad to establish Palestinian institutions and encourage economic recovery brought stability and security to the West Bank.

However, this economic growth may be unsustainable without further political progress. Unemployment has increased to 25% in the West Bank in 2010 and the economy is still heavily dependent on foreign aid.

Still, more Palestinians are enrolled in universities than ever before, and the removal of several West Bank checkpoints has allowed for greater freedom of movement. Building has continued in Ramallah, Jenin, and other areas, including the entirely new city of Rawabi; and more than three-quarters of Palestinians say they are optimistic about the future.

Gaza blockade remains

Conditions are, however, less optimistic in Gaza. Under siege since 2007, 1.5 million Gazans are still trapped in a 40km long narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean Sea.

In May 2010, a flotilla organized by peace activists from all over the world with the intention of breaking Israel’s blockade of Gaza was attacked in international waters by the Israeli military. The ships were carrying ten thousand tons of humanitarian aid. Nine activists were killed after Israeli soldiers boarded the ships and clashes became violent, with dozens wounded, including Israeli soldiers.

This terrible event reminded the world of the dire situation in the Gaza Strip. Three weeks after the raid, under international pressure, Israel eased the blockade to allow more civilian goods into Gaza, as well as some construction materials. Gazan farmers can now export flowers and strawberries to Europe—formerly a multi-million dollar industry—but the number of shipments allowed is minimal. The level of Gaza exports remains but a fraction of what it was before the blockade in 2007. Gazans continue to rely on dangerous underground smuggling tunnels to Egypt in order to send or receive goods which they otherwise cannot.

To date, every job lost in Gaza has been in the private sector. Unemployment rose in the second half of 2010, to 45.2%, among the world’s highest levels. Though fewer Gazans are living in “deep poverty” (less than 0.50 USD a day) most are still below the poverty line.
In October 2010, the Synod of Bishops on the Middle East was held at the Vatican. For the first time, the bishops gathered around the Holy Father Benedict XVI with Muslim and Jewish guests to discuss the issue of the Christians in the Middle East. The purpose of the meeting was to foster tolerance and cooperation among religions and different Christian denominations. It was also an opportunity to encourage the strengthening of Christian identity in the region, and show support to the Christian communities at risk in conflict zones.

The Middle East, and especially Palestine, is the cradle of Christianity. But today, descendants of the first Christians are just a small minority. Currently, Christians make up about 5% of the population of the Middle East, in part because of lower birth rates as well as high levels of Christian emigration since the early 20th century.

Christians struggle to maintain their identity as Christians in the region, in a society with an increasingly Muslim majority. In Palestine, relations between Muslims and Christians are mostly peaceful. The main reason for emigrating is the lack of economic opportunities and the violence brought by the Israeli occupation.

In the Gaza strip, Christians and Muslims live under very harsh economic conditions. Aside from the very limited Rafah border crossing with Egypt opened in May 2011, Israel controls all of Gaza’s entry and exit points. Thus Gazans are effectively cut off from the rest of the world, aside from dangerous smuggling tunnels.

Life in the West Bank is somewhat easier. The unemployment rate for Christians is about a third of the national average, and they carry a fair amount of economic power. However, Palestinian Christians are often more greatly affected by economic downshifts. Young Christians are more likely to leave Palestine for good to seek a better life abroad.

At the Synod, the bishops and Pope Benedict XVI, recognized the difficult situation in occupied Palestine: the lack of freedom of movement, the wall of separation and the military checkpoints, the political prisoners, the demolition of homes, the disturbance of socio-economic life and the thousands of refugees. But they asked for Christians to remember their vocation as an active and important presence in the Holy Land and the wider Middle East; urging them to remain in their homelands. They also called for greater understanding and tolerance among Christian denominations to support one another in this time of crisis, and for an imminent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
Youth programme

Caritas Jerusalem Youth programme’s objective is to prepare the Palestinian youth to play an active role in a free and democratic Palestine. Like many young people around the world, they have an acute sense of social justice. We want to give them the skills and opportunities that will encourage them to make a difference for the future of this land.

The Youth programme started in 2005 in 10 parishes around Ramallah and Bethlehem and with Friends of Caritas in schools in Ramallah, Taybeh and Birzeit. Our volunteers are between 18 and 30 years old, while the Friends of Caritas members are 15 to 18 years old.
Social justice

Community volunteering is at the core of Caritas values all over the world. In Palestine as well, involving youth in social service is essential to continue our mission with the most vulnerable. Young people have thirst for justice; helping their less fortunate neighbours is enriching their world and strengthening solidarity in the community.

In 2010, volunteers organized numerous social activities with the elderly and with children affected by disabilities or with young cancer patients. In the summer, two working camps were organized in Birzeit and Jifna. The two parishes’ convents, as well as the elderly home of Jifna received a fresh coat of paint thanks to a group of highly motivated girls and boys! The Christmas season was an important moment where the young Caritas volunteers showed their solidarity with underprivileged children by organizing Christmas parties with presents for all.

The Caritas youth has also helped organizing cultural events such as the Jifna festival and the 2010 Taybeh Convention gathering Americans with roots in the Christian village of Taybeh. During the Convention, Caritas helped visiting children in Taybeh to plant 100 trees bearing their names, to connect these young Americans to their ancestors’ land in Palestine.

Back to school with a smile

In September, 17 Caritas Jerusalem volunteers organised a fun day for young cancer patients and children with special needs.

Caritas invited 200 children coming from the Effeta institution in Bethlehem and the Basma Society for cancer in Beit Jala. Effeta cares for children affected by hearing and speech impairment while the Basma Society provides support and guidance to cancer patients and their families.

“This day was made for the kids, to make them ready to start school with new hope. They are just like all the other children they should enjoy themselves, play and look forward to a great future.” said Rami Kort, the Caritas youth programme manager.

The clowns from Enad theatre in Beit Jala performed a show and started a dance party with the children and the Caritas volunteers. After a delicious meal shared together, the volunteers distributed a school bag with a set of stationary to each child on behalf of Caritas Jerusalem.
Empowerment

The difficulties of life under occupation and the lack of opportunities have driven scores of young educated people out of Palestine. In 2006, after the Second Intifada, the World Bank indicators showed an unemployment rate of 20% in the West Bank and 30% in Gaza. Since then, the West Bank has seen a relative political stabilization and the economy has grown significantly. Palestine needs skilled and educated people to build its future state.

Caritas has taken on the challenge of coaching young graduates to give them better opportunities in finding employment and remain in Palestine. Since the end of 2009, 30 graduates from the Ramallah region are taking part in a series of training course in IT, languages and interview skills. They are also offered traineeships with local businesses partners of the programme such as a bank, an insurance company, a renowned cultural center, etc.

Today, 28 participants have found stable employment in Palestine. Some are starting a career in banking, hotel management, NGOs, etc.

The support and experience that I need

Diana is a 23-year-old graduate from Jifna, a village north of Ramallah. With her business administration degree in hand and facing tough competition on the job market, she joined the Caritas graduate programme hoping extra training will give her better chances. “The programme put me on the right track right away. I could develop interview skills, get my CV right and improve my English and computer skills.”

Since last September, Diana is project coordinator and in charge of public relations at Juhoud, an NGO promoting community and rural development in Palestine. “The skills I gained from the Caritas training really helped me in the interview process. Finding a job in Ramallah is difficult, there are not many positions open and they always want experienced people – but the Caritas training was a real asset on my CV.”
Political awareness

The Palestinian youth live in a conflict zone and can become active witnesses of political developments on the ground, but also of acts of violence. With our partner TROCAIRE, we have started a Media skills and human rights training for youth. They can report on an event but they also know their rights and those of others. They become politically aware and are better protected in case of a violent situation.

Another project has allowed our volunteers to take an active part in civil society. They have identified issues affecting directly the local youth and made an information campaign to raise awareness on the problem. In summer 2010, the volunteers organized a campaign with the Palestinian police on fire safety and fireworks. They also wrote a publication on how to enjoy free time during the summer holidays in a useful and fun way.

Sparkling safely

The Caritas Youth media committee in Ramallah decided to do something last summer to protect children from the danger of buying illegal fireworks that provoke many injuries especially to children. In cooperation with the Palestinian police, the seven members of the committee created an awareness campaign using the local radio waves and posters to spread the message. “Respect the law - Protect and save your children’s lives”.

The members of the media committee are young boys and girls between 18 and 22 years old. They took part in a special training on media campaign with Abdulnasser Alnajar, head of the Palestinian Journalist Union. “We as young people do not often have the opportunity to be heard in our society – and we often do not know how to bring our message across. This training gave us ideas and confidence to design information campaigns for things we think are important for children and young adults” said Shrouq, a Caritas volunteer.
Social service programme

Social assistance is the base of Caritas Jerusalem’s work. In a land that has been affected by recurrent humanitarian emergencies, poverty remains a serious problem. 47% of the West Bank population and 70% of Gaza inhabitants live under the poverty line.

In 2010, Caritas helped 200 families and 867 individuals to make ends meet, by finding a job for a parent, financing part of the children’s studies or intervening for unexpected urgent medical care.

Families and individuals in need are referred to us by our extensive network of parish priests all over the West Bank and Gaza.

The Social service department provides assistance through four types of actions:

Family emergency support:
Families in a difficult situation can request the help of Caritas for covering their basic needs. In 2010, we were able to reach out and provide assistance to a total of 200 families.

Job creation:
Caritas Jerusalem is assisting unemployed people, most of them unskilled, to find appropriate jobs. Caritas Jerusalem found employment for 36 people in temporary positions during 2010.

Academic assistance:
The Belén 2000 project funded by Chile allowed us to provide financial aid to cover school fees for 511 schoolchildren. A number of private donors helped 115 university students to pay their tuition fees. The beneficiaries are coming from underprivileged families from Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour.

Medical:
Many Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian Territories do not benefit from any health insurance. When they are covered, the insurance does not cover all types of surgery or medicines.

Caritas is assisting individuals suffering from chronic diseases (heart problems, kidney failure) or in need of urgent medical intervention. In 2010 we were able to help 156 individual cases.

Our special Medical Fund for sick children could help 20 children to cover their medical operations or treatments.

Also, 65 families from the West Bank received health insurance coverage from Caritas Jerusalem in 2010.

Follow your dream

Haya is a young woman living in Zababdeh, a village north of the West Bank. Her father works as a taxi driver and has to provide for a family of six. With such an income he can barely afford the basic daily necessities. Last year, Haya excelled in final high school exams. But unfortunately, she was unable to pay for university to pursue her dream of becoming a dentist. She had to opt instead for a beautician course in a vocational school.

The local priest Fr. Ibrahim Hijazeen heard Haya’s story and sought to help her follow her dreams of a higher education. He helped her enroll at the American University in Jenin to study sciences, dentistry being too costly. Today she is very happy for the opportunity to study at university but she is not certain she will be able to finance her studies until the end of her degree. Caritas Jerusalem has covered a part of Haya’s first semester fees and hopes that with the contribution of generous donors, she will complete her science education.

Christmas in the Holy Land

In Palestine, Christmas is a month long event. It begins with the celebration on December 25 for Catholics and Protestants followed by another celebration for the Orthodox adherents on January 7. The Armenian Church is the last to celebrate the birth of Jesus on January 19. Caritas Jerusalem takes part in all of these celebrations.

The poor, the old, the weak and the most marginalised see Christmas approaching with new hopes and expectations. In 2010, Caritas message of love and charity was a proof to them that they are not forgotten nor abandoned.

We were able to reach 2,200 children through schools and parishes; some of these children are handicapped, some with hearing and speaking difficulties. We also provided 60 elderly with food baskets and hot meals – for many people, it was the only present that they received for Christmas.
A family in need

Marcelle is a frail woman in her fifties living with her six children in the East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Jabel Al Mukaber. In 2002, after several years of painful abuse she separated from her husband. The couple had fallen in the deadly spiral of drug addiction and poverty. The family was broken apart and the children were sent to boarding school and to live with their aunt. Marcelle went to a rehabilitation center to cure her from drug addiction. Since 2003, Marcelle is “clean” and lives with her children in a rented house. But her situation is very difficult. All her social benefits and salary as a cleaner are spent in paying the rent. Her eldest son is currently in prison for drug-related crime and two of her children have learning disabilities due to the drugs Marcelle took during her pregnancies. Caritas has been accompanying this brave mother for the last 10 years, helping her fighting drug addiction, and then with paying utilities bills, food and the school fees for her children. In 2010, Marcelle and her family received some good news. Thanks to the Caritas social department, they will soon move to a small house with affordable rent in the Old City of Jerusalem. Of course this will not resolve all problems, Marcelle will still have to fight every day to ensure the future of her children. But she knows the social workers of Caritas are there to support her and find solutions with her.
Since 1990, Caritas Jerusalem has been operating an Elderly Day Care center in Ramallah. It is one of the few programmes in the West Bank that reaches out to senior citizens, with a focus on the poor and marginalized members of the Palestinian society, regardless of their religious affiliation. This center has become one of the most important social services of the Ramallah district and serves up to 65 people on a daily basis.

The Elderly Day Care Center is a place where older adults are given food for the body – balanced meals and an attentive medical help – but also food for the heart. Opportunities to learn, participate and develop new relationships are an essential component to our project with the elderly. Birthday parties, Mother’s day, International Day of the Elderly, Christmas, are all occasions for celebration and for valuing the individual person. This year, we were happy to be able to offer the elderly a day trip to Jericho. Volunteers from local schools and women volunteers played a great role in organizing outings and social events at the Center for our elderly.

In 2010, 4,545 meals were provided to the elderly. General and specialist doctors visited the center regularly to attend to the members and also simply inform them on their health needs. Homebound elderly who cannot come to the Center anymore are given assistance by the Center’s nurse. In addition, two cleaners are visiting those elderly at home four times a week to take care of them and of their house.

Nada is 78 years old widow from Ramallah. She lives alone in an old rented house in the city. Nada suffers from chronic back pain and needs daily medication. She has one son who has immigrated 30 years ago to the U.S in search of better opportunities. He is rarely in touch with his mother. He used to support her financially but he has stopped due to his own bad health situation.

Currently Nada depends totally on Caritas staff and volunteers to support her financially, psychologically and emotionally. Thanks to the adoption programme of our partner the Italian organisation La Piccola Famiglia, Nada receives a monthly allowance since October 2010 which helps her in paying part of the rent.
A friend to listen

Laila is a 65 year old widow living in Ramallah with her disabled daughter and her son, both in their late thirties. The son is the sole breadwinner of the family, with a small salary as a cleaner. Five years ago, Laila was diagnosed with intestine cancer. The tumor was removed successfully but the treatment left her very diminished and in need of urine bags costing more than half the monthly salary of her son. Since her operation, Laila comes to the Center regularly. Caritas is providing her with the expensive medical device she needs for her condition. Laila is often worried about her health and our nurse takes extra care of her. But what she appreciates over everything in the Center is to be able to socialize, make friends and talk about her problems and be listened to. “The staff here are like my daughters, and the other members are my friends. We can talk about everything and care for each other,” she said.
On the top of the steps in a small street close to Herod’s Gate, there is an entrance to an old house with arched ceilings. In there several bright rooms host youth groups, children, mothers and social workers.

Caritas’ Old City Counseling Center (OCCC) opened in 1999, with the objective of helping the increasingly vulnerable population of East Jerusalem and focusing especially on drug addiction issues. It is currently the only organisation in East Jerusalem that gives counseling and support services to drug addicts and their families.

The OCCC is there to assist drug addicts and to inform about the danger of drug abuse. Social workers visit schools in Jerusalem and in the West Bank and organise meetings with youth and women groups to raise their awareness on drugs and give them tools to respond if they are confronted with the problem.

Over the years, the Center realised that Palestinian social workers need to be better trained and equipped to deal with drug addiction. Since 2008, the OCCC runs a specific training aiming at preparing psychologists, social workers and students to work in the field of prevention and intervention against drugs abuse. The programme includes weekly seminars with the OCCC professionals, visits to treatment centers and meetings with ex-addicts. In December 2010, 15 participants graduated from the drug prevention diploma, taught in the framework of the Institute for Community Partnership of Bethlehem University.
In 2010, the OCCC organized its 6th children summer camp in Jerusalem. 55 boys and girls from underprivileged families spent a month of fun in a safe environment with 10 young volunteer coordinators. Most of the children belong to a family who has or had a parent affected by drug addiction.

This camp is a unique occasion for the children to take part in activities they usually cannot do, such as going to the swimming pool. Other workshops such as painting, drawing or dancing are all occasions to get away from the tensions they feel at home. Thanks to the support of several Palestinian institutions, Caritas OCCC could offer all activities free of charge and could help some of the poorest families with meals and transport.
In the West Bank, the Caritas health centers reach out to a rural population, often cut off from health facilities in urban centers by military roadblocks.

In Gaza, a mobile clinic acts in parallel to the health center to reach out to areas out of the health facilities range.

The medical staff at the health centers give general and specialized medical care but is also very active in prevention programmes on chronic diseases such as diabetes, women’s health and nutrition.

Another focus that Caritas develops is the psychosocial help. Especially in Gaza, the population is in need of psychosocial treatment to overcome the trauma of the military aggression and the everyday hardship of living under a blockade.

Caritas employs 28 medical staff, including doctors, nurses, and lab technicians who serve in the three health centers and mobile clinic in the West Bank and Gaza.

In 2010, Caritas Jerusalem health department has focused on developing women’s health services and preventive health campaigns. Regarding prevention, a three-year project on health and civil society empowerment funded by Carita Spain and the Spanish Cooperation was started in September.
Aboud Health Center (West Bank)

Aboud is a small village with 2,200 inhabitants equally divided between Muslims and Christians, located about 56 kilometers northwest of Jerusalem. It is a rural area isolated from other villages by the Separation Wall and surrounding Israeli settlements. The level of income in Aboud is low. Local workers used to find employment in nearby Tel Aviv, but have lost their jobs after a permit system was installed in 1991 to limit access to Israel for residents of the West Bank. The construction of the wall in 2005 finished to cut off Aboud completely.

Caritas is running a primary health care clinic in Aboud since 1990, reaching out to a population of 23,000 including Aboud and 7 surrounding villages. Since 2009, the clinic offers specialist practices: women's health, dentistry, orthopedics, urology and basic emergency surgery. In addition the center has a laboratory for medical tests, an X-Ray machine and a pharmacy. The staff of the clinic is regularly conducting health prevention session with the local community on women’s health, nutrition, smoking, road safety and home accidents.

Aboud medical services in 2010:

- 5060 patients
- 387 women’s health consultations
- 4 health awareness campaigns

Taybeh Health Center (West Bank)

Taybeh is a village of 1,300 inhabitants 35 km north of Jerusalem. It is surrounded by several Israeli settlements. Caritas has been historically present in the village as it is one of the few local Christian communities remaining in the West Bank.

The Taybeh Health Center receives around 20 patients on a daily basis. It provides the following services to the community: Primary health care, preventive and curative care. A pediatrician and gynecologist come once a week to the clinic. A complete floor is dedicated to health education and psychosocial help for children.

Taybeh medical services in 2010:

- 5410 patients
- 229 women’s health consultations
- 111 health awareness campaigns
Our Programmes in 2010

Gaza Health center and mobile clinic

The Gaza strip is a territory about 41 km long, and between 6 and 12 km wide situated along the Mediterranean Sea. It is home to a population of about 1.5 million people, 1.1 million of whom are refugees. Gaza has been subjected to a blockade by the Israeli government since June 2007. 80% of the population is living under the poverty level.

Our doctors see about 250 general patients a month and nearly 300 female patients at the gynecologist practice. Our gynecologist is one of the few female practitioners of the Gaza Strip. The Gaza mobile clinic serves isolated areas with a population of 2000 and treats about 260 cases per month.

On top of medical care, our team in Gaza provides much-needed psychological help to the victims of the surrounding violence. They pay a particular attention to the children who suffer the most from the conflict and the harsh living conditions. In addition to therapeutic help, we also provide leisure activities for children and young people. Gaza is a small place and there are not many events for children. In 2010, we organized a total of 19 days of cultural and play activities for children and young people.

Gaza medical services in 2010:
- 2416 patients - health center
- 3276 patients – mobile clinic
- 2655 women’s health consultations
- 423 psychosocial consultations
- 7 health awareness campaigns directed at women
- 4 campaigns on psychosocial issues

Caritas medical team’ summer in Gaza

In July 2010, the Caritas medical team in Gaza worked in cooperation with the Al Baraem Summer camp for children.

Next to the art and sports activities, the children could also benefit from free medical check ups as well as psychosocial and hygiene information sessions.

“The medical day was very useful indeed to detect respiratory problems and chickenpox. The hot summer also meant an increase in skin problems” said Dr. Jibreel, Caritas medical director in Gaza. 97 children were checked by the doctors during the free medical day.

Maha Al Omary, Caritas psychological counselor, held small group sessions with children focusing on art and play therapy to identify any trauma or difficulties that a child may experience. Following the sessions, 28 children were invited to meet her for an individual consultation. Caritas organized a fun day to end the summer camp with a special event bringing all children together. Acrobats and clowns came to the camp for songs and dance, organizing games and face-painting activities.

Children left with a present as a souvenir of their month spent at Al Baraem Summer Camp.
Caritas Jerusalem has teamed up with Caritas Spain and the Spanish Development Cooperation to design an original preventive health programme.

After an extensive process identifying the health needs of the most vulnerable population, the two sister organisations have designed a programme which will ensure access to healthcare for all and provide effective health education in rural areas in the West Bank and Gaza. The Caritas Jerusalem health centers of Taybeh, Aboud (West Bank) and Gaza serve as base to access 13 rural communities and deliver medical and education services for the programme. The Caritas initiative is also bringing an innovative approach to strengthen the Palestinian public health system by training villagers to become "community health agents". In 2010, Caritas coordinators were busy establishing local health committees in rural villages, including women and men, the youth and elderly. Once the committee formed, their members will receive training for managing health emergencies. “This initiative has a very practical side: how do you deal with an emergency when you are in an isolated village, far from any big hospital” says Jameel Khoury, Caritas Jerusalem health programme manager. “But the objective of these health committees goes further: we want to inform and encourage villagers to take an active part in health matters in their communities. Eventually, they will become aware of their rights and willing to defend and advocate them with health policymakers in Ramallah or East-Jerusalem”. Building the Palestinian civil society starts with a very sensible step: a first aid course.
Economic empowerment - investing in people

The Palestinian economy has suffered greatly from years of conflict. Business owners, large and small, struggle to find investors. But the situation has improved in recent years in some parts of the West Bank. Today, there are opportunities for small business.

Microcredit department

At Caritas Jerusalem, we want to help people realize their dream and improve their livelihood. Our microcredit department is offering small loans for local business development, for home renovation, for university fees and, when needed, for emergency situations.

In 2010, business development was the largest part of the microcredit department activity. We financed 40 business projects, among them 7 managed by women entrepreneurs.

Jane is 26 years old and lives with her parents and siblings in Ramallah. She works at Birzeit University as a project coordinator. Jane's family owns a small business selling computers and software. Early 2010, Jane and her brother decided to start their own project by opening an online education and training service, www.scholarship.ps. The website gives information to young Palestinians on scholarships grants for university degrees and academic research in Palestine and abroad. After a few months, Jane was receiving more and more requests for advice from prospective students. Jane and her brother decided to expand their training activities. They decided to establish a training center in Ramallah, the “Scholarships for Training and University Services”, where they could offer courses for applying successfully to university programmes.

In October 2010, Jane approached Caritas Jerusalem Credit Department with her business plan in hand. Caritas provided her with a loan of 8,000 USD in order to purchase essential equipment and furniture for the new center. Today Jane’s training center is fully functioning and her advice and training services give her extra income next to her job at Birzeit University. Her greatest satisfaction is to be able to support young Palestinians to access higher education and offer them better chances for the future.
In 2010, Caritas Jerusalem started an ambitious programme for the economic empowerment of women. "Made in Palestine" (MIP)’s objective is to create a line of high quality baby clothes designed and made in Palestine for export in Europe. Made from Egyptian organic cotton, the clothes will be adorned with handmade Palestinian embroidery.

The three-year long project includes two years for comprehensive training of 400 women from the Bethlehem area in sewing techniques, embroidery and design. A third year will be used for marketing and launch of the products.

The Fashion and Textile Institute in Beit Sahour close to Bethlehem is partner of the project and trained 165 Palestinian girls and women in 2010. A majority of women participants come from refugee camps, and 15 are living in a safe house for battered women in Beit Sahour.

MIP’s hope is to give the skills and opportunities for local women to gain economic power but it will also inject much needed investment in the textile industry. The Bethlehem textile industry used to be a major economic sector in Palestine. There are 60 factories in the area but many have closed due to restrictions in movement following the second Intifada. The factories still in activity are depending on fluctuating orders from Israeli companies. To guarantee the survival of the industry and the know-how of local craftspeople, Bethlehem needs a sustainable and homegrown project such as MIP.

The project is coordinated and implemented by Caritas Jerusalem in cooperation with the local textile factory owners represented by the Palestinian Federation of Industry (PFI) and with the generous contribution of the Spanish Foundation for Social and Cultural Development (FPSC) and the Community of Madrid.
Water scarcity and quality are serious issues in Palestine. The average water supply to the Palestinian communities of the Occupied Territories is about 63 liters per person per day in the West Bank. The minimum amount recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) is 100 liters. 31% of Palestinians are not connected to water networks and rely on springs, wells and private suppliers bringing freshwater by truck. Rural areas in the West Bank are particularly affected by the problem.

In 2009, Caritas started to work at improving the situation of the village of Beit Sahour which is facing a serious environmental threat due to the lack of sewage infrastructure. “Only 40% of the population benefits from a proper sewage connection. The rest uses dump holes beside their homes to dispose of the waste. Since these holes are not built properly the waste water leaks into clean groundwater causing water contamination,” explained Hani Al-Hayek, Mayor of Beit Sahour. Caritas Jerusalem conducted scientific testing of the local groundwater. These tests showed high levels of germs in local groundwater.

The first phase of the sewage construction was conducted in 2010 and completed in February 2011. A contractor for the second phase was selected in 2010 through a call for bids. The project provides job opportunities to 120 skilled and low skilled workers, giving a boost to the local struggling economy. The sewage system construction will directly benefit 460 households. This project is generously funded by the Government of Aragon in coordination with Caritas Zaragoza and Caritas Spain.

In Aboud, a rural village north of Ramallah, Caritas helped six families in need to build water cisterns to collect the winter rainwater for the dry months. The rainwater will be used throughout the year for cleaning and washing, as well as for watering the family’s vegetable patch. The hard work digging cisterns in the stone ground and doing renovation work in the families’ home created jobs for 16 builders for 6 weeks. Our friends from Caritas in Aragon supported this project.

Housing in East Jerusalem (which includes the Old City) is expensive and often in bad need of renovation. Modern and affordable housing is available in the West Bank. But for Palestinians moving on the other side of the Wall means losing the right to live in Jerusalem.

Our house renovation project allows poor families to have a better and healthier living environment – and remain in Jerusalem. Moreover the renovation works provides jobs to unemployed local workers and supports the local economy.

In 2010, thanks to our partner the Wick Foundation, Caritas has been able to directly help eight families from East Jerusalem through the renovation of their old houses. And we created temporary job opportunities for 10 workers for 2 months.

Renovation work has also been conducted in Ramallah and Bethlehem in cooperation with Caritas Zaragoza and Caritas Alicante.
Income 2010 per sector

- Health Programme: 36%
- Family Relief: 24%
- Education: 20%
- Job Creation: 7%
- Elderly Day Care Center: 4%
- Old City Counseling Center: 9%

Note: The youth programme sector income was less than 1% of the total income in 2010.
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2010

Spending 2010 per sector

- Health Programme: 24%
- Family Relief: 21%
- Old City Counseling Center: 9%
- Elderly Day Care Center: 5%
- Youth programme: 5%
- Education: 6%
- Job creation: 30%
- Family Relief: 0.03%
Thank you to all our partners!

We would like to thank all our supporters who stood by our side in 2010. Your solidarity and your trust in our mission made a real difference for our thousands of beneficiaries.
Generous God
you are the giver of all things.

Through every single thing
we are touched with your loving presence.

Your love is everlasting
healing and restoring us.

Your love is ever faithful
giving courage and strength.

Your gracious love carries us
lightening the burden of our life.

You are our life
the breath of our being.

Amen
Job creation activities

Caritas health and counseling centers
Youth programme

Aboud health center
Taybeh health center
Elderly day care center
Old City Counseling center
Jericho

Gaza health center
Khan Yunis
Gaza mobile clinic locations
Rafah

Notre Dame Center - Jerusalem • P.O.Box 31426 • Jerusalem 91313 • Tel.: +972 2 628 75 74
caritas@caritasjr.org • www.caritasjr.org