

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)

Heading towards Achieving Hope



2005 Annual Report

Introduction

2005 marked a major milestone in the history of WCLAC. The year was spent implementing the plan for overhauling and restructuring the Centre's management system in order to achieve more effectively and efficiently the objectives that advance the organization toward fulfilling its vision and mission. This plan to reorganize was based on extensive work on the 5-year Strategic Plan that included an in-depth analysis of administrative structures, policies, and procedures, as well as assessment of existing programs. The plan was introduced to staff in late-December 2004 so the new year could be devoted to making the transition. Implementing the plan meant reconfiguring existing programmatic units and establishing new and shifting current staff responsibilities accordingly in appropriate and suitable ways. This intensive internal work was being as the volatile political situation regarding the Gaza disengagement plan created more hardships externally, such as further restricting the movement of Palestinian people within the Occupied Territories. Despite these pressures, WCLAC uncompromisingly achieved its planned programme activities and, regrettably, without due consideration of the necessary extra time, energy, and effort required of staff to do all that had to be done and to shift to the new orientation of the organization. This meant all Centre staff worked overtime, and many far beyond the call of duty, to meet deadlines as well as make the transition to new structures and systems. The stress on Centre staff was enormous.

In order to bolster the transition process, fulfill commitments to the various stakeholders, and maintain quality and high standards, WCLAC contracted with various consultants. Consultants in the areas of management, counseling, feminist research and documentation were hired to train and support the regular WCLAC staff.

This report will show the fullness of WCLAC accomplishments during 2005 as well as some areas in which there were shortcomings. Overall it is with a deep sense of achievement and satisfaction that this document is being submitted, given the major challenges, both expected and unexpected, the Centre faced during the year. As WCLAC moves into 2006 activities, which includes completing the transition began in 2005 and facing further challenges as a result of recent political changes in the national government, we are hopeful, energized, and prepared to continue the struggle to fulfill our mission and vision of protecting and advocating for Palestinian women's human rights at the private and the public spheres in the context of the ongoing military conflict and political instability.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS OF
WCLAC'S 15 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT AND SUCCESS**

**WELFARE ASSOCIATION'S 2005 NGO AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN
ACHIEVEMENT**

WCLAC received the Welfare Association's¹ 2005 NGO Award for Excellence in Achievement for the year 2004. This newly created prize publicly recognizes an outstanding Palestinian NGO with a proven record of exceptional impact on promoting the social, economic, or cultural wellbeing of Palestinian people. Selection of the award is based on the following criteria: organizational leadership, commitment and social responsibility, effective work systems and transparency, employee learning and motivation, innovation, improvement in performance, needs identification, quality of partnerships, best practice, and beneficiary satisfaction. The 2005 prize was the first to be awarded and included a \$50,000 cash prize.

**SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH
THE UN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (UN ECOSOC)**

Four years after submitting the application, WCLAC was granted special consultative status with the UN ECOSOC in May 2005.

In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, qualifying organizations are enabled to contribute to the work programmes and goals of the United Nations by serving as technical experts, advisers, and consultants to governments and the Secretariat. Sometimes, as advocacy groups, they promote themes and implement plans of action, programmes and declarations adopted by the United Nations. In concrete terms this entails WCLAC participation in ECOSOC and its various subsidiary bodies through attendance at meetings and through written and verbal communications and interventions on their agenda items. In addition, WCLAC now may propose new items for consideration by the ECOSOC and will also be invited, as a matter of course, to attend international conferences called by the U.N., General Assembly special sessions, and other intergovernmental activities. This will mean the possibility of expanding WCLAC's sphere of influence and activities more the international level, and will enable the Centre to connect local with global actions and actors.

¹ The Welfare Association is a private, non-profit foundation established in Geneva in 1983 to support Palestinian society in sustainable development. It has become better known in Palestine and the Arab region by its Arabic name, Ta'awoun, meaning "cooperation." Welfare Association beneficiaries are the more than 4 million Palestinians who are served by Palestinian non-governmental organizations, community institutions and charitable organizations in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Galilee, Jaffa, Akka, Nazareth and Naqab, as well as in refugee camps in Lebanon.

Executive Summary

- During 2005, WCLAC reached 2,352 people through projects and activities aimed at raising awareness among ordinary people as well as professionals in the field. These consisted of workshops, lectures, training courses, and “dialogue tents”² in the West Bank and Jerusalem. The topics discussed included Personal Status Law, Criminal Law, Election Law, in addition to violence against women, women’s rights and development, and domestic violence. In addition, WCLAC directly provided social and legal support and services to a total of 412 women. Of these, 248 women were served by lawyers and 164 women by social workers.
- Throughout 2005, WCLAC authored 20 working papers on various issues such as Criminal Law, violence against women, women’s health rights, International Humanitarian Law, and Personal Status Law. During year, WCLAC participated in 30 local and international workshops, conferences, and training courses.
- WCLAC organized a ground-breaking conference in April entitled, “Women’s Health Rights under Israeli Occupation.” As a women’s center, we believe that the right to women’s health is affected by the economic, social and cultural situation, as well as the Israeli Occupation. More than 200 people attended the conference from all over the West Bank, including representatives from women’s organizations, civil society organizations, health, human rights and social service sectors. The three-day conference included 30 working papers discussing different issues such as health rights and international law and integration of international law into Palestinian legislation.
- Due to the impacts of the Israeli Occupation on the daily lives of Palestinian people, specifically restricted movement caused by checkpoints and barriers, it was important to find ways to reach women especially in the more isolated locations to avail them of WCLAC services. For this reason, WCLAC decided to execute a new pilot project to reach women in Bidya, in the Salfit governorate in the north of the Occupied West Bank. Here, WCLAC work included capacity-building with grassroots organization to provide social work and legal aid services to women in that region.
- During the first half of 2005, there were 27 reported cases of femicide of both women and girls in the West Bank on the grounds of the so-called “family honor,” prompting WCLAC to take immediate action. Therefore, several activities were undertaken in coordination with other organizations within campaign protesting the specific killings and demanding protection as well the overall problem of femicide.

² Dialogue Tent is a name given to an activity where a group of women led by a WCLAC facilitator meet on regular basis to discuss various matters of women issues for purposes of empowerment. The “Tent” was used to make the activity feel as an extension of the local culture.

- Despite the progress made in writing and introducing amendments to draft laws affecting the lives of women, the amendments up for consideration were not acted upon by the PLC. Because the continues to experience heavy political turmoil, the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) and other parts of the government, such as the Ministries of Women's Affairs and Social Affairs, have been totally dedicated to political action. During the year, the PLC, the main platform for lawmaking, changed its priorities and little attention was given to instituting new legislation and amending existing one.

With the installation of the newly elected government, and its attendant changes including Ministers of Women's Affairs and Social Affairs, uncertainty looms large. Most likely, the Centre's work will be affected. It is expected that the legislative process in terms of redrafting, amending, and implementing laws that support women's rights, might be affected. We anticipate that follow-up and follow-through will become even more onerous and time-consuming and progress slow to achieve.

Progress of Implementation

First Strategic Objective: Contribute to the development of legislation and institutional policies which support women and their rights

First interim objective: : Establish coalitions and set up coordination coalitions and committees with influential organizations and individuals to rally support for the Centre's proposals for law reform.

In order to achieve the above goal, WCLAC worked on achieving the following outputs:

Output 1: Activate three bodies³ through meetings and visits to institutions: Forum against Violence, Family Law Coalition, Criminal Law Coalition

Time Frame: April-August 2005

Progress: 200%

To achieve the above output, WCLAC conducted the following activities for each of the bodies to be formed and/or activated:

1. Meetings and visits to the concerned institutions
2. Developing and following-up with institutional work plans
3. Regular documentation and evaluation of the participating institutions
4. Supporting plans of other coalitions

During the year, we activated or organized 5 coalitions instead of the planned 3. The unanticipated 2 were the cluster of elections-related committees and the Media Forum. The need for these bodies emerged as WCLAC worked on the planned activities; therefore, the Centre was compelled to respond.

1. Family Law Coalition: This coalition was activated to discuss subjects related to the Palestinian Family Law. ⁴The group met 6 times to discuss, analyse, and agree to certain changes in the existing law. During the first meeting, coalition members received WCLAC-designed framework for legal reform that fundamentally shaped the kind and nature of change desired in reforming the five articles⁵ in the Personal Status Law.

In the second half of the year, only 30% of the planned activities were undertaken due to (a) coalition members being pre occupied with Palestinian municipal and legislative elections, (b) the coalition needed extended time to understand WCLAC's position about the suggested amendments, and to ensure consensus among coalition members. This caused a delay in reaching final agreement of the amendments, thus the coalition was unprepared when Sheikh Tamimi (The Chief Justice of The Islamic Religion Court) presented his draft.

³ The original 2005 plan states: "Form three bodies through meetings and visits to institutions," but actually we meant here activate since they already existed but had been inactive for some time.

⁴ A coalition of progressive organizations wanted to lobby for a Palestinian family law that is applicable to all members of society irrespective of religious background. After the Second Intifadah started in 2000 the coalition had to review its strategies due to the increased conservatism of the society and started working on law reform on the Personal Status Law applicable to Muslim families.

⁵ The five articles are: marriage, contracts, custody, age of marriage, accumulated assets during the marital life, and polygyny.

2. Criminal Law Coalition: WCLAC reactivated this coalition, organized several meetings with member institutions, and secured agreement to resume meetings with members of the PLC and political parties. A document representing the views of civil society organizations on the Penal Law⁶ was presented to the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) to be used in proposing legal amendments to the ministerial committee to protect women from violence. A recommendation to add an article to the Basic Law⁷ regarding the matter of protection was made, but this recommendation has to pass the PLC vote. In addition, WCLAC prepared and provided MOWA for adoption a draft law on family protection from violence.

One meeting was held with the head of legal committee at PLC, Ziad Abu-Ziad. He informed us that he supports the position of civil society towards the development of family protection law, however this law will not be put on the agenda of the present PLC. Due to preoccupation with elections further meetings with PLC members were not held and it was decided that work will be intensified with the newly elected PLC.

3. Forum against Violence: WCLAC attended more than 18 meetings for the Forum, including a two-day workshop on developing the Forum's work plan. Our work with the coalition covered two main issues:

a. On behalf of the coalition prepared 7 statements published in the local press, five of which dealt with VAW, and the other two dedicated to International Women's Day and the International Week for Combating VAW.

b. Organized and participated in 6 demonstrations against VAW including killing of women.

c. Contributed heavily towards the coordination for a public sit-in in Ramallah, which included the participation of PLC and political leaders, that clearly and unequivocally voiced opposition to and called for an end to the killing of women and all forms of VAW.

d. Femicide campaign: Please refer to Output 4, Number 2, on the campaign for combating VAW based the so-called "family honor."

4. Elections-related Committees: WCLAC participated in three main bodies
(a) *National Campaign for the Elections Law:* Participated in 8 meetings and contributed to the discussion of the proposed amendments to the law. Also participated in drafting and signing (since the campaign was collecting signatures of parties and institutions) of the memorandum addressed to the Palestinian President about the law and suggested amendments. The quota for women's membership in the local councils was established and a system of 50% proportional representation and 50% lists was approved. Moreover, WCLAC participated in 2 demonstrations in front of the PLC and attended the first and second hearings on the proposed amendments by the Council.

⁶The views of civil society were passed onto to the ministerial committee through President Abu-Mazen gender advisor, Ms Shadia Al-Helou.

⁷ Any amendment to the Basic Law must have two thirds vote in the Palestinian Legislative Council

(b) Committee on Improving Women's Participation in the Elections: WCLAC participated in coordination meetings and drafting of memorandum. WCLAC also participated with the Palestinian Independent Commission on Citizens' Rights (PICCR) in two training workshops on women's rights in elections and the elections law, benefiting 60 participants from different districts. The workshops were held in Ramallah in the presence of women candidates to municipal elections and to staff from formal institution and municipalities.

(c) Central NGOs Monitoring Committee: (this is an elected position by civil society) WCLAC participated in 17 meetings of the committee, as well as in monitoring the local elections and presidential elections, specifically in the elections for the local councils in the area of Hebron. Four meetings were held with the Hebron local council. Moreover, WCLAC attended a press conference that was held in the Cultural Palace in Ramallah following the presidential elections. We also participated in the preparation of the NGO monitoring report and in a meeting with the international mission for elections and a written legal advice was presented on the elections to Rafah district office.

WCLAC representatives were featured in the TV programme about the role of women during elections. In addition, they participated in two workshops--one related to South African experience in elections and the other for preparing the code of ethics dealing with PLC elections to be signed by the political parties.

5. Media Forum Advocating Women's Rights: During the preparations for the campaign for Women's Health Rights (refer to Output 4 number 3), WCLAC recognized the need to have a body of media representatives that is sensitized towards and knows how to address and report on women's issues. This need came to light in the context of recent developments, especially the increasing levels of violence against women in Palestinian society. The ways the incidents and issues were handled by the media pointed to the low awareness level of journalists and reporters when it came to women's issues and perspectives. Hence, the idea of the Forum evolved and the Media Forum Advocating Women's Rights was established. In the first half of the year, this unplanned goal and related activities were included in the annual work-plan due to the crisis nature of the problem of violence against women. The following is detailed list of the unplanned activities conducted:

Activities related to Establishment of Media Forum:

1. The establishment of the Forum started in early April with a meeting aimed at preparing reporters for the Conference on Women's Health Rights and introducing the idea of the Forum. During the meeting, reporters were supplied with a brochure on WCLAC, its vision, goals, activities and another brochure on the Conference in terms of its goals and major topics. Forms of cooperation were discussed and the idea of the Forum was welcomed.
2. Reporters were invited in May to a workshop to define the Forum's goals, work objectives and procedures. A concept paper outlining WCLAC vision for the role of such a Forum was prepared and discussed. Accordingly, a small committee was formed to formulate the vision, mission and strategic goals of the Forum. This was accomplished over 4 meetings after which it was adopted.

3. Afterward, the committee approved conducting 6 workshops with media people in the various parts of the West Bank- Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, and Hebron. These workshops identified training needs for media people in areas of women's rights and gender and how to incorporate those in their discourse and reporting.
4. In October a workshop was held to discuss the role of media in addressing critical social issues affecting women. Specifically they discussed Criminal Law, sexual assault and killing of women. This workshop was attended by 33 media experts and was also covered in the local press.
5. In December, WCLAC announced a contest to identify an article or story that best portrays dealing with sexual assault and the killing of women, and Criminal Law. To date, WCLAC has received 40 entries. Preparations for an award ceremony to take place on the 8th of March, International Women's Day, is underway. In addition preparations for the formal launching of the Media Forum are currently underway.
6. The Media Forum regards WCLAC as the foremost expert on law and gender, thus the body to whom they refer for expert advice and consultation in their work on women and the law.
7. Currently, the Forum includes 91 members (35 women and 56 men) from all over the West Bank and covering various media forms. The project has generated great interest in the field and we continue to receive requests from journalists to join the group.

Activities and achievements of the Media Forum:

1. In December 2005, in cooperation with Jerusalem Educational TV, a roundtable discussion was held to examine role of media and artists in promoting progressive social issues. 25 media experts participated in this recorded programme and will be aired in Ma'an Network, which has 13 local TV networks.
2. Since its formation, the Media Forum has contributed significantly to the extensive media coverage of various WCLAC activities, such as workshops on disseminating the CEDAW report, Election Law and women's quota, killing of women, and medical abuse of females. In addition, the Forum contributed to the overall increase in press coverage of women-related activities undertaken by other civil society organizations in Palestine.
3. A female journalist from the most widely circulated newspaper in the area, Al-Quds, was assigned to cover women's issues and was asked always to use WCLAC as her reference. Al-Quds also has decided to allocate a column to women's issues and their first column will address the WCLAC emergency shelter project in Jericho.
4. The Media Forum has raised considerably the public profile of WCLAC by inviting various staff members to participate in TV and radio talks shows and newspaper interviews discussing various issues and WCLAC programme activities

Obstacles: the main obstacle to undertaking all planned activities on time were (a) closure of Qalquilia and Tulkarem by Israeli soldiers which prevented the completion of discussion of Forum there and (b) the same which made connecting with Gaza to establish a similar media forum difficult.

Output 2: Build relations with 300 influential personalities*Time Frame: May-June 2005**Progress: 100 %*

WCLAC built relations with more than 300 influential persons through its work with the coalitions and committees we either activated or created and throughout our advocacy and lobbying campaigns. This work resulted in staff concluding that this output is in fact a tactic to achieve our strategic objectives.

Output 3: Complete the planned studies concerning laws (Criminal Law, Personal Status Law, Family Protection Law).*Time Frame: May-October 2005**Progress: 90 %*

Planned activities to accomplish these studies: developing a work plan, collecting information, data and information analysis, writing and publishing the studies.

1. **Criminal Law Study:** A series of papers about the following topics were completed: sexual harassment, rape and wife beating. *The study was completed, 1000 copies printed. A workshop with Palestinian judiciary was held in November to present the findings of the study.*

2. **Islamic Personal Status Law Study:** WCLAC completed the concept paper about the five areas (custody, marriage contract, marriage of minors, divorce, and guardianship [legal standing of women]) for reform in Personal Status Law. A paper describing and analyzing discrimination against women in the Personal Status Law and legal principles on which articles of the law should be amended was prepared. The planned work on this study was completed and *in the coming 6 months we will be working on a lobbying campaign together with the Coalition that we activated in the first half of the year.*

3. **Family Protection Law Study:** The draft of the study was worked on in coordination with the legal consultant to the Centre during 8 meetings. Because the Central Bureau of Statistics launched a comprehensive survey on violence in Palestine, the Centre study was suspended and it was agreed to wait for the Bureau results so those can be used in the study. The heads of the WCLAC's Capacity Building Unit and the Research and Documentation Unit are members of the consultative committee for the study established by the Bureau. The Family Protection Law Study addresses the legal and procedural aspects of family protection under both the Criminal Law in force currently and the draft Criminal Law under consideration. The study also takes into consideration the following: PNA commitments toward protecting families from violence and the specific cultural context of Palestinian society.

Indicators: three studies were drafted during 2005.

Other studies, that had not been planned in advance were also conducted as follows:

1. **Report on the issue of inheritance in the local context:** the report was completed – a number of contacts were made with the International Council for the Right to Housing so that it would be integrated into the publication plan

2. **Paper on legal, psychological and social justifications for the Family Protection Law.** The paper was completed and details were given on the legal and procedural aspects of protecting the family under the Criminal Law valid in Palestine. 3 meetings on this issue brought together the staff members and the legal consultant in addition to another workshop held in Jordan where the draft of the law was presented as well as the justifications. Also there was an exchange of experiences with various Arab countries through the Salma Project.⁸ This paper will not be published until a number of issues are resolved in the Family Protection Law. It is foreseen that this work will be continued in 2006 by the Advocacy Unit.
3. **Edited book documenting the ground-breaking Palestinian Model Parliament⁹ and the pioneering role played by WCLAC and other feminists in this project.** A committee consisting of key organizers of the project delineated the purpose, goals, and audience for the book, formulated its theoretical framework and organization, and identified chapters and assigned writer for each. The committee also assigned the Head of the Research and Documentation Unit, in consultation with the Feminist Research Consultant, to oversee the completion of the volume.
It is expected that the book will be finalized at the end of 2006.
4. **Report on "Fair Trial and the Voice of the Victim in Criminal Proceedings":** Follow up to the "Fair Trial and the Voice of the Victim in Criminal Proceedings" workshop held in Jordan in 2004, all the papers presented in the workshop were gathered and proceedings will be published at the beginning of 2006
5. **Monitoring the coverage of women in two daily newspapers:**
During the years of 2004-2005, WCLAC has collected articles and photographs from two daily newspapers Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam related to violations against Palestinian women committed by the Israeli authorities, such as Palestinian women detainees and imprisonment of women, women martyrs, those who have died as a result of the violence perpetuated by the Israeli Occupation, injured women and women who have given birth at Israeli checkpoints, these data are being analyzed to draw conclusions about media reporting of women.

⁸ The Salma Project brings together five innovative Women's Rights NGOs from Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine (Gaza Strip and West Bank) aimed at combating all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination through providing a platform for women's rights activities to share important lessons and exchange practices that have been proven successful in their day to day work. The name Salma stands for a strong and healthy woman, living in a peaceful society, free from violence and discrimination.

⁹ Palestinian Model Parliament: Women and Legislation: A ground breaking project undertaken in 1997 and 1998 in which a public debate about social policy was made and as a result of which WCLAC and other participants in the project were heavily attacked by fundamentalist forces.

Output 4: Launch three media campaigns (Campaign for Personal Status Law,¹⁰ Campaign for Criminal Law, Campaign for Women's Health Rights)

Time Frame: April –Dec. 2005

Progress: 90%¹¹

1. **First Media Campaign: Campaign for Women's Health Rights:** In April 2005, WCLAC organized a conference on women's health rights under the occupation. The conference was based on WCLAC conviction that the health of Palestinian women is directly affected by social, economic, and cultural issues in addition to the Israeli occupation. More than 200 persons from all over the West Bank participated, representing women organizations, civil society organizations, and other sectors in the fields of health, law, human rights, and social sciences. The conference lasted for three days, where more than 30 (6 papers were written by WCLAC staff) papers were presented on different issues, such as health rights, international law, incorporating international law into Palestinian policies and legislations, and the establishment of procedures for monitoring violations of the law.

WCLAC launched its campaign on the International Health Day.

The following activities were undertaken by WCLAC in order to launch this campaign.

- Production of 5 public service announcements on health rights and social and legal influences on women's health (3 radio and 2 TV public service announcements). These were aired over the two weeks preceding the conference through different radio and TV stations in all districts in cooperation with Ma'an Network. The public service announcements were also presented between the different sessions of the conference.
- Establishment of the aforementioned Media Forum in support of women's issues and supplying the media with information about the conference. This media meeting was reported in the local press and followed by a press interview with the head of the Advocacy Unit in Women's Voice press supplement published by Women's Technical Affairs Committee.
- Preparation of 10 signs/billboards posted in Ramallah with statements about women's rights and women's health.
- Publication of a press release on the International Health Day in Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam newspapers.
- Production of a brochure for the conference in Arabic and English (500 copies each), in addition to Briefing Sheet on the Status of Palestinian Women's Health.
- Design and printing of the conference logo and 10 campaign stickers each addressing one of women's health rights (300 copies each).
- Design and production of a folder for the print materials (1000 copies).
- Design of 3 large banners to be posted in the conference venue.
- Organization of an exhibit within the conference, including publications, books, educational materials and videocassettes of the participating institutions. The exhibit was opened in the first day of the conference and received heavy attendance, as all the displayed copies were picked up.

¹⁰ There is a typo in the plan sent to you concerning the name of the first campaign, in the plan sent to you it says: campaign for Family Protection Law, while the actual name is a campaign for Family Law.

¹¹ As mentioned above, WCLAC had to launch three media campaigns, one completed in the first half of the year, and currently WCLAC is working on two other campaigns.

- Organization of a reception honoring the participants, with cultural and artistic presentations from the Folklore Dance Group of the Ramallah Friends School students and Wishah Group of Popular Arts.
- Video documentation of the conference events and TV broadcasts of those events, post-conference, through Ma'an Network with a wide exposure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
- Invitations of media professionals to ensure media coverage of the conference. As a result, the conference events received extensive coverage in Al-Quds and Al-Ayyam and a number of local radio stations. Furthermore, a press conference to present the recommendations out of the conference was held immediately afterwards. The conference events and recommendations were reported in the following day's issue of Al-Ayyam and Al-Quds.
- Organization of a TV talk show on the conference and recommendations with Al-Quds Educational TV, where the media specialist Aref Hijjawi hosted the show. Guest speakers included WCLAC Director, Head of Advocacy Unit, and a member of the Board of Trustees. The show was aired on all stations of the Ma'an Network. A radio talk show hosting WCLAC Director and Head of Advocacy Unit aired on Palestine National Radio program "In Women's Eyes".

The documentation of WCLAC's health conference was not completed because of the delay in contracting a researcher to carry out the job in addition to the continuation of the discussion with the Higher Committee on the form of the documentation which was not settled. A workshop which was supposed to take place in order to discuss the recommendation of the conference was not held due to the overload of work following the introduction of WCLAC's new structure.

Indicator: Campaign was launched by WCLAC staff.

Unplanned activities implemented included:

2. Second Media Campaign: A campaign against femicide on the grounds of the so-called "family honor": During 2005, 27 cases of femicide of women and girls in the West Bank on the grounds of the so-called family honor were reported. These horrifying events prompted WCLAC to take immediate steps to raise a public outcry against the crimes and to highlight the vital need to protect women and girls from murder and sexual abuse. *The following is an account of WCLAC activities in cooperation with the Forum against Violence:*

- **Lobbied government officials:** sent letters to the Palestinian President Abu Mazen, government decision-makers, ministries, such as MOWA and Ministry of Interior, and the Council of Ministers. WCLAC urged them to take immediate action against the femicide phenomenon. In addition, WCLAC drafted a press release and a fact sheet in cooperation with the Forum violence against Women and circulated it through events related to this issue and called for protection of women.

- **Seminars and lectures:** in April – May, 2005 initiated discussions with university¹² students and professors in four Universities in the West Bank, with more than 324 participating in those lectures. The seminars addressed the legal and social dimensions of killing of women and the roles of media and students in confronting this phenomenon. WCLAC participated in various seminars in the Jerusalem area as well. They included a seminar on domestic violence and femicide in June 2005, with the Public Work Association, where two WCLAC staff presented legal perspectives on the issue. The audience consisted of about 50 participants. Another seminar was also held in June 2005, where WCLAC presented a legal perspective to an audience of about 45 persons. This one was held in cooperation with Jerusalem institutions, the Association of Psychosocial Professionals, and the Forum against Violence. Finally the issue of confronting femicide was incorporated into the awareness program that took place in Jenin, Ramallah, Hebron, Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

- **Media activities:** WCLAC staff participated in media events both on the radio and TV (Watan TV, Al-Quds Educational TV, Palestine satellite channel, Voice of Palestine, Ma'an Network, Bethlehem TV, Voice of Hope – Hebron and Palestinian radio network – Hebron) addressing the issue of femicide and sexual abuse. Talks on the legal and social aspects were presented in regular and special programs. A total of 16 talk shows were recorded in the aforementioned areas.

- **Conferences on femicide:**
 - a) WCLAC played a role coordinating and participating in a press conference on femicide and participating in a massive march protesting the practice. Also, WCLAC participated in the preparations for popular conferences, the first of which was held in June 2005 in coordination with the Jerusalem Institutions Follow Up Committee. WCLAC covered the legal aspects.

 - b) In December 2005, a popular conference was held in Jericho to discuss Femicide. Several papers on the legal, judicial and social aspects were presented by WCLAC. A number of PLC members also gave speeches and declared their opposition to femicide. There were about 100 participants of whom 20% were males.

 - c) A workshop had been planned to take place in Hebron in December discussing the concept of virginity in the Palestinian society and its social and psychological impact on Palestinian women. On the day of the workshop , the meeting hall was taken over by angry tribal leaders and WCLAC staff was forced to cancel it.

- **Petition Campaign:** This campaign was envisaged as part of the cooperation with the VAW Forum. To date, WCLAC has been able to collect about 1000

¹² The four universities are: Al-Najah University/Nablus, American University in Jenin, Birzeit University/ Birzeit, Al-Quds Open University in Hebron

signatures on the Forum's petition denouncing femicide. The collection of signatures campaign is still underway. A press conference is planned to take place during 2006 to address the issue of femicide.

- **Data Collection:** Information on the 27 femicide victims was gathered mainly from government sourced including the Bethlehem and Ramallah Police Departments and the MOWA and Ministry of Interior. This information helped in responding to local and international press who approached WCLAC. The Centre cooperated with 7 reporters, responding either through face-to-face interviews or by the phone and email.
- **Demonstrations against femicide:** WCLAC actively participated in the coordination for such demonstrations, including a sit-in strike in Bethlehem in March that followed the killing of a local girl. For this event, WCLAC cooperated with the Association of Psychosocial Professionals and VAW Forum, as well as the Consortium of Developmental Institutions. Signs carrying anti-violence messages prepared by WCLAC were displayed. WCLAC also participated in the coordination and organization of a mass demonstration in Ramallah in May following the killing of a girl in Ramallah and other girls in the Jerusalem area. The demonstration, which was videotaped, headed to the Council of Ministers premises. WCLAC slogans were displayed.
- **Poster printing:** 1000 posters decrying femicide were printed, 300 of which were distributed during the International Week of VAW. The remaining posters were distributed during anti-femicide popular conferences and other kinds of seminars and conferences organized by WCLAC.
- **Documentary film on femicide:** A number of production companies responded to our call for proposals to create this documentary. A special consultative committee comprised of experts on violence against women was formed to review the proposals but none were satisfactory. The committee decided to refer the issue to scenarists to obtain a more suitable proposal. The committee selected one scenarist and invited him to make several revisions to it for further consideration. The draft scenario will be presented to WCLAC Management Team for final approval. It is expected to contract a director to complete the film in 2006.
- **Art Exhibition "no to femicide":** This exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Art and culture Open Workshop under the supervision of the Minister of Women's Affairs. The exhibition took place in December in Ramallah and Bethlehem. 10 emerging local artists participated and 51 paintings were exhibited to express all forms of violence against women. The works for this exhibition were created at a month-long series of art workshops during which the artists and concerned "non-artist" local people cooperated in the creative endeavour. At the workshops, violence was expressed through stories about women who have been brutally killed or exposed to violence. The stories were told in the presence of the artists who later employed graphic arts methods to create representations of their opposition to violence against women. The topics of the artwork focused on incest, violence against

Indicator: the campaign was successfully completed.

3. Third Campaign: Anti-poverty campaign: Upon an invitation by the Center for Democracy and Workers' Rights and within the global anti-poverty campaign, WCLAC is participating by attending the 5 founding meetings for the campaign, working on the production of a report on poverty and various related factors, conducting workshops, demonstrations and protests, and reviewing articles in the Labor Law to establish a minimum wage level and ensure the provision of job opportunities.

4. Fourth Campaign: Membership on the Steering Committee for Reproductive Health Rights Project/MIFTAH¹³: This committee was established upon an invitation by MIFTAH with the aim of influencing decision-makers and reproductive-health workers about reproductive health issues and their relationship to violence. The Centre participated in four meetings of this committee since its establishment, and the Research and Documentation Unit as well as other Centre Units are actively contributing to the development of a glossary for gender-based violence. *Work is currently underway on developing a report on violence and Palestinian NGO experience working in this field.*

Output 5: Publication of oral history project report on impact on women of Israeli army violence.

Time Frame: March- Dec. 2005

Progress: 75 %

Activities planned to achieve this output were:

1. Training of field worker on oral history data collection.
2. Collection and documentation of oral histories by the trained staff.
3. Development of an information system for the documented cases.
4. Organization of training and debriefing workshops for field workers.
5. Publication of the final report.

Accomplishments in the first half of the year are training of 10 women field workers from the different Palestinian areas on methods of data collection and documentation. During 2005, they collected in-depth stories from the interviewees about their experiences of violence. The field workers were trained and supervised directly by Dr. Faiha Abdil Hadi, an expert in women's oral history, and project overseen by a member of the Research and Documentation Unit. The initial training

¹³ MIFTAH is an NGO “The Palestinian Initiative for the promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy”

consisted of oral history methodology workshops at the start of the project in the March 2005. Subsequently, the field workers were supervised in 3 review and follow-up sessions conducted by Dr. Abdil Hadi where the field workers were given extensive feedback on their work and directions for creating the full oral histories. All the stories were then compiled and report prepared in its draft form, with an English translation. In addition, there is a collection of audiotapes of the interviews when taping was permitted. This project will be extended by utilizing the skills of the field workers to collect and document as many incidents as possible and as soon as it becomes possible to do so. After the finalization of the report, the goal is to launch electronic versions of the documentation for easy accessibility.

The final written report will be published during 2006.

Second Strategic Objective: Promote positive local cultural and valuable resources to fight negative practices against women in the society

First interim objective: : To develop mechanisms within the local communities for debate and information gathering in support of women's empowerment.

Output 1: Organizing group activities in 10 locations in different areas of the West Bank and Jerusalem

Time Frame: June -Dec. 2005

Progress: 100 %

During 2005, work was done in four locations, where activities focused on: conducting debates, presenting lectures, organizing meetings with public figures, politicians and social leaders, as well as visits to NGOs.

First area: Jenin

A legal awareness program was conducted with focus on the Personal Status Law, Penal Law, Elections Law and Family Violence Law. Awareness sessions were held with women and university students in several villages in the district, as well as the town center, in cooperation with women's centers, ministerial offices, such as Ministry of Local Government (MOLG), MOSA, and Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), and a number of universities, such as Al-Quds Open University.

Awareness activities highlighting law were as follows:

- a. WCLAC held 50 meetings in 6 locations¹⁴ in the Jenin area. Topics discussed included alimony, child custody, marriage contracts, incest, femicide, and inheritance. About 180 women participated.
- b. Legal courses were also conducted for 5 groups on the same aforesaid topics in cooperation with the district office of MOYS and women's work committees in the villages in the Jenin districts. Number of participants in the five courses was almost 130 women.

Second area: Hebron and Bethlehem

Awareness raising activities on law were:

- a. Seven sessions conducted in cooperation with the Women's Work Society, Civil Forum, and PICCR. Different issues were addressed, including the women's quota, women and election rules, Elections Law, Civil Service Law, and general discrimination against women. A total of 390 participants attended.
- b. In September 2005, a movie on Iranian divorce was shown once at Bethlehem University and twice at the Peace Center in Bethlehem, followed by a discussion about the Personal Status Law. (60 people participated)
- c. In October, a meeting with the Dean of Student Affairs at Bethlehem University was held in order to submit a plan on legal and social awareness for women students. The plan was accepted and will be launched in the second semester 2006.

¹⁴ The 6 locations are: Arraba, Jalameh, Qabatya, Rummana, Breis and Aneen

- d. In December, a workshop was held at Bethlehem University on the impact of the Israeli isolation wall on domestic violence. 50 students, both men and women, attended the workshop.
- e. In November, a lecture was held at the Caritas Hospital in Bethlehem on domestic violence on the occasion of VAW international week. The lecture was attended by 35 ladies, 5 nurses and social workers.
- f. In December 2005, a meeting for women was organized in Hebron in order to assess the social needs and priorities for Hebronite women. A number of issues related to violence against women were discussed. Awareness meetings will be held in the beginning of 2006.
- g. 8 dialogue-tent sessions were held in the Old City of Hebron attended by 18 women. These sessions will be completed in the beginning of 2006.

Awareness sessions highlighting some social issues:

- a. We participated in several TV and radio talk shows and interviewed for newspaper articles addressing topics such as domestic violence, femicide, suicide, polygyny, and the perception of freedom for girls. We responded to 4 interviews with the Voice of Hebron journal, 7 TV talk shows on the above mentioned issues and two radio talk shows with Al-Marah Radio, the first on women, laws and polygyny and the second on virginity testing and the hymen, and the trouble stirred by tribal leaders to prevent the workshop in Hebron from taking place.

Third area: Ramallah

Awareness sessions highlighting some social issues:

- a. Awareness activities in Ramallah focused on the issue of femicide on the grounds of so called family honor, particularly by using media channels, and through the activities of the NGO VAW Forum and WCLAC VAW campaign.
- b. In addition, awareness sessions were organized, including a session at the UNRWA Girls School in Ramallah ,on sexual abuse and customary marriage, reaching 80 students from grades 8 and 9, and a session with 130 women students from Women's Community College (Al-Tireh) on the issue of customary marriage and its legal and social repercussions.
- c. A workshop was held for women doctors working in the area of women's mental health affiliated to the health committees on women's health rights. The workshop dealt with CEDAW and its applicability on the existing laws. It also dealt with relevant laws affecting medical health professionals. After the workshop, 7 sessions of legal advice were given to women Doctors.
- d. A study day that dealt with women's rights and women's issues, and women and law was held in Biddo village in cooperation with early childhood programs. The day was attended by 6 people (5 women and one girl).
- e. Another workshop on incest and sexual harassment from a legal and social perspective was held at Bir Zeit University and was attended by 100 students of whom 50% were females.
- f. A lecture was presented to the Master of Public Health students at Bir Zeit University on femicide and law. It was attended by 30 students (20 men and 10 women) and 9 sessions of legal advice were given after the meeting.
- g. Another lecture was presented on the women's right to life and femicide at Bir Zeit University. The lecture was presented by the Head of the Research Unit

- h. In October, a study day was held in cooperation with Jerusalem's Women's Studies Center and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. The day dealt with legal perspectives on incest. This day was attended by 80 participants from different academic, civil society, and governmental organizations. This study day required coordination with the Women's Studies Center, which took 4 meetings. WCLAC was also a member of the consultative committee that shaped the overall program.

Media activities in Ramallah:

- 1) TV: WCLAC recorded 4 TV sessions on laws, violence and femicide, women's work, reasons for divorce and the need for alimony.
- 2) Radio: 6 radio series were recorded on domestic violence, the penal code and incest, the basic law and the personal status law.
- 3) Press conference was held by WCLAC, the Ministry Of Women's Affairs, and the General Union of Palestinian Women to declare the establishment of the Alimony Fund, whose implementation was led by a WCLAC lawyer.

Fourth area: Jerusalem

Awareness activities addressing some social issues such as domestic violence, sexual abuse, and personal status law were as follows:

- a. Domestic violence (particularly sexual abuse) awareness program was implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MOE) in schools in Jerusalem city and suburbs. The program, consisting of 6 sessions, was conducted in 4 schools (three all-girls and one all-boys)¹⁵. Students from grades 8, 9 and 10 participated with an estimated number of 315 female students and 105 males. Six sessions were conducted, including a meeting with the teachers and principal, as well as a meeting with only teachers of the targeted classes (27 teachers and principals in the girls' schools and 9 teachers and a principal in the boys' school). Meetings with the teachers revolved around domestic violence and sexual abuse, cases the teachers had to deal with, and means for cooperation between institutions and school counselors. 4 sessions with students were conducted on the same issue for each class separately in the four schools (total 16 classes).
- b. Seven awareness sessions were held for housewives, early-childhood teachers, kindergarten teachers, and male and female staff from Jerusalem NGOs. The sessions were held in cooperation with the Family Center, the Association of Psychosocial Professionals and childcare programs, addressing issues such as sexual harassment, incest, rape, customary marriage, types of marriage, conditions for marital contracts, and femicide. Total of 189 women benefited from these sessions and 20 individual consultations were conducted following the awareness sessions.
- c. A series of meetings were conducted with male and female students from different Jerusalem schools, including 4 sessions for 22 students addressing the issue of marriage of minors, sexual harassment, incest, and customary marriage.

¹⁵ The schools are: Bir Nabala Girls School, Beit Ijza Girls School, Islamic Nahda Girls School and Dar Al-Aytam Boys School

Within these sessions, 31 individual consultations were sought concerning issues raised.

- d. A meeting was held with 16 female school dropouts in cooperation with Saraya Center, addressing the issues of school dropout and sexual harassment. Three individual consultations were offered on possibilities of special study arrangements and completion of secondary school certificate.
- e. Nine awareness meetings were held with 14 female school dropouts in cooperation with Saraya Center (an average of one meeting per week), addressing issues of personal status (marital contracts, the right of choice, customary marriage and its legal and social repercussions, and penal law issues, sexual abuse and harassment and femicide).
- f. Eight social awareness sessions were conducted with 15 female school dropouts in cooperation with Burj Al-Laqlaq Society. The sessions discussed issues of school dropout and its repercussions, sexual abuse, femicide, early marriage and customary marriage.

Awareness activities highlighting laws were as follows:

- a. A workshop was held on the issue of women and law with 75 male and female students and teachers from Terra Santa School in Jerusalem.
- b. Ten legal awareness courses were held in cooperation with Jerusalem NGOs for working women, kindergarten teachers, housewives and girls attending vocational training programs. The number of sessions per each course ranged between 3-11 sessions with an average of one session per week. A total of 219 women and girls attended. Issues addressed by the courses were: gender, CEDAW, elections and women's quota, Personal Status Law, sexual abuse, femicide and Penal Law.
- c. A meeting was held on violence and the impact of the Israeli isolation wall on domestic violence. The meeting was held at the YWCA in Jerusalem and was attended by 40 female students and 7 teachers.

Indicators:

1. As a result of the awareness raising activities in the Jenin area, 11 cases were referred to the WCLAC Services Unit for follow up in courts.
2. As a result of the awareness activities in the Jerusalem area, 18 cases were referred to the Services Unit for follow up. The majority of cases referred to the Services Unit for follow up, were related to child support, divorce, alimony rights after divorce, right to child visitation, delayed dowry, and affirmation of divorce. 3 of the cases were urgent.
3. As a result of the awareness activities in the Jerusalem area, 6 female school dropouts were referred to specialists from the partner institutions to receive guidance regarding special study arrangements, particularly sitting for the secondary school matriculation exams.

Workshop on Awareness

In November, WCLAC held an internal workshop that brought all the staff members together to develop a common framework for constructing awareness programs in the Centre. An expert was invited to facilitate the meeting and he presented a paper on the concept of awareness and how to manage and plan awareness. A unified concept on awareness was finally developed and adopted by the Centre.

Output 2: Production of four educational and counseling materials*Time Frame: March - Nov. 2005**Progress: 100%*

In order to achieve this objective, plans were made to conduct the following: development of brochures, design and distribution of posters and production of a documentary on femicide.

In 2005, a brochure on sexual abuse was developed targeting school students and families. WCLAC also re-printed previous brochures on sexual abuse (2000 copies) and 'My Own Card'¹⁶ (3000 copies). We also participated in the design and production of a poster on combating violence against women on the occasion of the eighth of March (distribution of 500 posters, cards and badges to institutions and public figures as part of the activities of Salma Group, in which WCLAC is a partner).

The documentary focusing on the issue of femicide on the grounds of family honor (please refer to the issue of femicide campaign)

Indicator: Three educational materials were produced.

Output 3: Monitoring two media institutions and publishing a report on how the Palestinian media address certain women related social and legal issues*Time Frame: April - Nov. 2005**Progress: 50%*

This work is being done primarily by a media team from the Media Center at Bir Zeit University, who was contracted for this purpose. A number of meetings were held with these media experts to establish the general framework and a basic outline of the methodology for the study based on a preliminary formulation of the methodology and relevant details by the experts. Their preliminaries were discussed thoroughly and adjusted according to WCLAC's conception of the intended study. An analytical questionnaire was also developed on the content of Wafa Agency and another questionnaire to administer to university students was also developed. The TV and Radio sample was dropped in order to enlarge the sample of the students. This was done upon the advice and the approval of the Alpha Organization, the survey research consultant to the Centre and the research team.

A draft copy of the first 3 chapters of the study findings have been written. *This report will be completed during 2006.*

Second interim objective: : To develop active local leaderships for promoting positive practices toward women.

According to the plan, this objective has four outputs.

¹⁶ small cards in which emergency contact information distributed to students after workshops to contact in case of sexual violence and abuse

Output 1: Training 48 young men and women*Time Frame: April-Nov 2005**Progress: 115 %*

During the year, 48 male and female volunteers were trained. WCLAC was able to achieve this output through the following activities:

1. **Training courses:** Two training courses were conducted for 7 consecutive days in Bethlehem and Jericho on the following topics: issues of voluntary work, facilitation of dialogue, communication skills, report writing, needs assessment skills, time management, and task planning as they relate to developing leadership skills that will result in positive practices toward women. The number of participants in Bethlehem was 26 (17 females and 9 males) and in Jericho was 22 (11 females and 11 males).
2. **Workshops:** Two workshops on gender issues were held in Bethlehem and Jericho, each for 3 hours. Participants in the Bethlehem workshop were 18 (14 females and 4 males), while the number of volunteers in Jericho was 15 (8 females and 7 males). 4 more workshops were held in Bethlehem for 12 training hours on Penal Code, violence against women, and gender. Another workshop was held in the Jericho area on women's grassroots programs, attended by volunteers on how to consolidate cooperation between them. The workshop was attended by 15 people.
3. **Summer camps:** This program was discussed internally by those in charge of implementing the WCLAC projects. A decision was taken not to conduct summer camps in the current period, as such camps would consume a lot of time for coordination and preparation. WCLAC preferred to provide the service by participating in summer camps organized by other more appropriate bodies and institutions.

Indicator: 48 young men and women are trained.

Output 2: Supporting voluntary activities in 10 locations in 2 areas.*Time Frame: July- December 2005**Progress: 70%*

We sought to achieve this output by offering financial, professional and technical support to activities conducted by volunteers in order to develop and reinforce their capabilities. Using this approach, WCLAC supported 4 voluntary activities in 4 locations in Jericho area during 2005. Support included both the financial and professional aspects.

Jericho:

1. WCLAC supported a seminar in Jericho city on the occasion of the International Women's Day on March 8. The seminar lasted for 4 hours and was attended by 80 participants. Presentations on the status of Palestinian women were made by police forces, courts, the Jericho governor, the Jericho Director of Social Affairs, and social workers and lawyers from WCLAC. This was envisaged to support volunteers and improve their communication skills.

2. WCLAC supported the organization of a lecture on violence against women and law, which was held in Nwei'meh village, Jericho, with the involvement of two female volunteers – one presenting and the other arranging and coordinating. About 30-35 local women attended.
3. WCLAC also supported volunteer efforts in the coordination and implementation of a study course for 40 Tawjihi (final school exam) students, including 18 female and 22 male students.
4. Popular conference was held on "no to violence against women" in December in Jericho in cooperation with the NGO Forum.

Bethlehem area:

Volunteers in Bethlehem implemented all activities related to the "no to violence against women" art exhibition. This exhibition also coincided with another one related to publications on violence against women.

<p>Output 4: Providing support to 20 volunteers</p>	<p><i>Time Frame: July- December 2005</i> <i>Progress: 200%</i></p>
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A total of 48 volunteers were supported as part of this output:

Financial incentives:

WCLAC invited 10 female volunteers for lunch in a restaurant in Jericho, following the organization of the seminar on March 8, 2005. In addition, transportation costs were paid to the 48 volunteers attending WCLAC activities and courses, including symbolic pocket money (50 USDs) for 16 volunteers which was paid in appreciation for their work and commitment to the program.

Moral support and professional incentives:

Three volunteers were offered the opportunity to participate in training courses and workshops organized by WCLAC. As part of giving experience and as an incentive. At the same time, 3 female volunteers were invited to meet with donors who were conducting a field visit to the emergency home in Bethlehem. The 48 volunteers received certificates of completion following the training courses. On another occasion, the Bethlehem volunteers were invited to attend a celebration on the occasion of Eid Al Fiter and there 17 of them received certificates of appreciation for the work and effort they contributed to the art exhibition. 10 of them also were allowed to participate in the popular conference, "no to violence against women," held in Jericho.

Indicator: 48 Volunteers socially and professionally supported by WCLAC.

Third Strategic Objective: Build the capacity of relevant official and grassroots organizations that have direct impact on women's issues.

First interim objective: Provide support to the Ministry of Social Affairs in developing shelter services in Jericho.

Output 1: Training six staff members of safe shelters proposed to work in the emergency center, including a social worker, shelter mothers and a shelter coordinator

Time Frame :January-Ongoing Awaiting MOSA approval
Progress: 90 %

During 2005, four staff members proposed to work in the emergency center were trained.¹⁷ This output was achieved through the following activities:

Conducting training courses:

1. Two training days were conducted for the Jericho emergency center support group on professional principles in receiving admitted cases. Ten participants attended the training which was followed by further follow-up training in the same area focused on community perceptions and how to receive women approaching the emergency center.
2. Provided training for 2 shelter mothers expected to work in the emergency center. The training was coordinated with the Society of Women Against Violence and the trainees had a 3-day accommodation in the shelter for abused women in Kufr Yasseef.
3. A shelter mother who will work in the emergency center was nominated to participate in training conducted by the project 'Women in Distress'¹⁸ for three days in Bethlehem.
4. Two shelter mothers participated in training in an institution in Nazareth in July. In September, a meeting was held with the Jericho Hospital in order to organize work mechanisms, cooperation agreement, and specify a referral system from the hospital to the WCLAC.
5. Held a meeting with the Director of the Police Academy to establish a training program for the police cadre on how to interact with battered women who resort to seeking help from the police station in Jericho.
6. Course on sex education concepts was given to the supporters of the emergency center. The course lasted for 12 sessions (5 hours per session) at the center in Jericho. The trainer was contracted to continue the sessions and raise the number to 17.

Indicator: 5 training courses were conducted and 2 meetings.

Meetings concerning the Jericho emergency center with MOSA:

Two meetings were held with the Minister of Social Affairs Dr. Hassan Abu Libdeh on the issue of women's protection and safe shelters. Another meeting was held with the Jericho Director of Social Affairs to discuss the Procedural Guide and bylaws of the emergency center. A third meeting was held with a committee from MOSA on the

¹⁷ These staff members are part of the young leaders (emergency center support group) that WCLAC is seeking to upgrade and improve personal skills in support of its work.

¹⁸ The project 'Women in Distress'

Memorandum of Understanding and the Procedural Guide. The latter meeting was attended by the WCLAC director.

The Memorandum of Understanding was delivered for final review after a series of meetings resulting in the introduction of amendments in accordance with WCLAC's vision and mission; however, this memo has not been signed by the Minister due to a dispute between MOSA and MOWA regarding whose jurisdiction WCLAC should operate. WCLAC's affairs have been regulated by the Interior Ministry and has a certificate to prove that it has done so.

Internally within WCLAC, the following meetings were conducted:

1. Meeting with other programmatic units in WCLAC to discuss the Procedural Guidelines for the emergency center.
2. Three meetings were conducted with the volunteers to discuss the Procedural Guidelines for the emergency center.
3. Promotional leaflet on the emergency center was developed and will be distributed at the appropriate time
4. Letter and an attachment containing the Procedural Guidelines and by-laws of the emergency center were submitted to the WCLAC Board of Trustees for approval and for circulation to relevant institutions and centers.

Conducting three workshops:

Three workshops were conducted by WCLAC during 2005:

First workshop: with the emergency center support group (10 female volunteers) in Jericho to discuss the Procedural Guidelines and by-laws.

Second and third workshops: in Nazareth with the Society of Women Against Violence – one for exchange of experience and to discuss the Procedural Guidelines and by-laws developed by WCLAC and others to discuss the position of Ministry of Social Affairs regarding the protection issue.

Output 2: ¹⁹ Providing the infrastructure for the safe house in Jericho²⁰

Time Frame: April 2005

Progress: 100%

All preparations and purchase of supplies required for the emergency safe house (air conditioning system, furniture, etc) were accomplished with the participation of women volunteers supporting the center through 10-15 visits.

Indicator: the safe house in Jericho is equipped and ready for receiving clients.

Output 3: Developing systems and policies for safe house

Time Frame: April 2005

Progress: 90%

Work has been accomplished on preparing and developing systems and policies for the safe-house. Currently, they are being printed in their final format.

Indicator: system and policies for the safe house is ready.

¹⁹ In the submitted plan, there was an error in presenting the tables, showing output two as training of 15 professionals and students. However, output two should read as indicated here.

²⁰ This output was not mentioned in the overall plan due to a typing error.

Second interim objective: Shelter services in Bethlehem (Please refer to Annex 1, since it is a special project)

Third interim objective: Build capacity of grassroots women's organizations to provide services to women victims of violence. (First organization is Women for Life Society in Salfit and another organization in the Jericho area.)

During 2005, WCLAC was able to work with one organization "Women for Life Society " in Bedia. We found out that the process of establishing a clear vision, mission, objectives and work plan of the organization was a long process especially if we are working towards building a feminist vision in that organization. WCLAC took into consideration the obstacles while implementing the training for the organization.

Output 1: Begin training staff of two local organizations

Time Frame: Feb- Nov. 2005

Progress: 50%

First organization: Women for Life Society in Salfit district

WCLAC signed an agreement with Women for Life Society and accomplished the following:

Training:

1. A social worker and a lawyer from Women for Life Society received training at WCLAC Service Unit on how to deal with cases of abused women.
2. Training of a social worker and a lawyer from Women for Life Society in the course 'Women in Distress' in Bethlehem for three days.
3. Training of three social workers from Women for Life Society in the applied training course of the adolescent health program in Ramallah.
4. 6 sessions for 2 members from Women for Life Society were held.
5. Nomination of 3 members (one social worker, one lawyer, and director) to a workshop entitled "How to Deal with Battered Families" which was held at the department of continuous education at Bir Zeit University.
6. Nomination of 2 members from the Society's Board of Directors to a workshop entitled "Advocating Women: Preparing Women as Candidates for Public Positions," which was held by the PLC in Ramallah.
7. Group from Women for Life Society participated in a march on "Adopting Policies for Battered Women," organized by the VAW Forum. The same group participated in a TV session (the Jerusalem Educational TV) on femicide at the Rocky Hotel in Ramallah.
8. Sending invitations to civil society organizations to exhibit solidarity and participate in the march prepared by Women for Life Society under the motto, "Villages Affected by The Wall: The Project for Empowering Rural Women in Salfit District."
9. Attendance at a play by Ashtar Group entitled "Mona's Story," dealing with the issue of marriage of minors and violence against girls. A discussion with the audience was opened after the show.

Workshops:

Workshops were conducted to assist in developing the vision and mission of Women for Life Society through the following:

1. Conducted 5 workshops with the Society's Board of Directors to discuss the Society's vision and mission.
2. Conducted 5 meetings with the Society regarding the work plan and how to conduct women's needs assessment in Salfit area.
3. Conducted 4 workshops in Rafat, Azawya on the elections code of which 2 workshops were dedicated to girls (13 – 17 years old) in summer camps on adolescent health, sexual harassment, and self -defense.
4. Conducted 14 workshops in the villages of Mardeh and Masha on violence against women, violence against children, early marriage, marriages from relatives, how to deal with teenagers. 7 workshops in every village.
5. Conducted a meeting with the Society's Board of Directors to discuss the Society's status in legal and administrative terms. WCLAC representatives also attended the elections of the Board of Directors of the Society.
6. Conducted a workshop on the NGO law and the legal status of the Society, attended by 30 women.

Courses:

A course on gender was conducted by an external trainer and attended by 30 women from Women for Life Society. A follow up workshop was conducted with the same number of participants.

<p>Output 2: Develop regulations for two local organizations</p>

Time Frame: Feb. – Nov. 2005

Progress: 50%

1. Conducted 3 meetings to assist the Society in developing a budget that would be presented to a Swedish donor to have it adopted. WCLAC also helped the Society to submit a special draft proposal (The Culture Aid) to obtain funds. WCLAC also assisted the Society in the field of banking, purchase and petty cash.
2. Conducted 5 meetings with the Board of Directors to discuss the Society's financial and administrative issues and to review its financial report, staff affairs, and secretariat.

<p>Output 3: Develop external relations for two organizations</p>
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Time Frame: April- Nov. 2005

Progress: 50 %

1. In order to introduce the Society to legal and women's organizations and open doors to prospective donor organizations, two members of the Society's Board of Directors were invited to the WCLAC celebration on receiving the Welfare Association's NGO Award for Distinguished Performance.
2. Informing agencies that support WCLAC activities on the work with Women for Life Society in order to arrange visits by donors to the Society and introducing the work to them.
3. Assisted them in the design of a website

Output 4: Develop programs for two local organizations*Time Frame: April - Nov. 2005**Progress: 50 %*

1. The Society was assisted in developing a printed questionnaire to assess the needs of women in Salfit area.
2. The Society developed a work schedule and strategy to ensure that the questionnaire is completed by different area organizations and institutions.

Obstacles:

The remaining activities in the work plan have not been completed due to the following challenges:

- a) absence of an effective management
- b) long time taken by the Society to crystallize a vision and a mission
- c) inadequate attendance at some of the activities resulting in the cancellation of the event

Fourth interim objective: : Support referral institutions, such as police, to deal with women victims of violence.

Output 1: Train 150 counselors, employed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and assigned to designated areas*Time Frame: throughout 2005**Progress: 100 %*

Continuation of the Adolescent Health Program by offering 8 courses each in Gaza Strip and the West Bank through:

1. Conducting 4 meetings on the completion of the Adolescent Health Program.
2. Renewing and signing the agreement with Bunian Society for implementing the training in the Gaza Strip.
3. Conducting a refresher course on the training content in Ramallah for 3 days/6 hours a day, attended by 12 counselors from Hebron, South Hebron, Ramallah, Jerusalem, and Jerusalem suburbs.
4. Holding meeting for counselors' supervisors and a number of counselors in the West Bank to evaluate the program.
5. Conducting a one-day/6-hour course for about group counseling with a group of adolescent health counselors, attended by 14 counselors.
6. Conducting 5 practical training courses: Ramallah, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Qalqilya, Toulkarem, Hebron and the southern parts of Hebron, Nablus and Salfit. The course will last for 8 days/6 hours a day. 100 participants have been trained by 4 trainers.
7. Conducting a refresher course on the training content in Gaza for 3 days/5 hours a day, attended by 15 participants.
8. Holding an evaluation meeting for adolescent health counselors in Gaza, attended by 15 participants.
9. Holding 3 training courses in Gaza Strip: Rafah, KhanYounis, Jabalia, and Gaza. The course lasted 8 days/6 hours a day in each area. 57 participants were trained on communication and facilitation skills and on the psychology and behaviors of adolescents.

150 copies of WCLAC-produced training manual, "Adolescent Health Rights" were printed for use in the above mentioned workshop.

Indicator: 150 trained counselors employed by the Ministry of Education and Higher Education and assigned to designated areas

Unplanned activities: developing the skills of social workers in the Hebron area with the Union of Social Workers

Output: training 15 social workers on skills used to deal with cases of domestic violence, law, and sexual education.

A training course on skills used to deal with cases of domestic violence was held for 5 day/5 hours a day for 15 social workers from the Union of Social Work in September and October in cooperation with the WCLAC Hebron Office.

A two-day/5 hours a day introductory training course on sex education was held for 15 social workers from Hebron in October.

Fourth Strategic Objective: Expose, locally and internationally, the practices of the Israeli occupation violations against women's rights

First interim objective: : To monitor and expose the Israeli violations against the International Humanitarian Law.

Output 1: Training 10 women on documenting the violations

Time Frame: January - December 2005

Progress: 100 %

During 2005, 10 women were trained on how to document violations against women according to the International Humanitarian Law guidelines.

Indicator: Working team of 10 women trained and prepared as Field Workers to document the violations by the Israeli military forces as the need arises.

Outputs 2: Prepare two UN CEDAW NGO alternative reports and attend two CEDAW Committee sessions to present reports and lobby members

Time Frame: January-August 2005

Progress: 100 %

In January, on the occasion of the forthcoming review of Israel by the CEDAW committee, three Palestinian Human rights organizations Al-Haq, Palestine Centre for Human Rights in Gaza, and WCLAC agreed to work together on the preparation of the "shadow report," an NGO alternative to the official report submitted by Israel, representing the case of women under occupation. The Communications Officer of WCLAC's External Relations Office coordinated the research, as well as all the production tasks, and finalized the report. She and the General Director of WCLAC attended the pre-session meeting with the CEDAW Committee at the UN in New York in January. The final report was disseminated to a number of women's human rights organizations and governmental organizations, such as MOWA, for information. This report was published in English and Arabic.

The second report was prepared and presented at the UN formal CEDAW Committee meeting in July. Prior to appearing before the Committee, 3 WCLAC staff attended a three-day training session in NYC conducted by IWRAW Asia Pacific to learn the most effective ways to write concise summary of the full report and present it, to lobby and engage with Committee members, and to learn other critical advocacy strategies and skills.

Local Application of This Experience:

The working partners agreed that it was necessary to publicize locally the experiences of working together to prepare the report and of lobbying at the UN. Two planning meetings were held with Al Haq to organize community report-backs. It was decided that two workshops would happen, one in Ramallah and other in Hebron. During those report-backs, the processes of collecting data, preparing the report, and facing the CEDAW Committee were described. The final Committee recommendations, which were based on the Israeli report and the shadow report, were presented to workshop participants.

Media Coverage of This Experience:

The Palestinian media accorded attention to the issue through coverage by daily newspapers. In addition, the Media Forum published 2 articles in Al Ayyam. The Voice of Palestine hosted WCLAC's General Director and the Head of the Advocacy Unit in a session on the CEDAW report and experience. The Palestinian Foundation for Academic Studies held a workshop during which WCLAC was asked to brief the attendants on the CEDAW experience in all its components. The workshop was attended by representatives from governmental and non-governmental organizations and groups.

The documentation of the CEDAW project is in its last stages. Copies will be printed in early 2006 and distributed to local NGOs, women's groups, government ministries, and other concerned and interested parties.

Output 3: Publish a report on the impact of Israeli violations on Palestinian women
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Time Frame: November 2005

Progress: 25 %

To achieve this output, the following activities were planned:

1. Monitoring and documenting violations.
2. Coordinating appropriate activities with other institutions.
3. Organizing a conference.
4. Publishing a report on violations practiced against Palestinian women in Arabic and English.

These activities were implemented as follows:

1. A documentation officer in Al-Haq was consulted to utilize her experience and seek assistance to create a documentation and data-management system for long-term use. Following the consultation, an agreement was reached to expand the number of female field-workers, to include male field-workers, and to form a steering committee for the documentation group. Through these efforts, the monitoring and documentation of violations of women's health rights were accomplished.
2. The findings from the documented cases were written and presented during the WCLAC-sponsored women's health conference (see). A theoretical paper, "Women's Health Rights and Their Protection under International Human Law" is currently being developed.
3. 3 affidavits upon oath by 3 women were documented from the Hebron.
4. In October, staff attended 2 meetings and one workshop organized by the IHL Forum, a coalition of human rights groups including WCLAC, to discuss the application of IHL to the case of Palestinians in Jerusalem and to the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza. Since WCLAC is a member of the coalition, it assisted in coordinating the activities with Diakonia.
5. A meeting was held with Al Haq about the West Bank violations database to benefit from their experience in this field.
6. Monitoring the coverage of women in two daily newspapers: During the years of 2004-2005, WCLAC has classified articles from local newspapers related to violations against Palestinian women committed

Obstacles:

Due to a lack of consensus on how to conceptualize this project on IHL, and the entire bundle of international human rights laws and conventions, and to a number of technicalities as well, little significant progress was made. The Feminist Research Consultant suggested taking additional time to develop the conceptual framework so the whole project was postponed until 2006.

Output 4: Concept paper "The Exclusion of Women from the Protection Of IHL: Experiences from the Arab World"*Time Frame: March 2005**Progress: 80%*

A legal researcher was contracted to compile all the information and data gathered about the situation in the Arab world and write the paper. Another legal researcher, a member of WCLAC's Research and Documentation Unit, was assigned to assist in gathering legal documents and relevant available data. A separate paper on the Palestinian situation was prepared as well. It is the comprehensive paper and the Palestinian paper will be completed by the end of March 2006.

Obstacles:

It was very difficult to find even a part-time legal researcher fluent in both Arabic and English, let alone someone who could devote her/his time 100% work on this project. Thus an English-only legal research consultant, with whom WCLAC has worked before, and the in-house Arabic-only legal researcher have teamed up to complete this project.

Output 5: Attend one international conference on issues related to women's human rights and the international human rights laws*Time Frame: March 2005**Progress: 100 %*

In March, the General Director participated in the Beijing+10 proceedings at the UN in New York as both a member of the official delegation Palestinian Authority, the Minister of Women's Affairs, the WCLAC spokeswoman. She presented 3 papers, provided 2 radio interviews and 2 newspaper interviews (one print and one electronic), and attended several consultative meetings with other NGO and PA officials. One of the 3 papers was presented at a press conference, organized by the NYC-based Equality Now, aimed at promoting the creating a specific UN Rapporteur on legal discrimination against women. Another paper, "Women's Leadership in Situations of Conflict," was presented at an UNIFEM workshop, and the third, "Education for Girls in times of Conflict," was prepared for UNICEF.

Indicator: attending the conference and presenting three written papers.

Fifth Strategic Objective: Develop WCLAC's own capacity, performance and sustainability.

First interim objective: : Develop planning, evaluation and monitoring system.

Output 1: Revise and further develop and refine strategic plan, annual activity plan, budgets, and annual reports

Time Frame: March-December 2005

Progress: 100 %

The planned activities that we sought to achieve during the year 2005 were as follows:

1. Hold internal workshops
2. Implement and evaluate evaluation recommendation implementation
3. Review planning and reporting methodologies

The Administration Unit held 12 internal workshops that led to revising, further developing, and refining the Centre's 5-year Strategic Plan and the annual activity plan. These revisions also entailed revising the related budgets. In addition, a draft of the internal evaluation system has been prepared, which includes the mechanism and procedures for staff performance evaluation.

Indicator: the revised strategic and annual activity plans and final drafts of the job descriptions and performance evaluation.

Output 2: Prepare monitoring and evaluation matrix

Time Frame: July 2005

Progress: 85 %

In 2005 the matrix of the monitoring and evaluation prepared. This matrix was developed during several internal workshops and with the support of an external consultant. We are now awaiting approval of the matrix from the Board of Trustees.

Output 3: Prepare 1 operations guideline and manual

Time Frame: April-July 2005

Progress: 70 %

Through June 2005, 3 internal workshops with the reconfigured Services Unit and 2 with the newly created Research and Documentation Unit were held. The aim of those workshops was to develop and formalize the administrative guidelines and practice procedures that will be used in each unit. The draft of those have been completed. The Administration Unit finalized procedures for travel and conference attendance, which have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Indicator: Policies and procedures were approved. Drafts of guidelines for Services Unit and Research and Document Unit are ready for final approval from Board of Trustees.

Second interim objective: Build the capacity of WCLAC staff.

Output 1: Conduct training needs assessment

Time Frame: August-December 2005
Progress: 100 %

August: All staff attended a 3-day workshop/retreat to reflect on the first half of the transition from the old to new structure. The goals were to engage staff in self-assessment as well as organizational assessment of both the content and process of restructuring and identify and voice their concerns; to reaffirm vision and mission; to critically analyze the underlying values and daily practices within the organization that also involved personal sharing and disclosure; and to identify organizational change and staff capacity-building needs.

September: Complementary follow-up day-long retreat to continue the work by delineating concrete next steps for addressing needs identified in August.

December: strategic planning retreat for the Management Team that examined the main successes and shortcomings of the year, created the overview for 2006 work plan, addressed critical policy issues that emerged during the year, and provided space for airing major administrative and programmatic concerns.

Output 2: Train 40 staff in organizational and practice areas

Time Frame: January –November 2005
Progress: 100 %

During 2005, WCLAC staff were able to participate in the following international and local workshops and training events.

International Workshops and Trainings

Jordan

1. February: one staff attended a workshop, "Inheritance Rights Are Human Rights," a survey of law and practice in the Middle East and North Africa. This was organized by the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions Women and Housing Rights Programme.
2. June: one staff attended a two-day workshop with Iraqi organizations, organized by the UN Mission for supporting Iraq, to share experience of dealing with violence against women.
3. November: 2 staff presented papers at the Amman Conference held by SIGI on "Violence against Women from a Health Prospective."
4. November: 2 staff presented a paper, "The Experience of Establishing Crisis Shelters in Palestine," at a workshop on women's crisis shelters in Jordan organized by the German Embassy with the cooperation of SIGI.

Egypt

1. March: one staff attended a training course about fundraising skills in Egypt.

2. July: one staff member attended Salma group conference in Egypt under the title “Best Practices-Best Choices?: Achievements and Challenges of Women’s Rights as Human Rights.”

Turkey

1. March: two staff participated in a conference about gender, sexuality, and law reform in the Middle East and North Africa and South Asia, held by Women for Women’s Human Rights.
2. July: General Director participated in a workshop with UNIFEM to develop charter for International Women’s Commission for Sustainable Palestinian Israeli Peace.

France

1. October: one staff member participated in Amnesty International "Palestinian Women's Situation under Israeli Occupation," a conference organized by Amnesty International as part of their campaign on violence against women in conflict zones. There she presented a paper on Israeli violations against women, met with members of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate of Middle East, and senators and deputies in Parliament to inform them about the conditions facing Palestinian women living under Occupation.

USA

1. July: General Director, 2 staff, and feminist research consultant participated in training on how to write and present summary of full shadow report and to lobby CEDAW Committee members
2. September: General Director and feminist research consultant participated Women's Global Strategies for 21 Century, where 100 women from the US and countries of the global South met to discuss joint political strategies to end women’s oppression. Both were members of the Coordinating Committee, and the General Director presented a paper on violence against Palestinian women.

Germany

1. November: one staff participated in speaking tour in Germany, titled “Palestinian Women between Occupation and Patriarchy,” on violence against women. This tour was part of the AI initiative mentioned above.

Netherlands

1. November: research consultant attended Oxfam consultative meeting with their partners regarding their new strategic plan and a related meeting regarding education for women and girls.

Switzerland

1. September: General Director gave one of the keynote addresses and presented a paper on Palestinian women at Amnesty international’s conference "Due Diligence: The Responsibility of the State for the Human Rights of Women in Situations of Conflict."

Spain

1. November: General Director participated in a conference entitled “Equality and Rights in the Mediterranean” organized by ACSUR in Toledo, Spain

Local Workshops and Trainings

1. January: two staff member attended one-month training course on how to monitor personnel attendance through the clock in / clock out machine.
2. February, July, August: one staff member attended 3 training-of-trainers courses on International Humanitarian Law held by Al Haq.
3. March: one staff member attended an international conference on gender and forced migration held by the Ministry of Women's Affairs, UNDP, and the Canadian York University.
4. March: all staff attended a two-day training on introduction to feminist epistemology and research methods.
5. May: one staff attended a training course by Al Haq on networking and advocacy skills needed in dealing with laws and legislations.
6. June: two staff participated in the workshop "Common Law Marriages and the Social and physiological Impact on Women" held by Palestinian Working Women's Society and Development.
7. November: one staff member attended an intensive media training workshop with the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights entitled, "Building an Effective Media and Communication Programme."
8. November: General Director presented paper entitled "The Impact of The Wall on Palestinian Women" at the Al Haq conference, "Enforcement of the IHL in the Occupied Territories."
9. September: two staff members participated in Novib strategic planning workshop in Ramallah
10. November: General Director and one staff member participated in ICCO Strategic Planning meeting in Bethlehem.
11. November: one staff member presented paper about legal perspectives and tools in a workshop on "Best Practices in Dealing with Violence" organized by the Jerusalem-based Society for Social Care held in Ramallah.
12. December: 5 staff members attended "The Killing of Women: Between Condemned Reality and the Aspired Challenge," held by SAWA Center, where WCLAC presented one paper entitled "The Killing of Women in the Palestinian Context ."
13. October–November: one staff member participated in a training librarian training course offered by Al-Quds university to prepare her to organize and maintain a community women's studies library and reading room.
14. November: one member staff participated in a training course, "Crisis Intervention with Families," at Centre for Continuing Education, Bir-Zeit University

15. December: under the auspices of the High Commission on Human Rights, one staff member participated in writing the shadow report to Israel's official report on International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination regarding the situation the Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza.

Output 3: Develop electronic client database

Time Frame: 2006
Progress: 28%

Five sessions between the Research and Documentation and Services units were held to develop a comprehensive form for tracking direct-service cases and for generating data about WCLAC clients. This work resulted in uniform client-tracking and data-collection instrument and clarified, consensus definition of the concept of "urgent case." Information Management expert was hired to create a suitable data base system. It is expected that the system for using collecting the data and using the data base will be implemented in spring 2006.

Unplanned Output: group sessions to discuss feminist concepts related to our work and approaches to women served by WCLAC

A 2-day workshop was held for staff members with Feminist Research Consultant, during which basic but controversial or ambiguous concepts, such as "right to life" and "honor," were explored.

Output 5: Develop WCLAC's library assets

Time Frame: July-December 2005
Progress: 75%

A study was conducted to evaluate the value of the books already found in the Centre. The study found 750 books classified according international library standards. A library expert was contracted to establish a plan to develop the library. One staff member, Maisoun Sammour, was sent to a training library course at al Quds university.

Third interim objective: Develop partnership relations with donor organizations

Output 1: Evaluate WCLAC programs and partnership agreements

Time Frame: November-December 2005
Progress: 0 %

This output will be fulfilled in 2006

Output 2: Develop WCLAC media materials in English and Arabic

Time Frame: May-December 2005
Progress: 75 %

1. The English language website was redesigned and updated. All the information and data for the Arabic website are ready and site expected to be activated by the beginning of 2006. The Arabic language newsletter highlighting WCLAC achievements during 2005 was sent to the printer and is expected to be distributed in early 2006.

2. A brochure introducing the new structure and programs of the Centre was produced in Arabic and English.

3. One briefing sheet on "*Palestinian Women's Health During the Second Intifada: Facts and Figures, April 2005* " was published. Since we learned from this first experience that a briefing sheet requires extensive research, we decided to publish only one additional fact sheet in the second half of the year on Women's and Girls' Education. This will be published by the end of March 2006.

4. The External Relations Office wrote 4 press releases this year. They were for Protection of Women's Rights Day, International Day of Solidarity with Palestinians, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and one immediately following an femicide in the West Bank on the local protection of women's rights .

In June, a reception was held to recognize and appreciate WCLAC's achievements and successes during its 15-year history. It was also to celebrate receiving the Welfare Association "2004 NGO Excellence in Achievement Award" and Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ESOSOC), both received in 2005.

More than 250 people attended the reception, including members of local branches of government ministries, Palestinian Legislative Council, foreign representative offices, Palestinian and international NGOs.

During the reception there was a presentation of the WCLAC's history, and its mission, vision, and goals. The founders, Board members, and staff were honored and thanked for their great contribution that has led to local, regional, and international recognition of WCLAC achievements.

Annex 1



تجمع مؤسسة التعاون لإدارة مشروع المؤسسات الأهلية الفلسطينية
WELFARE ASSOCIATION CONSORTIUM FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN NGO PROJECT

هيئة إدارة المشروع
Project Management Organization (PMO)



PLANNING, IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING REPORT By NGOs

Report No.	8		
Covering the Period From:	1/10/2005	To:	31/12/2005
Date of Submission:			

Project No.:	SG 03.001		
Name of Organization:	Women Centre for legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) & Differenza Donna (DD)		
Name of Contact Person:	Ghada Rabah, Project Manager		
Project Title:	Counselling Centre for Women in Difficult Circumstances (CCWDC)		
Project Location (s):	Ramallah, Bethlehem		
Project Sector:	Gender based violence		
GIA Signature Date:	11 th of December 2003		
Actual Start Date:	January 2004		
Project Duration (months):	Planned:	24	Revised: 30
Expected Completion Date:	Planned:	11/12/05	Revised: 30/6/06
Grant Amount (US\$):	US\$ 1,055,000		
Total Payments Received to Date:	US\$ 508,820		
Date Last Payment Received:	17/11/2005		
Current Number of Beneficiaries:	Male		Female

Number of Beneficiaries After Project Completion:	Male		Female	
Date of Last Field Visit /Telephone contact by PMO Rep.				

1) Activities

(Major activities and Milestones will be listed as agreed in the Project Implementation Plan)

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
<p>1. ESTABLISH AND DEVELOP PROJECT OFFICE AND STAFF</p> <p>Main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Professional project staff (local and international) in charge for management, coordination, and planning of project activities,</i> • <i>Project spaces and equipment available for project activities.</i> 			
<p>3 DD missions (Chief Technical Experts and Directors of Shelters):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Emanuela Moroli</i>: September 26-July 9, 2005, to contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the development of a plan of action for the remaining months of activities, ✓ the development of scenarios regarding the future centre's identity and sustainability. ✓ the implementation of the media & awareness component, ✓ the finalization of the Centre's policies document. 2. <i>Irene Agnello</i>: September 29-October 9, 2005, to contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the development of a plan of action for the remaining months of activities, ✓ the finalization of the Centre's policies document. 3. <i>Oria Gargano, Elisa Ercoli e Sabrina Frasca</i>: 6-9 October 2005, to contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ the finalization of the Centre's policies document, with specific 	none	October 2005	See agenda of the missions (attachment 1)

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
focus on the development of Centre's style of management and finalization of criteria for selection of Centre's staff.			
<p>2. ESTABLISH AND DEVELOP BOARD OF TRUSTEES</p> <p>Main goal: <i>Ensure high professionalism and sustainability to Bethlehem Centre.</i></p>			
			<p>The component was actually replaced by activities involving all concerned parties (NGO partnership, MOSA, Italian Cooperation, World Bank, WAC) aiming at clarifying and agreeing upon the best future scenario for CCWDC Centre and related most appropriate/feasible strategy for its achievement. Coeur points discussed regarding potential future Centre's asset were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ need of a transitional period for capacity building and transfer of competences; ✓ technical and financial sustainability, ✓ legal identity and ownership. <p>After presentation and discussion of various alternative scenarios among all parties, and following a period of evaluation, MOSA agreed upon benefiting from new funds eventually provided by the Italian Government to support a transitional period of 2-3 years in order to ensure capacity building, sustainability and transfer of</p>

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
			competences to CCWDC Center whose identity will then be governmental and finally integrated into MOSA after the above mentioned transitional period. (see letter of commitment of MOSA Minister sent to the General Consol of Italy on the 15 th of December 2005)
<p>3. DEVELOP COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND NETWORKING PROGRAMS WITHIN BETHLEHEM REGION, INCLUDING RAISING VOLUNTARY SUPPORT.</p> <p>Main goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure credibility, protection, acceptance and active support to CCWDC Centre within Bethlehem District community.</i> • <i>Identify and sensitize community supporters and carry out further identification of core group of volunteers to support the Centre.</i> 			
<p>Organization of 1 workshop with around 35 people from GO and NGO institutions from Bethlehem area on the issue of "antiviolence centres" in occasion of the 25th of November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.</p>	none	December 2005	<p>Workshop included half-hour presentation on the subject.</p> <p>See attachment n. 2: presentation on "antiviolence centres".</p>
<p>Organization, in cooperation with WAC, of the ceremony of the "cornerstone", official inauguration of CCWDC building under the patronage of the Minister of Social Affairs, Dr. Hasan Abu Libde.</p>	none	December 2005	<p>All major stakeholders participated at the ceremony: the Minister of Social Affairs accompanied by the Director of MOSA office in Bethlehem, the Minister of Women's Affairs, the General Consol of Italy and the</p>

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
			Director of the Italian Cooperation accompanied by a small delegation from the Italian Consulate, the Governor of Bethlehem, the Mayors of Bethlehem and Beit Sahour, the Chief of the Police Department in Bethlehem in addition to other representatives of the Police, representatives of the World Bank and the Welfare Association Consortium, representatives of the NGO partnership and many other NGOs present in the area.
<p>4. TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENTAL, NON GOVERNAMENTAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES IN PALESTINE AND ITALY.</p> <p>Main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>creation of a highly professional staff for CCWDC Centre,</i> • <i>sensitization of representatives of various institutions working particularly with women victims of violence,</i> • <i>development of effective work relationships among GO and NGOs.</i> 			
<p>Meetings with partnership to develop plans about training of Centre's staff and orientation session for staff recruitment.</p>	none	Nov-Dec 2005	<p>Main topics discussed regarding the Orientation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ objectives, ➤ main components, ➤ approach and methodology, ➤ facilitators, ➤ criteria for evaluation.
<p>5. DEVELOP CCWDC CENTER INTERNAL REGULATIONS.</p>			

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
<p>PROCEDURES AND REFERRAL SYSTEM.</p> <p>Main goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Develop Bethlehem Centre internal regulations and procedures (acceptance criteria, duration of stay, team approach towards women guests, individual project methodology, interaction between the internal shelter and the external facilities, etc.)</i> • <i>Develop and improve referral system and eventually internal institutional procedures related to women victims of violence which might reflect worked out best practices.</i> 			
<p>Two-day partnership workshop was held to finalize the CCWDC Policies Document.</p>	October 2005	October 2005	<p>The discussion focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ styles of management, ➤ presence of men as Centre's employees, ➤ use of volunteers to support Centre's activities and related policies, ➤ policy for family counselling.
<p>6. CONTRIBUTE TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE PALESTINIAN LEGAL SYSTEM IN FAVOR OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE.</p>			<p><i>This activity is intended as part of WCLAC contribution to CCWDC project.</i></p> <p><i>WCLAC is currently working on the following laws:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>This activity is intended as part of WCLAC contribution to the project, work concentrated on the following laws:</i> ✓ <i>Maintenance Fund – has been published in the Palestinian journal</i> ✓ <i>Criminal law – Penal Code: 2nd reading at PLC</i>

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <i>Personal Status Law: Draft was submitted to PLC</i> ✓ <i>Family Protection Law: WCLAC draft was adopted my MOWA</i> ✓ <i>Election Law: passed by the PLC but not approved by president</i>
<p>7. MEDIA AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.</p> <p>Main goal: <i>raise awareness and disseminate wide-scale information within the Palestinian society about domestic violence against women.</i></p>			
Broadcasting in local TVs of a talk show about the issue of gender based violence and antiviolenence centers.	Nov 2005	November 2005	
<p>8. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT BETHLEHEM CENTRE</p>			
<p>Arch. Beretta 3rd mission: 3-7 October 2005 to finalize Center's furnishing, outside spaces and architectural finishing. Mission's agenda including a major workshop with partnership.</p>	October 2005	October 2005	See minutes of meeting held in WCLAC office in Dahiat Al-Barid, on the 6 th of October 2005.
<p>1 meeting between partnership and engineers' team (WAC, Petramimar) to finalize the furniture items.</p>	Nov-Dec 2005	December 2005	

Activities and Milestones	Target Date	Achieved Date	Remarks/Comments
9. ESTABLISH AND RUN BETHLEHEM CENTRE			
Conduct several meetings with the appointed committee (NGO partnership, MOSA and WAC) to discuss, develop and finalize all needed steps in the process of staff recruitment and selection.	Oct.- Nov 2005	October- November 2005	See attachment:
Draft and finalize job descriptions for Centre's staff.	Nov 2005	November 2005	See attachment:
Draft and finalize organizational chart.	Nov 2005	November 2005	See attachment:
Draft and finalize questionnaire for staff recruitment (in English and Arabic).	Nov 2005	November 2005	See attachment:
Draft and finalize advertisement for all staff posts with essential requirements.	Dec 2005	December 2005	See attachment:
Advertisement publicized in 2 Palestinian newspaper (Al Quds and El Ayam)	Dec 2005	December 2005	

2) **Outputs**(Outputs are the agreed measurable results of the intervention, expressed in quality, quantity and time).

Outputs	Units of Measurement		Number of Beneficiaries		Remarks/Comments/ Achievements
	Target	Achieved	Male	Female	
2. ESTABLISH AND DEVELOP BOARD OF TRUSTEES					

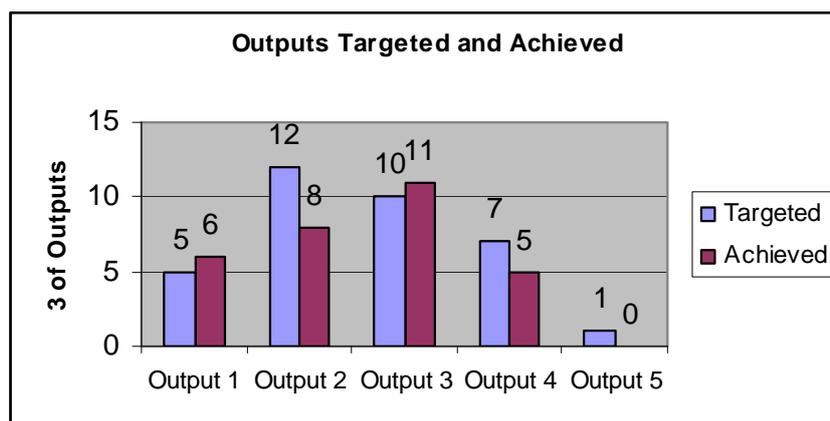
<p>Letter of commitment of the Minister of Social Affairs to support the project, make MOSA staff available for training and capacity building in the coming 2-3 years transitional period, sustain the Center through financial support and human resources after transitional period.</p>				
<p>3. DEVELOP COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND NETWORKING PROGRAMS WITHIN BETHLEHEM REGION, INCLUDING RAISING VOLUNTARY SUPPORT.</p>				
<p>35 people from Bethlehem community attended the presentation and related workshop about antiviolence centers.</p>			35	Many of the professionals, who participated to CCWDC specialized training, attended the workshop.
<p>Around 200 persons between dignitaries, media and representatives of the civil society attended the ceremony of the "cornerstone" organized at CCWDC building with the participation of all major stakeholders.</p>			200	
<p>2 articles published in 2 Palestinian newspapers (Al Quds and El Ayam) about the event of the "cornerstone".</p>			National audience of the most popular Palestinian newspapers.	
<p>Participation to a TV program on the Palestinian satellite on the issue of "antiviolence centres" and to promote in particular Bethlehem pilot Center.</p>	none	December 2005	National audience of the satellite Palestinian TV.	

<p>5. DEVELOP CCWDC CENTER INTERNAL REGULATIONS, PROCEDURES AND REFERRAL SYSTEM.</p>					
<p>Forth and final draft document of Centre's policies and procedures produced, approved by partnership and sent to MOSA for discussion. The third draft includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Center's goals, objectives and principles, ✓ internal shelter's regulations, ✓ women's rehabilitation phases and related services provided, ✓ roles of different staff members, ✓ relationship with various concerned institutions. ✓ suggestions for referral system procedures, ✓ code of ethics for centre's staff, ✓ external services (prevention programs, services for the family, for children, for women), ✓ networking principles, ✓ psychological tools (therapeutic groups, self-help groups, etc), ✓ forms. 					<p>See attachment: forth draft document.</p>
<p>7. MEDIA AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CAMPAIGNS AT A NATIONAL LEVEL.</p>					
<p>Talk show broadcasted 18 times in Palestinian local TVs. (Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus, Jericho, Qalqilia, and Hebron)</p>					

8. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT BETHLEHEM CENTRE					
Final drawings for the Center's external setting (garden, fountains, etc.) prepared by Arch. Beretta and sent to WAC and the local Firm.					
Type and quantity of needed furniture, equipment and light items agreed upon and chosen by all parties.					
9. ESTABLISH AND RUN BETHLEHEM CENTRE					
Job descriptions for 19 profiles finalized.					<p>The job descriptions include the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ job purpose, ➤ key responsibilities, ➤ major duties & responsibilities, ➤ essential qualifications & experience, ➤ skills & competences. <p>The final job descriptions are included in the fourth draft policies document.</p>
Center's staff organizational chart produced.					<p>The chart highlights the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ responsibility lines, ➤ division of competences

					<p>within the centre,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ relationships between staff members.
<p>Questionnaire for Center's staff selection developed and distributed to the applicants.</p>					<p>Questionnaire including request of information regarding the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ personal details, ➤ previous work experience, ➤ motivation to the work (either paid or on voluntary basis), ➤ professionalism , ➤ availability to participate to all the selection process and to accept intensive training as part of the commitment to the work.
<p>Advertisement for 13 positions published on 2 newspapers for 1 and 2 days.</p>					<p>The position of "social worker", "house mother" and "guard" are replicated.</p>

(Graph is optional and can be imported from Excel Files)



3) Financial Disbursements

(Payments in number and amounts as per GIA, the estimated target date should be based on the approved Project Implementation Plan)

Payments Numbers and Amounts (US\$)	Target Date	Achieved Date	Comments
First Payment:	11/12/2003	09/03/2004	
Second Payment:	01/01/2004	27/10/2004	
Third Payment		23/12/2004	
Fourth Payment:		16/03/2005	
Fifth Payment		14/07/2005	
Sixth Payment		10/09/2005	
Seventh Payment		17/11/2005	
Final Payment:			

4) Funded Categories

Category/Item (As per GIA)	Allocations (US\$)		Disbursed (US\$)	Balance (US\$)	Remarks
	Initial (GIA)	Amendment (if any)			
Project Management Costs	314,700	311,900	292,550.81	19,349.19	
Project Activities	350,860	353,660	225,181.81	128,478.19	
CCWDC Establishment & Running Costs(1	339,250	339,250	0	339,250	

year)					
Contingency	20,046	20,046	0	20,046	
External Auditor and Evaluation (3%)	30,144	30,144	0	30,144	
TOTALS	1,055,000	1,055,000	517,732.62	537,267.38	

5) Short Summary on Progress and Achievements

(covering this reporting period only)

- ✓ The formal commitment of the Minister of Social Affairs expressed in the letter sent in December to the General Consul of Italy as major potential donor of the Center in the near future, while MOSA is addressed as the institution which will later care about the future management and financial sustainability of the Center, is also to be considered a major achievement of the project, after lots of inputs carefully developed and jointly discussed involving all concerned parties.
- ✓ The progressive definition upon inputs from all concerned parties (NGO partnership, MOSA and WAC), of Center's staff recruitment process in its peculiar combination of orientation, selection and training has also been a major achievement of the last three months. It entailed definition of major sensitive issues directly related to the Center's vision such as roles and management style to be applied to the future Center, as well as objectives and characteristics of the outreach programs which will have to be complementary to the *coeur* "shelter and counselling" services.

6) Problems/Constraints Encountered

a) What problems did you face during this reporting period?

1. Delay in CCWDC building construction.
2. Lack of clarity regarding governance and institutional framework of the Center during the expected transitional period envisaged by MOSA Minister.

b) How did these problems affect your implementation?

1. Delay in the construction and no clear date for the opening of the shelter is already affecting the timing and effectiveness of various project activities (such as the media campaign and the selection and training of the staff) meant as preparation to the establishment of the centre.
2. Difficulty in handing over and linking current project's implementation to implementation of the transitional period after June 2006. Lack of clarity of roles and responsibilities among currently involved parties.

c) How do you propose to solve them (actions and measures to be taken)?

WAC and the all CCWDC Advisory Committee need to play a key role in working out the above mentioned problems. Partnership has to keep on providing

technical/professional inputs in order to facilitate analysis of current and future scenarios in the best interest of the Center.

d) What do you need to the PMO to assist you solve these problems?

1. By strictly supervising the progress of the construction and eventually implement it directly if needed to match targeted dates and completion.
2. By keeping on promoting meetings among all currently involved parties for coordination and shared elaboration of strategies for the implementation of the future Center.

7) Technical Assistance from the PMO

Outline the technical assistance interventions that you sense are required from the PMO to assist you implement the project.

- ✓ WAC Project Coordinator continuous participation in major meetings regarding the project implementation.
- ✓ WAC relevant project staff continuous support for clarifications of various management issues.
- ✓ WAC to be continuously in contact with NGO partnership to make sure that the architecture of the building reflects and is functional to the actual needs of the work that will be implemented in the Centre.
- ✓ WAC continuous training workshops on specific implementation needs.

8) Sustainability

a) What has been done to ensure project sustainability?

- ✓ All discussions open with MOSA, donor and various stakeholders committed to the project aim at defining best scenarios for sustainability.
- ✓ Training and networking with all Centre's related institutions will facilitate support and protection of the Centre;
- ✓ Highly qualified and specific training is building the basis for a professional staff to be available to work in the future Centre;

b) How will beneficiaries continue to enjoy the services provided?

- ✓ By opening the centre in time and in the most professional way so as to be really effective.

9) General Comments and Recommendations

For Centre's sustainability we recommend the following:

- ✓ MOWA role to be clarified in order to gain its support for the future Centre;

EVALUATION BY PROGRAM OFFICER

1. Compliance with Action Plan and Timeframe

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2. Achievement of Outputs

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3. Compliance with Budget Line Items

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4. Cooperation and Compliance with PMO requirements (reporting, procurement, attending workshops, meetings, etc.)

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5. Institutional Assessment

Rate the NGO by each of the seven fields below

5 is the highest point, NR is not relevant and the last column is for remarks

Governance	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
Management Practices	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
Human Resources	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
Financial Resources	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
Service Delivery	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
External Relations	1	2	3	4	5	NR	
Sustainability	1	2	3	4	5	NR	

6. Required Actions/Measures for follow-up

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Prepared by

Program Officer:

Date:

Endorsed by:

Grants Programs Manager:

Date: