



Dear friends,

Caritas Jerusalem is pleased to share with you some of its activities during October and November. These activities were implemented by our Youth Department, the Health Department and the Food Security & Livelihood Department.

With the youth, we are working to encourage all the parishes to work together and strengthen the ties of our young people with the Church and emphasize on the Catholic Social teachings; with the Health department, we constantly intervene in empowering young mothers with awareness and the latest medical updates. Concerning development, we are always happy to assist the needy families to make life more bearable and provide them with the basic necessities of life such as clean water.

We do all this and much more thanks to our many friends near and far and as always we thank them for their support and solidarity with us and the people we serve in the Holy Land.

Best regards,

George Handal  
Acting General Director  
Caritas Jerusalem

### **Polish Aid commemorates its partners in Palestine**



On the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017 Caritas Jerusalem participated in a special ceremony organized by the Polish Aid at YMCA Center in Ramallah. Around 50 local and foreign organizations and institutions were invited to the event.

The Representative of Poland Mrs. Bukowska-McCabe expressed her appreciation to the partners and implementers of the various projects on the ground.



From October to December 2017, Caritas Jerusalem renovated 20 domestic cisterns in the Bethlehem Governorate through the Polish development cooperation programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland.



Hasan, a father of 8 is one of the beneficiaries. “I have eight children in school and am the only breadwinner of my family. I work in construction on a daily basis. In addition, I take care of my elderly parents who live with me and are bedridden for more than four years. Water cuts are very common in Beit Jala and I cannot afford to buy water with my meagre income. The cistern was destroyed during the second intifada in 2001 and I truly appreciate Caritas Jerusalem’s intervention. I hope that we will have plenty of rain this year so that my family and I have enough water during the summer season.”

The twenty renovated cisterns will serve more than 100 citizens and will save them a lot of money to use on other basic necessities of life.

## Involving the youth of all the parishes in Palestine



Caritas Jerusalem’s youth department aims to increase the youth’s awareness about their role in the society, to strengthen the Christian spirit as well and to develop their abilities in social and pastoral activities.

We have started implementing a comprehensive project in coordination with Young Catholic Students (JEC) by working with all the Catholic parishes in Jerusalem, West Bank and the Gaza Strip through trainings and workshops, targeting approximately 300 young people.



Organizing trainings in Gaza and gathering 30 young people to raise their awareness of social issues from a Christian perspective is a challenge. The trainings included Catholic Social teachings, Palestinian Christian identity and leadership skills for a

duration of 144 hours. Part of the trainings included voluntary work. The youth in Gaza cleaned the Holy Family Church which has helped them to be more aware of their religious and pastoral responsibilities.



*“It is very important to encourage the role of the Palestinian Christian youth in the Gaza Strip through strengthening their life skills, their social awareness and their Christian values in order to serve the community and such training sessions help them to be active in the society.”* Said, Ghada Najjar, the project coordinator in Gaza.

This project is a three year project that is funded by our partners Caritas Spain.

Caritas Jerusalem’s volunteers programme started in 2005 with the objective of preparing young people to play an active role in an independent and democratic Palestine. We encourage the youth to become leaders of their community, driven by the spirit of social justice and tolerance. We also give them tools for succeeding in their professional life in a difficult economic environment.

### **Care of pregnant women, nursing mothers and children**

*According to the 2006 Palestinian Family Health Survey in West Bank and Gaza, infant and neonatal mortality have been on the rise since the late 1990s*



In order to prevent and reduce the mortality among pregnant mothers & children Caritas Jerusalem initiated the project “Mother and Child health care intervention” funded by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, in the Palestinian village of Aboud North West of Ramallah.

Through this project, 71 mothers and 73 children were provided with primary health care services and the pregnant women in the area of Aboud are now more aware of the risks of child mortality and ways to avoid it.



S.A is a four month old female baby, who was born in good health, weighting 4 kg at her birth. Yet, over the next three months the healthy newborn was losing weight, suffering from severe diarrhea and stomach pain.

The residents recommended the family to visit Caritas Medical Center in Aboud. The needed lab tests were quickly done and all the tests came back negative. The physician had a discussion about the daily routine of mother and child and lactose intolerance was suspected. Therefore, more lab tests were conducted and the doctor's suspicions were confirmed.



The mother was advised to what kind of diet and food the baby should receive and eat; gradually her condition ameliorated and she has started gaining weight.

### **A day to remember**

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2017, Caritas Jerusalem's Elderly Day Care center with its volunteers organized a nostalgic trip for the senior citizens.



The forty elderly with our five volunteers and the staff of the EDCC travelled to Jaffa in order to enjoy the nature, refresh their memories and have a good meal. Visiting Jaffa is like travelling to a magical new world for these senior citizens who spend most of their time at home watching TV or lying in bed.



The day started by attending mass in Saint Peter's Church in Jaffa where the elderly lit candles and prayed for their families. They continued the day by heading to a park close to the sea where they ate, sang and exchanged memories.

We could not end the day without having a tour in the Old City of Jaffa and looking at the old houses where some of them used to live back in 1948. It was a very emotional day for them where they expressed their mixed feelings and wished

they were not forced to leave this beautiful city.



The EDCC does everything possible in order to provide them with healthcare, social services and basic necessities of life.

Caritas Jerusalem would like to take this opportunity to thank our local donors for funding this trip, and our volunteers for their caring spirit.

### How can you help?

Support our activities

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

Please see below our bank details to make a donation:

Bank Name: Arab Bank

Swift Code: ARABPS 22110

Account number: 457793/0/510 USD

Credit Account: Caritas Jerusalem

Branch No: 9110

At Arab Bank in Al-Ram

P.O.Box: 2445-Al-Ram